

Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update

Growth Management Policy Board

July 16, 2026



Puget Sound Regional Council

VISION 2050 Supports Open Space

MPP-En-12: Conserve and enhance open space and update the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan

MPP-En-15: Provide walkable access to parks and trails and prioritize historically underserved communities

MPP-En-9: Enhance urban tree canopy to support community, environmental and economic health



Open Space Plan Update Schedule

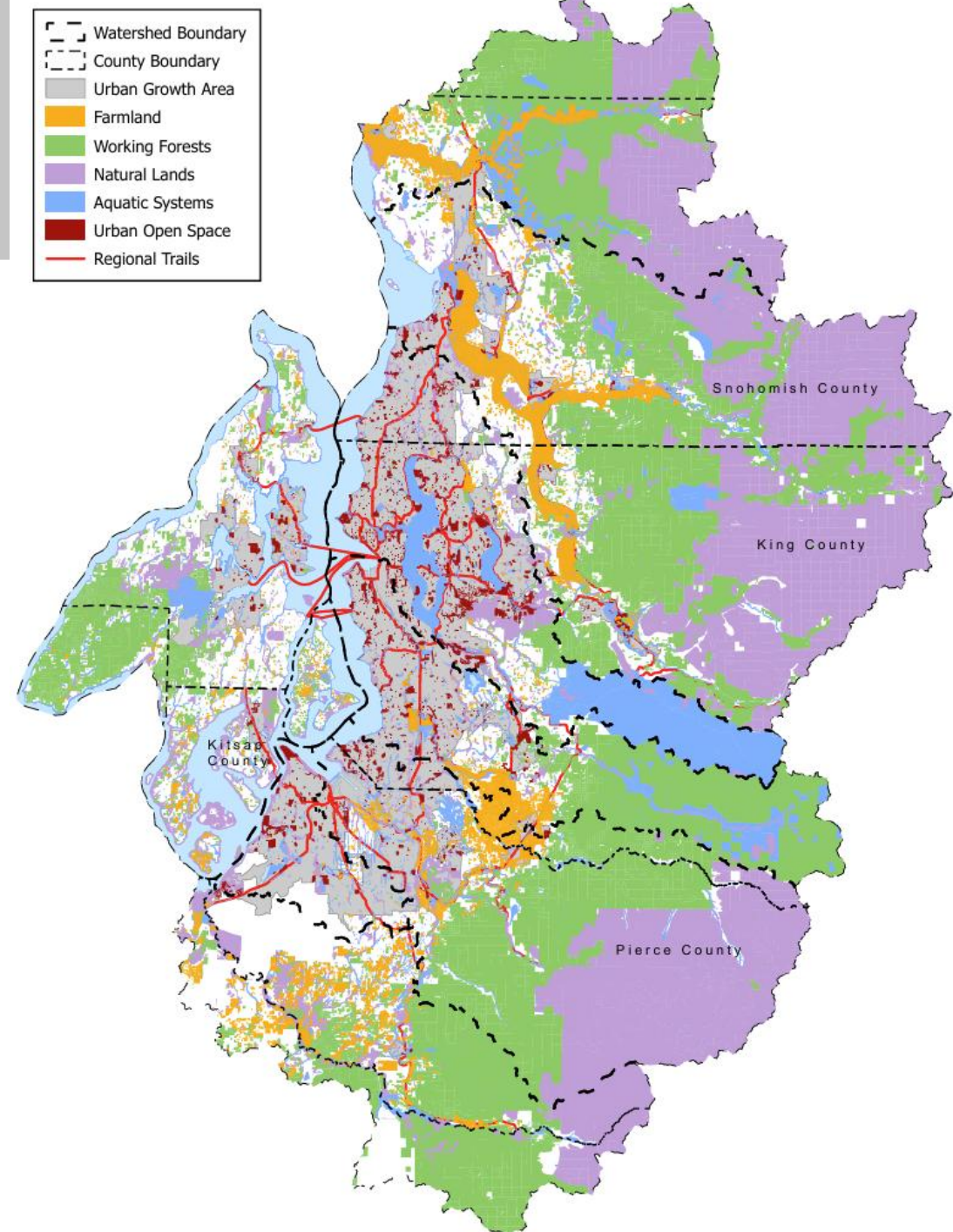


Regional Open Space Network

6 categories of open space:

- Farmland
- Working forests
- Aquatic systems
- Natural lands
- Urban open space
- Regional trails

