

Poulsbo Critical Areas Ordinance Update

<https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate>



Geologically Hazardous Areas

What are they?

Geologically hazardous areas are places highly susceptible to erosion, landslides, earthquakes, or other geologic events. In Poulsbo, the most hazardous of these areas is typically found along the marine shorelines and stream ravines. Poulsbo's landscape is typical of North Kitsap County, with numerous hills and valleys, streams, and frontage on the waters of Puget Sound. Elevations range from sea level to 440 feet, with moderate to steep slopes. Two ridges run along each side of Liberty Bay and gradually rise in elevation to the north, accentuating the general topographic trend in Poulsbo. The west leg of the ridge slopes gradually toward Liberty Bay, while the eastern leg slopes in a broken pattern of knolls, valleys, and benches to the eastern shore.

Why are we concerned about them?

- Landslides are likely to occur where there are steep slopes or particular soil conditions. They may be triggered by heavy rain, flooding, or seismic events.
- Western Washington is susceptible to earthquakes, and seismic hazards appear in areas particularly likely to be impacted due to soil conditions or proximity to a potential tsunami.
- Erosion hazards are the legacy of development that altered natural systems. Plantings and stormwater control can address some issues

How do we protect them?

- Geological Hazards are often protected by applying best management practices.
- Classifying areas based on level of risk helps to determine appropriate design and development standards and constraints.

What changes are needed?

- Consider additional technical reports.

