

EQ: Environmental Quality & Shorelines



Introduction

The Environmental Quality Element Goals and Policies support the City's commitment to preserving and enhancing the natural environment. It includes policies that provide guidance on balancing environmental protection with development potential and recognizing environmental resources as an essential living infrastructure.

This element also ties the City's environmental policy guidance to several strategic and/or issue-specific plans that have been developed since the last Comprehensive Plan update. Those plans include the *Shoreline Master Program*, the *Community Forest Management Plan*, the *Wildlife Management Plan*, the *Legacy 100-Year Vision*, and the *Climate Action Plan*, links for which can be found throughout this Element and Background Analysis. The Environmental Quality & Shorelines Element Background Analysis (Volume II) provides narrative and details that support the Environmental Quality Element Goals and Policies, including the following sections:

- **Planning context**
- **Resident volunteers**
- **Recycling**



Goals and Policies



Goal EQ–1: Land Use Pattern

Protect the natural environment through zoning and land use decisions.

Policy EQ–1.1: Conserve designated sensitive areas, including ravines, steep slopes, wetlands, riparian zones, urban forests, and other features.

Designated sensitive areas include erosion hazard areas, landslide hazard areas, seismic hazard areas, steep slope areas, streams, wetlands, fish-bearing waters, areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, flood hazard areas and the adjoining protective buffers necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare (Lake Forest Park Municipal Code 16.24.020).

Policy EQ–1.2: Encourage mixed-use commercial development and pedestrian-prioritized development, including housing, in any major redevelopment of the Town Center.

Transit-oriented development (TOD) describes a mix of housing, office, retail, and amenities integrated into a walkable neighborhood and anchored by high quality public transit.

Policy EQ–1.3: Promote the health and expansion of existing native and compatible vegetation in all elements of land use considerations, including infrastructure.

Policy EQ–1.4: Use the best scientific information available in an adaptive management approach to preserve or enhance the functions and values of sensitive areas through regulations, programs, and incentives. Implement integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental planning strategies.

Policy EQ–1.5: Sustain and enhance the integrity of ecosystems.

Policy EQ–1.6: Incentivize LEED building standards, low impact development stormwater infrastructure, or other sustainable development standards, especially for development adjacent to sensitive areas, and consider adopting sustainable development standards for public facilities.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a set of rating systems for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods.

Policy EQ–1.7: Ensure all residents have safe and viable access to a clean and healthy environment.

Policy EQ-1.8: Identify and mitigate unavoidable negative impacts of public actions with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations.

Commented [CH1]: Comment: Include urban forests or add an Urban forest Policy

Commented [CH2]: Comment: Definition does not define a term used in Policy 1.2. Did PC remove TOD reference?

Response: Thank you for the catch! Yes, TOD was removed.



Goal EQ-2: Shoreline Development/Access

Protect the city's shoreline while accommodating reasonable and appropriate uses near shorelines.

Policy EQ-2.1: Protect and enhance public access to the Lake Washington shoreline in adherence with the goals and policies of the Lake Forest Park *Shoreline Master Program* (SMP).

The Shoreline Master Program is an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan and is available online at: www.cityoffp.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1098.

Policy EQ-2.2: Facilitate community and neighborhood agreement on any proposal to improve shoreline access where the proposal has the potential to negatively impact private property owners.

Policy EQ-2.3: Promote education efforts that demonstrate the connection between stormwater drainage activities and the city's water quality.

Policy EQ-2.4: Ensure safe pedestrian and nonmotorized access to the Lake Washington shoreline for all residents and promote a safe passageway through and across the adjacent SR 522.

Commented [CH3]: Comment: I agree with this in principle. But the only public Lake Washington access is the lakefront park, and safe crossings of 522 seem like it belongs in the transportation section, perhaps under T-2.

Response: This could be simplified by striking "and promote a safe passageway through and across the adjacent SR-522." Having easy and convenient access to the water is valuable for many reasons, including during hot summer months (that are only getting hotter!)





Goal EQ-3: Water Quality Protection

Improve water quality by protecting and monitoring water from natural sources and through effective storm and surface water management.

Policy EQ-3.1: Promote the community as a model for stream restoration and enhancement.

Policy EQ-3.2: Protect critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) and the quality of groundwater used for public water supplies to ensure adequate and healthy future potable water.

Policy EQ-3.3: Coordinate with regional efforts to monitor water quality and identify sources of water pollution in the city's streams and Lake Washington.

Policy EQ-3.4: Increase public awareness and enforcement of regulations that prohibit illegal dumping.

