

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT GOALS AND POLICIES

Current Comprehensive Plan	Proposed language
<p>4.1 County-wide Planning Policies</p> <p>4.1.1 Urban growth areas shall be established consistent with the protection of the environment and the enhancement of the county's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water. The establishment of urban growth areas shall also be done in a manner consistent with the preservation of land, sites and structures that have historical or archeological significance.</p> <p>4.1.2 The county and each municipality shall cooperate to ensure the preservation and protection of natural resources, critical areas, open space, and recreational lands within and near the urban area through adequate and compatible policies and regulations. These policies and regulations shall provide for the long-term viability of terrestrial habitat functions and natural watershed processes identified by scientifically-based assessment.</p>	<p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>GOAL: Protect and conserve environmentally critical areas.</p> <p>4.2 Policies</p> <p>4.2.1 Clearly define and update maps of environmentally critical areas throughout the county and its cities, using federal, state or other accepted definitions where appropriate. Identify watershed processes on the maps and describe</p>	<p>GOAL: Protect and conserve environmentally critical areas.</p> <p>4.2 Policies</p> <p>4.2.1 Clearly define and update maps of environmentally critical areas throughout the county and its cities, using federal, state or other accepted definitions where appropriate. Identify watershed processes on the maps and describe</p>

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<p>the reach-by-reach relationships among them. In particular, update Priority Habitat Species data as it becomes available from the Department of Wildlife or other sources.</p>	<p>the reach-by-reach relationships among them. In particular, update Priority Habitat Species data as it becomes available from the Department of Wildlife or other sources. <i>(strategy)</i></p>
<p>4.2.2 Incorporate ways to respond to watershed processes and Priority Habitat Species data in local planning processes, such as SEPA review and the Habitat Conservation Ordinance.</p>	<p>4.2.2 Incorporate ways to respond to watershed processes and Priority Habitat Species data in local planning processes, such as SEPA review and the Habitat Conservation Ordinance. <i>(strategy)</i></p>
<p>4.2.3 Update regulatory and incentive programs for the protection and conservation of environmentally critical areas, including wildlife habitat areas, wetlands and shorelines, and the underlying watershed processes. Emphasis should be given to policies and standards to protect and conserve critical areas as larger blocks, corridors or interconnected areas rather than in isolated parcels.</p>	<p>4.2.3 Update regulatory and incentive programs for the protection and conservation of environmentally critical areas, including wildlife habitat areas, wetlands and shorelines, and the underlying watershed processes. Emphasis should be given to policies and standards to protect and conserve critical areas as larger blocks, corridors or interconnected areas rather than in isolated parcels. <i>(strategy)</i></p>
<p>4.2.4 Encourage consistency among Clark County and its cities regarding methods of critical area definition, mapping, mitigation strategies, and policy treatment.</p>	<p>4.2.1 <u>Identify the variety and diversity of natural environments and incorporate conservation of such areas into all land use decisions.</u></p>
<p>4.2.5 Coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies to protect environmentally critical lands, particularly ecosystems and watershed processes that span jurisdictional boundaries.</p>	<p>4.2.2 10 Encourage habitat protection that will provide a diverse and sustainable populations of fish and wildlife.</p>
<p>4.2.6 Facilitate public education and outreach programs explaining the variety of critical area and habitat resources that exist in Clark County and the benefits and opportunities for conservation, protection, and hazard mitigation.</p>	<p>4.2.3 8 Protect groundwater and surface water as a resource for drinking water, commerce, recreation and for wildlife <u>by:</u> based on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>minimizing</u> the amount of impervious area created by developments; • <u>promoting</u> the use of non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers; • <u>minimizing</u> potential application of sludge or animal waste material in or near sensitive areas such as </p>

