Chapter 2
The Regional Open Space Network
Chapter 2 The Regional Open Space Network

~ 343 miles of existing regional trails

- Working forests 1.24 million acres
- Aquatic systems 277,000 acres
- Farmland 153,000 acres
- Natural lands 1.17 million acres

Legend:
- Watershed boundaries
- County boundaries
- Urban growth area
- Farmland
- Working Forests
- Aquatic Systems
- Natural Lands
- Regional trails
- Planned trails
Chapter 3
Protected Open Space
Chapter 3 Protected Open Space - through ownership

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Long-term protection 72%

LONG-TERM PROTECTION IN THE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Federal
Tribal
Military
State
Special District
County

Land Trust
City

Open space with easement or PDR/TDR
Urban Growth Area
Streams
County boundaries
WRRIA boundaries

DRAFT
Chapter 3 Protected Open Space
- through zoning, other designations

* Lands with less protection

Protected through ownership or easement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>In UGA</th>
<th>Out UGA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquatic Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Lands</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmland</td>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Forests</td>
<td>*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Protected by working lands designation

Not Designated

Designated

Working Forests

Farmland
Chapter 4
Conservation Needs
**Chapter 4 Conservation Needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acres at risk</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farmland</strong></td>
<td>126,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Working forests</strong></td>
<td>187,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Aquatic Systems</strong></td>
<td>48,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Lands</strong></td>
<td>85,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

447,000 acres

Open space threats:
- Economic vitality
- Development pressure

Challenges:
- Funding
- Land availability

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[Map of conservation needs]

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Chapter 5
Access to Open Space
Chapter 5 Access to Open Space

1. Mapped urban residential areas with easy access to parks and open space
   a) Neighborhood parks (< 10 acres) – ½ mile
   b) Community parks (10-100 acres) – 1 mile
   c) Regional parks (> 100 acres) – 10 miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Population with access</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Within UGA</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half mile of any park</td>
<td>2,239,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 mile of community or regional park</td>
<td>2,195,171</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 miles of a regional park</td>
<td>3,141,326</td>
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<td><strong>Within City</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half mile of any park</td>
<td>2,071,904</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 mile of Community or Regional park</td>
<td>1,950,590</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unincorporated UGA</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Half mile of any park</td>
<td>167,416</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 mile of Community or Regional park</td>
<td>244,581</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Demographic data from ACS, 2015
Chapter 6
Action Plan
Strategy 1: Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning

*Plan provides new information for local governments*

- Regional open space network can be incorporated into planning and decision making
- Conservation needs can be incorporated into plans, policies, and regulations
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 2: Support growth in the right places

- Stable long-term UGA boundary to protect rural open space
- Regional Growth Strategy and MPPs provide further support
- Promote rural land uses and management practices that limit impact on open space services
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 3: Keep working lands working

153,000 acres farmland and 1.2 million acres working forests in network

• Tools to keep working lands in farm and forest production:
  ▪ Maintain agricultural and forestry designations
  ▪ Regional Transfer of Development Rights
  ▪ Support for farmers and foresters
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 4: Permanently protect remaining key habitat areas

133,000 acres of intact, key habitat in network not owned by public or tribal agency

• Land and conservation easement purchase
• Funding is a challenge
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 5: Enhance stewardship on privately owned lands

*Private landowners preserve open space services through stewardship*

- Expand resources for and coordinate on landowner outreach and programs (conservation districts, local governments, resource agencies, nonprofits)
- Public Benefit Ratings Systems
- New, innovative tools needed (e.g. ecosystem markets)
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 6: Restore habitat in high value areas

Preserving intact habitat alone not enough; need to restore some habitat

- Crucial restoration activities: setting back levees, reconnecting floodplain habitat, increasing estuary habitat, softening marine armoring, increasing riparian shading
- Marine shoreline restoration an opportunity for cost-sharing among WRIAs
- Mitigation banking can be used
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 7: Coordinate planning among and within resource agencies and jurisdictions

- Basin-scale watershed plans can include land use, stormwater, habitat recovery and other considerations
- Farm-fish-flood plans are one type of coordinated plan that takes into account multiple stakeholders and benefits
- Usually requires multiple departments, agencies, and jurisdictions working together
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 8: Increase connections between people and open space, with equitable access for all groups

*Not everyone has easy access to parks, trails, open space*

- To increase connections:
  - Build out regional trail network
  - Identify transit routes connecting people to open spaces
- To increase park and open space areas:
  - Jurisdictions share costs on new investments
  - Stack benefits/uses (stormwater parks)
  - School playgrounds and fields open to public
  - New development open space incentives
  - Increase neighborhood tree canopy cover
Chapter 6 Action Plan

Strategy 9: Build multi-benefit green infrastructure

*Stormwater is harming aquatic systems*

- Coordinate among jurisdictions
- Identify highest priority areas for protection, restoration, retrofit
- Plan for green infrastructure through comprehensive, stormwater, and capital facilities plans
- State/federal agency help through funding for planning and construction
Chapter 7 From Plan to Action: First Steps

- Partners
- Conservation Tools
- VISION 2050
- Performance Measures
Schedule

We are here

- Meet with county teams
- Meet with RSC and GMPB
- Meet with advisory committee
Draft Plan: www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-open-space-conservation-plan

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Thank you