[Regional Open Space Conservation Plan](#)

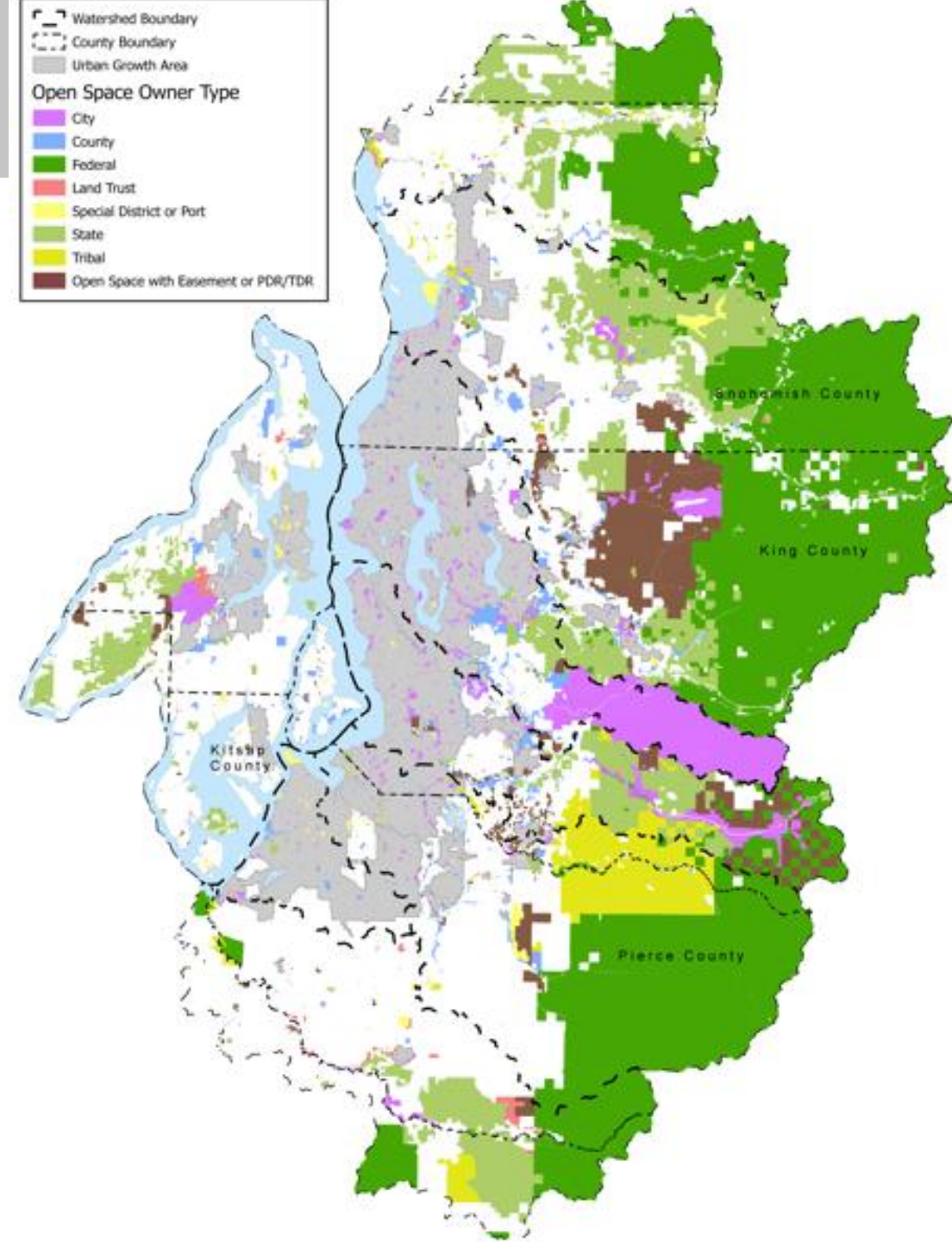


Protected Lands

Short term conservation goal
in the plan (2018-2025):
80,000 acres

Increase in acres mapped as
conserved since 2018: 79,000

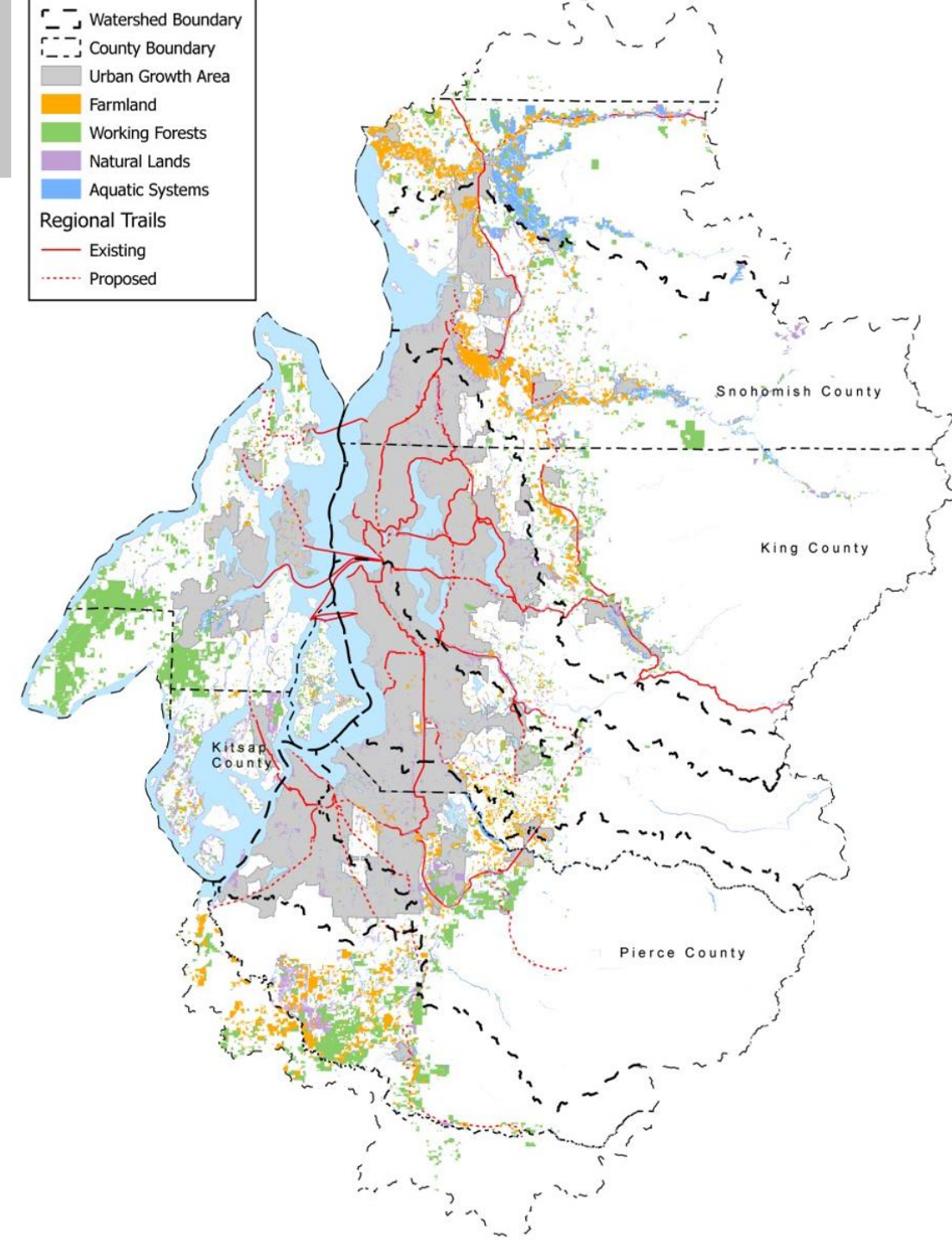
- Includes new data sources



Conservation Needs

Conservation Needs in the Regional Open Space Network:

- Farmland: 104,000 acres (2018)
- Working Forests: 177,650 acres
- Aquatic Systems: 83,040 acres
- Natural Lands: 71,520 acres
- Regional Trails: 300 miles (2018)