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<p>4.2.7 Encourage the use of Northwest native plants in landscaping, particularly adjacent to critical areas, and discourage the use of invasive non-natives (e.g., English ivy).</p>	<p>aquifer recharge areas or surface water bodies as required by state law;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing stormwater management service as specified in the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element (Chapter 6) of the 20-Year Plan; and
<p>4.2.8 Protect groundwater and surface water as a resource for drinking water, commerce, recreation and for wildlife based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimize the amount of impervious area created by developments; • promote the use of non-toxic pesticides and fertilizers; • minimize potential application of sludge or animal waste material in or near sensitive areas such as aquifer recharge areas or surface water bodies as required by state law; • provide stormwater management service as specified in the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element (Chapter 6) of the 20-Year Plan; and • provide stream bank erosion control using biological engineering methods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using provide biological engineering methods to control stream bank erosion. control using biological engineering methods.
<p>4.2.9 Reduce risk to life and property from hazards associated with development in geologically hazardous and floodplain areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibiting, discouraging, or mitigating development in areas of steep slopes or other areas with high potential for geological hazards; • limiting the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm runoff and erosion; • requiring geotechnical studies to determine construction methods and technologies necessary to further public safety in geologically hazardous areas including landslide areas and steep slopes. Development design and construction technology used shall be appropriate 	<p>4.2.4 9 Reduce risk to life and property from hazards associated with development in geologically hazardous and floodplain areas by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibiting or discouraging, or mitigating development in areas of steep slopes or other areas with high potential for geological hazards; • limiting the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm runoff and erosion; • requiring geotechnical studies to determine construction methods and technologies necessary to further public safety in geologically hazardous areas including landslide areas and steep slopes. Development design and construction technology used shall be appropriate to the soil limitations of the particular site; and, • continuing to prohibiting development in the floodway. In the flood fringe, development impacts shall be mitigated through the use of appropriate construction designs, methods and timing. Floodplain functions will be protected to the extent possible. <p>4.2.5 12 Limit clearing of vegetation from stream banks, and restore the integrity of stream banks where degraded by development.</p> <p>4.2.6 7 Encourage the use of Northwest native plants in</p>

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<p>to the soil limitations of the particular site; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continuing to prohibit development in the floodway. In the flood fringe, development impacts shall be mitigated through the use of appropriate construction designs, methods and timing. Floodplain functions will be protected to the extent possible. <p>4.2.10 Encourage habitat protection that will provide a diverse and sustainable population of fish and wildlife.</p> <p>4.2.11 Solicit review assistance from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for development proposals directly affecting state or federal sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.</p> <p>4.2.12 Limit clearing of vegetation from stream banks, and restore the integrity of stream banks where degraded by development.</p>	<p>landscaping, particularly adjacent to critical areas, and discourage the use of invasive non-natives (e.g., English ivy). <i>(require this in Title 40?)</i></p> <p>4.2.7 5 Coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies to protect environmentally critical lands, particularly ecosystems and watershed processes that span jurisdictional boundaries. 4.2.4 Encourage consistency among Clark County and its cities regarding methods of critical area definition, mapping, mitigation strategies, and policy treatment.</p> <p>4.2.8 11 Solicit review assistance from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for development proposals directly affecting state or federal sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.</p> <p>4.2.9 6 Facilitate public education and outreach programs explaining the variety of critical area and habitat resources that exist in Clark County and the benefits and opportunities for conservation, protection, and hazard mitigation.</p>
<p>GOAL: Protect and recover endangered species within Clark County.</p> <p>4.3 Policies</p> <p>4.3.1 The county will update and implement the Habitat Conservation Ordinance (HCO) with regard to the preservation of state and federally listed fish and wildlife species and their habitats.</p> <p>4.3.2 Consult with the WDFW when future land uses have a</p>	<p>GOAL: Protect and recover endangered species within Clark County.</p> <p>4.3 Policies</p> <p>4.3.1 3 In cooperation with <u>the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)</u>, establish appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that functionally replace or improve affected species habitat.</p> <p>4.3.2. 4.2.11 Solicit review assistance from the Washington</p>

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<p>probable impact on listed species and their habitat.</p> <p>4.3.3 In cooperation with WDFW, establish appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that functionally replace or improve affected species habitat.</p>	<p>Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for development proposals directly affecting state or federal sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.</p> <p>4.3.3 4.11.1 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in <u>any species recovery program</u>. the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.</p> <p>4.3.1 The county will update and implement the Habitat Conservation Ordinance (HCO) with regard to the preservation of state and federally listed fish and wildlife species and their habitats. (strategy)</p> <p>4.3.2 Consult with the WDFW when future land uses have a probable impact on listed species and their habitat. (redundant)</p>
<p>GOAL: Protect, conserve, and recover salmonids within Clark County.</p> <p>4.4 Policies</p> <p>4.4.1 Salmonids cannot distinguish between urban and rural boundaries. Resource protections in both areas should be applied using scientifically based recovery strategies.</p> <p>4.4.2 The county shall consider salmonids and their needs as defined by Best Available Science when siting and modifying county or municipal capital facilities.</p> <p>4.4.3 Restore and maintain properly functioning ecosystem conditions for salmonids in all county waters. Embrace and implement recovery plans adopted by the National</p>	<p>GOAL: Protect, conserve, and recover salmonids within Clark County.</p> <p>4.4 Policies</p> <p>4.4.1 3 Restore and maintain properly functioning ecosystem conditions for salmonids in all county waters. Embrace and implement recovery plans adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.</p> <p>4.4.2 1 Salmonids cannot distinguish between urban and rural boundaries. <u>Salmon Resource</u> protections in both <u>urban and rural areas shall</u> should be applied using <u>scientifically based</u> recovery strategies <u>based on best available science</u>.</p>

