

# 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Conservation Element

*Balancing Nature and Community:  
Tumwater's Path to Sustainable Growth*



Planning Commission May 27, 2025

# Intent

- Review format of Parts 1 and 2
- Discuss the draft Conservation Element
- Take feedback on goals, policies, and draft implementation actions
- Explain next steps



# Format for Part 1- Goals, Policies, and Actions



Chapter 1- Introduction



Chapter 2- GMA & Element Goals



Chapter 3- County-Wide Planning Policies



Chapter 4- Element Goals and Policies



Appendix A- Draft Implementation Actions

# Format for Part 2- Technical Information



Chapter 1- Introduction



Chapter 2- Natural Resources



Chapter 3- Critical Areas



Appendix A- Foundational Documents and Best Available Science



Appendix B- Open Space Taxation Act Summary



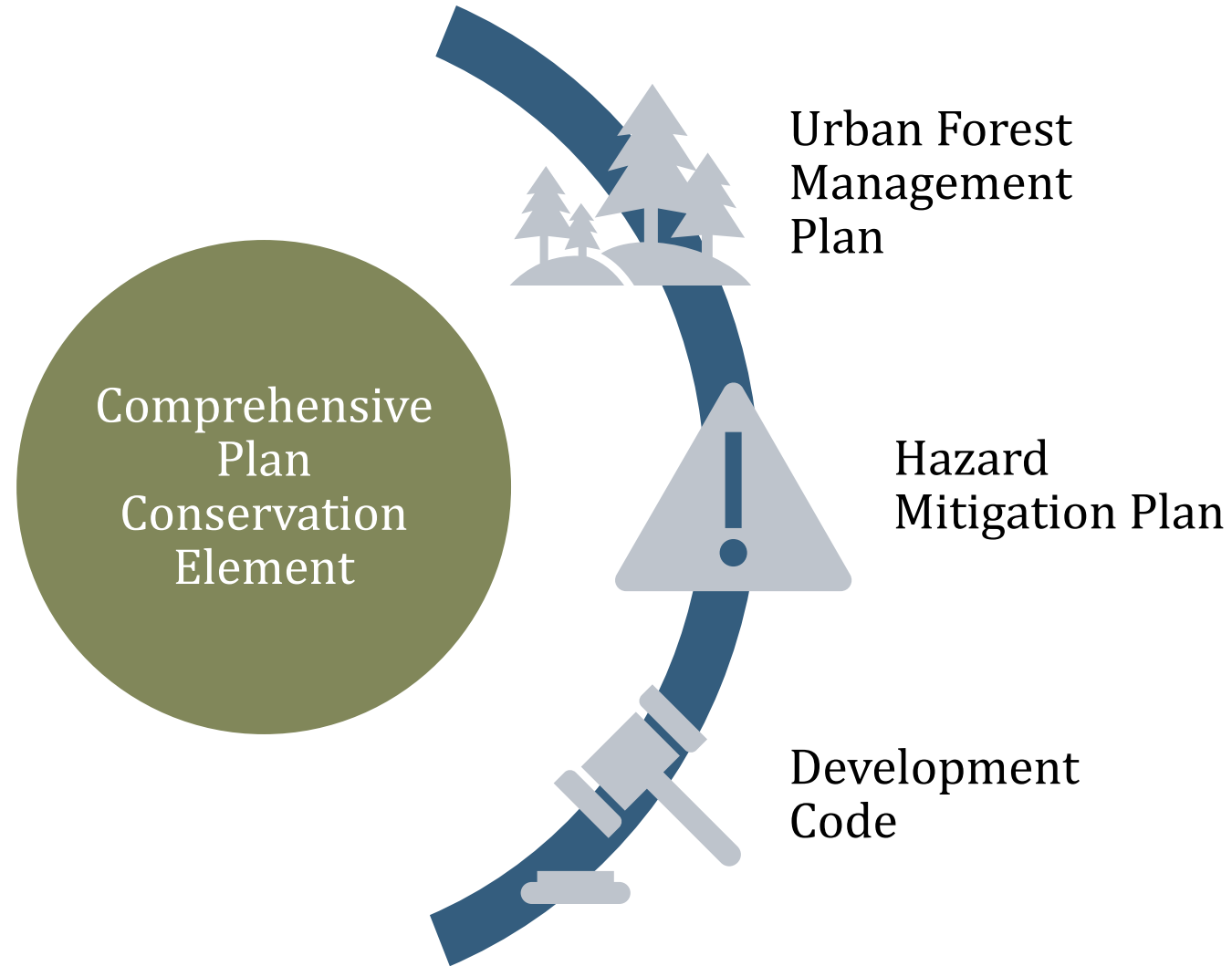
Appendix C- Tumwater Soils Report





# Natural Resources

# Working Together





# Critical Areas

# Wetlands



1. Introduction
2. Values and Benefits
3. Policies, Regulations and Inventories
4. Protection and Identification
5. Enhancement

# Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas



1. Introduction
2. Classification and Concerns
3. Current Inventory
4. Protection

# Frequently Flooded Areas



1. Introduction
2. Classification and Concerns
3. Protection
4. Mapping
5. Groundwater

# Geologically Hazardous Areas



1. Introduction
2. Classification
3. Identification
4. Protection

# Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas



1. Introduction
2. Classification
3. Identification
4. Protection



# Overarching Environmental Goals

# Goal C-1

**Recognize the significant role played by natural features and systems in determining the overall environmental quality and livability of Tumwater**

## *Highlights:*

- Natural systems make Tumwater livable
- Protect and enhance environment
- Use adopted plans



## Goal C-2

**Promote conservation of natural resources and the protection of the environment in cooperation with residents, property owners, other jurisdictions, and tribes**

### *Highlights:*

- Support education programs





## Natural Resource Areas Goals

# Goal C-3

**Support urban agriculture  
for access to local food  
production**

## *Highlights:*

- Work with partners to ensure agricultural viability
- Support local food production

# Goal C-5

## Support urban forestry

### *Highlights:*

- Canopy retention
- Conversions compatible with surrounding development pattern

# Goal C-5

## Protect mineral resource lands

### *Highlights:*

- Allow extraction where it won't cause degradation
- Protect sites from incompatible uses
- Restoration extraction sites



## Critical Areas Goals

# Goal C-6

## Protect mineral resource lands

### *Highlights:*

- Allow extraction where it won't cause degradation
- Protect sites from incompatible uses
- Restoration extraction sites

# Goal C-7

## Protect and enhance water quality

### *Highlights:*

- Enhance ecological functions
- Support restoration of stream channels and wetlands
- Allow public access for monitoring and education
- Balance habitat, water supply, recreation and all needs

# Goal C-8

## Improve natural drainage systems

### *Highlights:*

- Develop watershed management plans and fish conservation measures
- Improve drainage systems for water quality
- Use best management practices to control erosion through construction and redevelopment

# Goal C-9

## Improve air quality

### *Highlights:*

- Support and entrust state programs
- Require appropriate vegetation retention
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled

# Goal C-10

**Protect and enhance  
rivers, streams, and lakes**

## *Highlights:*

- Protect, enhance and restore water channels
- Require mitigation for alterations

# Goal C-11

## Protect and enhance wetlands

### *Highlights:*

- Protect wetlands where possible
- Use buffers to preserve functions
- Allow reasonable use
- Maintain stormwater treatment facilities and flow control

# Goal C-12

## Protect groundwater

### *Highlights:*

- Protect aquifers, recharge areas and wellheads
- Protect waterways

# Goal C-13

## Protect geologically hazardous areas

### *Highlights:*

- Regulate development intensity, site coverage, and vegetation
- Minimize soil disturbance
- Require erosion control throughout construction

# Goal C-14

## Preserve floodplains and floodways

### *Highlights:*

- Minimize changes that impact flow
- Require mitigation for engineered flood control measures
- Emphasize non- structure flood control
- Allow low-impact development only

# Goal C-15

**Protect and enhance  
wildlife habitat**

## *Highlights:*

- Minimize fragmentation
- Protect habitat for listed species
- Encourage vegetated buffer areas
- Control invasive species

# Next Steps in the Review Process

- General Government Committee Briefing – June 11, 2025
- Complete final round of stakeholder input and engagement – Late Spring 2025
  - Review draft goals, policies, and actions
  - Ensure input and feedback was incorporated
- Comprehensive Plan Adoption Process – Fall 2025 – Winter 2026
- Comprehensive Plan Ordinance Briefing – October 28, 2025



# Submitting Comments or Questions

Written comments or questions are welcome at any time during the periodic update process

- Update website: [2025 Comprehensive Plan Update](#)
- Periodic update email: [compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us](mailto:compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us)
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