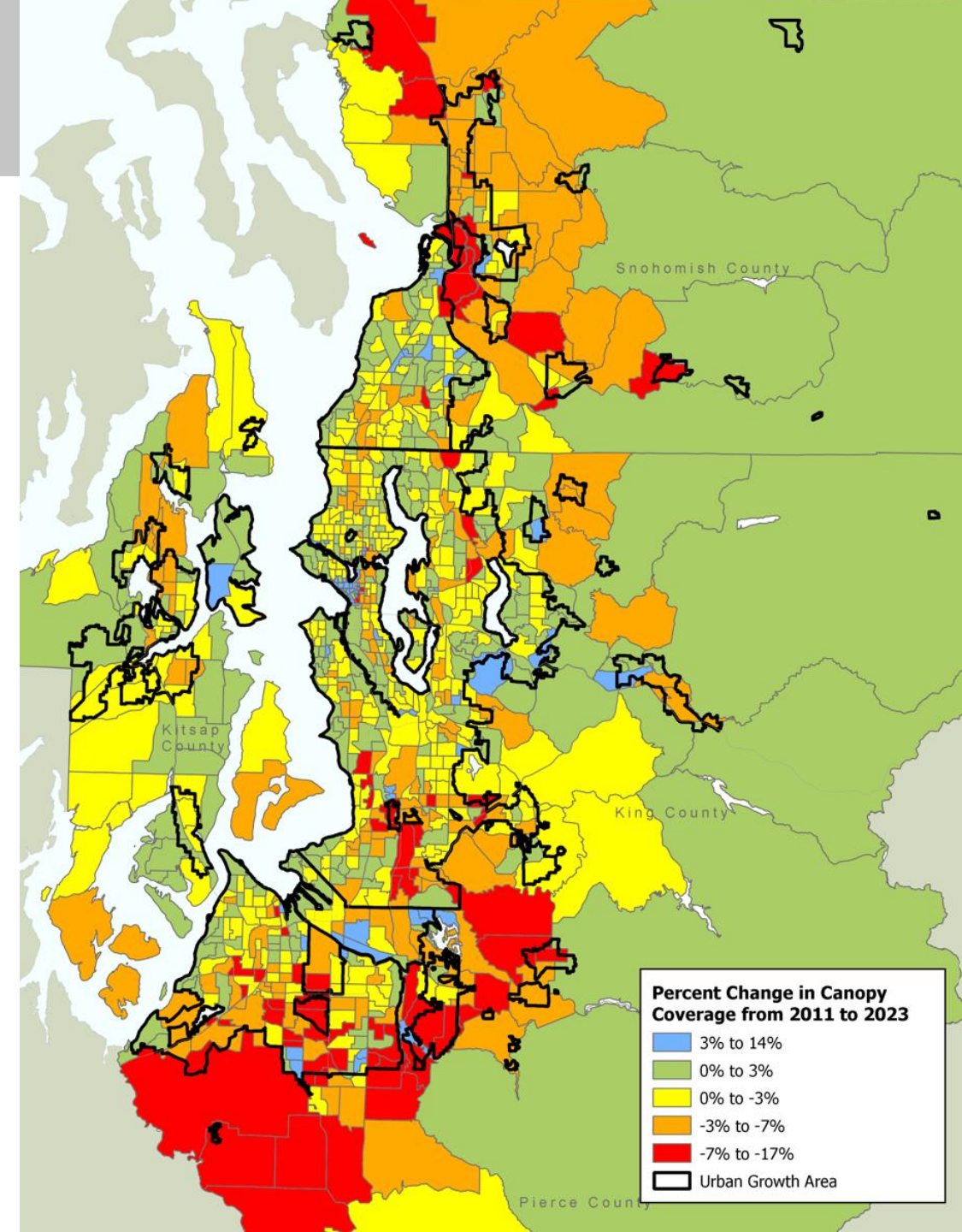


Tree Canopy Cover

Goal: By 2050, tree canopy cover in region remains at 2018 levels. By 2050, it will increase in the regional open space network.

Tree canopy cover change 2011–2023:

- Region: decrease of 1%
- Urban: decrease of 2%
- Regional open space network: decrease of 1%



Urban Growth

2012-2024 housing development in urban growth areas:

