

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update Conservation Element

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



General Government Committee, June 11, 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

Urban Agriculture



Introduction/Overview

Sustainable Agriculture

Classification

Identification

Current Agricultural Uses

Small Scale Urban Agriculture

Forest Lands



Introduction



Current Forest
Land Use



Forest Lands
Conservation



Forest Lands in
the Urban Area

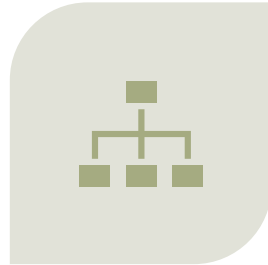


Urban Forestry
Management Plan

Mineral Resource Lands



Introduction



Classification

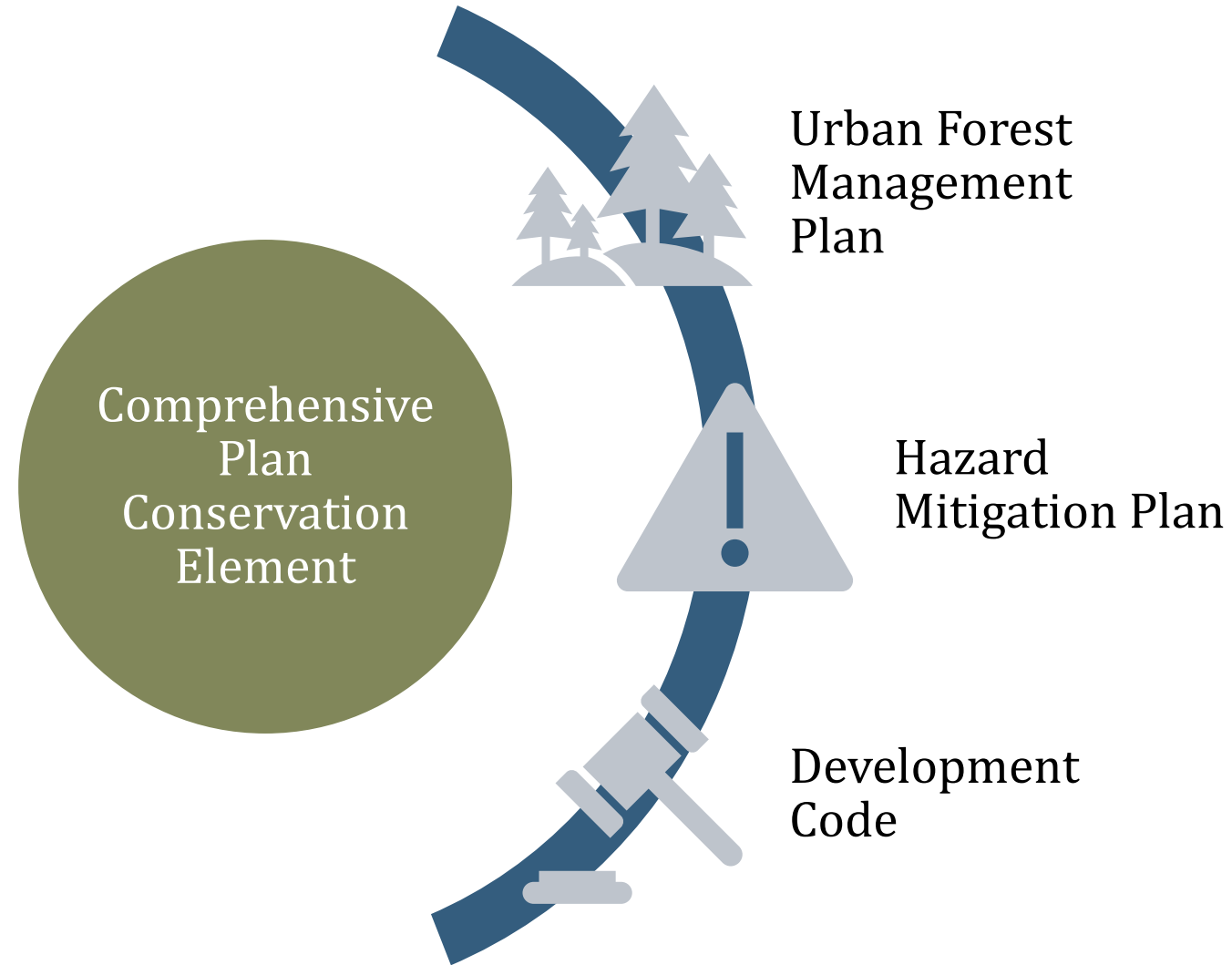


Identification



Protection

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-4

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

Designate and protect critical areas in accordance with the Growth Management Act to protect functions and safeguard against threats to health, safety and property.

Highlights:

- Use best available science
- Protect critical areas and allow for compatible development
- Require identification and protection of critical areas prior to development



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

- 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 – Planning Commission – October 28, 2025



Submitting Comments or Questions

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

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