

# 2026 Tumwater Legislative Priorities

## **RESTORE \$2M IN FUNDING FOR PRAIRIE HABITAT**

The City of Tumwater and the Port of Olympia are developing a 30-year Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to protect the federally endangered species and its prairie habitat, thereby allowing land to be used for state-mandated housing, jobs, and community development.

To initiate the HCP, the City seeks **\$2 million to acquire a portion of Tickner Farms** which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified as prime prairie and wetland habitat. Partnerships with federal programs, grants, and conservancies are underway, allowing the program to become self-sustaining through habitat conservation fees on future development applications.

**OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS,  
THE HCP CAN HELP THE CITY  
ACCOMMODATE:**

**9,000 +**  
housing units

**10,000 +**  
jobs

**17,000 +**  
new residents

## **\$550K TO SUPPORT BREWERY DISTRICT REDEVELOPMENT**

The City of Tumwater is preparing a new Planned Action Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to promote redevelopment in the Brewery District, addressing long-standing environmental, infrastructure, and regulatory issues. The EIS will examine multiple development options, assess environmental impacts and cleanup needs, and recommend mitigation measures to make redevelopment more feasible.

Guided by a Policy Advisory Committee made up of community and industry leaders, the process establishes a clear framework for investment and revitalization. The City requests \$550,000 in state funding to initiate the year-long EIS in 2026, building on decades of public input and planning efforts, including the Brewery Action Plan (2011) and the updated Brewery District Plan (2020).

## **\$6.6M TO CONNECT THE COMMUNITY VIA E STREET**

The City of Tumwater is in the initial planning stages for the E Street Connection, a new east-west transportation corridor that will link Capitol Boulevard and Cleveland Avenue. This project aims to reduce congestion and enhance regional mobility. Designed to accommodate 28,200 vehicles daily—primarily commuters and commercial traffic—the project will include a 1,350-foot bridge over the Deschutes River and a rail line, as well as two roundabouts and various multimodal amenities to ensure safety and accessibility.

With **\$2.1 million invested locally**, the City seeks an additional \$6.6 million in state transportation funding. This funding will be used to complete the design, engineering, and permitting processes, acquire necessary right-of-way, and finalize the project footprint based on community feedback. The E Street Connection will complement Tumwater's broader vision for a vibrant, walkable economic hub, centered around the Craft District, Brewery property, regional trails, and the city's natural surroundings along the Deschutes River.



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## ***SUPPORT THURSTON REGIONAL PRIORITIES***

Stakeholders across Thurston County take a regional approach when it comes to visioning our future as an integrated and interdependent endeavor. To that end, we support the priorities identified in their 2026 legislative agenda, which include:

- **Regional Meat Processing Infrastructure** (Phase 2) \$500,000
- **Restoring Habitat Conservation Plan Resources** \$2,000,000
- **SPSCC Health Education Center**: Modified Pre-design work \$750,000
- **Thurston County Regional Justice Center** \$5,000,000
- **Increasing Regional Basic Law Enforcement Academies** \$1,000,000



## ***SUPPORT AWC PRIORITIES***

Similarly, the City of Tumwater supports AWC's advocacy on behalf of cities. Specifically, we highlight the following priorities from the AWC agenda for 2026:

- **State-shared revenues**: Preserve state-shared revenues that provide critical fiscal certainty and sustainability for city services.
- **Indigent defense**: Invest more in municipal indigent defense to assist with current needs and address the new Washington Supreme Court-ordered reductions in caseloads, and explore creation options to increase the public defense workforce.
- **Local transportation needs**: Provide more sustainable resources for local transportation operations and maintenance needs.



### **Our Mayor and Council**

Debbie Sullivan, Mayor  
Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor Pro Tem  
Angela Jefferson, Councilmember  
Joan Cathey, Councilmember  
Eileen Swarthout, Councilmember  
Michael Althaus, Councilmember  
Peter Agabi, Councilmember  
Kelly Von Holtz, Councilmember

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