Policy EQ-3.5: Ensure that new developments are connected to the sanitary sewer system. Support a long-term strategy to convert existing developments from onsite sewage systems to the sanitary sewer system and undertake all means reasonable to ensure the quality of water discharged from existing onsite sewage treatment systems. Support planning efforts to ensure sewage overflow does not enter Lake Forest Park's waterways.

Policy EQ-3.6: Maintain and enhance natural drainage systems to protect water quality, reduce public costs, protect property, and prevent environmental degradation, including supporting riparian restoration with or without partnership from community organizations.

Low-impact development (LID) is a stormwater and land use strategy that strives to mimic pre-disturbance hydrologic processes. LID measures emphasize conservation, use of on-site natural features, site planning, and integration of stormwater management practices into project design. Rain gardens and permeable hardscapes are examples of LID measures.

Policy EQ-3.7: Encourage low-impact development alternatives and appropriate enhancements of the street maintenance program to minimize urban runoff.

Policy EQ-3.8: Require appropriate mitigation measures through the City's development review process to reduce negative impacts to water quality from new developments.

Commented [CH4]: Comment: How many properties have not connected to sanitary sewer system?

Policy EQ-3.9: Coordinate with the regional agencies and neighboring jurisdictions to improve regional surface water management and salmon recovery efforts, resolve interjurisdictional concerns, and implement watershed-based action plans.

Commented [CH5]: Comment: Delete as noted

***Watershed action plans** are multi-jurisdictional plans that coordinate efforts to address water quality and storm water runoff problems that can contribute to flooding and property damage within a watershed that crosses the boundaries of two or more jurisdictions. The cities of Lake Forest Park, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline, and Snohomish County have formed a watershed forum to guide the development of a watershed action plan for the Lake Ballinger/McAleer Creek watershed. Additionally, the City has been an active member of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Salmon Recovery Council since [year] along with 28 other local governments.*

Commented [CH6]: Comment: I have asked WRIA 8's director how long LFP has been a member.

Policy EQ-3.10: Support the removal or retrofit of existing public and private culverts and encourage daylighting of creeks wherever possible to restore natural waterways.

Commented [CH7]: Comment: Add as noted

Policy EQ-3.11: Support public education programs about the interconnection between urban streams and human activities.



Goal EQ-4: Development in Geologically Hazardous Areas

Encourage planning efforts to prepare for and recover from environmental disasters.

Policy EQ-4.1: Minimize risk posed by geological and flood hazard areas to people, property, and the environment.

Policy EQ-4.2: Regulate development in hazard areas to ensure that it does not cause safety risks, and that appropriate building standards and mitigation measures are used to address site conditions.

Policy EQ-4.3: Promote retention of vegetation and limit land disturbance in identified steep slope and landslide hazard areas.

Policy EQ-4.4: Protect existing natural areas that provide stormwater storage during flood and heavy rain events. Restore disturbed natural areas to return them to stormwater storage during flood and heavy rain events.

Commented [CH8]: Comment: Add as noted

Commented [CH9]: Comment: Add as noted

Policy EQ-4.5: Promote educational efforts to inform landowners and residents about hazard areas, how to prepare for emergencies, and resources available to mitigate risks.

Response: Consider "Restore disturbed natural areas to provide more stormwater storage..."

Goal EQ–5: Alternative Energy

Promote clean, renewable energy production and use throughout the city.

Policy EQ–5.1: Promote public and private clean energy pilot s and projects, such as a comprehensive network of electric vehicle charging stations or community solar projects, with the active participation of residents and businesses.

Policy EQ–5.2: Encourage reduced energy demand, support energy management technology, and encourage greater reliance on sustainable energy sources compared to conventional sources.

Policy EQ–5.3: Educate residents about incentives for emerging clean energy technology, such as tax exemptions for solar installations, and increase resident awareness of existing solar arrays and water heating systems in the city.

Policy EQ–5.4: Participate in regional efforts to create a state-wide clean energy policy and decrease local greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy EQ–5.5: Encourage businesses, residents, and new developments to utilize electric or solar energy.

Policy EQ–5.6: Facilitate the City's 70 percent recycling rate goal (as adopted by King County) and, having nearly achieved King County's goal, expand current recycling efforts, such as the battery recycling program at City Hall. Support efforts to implement Extended Producer Responsibility legislation at the state level.



Goal EQ–6: Air Quality, Noise Abatement, and Light Pollution

Support actions to improve air quality, reduce noise and light pollution, and minimize associated negative health effects.