- Region: 95%
- King: 99%
- Kitsap: 76%
- Pierce: 88%
- Snohomish: 92%

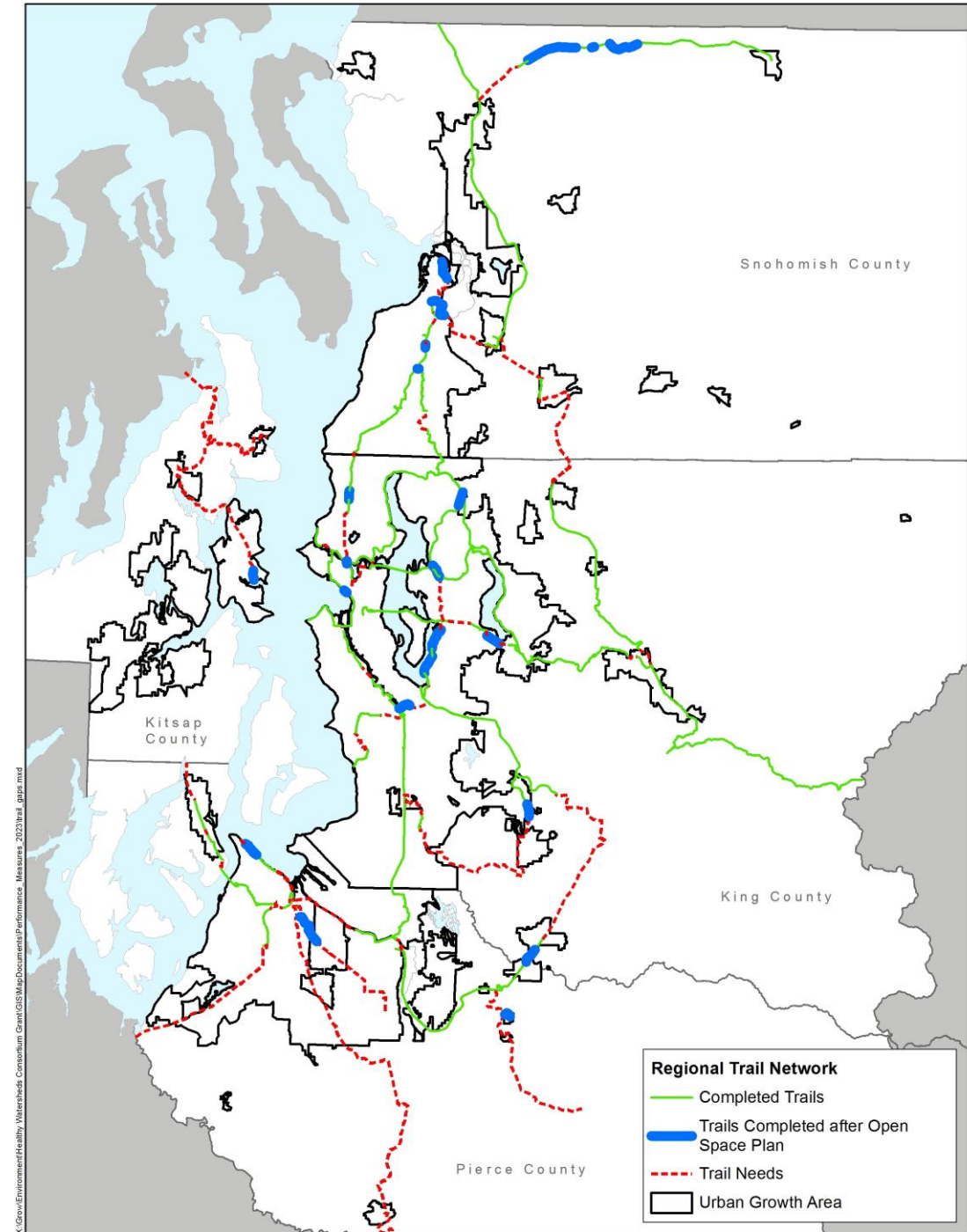


Regional Trails

Goal: By 2050, add 300 miles to the regional trail network

Since 2018, 30 miles added to the regional trail network. Examples:

- Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail in King County
- Sound to Olympics Trail in Kitsap County
- Pipeline Trail in Pierce County
- White Horse Trail in Snohomish County

