

30_ARQ_2020_ Watershed protection measures

King County Comprehensive Plan

On July 24, 2020, the King County Council adopted the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update via Ordinance 19146.

[2020 Comprehensive Plan Update - Adopted - King County](#)

The Puget Sound Regional Council adopted VISION 2050, in October 2020. Focus areas in VISION 2050 include the following:

- **Restoring the health of the Puget Sound.** The plan establishes a coordinated approach to watershed planning to restore the health of Puget Sound.

Bear Creek Watershed Management Study

The objective of watershed-scale stormwater planning is to identify a stormwater management strategy or strategies that would result in hydrologic and water quality conditions that fully support “existing uses,” and “designated uses” throughout the stream system.

Bear Creek Watershed Management Study

The Bear Creek Watershed Study recommends:

- 1) Updating and building new stormwater infrastructure on public land,
 - a. upgrade existing infrastructure for highly developed areas and build additional stormwater infrastructure on public lands.
 - b. Flow Transfer Feasibility Study – studies whether flow credit transfer between watersheds would be effective.
 - c. Existing Pond Optimization Program – evaluates existing infrastructure to provide improvements.
- 2) Providing incentives for installing rain gardens, cisterns, and permeable pavement on private land,
 - a. Flow Control Incentives – provide assistance to private landowners to install rain gardens and cisterns.
 - b. In-lieu Fee Program – allows those proposing development to pay for mitigation when it is infeasible to provide mitigation.
- 3) Restoring habitat along streams and wetlands, and
 - a. Fish Passage Study & Mitigation Plan – locate and remove in-stream barriers preventing fish migration.
 - b. Tree Planting Programs – (e.g. City of Redmond, King County’s 1 Million Trees campaign) – plant trees on public land and incentivize property owners to plant trees.
 - c. Mitigation Banking – sell credits to developers.
 - d. Complementary Efforts
 - i. WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Plan acquisition projects
 - ii. King County Land Conservation efforts
- 4) Supporting the success of the Study.
 - a. Involve the community and provide training and technical assistance.
 - b. Implementing a monitoring program to track strategy effectiveness, to be used in adaptively managing the Study.
 - c. Complete program review at ten-year and adapt strategies for moving forward.

- d. Monitoring and Assessment Management Program – collects data to assess effectiveness, tracks actions, outcomes, and makes modifications.
- e. Preservation and Acquisition – of high priority open space.
- f. King County's Neighborhood Drainage Assistance Program
- g. Puget Sound Starts Here
- h. Fecal Bacteria Source Tracking Study
- i. Bear Creek/Sammamish Community Service Area

The Study recommends a ten-year effort to improve water quality and stream flows in five high-priority areas and begin to restore habitat throughout the watershed.

KC's Surface Water Design Manual creates incentives to reduce impervious surface footprints.

In addition, KC Code does not allow the development of critical areas address stormwater management needs.