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<p>Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.</p> <p>4.4.4 Consolidate regulations and the permitting process to achieve the salmon-friendly vision for the county, incorporating adaptive management principles.</p> <p>4.4.5 Provide incentives for salmon-friendly development and land use activities, including the installation of culverts in rural sub-basins.</p> <p>4.4.6 Restore streams and fish passageways in urban sub-basins and other appropriate watershed basins.</p>	<p><u>4.4.3 Use incentives and public/private partnerships in land use activities to encourage salmon-friendly development and habitat restoration efforts.</u></p> <p>4.4.4 Restore streams and fish passageways in urban sub-basins and other appropriate watershed basins.</p>
<p>GOAL: Require sewer service within urban growth areas and discourage septic use.</p> <p>4.5 Policies</p> <p>4.5.1 Require regular inspections of existing on-site sewage disposal systems in wellhead protection areas.</p> <p>4.5.2 Establish mandatory subsurface sewage disposal septic inspection/maintenance programs for existing septic systems, particularly areas needing environmental health guarantees.</p> <p>4.5.3 Wastewater treatment, in rural areas, shall be provided by individual on-site treatment systems or approved alternative sewage treatment technologies. Sewer lines shall not be extended except to correct existing health hazards and provided that other means for treatment, such as state approved alternative technologies, have</p>	<p>GOAL: <u>Ensure that appropriate sewer service/facilities are developed and maintained.</u> Require sewer service within urban growth areas and discourage septic use.</p> <p>4.5 Policies</p> <p><u>4.5.1 All new development in the urban area should be served by a connection to a public sewer system. (policy 6.3.1)</u></p> <p><u>4.5.2 Septic systems in urban areas are to be phased out.</u></p> <p>4.5.3 <u>In rural areas,</u> wastewater treatment, in rural areas, shall be provided by individual on-site treatment systems or approved alternative sewage treatment technologies.</p> <p><u>4.5.4 Existing sewers systems in rural centers shall not be expanded beyond rural center boundaries.</u></p>

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<p>been assessed and determined not to be feasible due to environmental constraints.</p>	<p><u>4.5.5</u> Sewer lines shall not be extended except to correct existing health hazards and provided that other means for treatment, such as state approved alternative technologies, have been assessed and determined not to be feasible due to environmental constraints. <i>(leave here or put in Public Facilities section?)</i></p>
<p>GOAL: Provide a long-range stormwater management program to minimize impacts from stormwater discharge from existing and new development.</p> <p>4.6 Policies</p> <p>4.6.1 Implement stormwater basin planning and promotion of on-site infiltration to effectively address stormwater management in developed and urbanizing areas.</p> <p>4.6.2 Adopt stormwater standards substantially equivalent to those in the Washington DOE Stormwater Management Manual, and continue to monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management.</p> <p>4.6.3 Maintain clear development review standards for the control of the quantity and quality of storm water discharge from development projects which emphasize on-site retention, treatment and infiltration of run-off to streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes.</p>	<p>GOAL: Protect the waters of the county through a Provide a long-range stormwater management program <u>that</u> to <u>minimizes</u> impacts from stormwater <u>run-off</u>. discharge from existing and new development.</p> <p>4.6 Policies</p> <p><u>4.6.1 Minimize impacts to waters of the county through an effective stormwater management program that includes</u> stormwater basin planning and promotion of on-site infiltration to effectively address stormwater management in developed and urbanizing areas.</p> <p><u>4.6.2 Maintain</u> Adopt stormwater standards substantially equivalent to those in the Washington DOE Stormwater Management Manual standards for the control of the quantity and quality of storm water discharge from development projects which emphasize on-site retention, treatment and infiltration of run-off to streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes.</p> <p><u>4.6.3 and</u> Continue to monitor and update the stormwater control</p>

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<p>4.6.4 Limit the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm water run-off and erosion.</p> <p>4.6.5 Establish a coordinated approach with local jurisdictions to solve both surface water and groundwater issues including moving toward regional storm water facilities.</p> <p>4.6.6 Promote on-site infiltration to minimize off-site run-off.</p>	<p>ordinance and related policies and standards to reduce on-site run-off that implement and enhance stormwater management.</p> <p>4.6.4 Limit the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce storm water run-off and erosion.</p> <p>4.6.5 Establish a coordinated approach with local jurisdictions to solve both surface water and groundwater issues including moving toward regional storm water facilities.</p> <p>4.6.6 Promote on-site infiltration to minimize off-site run-off. (in code).</p> <p><u>4.6.6</u> 4.11.1 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.</p>
<p>GOAL: Protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County.</p> <p>4.7 Policies</p> <p>4.7.1 Clark County's Shoreline Master Program as included in Chapter 13 of this comprehensive plan and as codified in CCC Chapter 40.460 shall be implemented to protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County.</p>	<p>GOAL: Protect and enhance the shorelines of Clark County.</p> <p>4.7 Policies</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><u>4.7.2 The county and cities shall implement the mutually-adopted shoreline goals, policies, and shoreline designations through development regulations contained in their respective shoreline master programs. Such programs are designed to foster appropriate uses of and access to shorelines of the state while protecting natural</u></p>