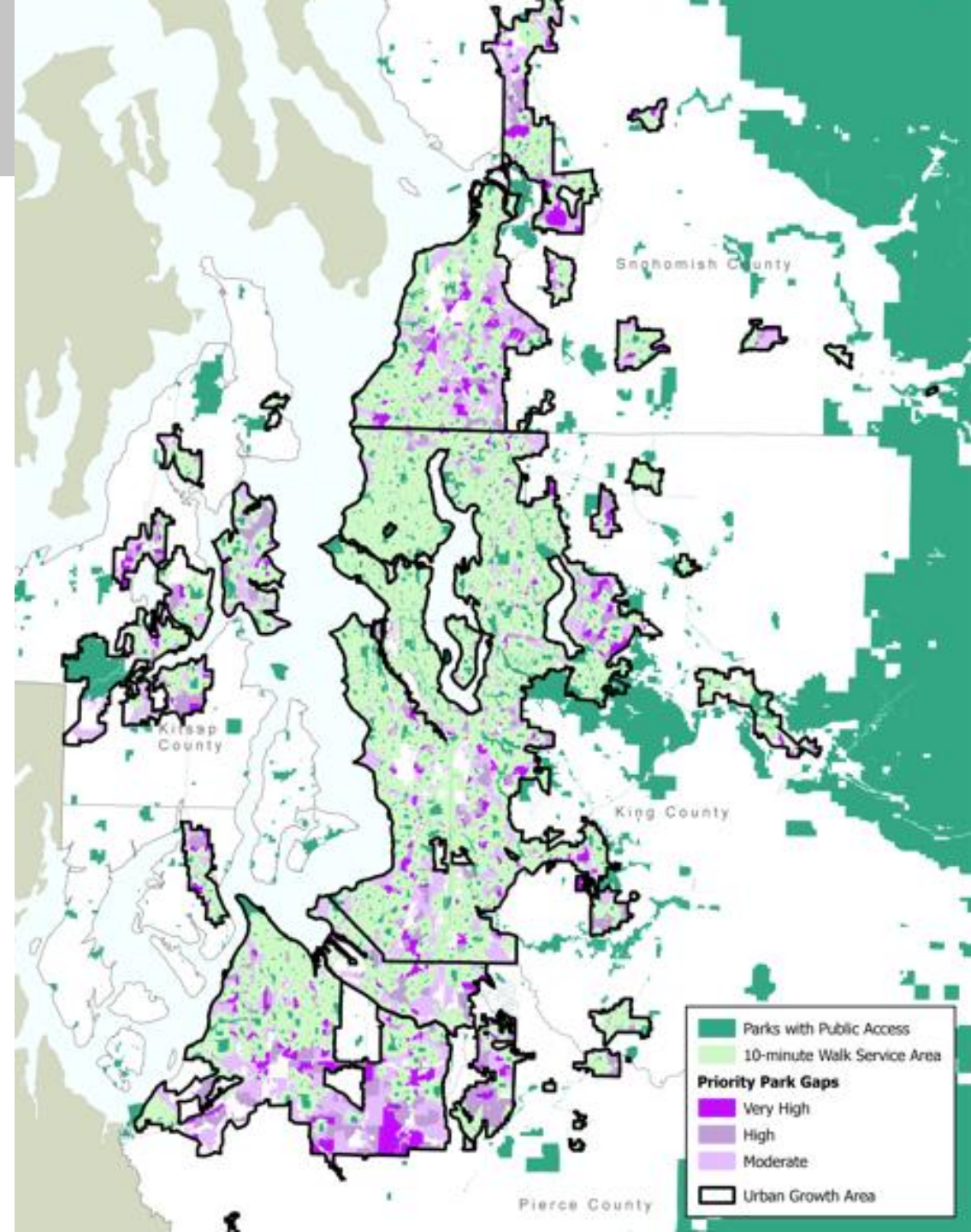


Parks & Urban Open Space

Goal: By 2050, all urban residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

ParkServe: urban population within a 10-minute walk of a park: 72% (2026)

- 63% of regional growth centers have a park gap
- 50% of high-capacity transit station areas have a park gap



Key Conservation Strategies

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working



Key Conservation Strategies

4. Support parks and open space and increase access to nearby open space for urban residents
5. Build a regional trail network



Key Conservation Strategies

6. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
7. Protect remaining key habitat areas
8. Restore habitat in high value areas



Key Conservation Strategies

9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies, jurisdictions, Tribes, and organizations
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
11. Proposed new strategy: Enhance tree canopy cover



Engagement



Summer activities:

- [Community survey](#)
- I ❤️ Open Spaces [Photo Challenge](#)
 - First prize: Washington State Discover Pass
 - Chance to get your open space photos in the plan
- Community events



Engagement



Community Events:

- July 9: Tacoma Farmers Market
- July 10: Aquafest, Lake Stevens
- July 14: National Parks & Rec. Month Celebration, Puyallup
- July 16: Music in the Meadows, Kent
- July 22: Marysville Farmers Market
- August 7: Bremerton First Friday
- August 11: Silverdale Farmers Market
- September 2: Columbia City Farmers Market



Discussion Questions



- What are the biggest challenges in the conservation and enhancement of open space, parks and trails?
- What open space conservation and enhancement strategies should PSRC consider for the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan update?



Thank You!

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Puget Sound Regional Council