Policy EQ–6.1: ~~Promote clean burning wood stoves within the city.~~ Encourage the use of non-combustion-based heating and cooking appliances.

Policy EQ–6.2: Encourage transportation infrastructure for buses, carpooling, nonmotorized transportation, and electric vehicles, and the planting of trees along arterials.

~~**Dark skies standards** seek to reduce light pollution by addressing urban sky glow, glare, light trespass, and light clutter.~~

Commented [CH10]: Comment: Add as noted.

Commented [CH11]: Comment: Perhaps there's a way to clarify what "reduced energy demand" means

Response: "Reduced energy demand" means any action or design feature that would use less power. This could include home retrofits, appliance upgrades, installation of solar panels, energy-optimized choices in the siting and design of new buildings, and personal choices such as turning the thermostat up or down.

Commented [CH12]: Comment: Agree with SCJ's point: reducing energy demand will encourage better home insulation, for instance.

Commented [CH13]: Comment: What are "energy management policies?"

Response: Energy management technologies are things like tracking systems for energy uses, smart thermostats, and other systems that help optimize the energy usage in a building.

Comment: Add to 5.2 or a new policy 5.7: "Encourage on-site energy storage and back-up systems in homes and businesses."

Response: I suggest adding this in EQ-9. This is likely to come up in the climate resilience sub-element, as it's a great way to support individual and community resilience.

Commented [CH14]: Comment: Make changes as noted.

Commented [CH15]: Comment: Wood stoves as opposed to what? This should be clearer if we are talking about cooking appliances or heating appliances. If heating, why wood stoves and not heat pumps? And if cooking, why wood and not induction or electric?

Response: This is an artifact from the 2015 Plan, but my interpretation is wood stoves for heating, which are big sources of emissions (especially particulate matter). Transitioning from a wood stove to a clean burning wood stove is great. An even better step would be transitioning from a wood stove to alternative fuels.

Perhaps rephrasing this policy as "Promote efficient heating systems, including home upgrades, retrofits and new construction."

Commented [CH16]: Comment: In light of our climate goals, should we be promoting ANY kind of wood-burning? Add "Encourage the use of non-combustion-based heating and cooking appliances."

Dark skies standards seek to reduce light pollution by addressing urban sky glow, glare, light trespass, and light clutter.

Commented [CH20]: Comment: Dark skies definition should be below this policy, not 6.2.

Policy EQ-6.4: Coordinate with other agencies and local governments in monitoring aircraft noise levels and flight patterns and in finding ways to minimize air traffic noise.

Policy EQ-6.5: Educate residents about noise and air pollution from gas-powered leaf blowers and similar machinery.

Policy EQ-6.6: Identify areas in the city with populations that are at higher risk of negative health effects, noise and light pollution, and lower air quality, and coordinate with the communities to explore focused solutions.

Policy EQ-6.7: Support litter pickup programs within the city to reduce the amount of waste that accumulates in roads, public spaces, neighborhoods, and natural habitats.



Goal EQ-7: Coexistence with Wildlife

Promote, support, and facilitate human coexistence with urban wildlife.

Policy EQ-7.1: Promote educational programs that help residents understand typical wildlife behavior, encourage empathy for wildlife, and emphasize human behavior modification as the primary means to minimize conflicts with wildlife.

Policy EQ-7.2: Promote current best practices for ~~Consider updating relevant regulations to promote~~ responsible pet and livestock guardianship.

Commented [CH21]: Comment: I have no objection to good animal guardianship, but I'm not sure what this policy really means

Policy EQ-7.3: Promote preventative measures to dissuade humans from interacting with wild animals.

Response: This is another artifact from the 2015 Plan. Essentially, this could be implemented through a review and possible update of code requirements related to animal care in LFPMC Title 6.

Policy EQ-7.4: Encourage the maintenance of native plantings ~~and compatible vegetation~~ in sensitive area buffers for wildlife when development occurs and encourage improvement to contiguous wildlife corridors whenever possible.

Commented [CH22]: Comment: Change to be more forceful. "Update relevant regulations to remain current with best practices and promote responsible pet and livestock guardianship."

Policy EQ-7.5: Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides, and inorganic fertilizers.

Policy EQ-7.6: Increase fish habitat restoration efforts along the city's ~~and private~~ stream systems and along the lakeshore.

Response: This is an implementation action. The policy can be rephrased as "Promote current best practices for responsible pet and livestock guardianship," with the code update added to the implementation plan.