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<p>GOAL: Manage the parks and open space of Clark County consistent with protecting water quality and critical areas, and with enhancing the recovery of listed species.</p> <p>4.8 Policies</p> <p>4.8.1 County Parks will be managed to meet the compliance and recovery objectives as identified through the ESA process and the regional recovery plan.</p>	<p><u>resources and shoreline ecological functions. (CWPP)</u></p> <p>GOAL: Manage the parks and open space of Clark County consistent with protecting water quality and critical areas, and with enhancing the recovery of listed species.</p> <p>4.8 Policies</p> <p><i>No change. Cross-reference with Public Facilities chapter for Parks.</i></p>
<p>GOAL: It is important for Clark County citizens' health and the community's economic development prospects to have the region achieve and maintain clean healthy air.</p> <p>4.9 Policies</p> <p>4.9.1 Clark County's air resource is to be managed to preserve and enhance air quality.</p> <p>4.9.2 Land use planning needs to incorporate air quality impacts as an additional land use planning decision criteria.</p>	<p>GOAL: <u>Maintain and enhance the region's air quality.</u> It is important for Clark County citizens' health and the community's economic development prospects to have the region achieve and maintain clean healthy air.</p> <p>4.9 Policies</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><i>No change.</i></p>
<p>GOAL: Minimize property damage from geological hazards and flooding.</p> <p>4.10 Policies</p> <p>4.10.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive Hazard</p>	<p>GOAL: Minimize property damage from geological hazards and flooding.</p> <p>4.10 Policies</p> <p>4.10.1 <u>Apply reasonable land use and building restrictions in</u></p>

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<p>Mitigation Plan as required by FEMA in order to meet the federal and state Disaster Recovery Act 2000.</p> <p>4.10.2 Establish and coordinate a sustainable approach to natural hazard mitigation with all local jurisdictions on identified critical areas, open space and recreational lands to lessen or eliminate hazards before an emergency happens.</p> <p>4.10.3 Provide incentives for hazard reduction development and land use techniques. Develop methods for leveraging state and federal competitive mitigation funds with local development fees.</p>	<p><u>flood hazard areas to minimize the loss of life and property damage.</u></p> <p>4.10.1 Develop and implement a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by FEMA in order to meet the federal and state Disaster Recovery Act 2000. (strategy)</p> <p>4.10.2 <u>Work with the cities to</u> Establish and coordinate a sustainable approach to natural hazard mitigation with all local jurisdictions on identified critical areas, open space and recreational lands to lessen or eliminate hazards before an emergency happens.</p> <p>4.10.3 Provide incentives for hazard reduction development and land use techniques. Develop methods for leveraging state and federal competitive mitigation funds with local development fees. (strategy)</p>
<p>GOAL: Clark County will conduct its operations in a manner that meets all NPDES and ESA requirements.</p> <p>4.11 Policies</p> <p>4.11.1 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.</p> <p>4.11.2 Clark County will adopt and comply with the Regional BMP manual.</p>	<p>GOAL: Clark County will conduct its operations in a manner that meets all NPDES and ESA requirements.</p> <p>4.11 Policies</p> <p>4.11.1 County operations shall be conducted to meet the requirements outlined in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit.</p> <p>4.11.2 Clark County will adopt and comply with the Regional BMP manual. (permit requirement)</p> <p><i>(requirement relates to stormwater management; 4.11.1 moved</i></p>

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	<i>to 4.6.6)</i>
<p>GOAL: Clark County shall carry out its activities in a manner that can serve as an example of environmentally sustainable practices.</p> <p>4.12 Policies</p> <p>4.12.1 County resources and purchasing power will be used to the extent practicable to support environmentally sustainable business practices.</p> <p>4.12.2 County activities shall be periodically reviewed and updated to reflect best management practices.</p>	<p>GOAL: Clark County shall carry out its activities in a manner that can serve as an example of environmentally sustainable practices.</p> <p>4.12 Policies</p> <p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><i>No change.</i></p> <p><i>(Add county sustainability policy here?)</i></p>