

**Snohomish County
CY 2021 Annual Report
Attachment for Question 30
Stormwater Planning – Coordination with Long Range Plan Updates**

Annual Report Question #30: “Describe watershed protection measures associated with stormwater management and land use planning actions that resulted from this planning.”

Planning efforts from 2021 are on-going in preparation for adoption of updated comprehensive plans in 2024. It is very early in the planning process and this work has not progressed far enough yet to inform revisions, updates or proposals for new watershed protection measures. Throughout 2021, the county continued to implement existing measures as described below.

As included in the annual report submitted to Ecology in 2020, the county has numerous measures in place that are associated directly or indirectly with stormwater management. The comprehensive plan provides the policy basis for implementation of watershed protection measures. Plan policies direct protection of key elements of the natural environment that contribute directly to low impact development (LID) principles for managing stormwater: preservation of native vegetation and natural drainage channels, and minimization of soil compaction and new impervious surface. The policies support regulatory and nonregulatory programs that contribute directly or indirectly to watershed protection.

Land Use Planning

Decisions on where land use plan designations (i.e., urban residential, rural residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) are assigned on the future land use map are based, in part, on environmental conditions and goals for protection.

- The future land use map is based on an evaluation of land capacity which factors in requirements for environmental protection and the resulting densities achieved in recent developments. Land use designations also directly consider watershed sensitivity such as the case with the Little Bear Creek basin remaining in low density designations instead of urban designations.
- The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) assigns land use designations in coordination with the comprehensive land use plan. The SMP assigns land use designations and management policies that protect natural and aquatic environments.
- The SWUGA Boundary Planning Study used environmental conditions to assign urban development scenarios to lands suitable for such development while protecting sensitive areas as unsuitable for development. This study may be used to inform future comprehensive plan updates.

Regulatory Programs

Land use regulations

**Snohomish County
CY 2021 Annual Report
Attachment for Question 30**

Stormwater Planning – Coordination with Long Range Plan Updates

- Zoning regulations reflect the land use designations in terms of the types of uses and development densities allowed.
- Bulk regulations are linked to the zoning classifications and determine lot coverage, net density, setbacks, build height, etc.
- Critical Area Regulations provide protection standards for wetlands, streams, marine shorelines, lakes, habitat, geologically hazardous areas, frequently flooded areas, and aquifer recharge areas.
- Shoreline regulations require no net loss of ecological functions and support ecological restoration of areas within shoreline jurisdiction.
- Tree retention and landscape requirements protect native vegetation and require replacement of disturbed sites in the urban areas.
- Conversion forest practices are subject to county permit requirements and protection standards for critical areas and tree retention in the urban areas.
- Clearing, grading and drainage regulations are updated regularly in conjunction with Phase I Permit issuance.

Non-Regulatory Programs

- Public education and property maintenance programs focusing on water quality protection include: tips for maintenance of residential properties (lawn care, pet waste, etc.) and county maintenance practices (street sweeping).
- Land acquisitions for habitat restoration and/or parks, or for protection from natural hazards (i.e., flooding, landslide)
- Interjurisdictional coordination on watershed planning, salmon recovery planning, and Sustainable Lands Strategy, and Puget Sound Partnership.

During the 2013-2019 Phase I Permit cycle, along with the required updates to the land disturbing activity and drainage codes, the County updated policies in the comprehensive land use plan to address a greater focus on LID as the preferred method for stormwater management. (See Ord. No. 14-070).