Goal EQ-8: Urban Forest Canopy

Officially recognize the city's urban forest canopy as a key regional resource and promote ~~tree-urban forest~~

Commented [CH23]: Comment: Add as noted

Commented [CH24]: Comment: Add as noted

Commented [CH25]: Comment: Rename "Urban Forest" and revise throughout Goal

canopy conservation for a healthy and diverse community forest, which consists of both native and compatible non-native plant species.

Policy EQ-8.1: Maintain or exceed the minimum citywide urban forest canopy cover goals established by the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code through regular evaluation and refinement of the City's land use and environmental regulations and policies.

The **Community Forest Management Plan** is available online at www.cityofflp.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6175.

Policy EQ-8.2: Develop a tree planting, inventory, and maintenance program for publicly-owned property that considers the species of trees that will be most successful in environments such as public rights-of-way. Pay special attention in the planting program to areas with vulnerable populations.

Policy EQ-8.3: Ensure zoning and subdivision regulations are consistent with the *Community Forest Management Plan* and review them regularly to ensure they do not disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Policy EQ-8.4: Maintain ~~a community~~ urban forest management plan advisory committee to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the *Community Forest Management Plan* and ensure participation from a wide variety of residents.

Commented [CH26]: Comment: Would this be our Tree Board or is it another entity?

Policy EQ-8.5: Understand the effects of climate change to native trees and develop strategies to adapt to and/or mitigate the likely effects of climate change to the ~~community-urban~~ forest.

Policy EQ-8.6: Require all new private and public site developments include a tree-replacement plan that achieves or enhances urban forest canopy coverage goals.

Policy EQ-8.7: Develop a vigorous program to control invasive plant species, such as blackberry, English ivy, cherry laurel, and English holly on public property and encourage their control on private properties.

Policy EQ-8.8: Continue to balance urban forest management with tree conservation efforts by streamlining the interface between private property rights and public safety.

Policy EQ-8.9: Support community education about the value of ~~trees~~ the urban forest for human health and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Policy EQ-8.10: Partner with State Agencies to promote the importance of urban forest preservation.

Commented [CH27]: Comment: Include new policy

Policy EQ-8.11: Work with State Agencies to help fund urban forest protection and growth.

Commented [CH28]: Comment: Include new policy



Goal EQ-9: Climate Commitment

Protect environmental quality and community resilience in a changing climate.

Policy EQ-9.1: Identify areas with vulnerable populations and coordinate mitigation and recovery planning efforts with those communities.

Policy EQ-9.2: Encourage policies to increase tree-urban forest canopy cover in socially and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

Policy EQ-9.3: Support nonprofit organizations that provide education and participation in urban forest conservation strategies.

Policy EQ-9.4: Support and implement the goals of the City's Climate Action Plan.

Policy EQ-9.5: Encourage on-site energy storage and back-up systems in homes and businesses.

Policy EQ-9.6: Track and monitor the impact the urban forest has on the heat island effect and other climate impacts.



Goal EQ-10

Promote education on sustainable production and a circular economy.

Policy EQ-10.1: Support a sustainable and local food economy.

Policy EQ-10.2: Promote education on sustainable food production and waste reduction methods, like composting and food donations, to avoid food waste.

Policy EQ-10.3: Encourage zero waste through waste reduction programs and education on product lifecycles such as cradle-to-cradle design Extended Producer Responsibility.

Policy EQ-10.4. Coordinate efforts to reduce waste by making recycling and composting more accessible and efficient.

Commented [CH29]: Comment: Proposed EQ-9.4 In light of our Climate Action Plan

Commented [CH30]: Comment: Proposed EQ-9.4 In light of our Climate Action Plan

Commented [CH31]: New policy language from EQ-5.2 comments, which I recommend be added here.

Commented [CH32]: Comment: Proposed EQ-9.4 In light of our Climate Action Plan

Commented [CH33]: New policy language from EQ-5.2 comments, which I recommend be added here.

Commented [CH34]: Comment: Add new policy

Response: This is an implementation action. It could be rephrased as, "Promote education about the impact..."

Commented [CH35]: Comment: perhaps we could provide a definition of "circular economy"

Response: This is in the glossary.

Commented [CH36]: Comment: Add as noted

Commented [CH37]: Comment: "Extended Producer Responsibility" (<https://kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/dnrp/solid-waste/about/planning/documents/task-force-EPR-policy-framework.ashx?la=en> and <https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Our-recycling-programs>) might be a more accessible term that has been used both at the county and state levels recently, and operationalizes the "cradle-to-cradle" idea.