

APPENDIX A. CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES

This appendix lists conservation opportunities throughout the region. This is an initial list developed for the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. It is intended to become a database that will be updated, expanded, and improved over time. For additional urban park, trail and open space opportunities, refer to the analysis in Chapter 5.

W5-1 White Horse Trail and Streambank Restoration

Snohomish County is planning the extension of the White Horse Trail between Arlington and Darrington. Portions of the trail are on the Stillaguamish River. In addition to providing opportunities for active transportation and open space access, mitigation from the development of the trail could be used to restore parts of the streambank to improve salmon habitat. Shading from additional trees will cool the water, providing improved resilience to climate impacts.

W5-2 Stillaguamish Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, Snohomish County and its partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the Snohomish Conservation District and other partners could expand technical assistance provided for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues. The Sustainable Lands Strategy will help provide direction for conservation priorities.

W5-3 Stillaguamish Watershed Working Forest Viability

Snohomish and Skagit counties and their partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the Snohomish and Skagit Conservation Districts, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management.

W5-4 Skykomish-Snohomish Water Trail

The proposed water trail for the Skykomish-Snohomish Rivers stretches 84-miles from the Wild Sky Wilderness to Puget Sound. Snohomish County, King County, Tulalip Tribes, Washington DNR, the 11 cities and rural towns along the water trail, and many other partners are part of the planning process.

W5-5 Upper Skykomish Wildlands

Forterra, Snohomish County, and other partners are protecting remaining old-growth forest and riparian areas in the upper Skykomish watershed to preserve habitat and provide additional recreational opportunities.

W5-6 Skykomish Valley Trail

Snohomish County, Forterra, and other partners are planning a regional trail in the Highway 2 corridor to connect the towns of Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, Index and Skykomish to Stevens Pass and other regional trails. The proposed trail may use segments of the old Stevens Pass Highway.

W7-1 Sustainable Lands Strategy Farm Fish Flood Planning and Actions

The Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy brings together tribes, agencies, farmers, and groups such as the Snohomish Salmon Recovery Forum to develop a vision for sustainable land management in floodplains. This work is stimulated by Floodplains by Design, a state funding source, that supports the kinds of multi-benefit projects that the Sustainable Lands Strategy aims to develop. The process will help determine where transfer and purchase of development rights should be employed to protect farmland. It will also identify areas where land should be acquired for restoration. Some areas with willing landowners will be targeted for stewardship projects¹.

W7-2 Centennial to Snoqualmie Trail

The city of Monroe, Snohomish County, King County, the city of Duvall, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway are working together to plan a trail that connects the Centennial Trail to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail through those jurisdictions.

W7-3 Interurban Trail Northern Connection

Many partners are planning to complete the missing links in the northern portion of the Interurban Trail to make the connection between Everett and Seattle.

W7-4 Snohomish Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, Snohomish and King counties and their partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the Snohomish and King Conservation Districts and other partners could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues. The Sustainable Lands Strategy will help provide direction for priorities in Snohomish County. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County farmland.

W7-5 Snohomish Watershed Working Forest Viability

Snohomish and King counties and their partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the Snohomish and King Conservation Districts, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management.

W7-6 Sky to Sound Water Trail

This water trail would capitalize on the scenic river designation along the Skykomish River and continue to develop the Sky to Sound Water Trail. Snohomish County is leading planning efforts and is supported by the Sky to Sound Water Trail Coalition.

W8-1 Forest and Stream Stewardship

The WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan recommends protecting and restoring riparian vegetation and forest cover in headwater areas. The plan identifies the need to work with landowners to achieve these goals. Riparian forests help shade streams and provide plant material for the foodweb. Headwater forests help regulate water quality and water quantity and will allow the watershed to be more resilient to climate change impacts. Focus areas for enhancing stewardship practices in riparian areas have been identified throughout the watershed. Focus areas for enhancing stewardship of headwater forests to

retain and increase canopy cover are the Bear Creek basin (particularly the upper Bear Creek basin, and Cottage Lake Creek and Cold Creek sub-basins) and Issaquah Creek basin (particularly Carey and Holder Creeks, middle Issaquah Creek, Fifteenmile Creek, and East Fork Issaquah Creek sub-basins). The King Conservation District has programs to help landowners restore riparian buffers and manage their forests to increase ecological health and can directly help achieve the goals of protecting and restoring this forest and vegetation cover.

W8-2 Mountains to Sound Greenway Bellevue Connection

The city of Bellevue is planning construction to close the gap in the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail along I-90 that connects Puget Sound to the Cascades.

W8-3 Mountains to Sound Greenway and Green River Trail Connection

The city of Seattle is planning a trail that would connect the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail to the Green River Trail on Beacon Hill.

W8-4 Eastside Trail

King County is planning a new regional trail that will connect the Eastside between Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville, and Redmondⁱⁱ. This trail will provide new opportunities for non-motorized recreation and transportation.

W8-5 Green River, East Lake Washington, and Cedar River Trails Connection

The city of Renton and King County are working to connect the Green River, East Lake Washington, and Cedar River Trails in and near Renton to provide a major trail network hub in south King County.

W8-6 Canyon Park Stormwater Park

The eastern portion of the Canyon Park regional growth center does not have easy access to a neighborhood park. Adding a park in this area could provide both recreational/open space opportunities for current and future residents and stormwater management. This could also help spur redevelopment and provide health benefits. Green and gray stormwater infrastructure could be incorporated into a new park to provide community, economic and environmental benefits. Coordination between the parks and recreation department and the stormwater management department will allow the groups to pool resources and save on land acquisition costs, development costs, and management costs. This regional stormwater facility could also facilitate redevelopment of the area if developers were able to pay a fee to support the regional facility in lieu of providing stormwater management onsite.

W8-7 Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, King County can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the King Conservation District and other partners could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County farmland.

W8-8 Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Working Forest Viability

King County can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the King Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical

assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County working forests.

W8-9 Green Stormwater Infrastructure as Open Space in Urban Villages

Seattle Public Utilities is launching a new program to identify areas within urban villages for implementing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) retrofit projects, and is anticipating including stormwater parks. The purpose is to improve livability within urban centers, including in underserved areas, by increasing green elements, while reducing stormwater flows and improving stormwater quality in receiving waters. Successful GSI projects in urban villages will reduce existing drainage issues, improve overall green space in urban villages, and provide a community amenity. Work will include planning, community outreach, identifying and working with project partners (such as Seattle Parks and Recreation or a developer), and design and construction of retrofit projects. Focus will be to improve social and environmental equity. Projects will be in both WRIAs 8 and 9.

W9-1 Downtown SeaTac Stormwater Park

The community in the northern part of the SeaTac regional growth center is home to many people of color and people with low incomes. Health outcomes could be improved by adding a neighborhood park in this area, which is currently lacking. The area also has stormwater management needs. This provides an opportunity to develop a facility that provides both recreational/open space opportunities for the residents and stormwater management for the area. Green and gray stormwater infrastructure could be incorporated into a new park to provide community, economic, and environmental benefits. Coordination between the parks and recreation department and the public works (stormwater) department will allow the groups to pool resources and save on land acquisition costs, development costs, and management costs. This regional stormwater facility could also facilitate redevelopment of the area if developers were able to pay a fee to support the regional facility in lieu of providing stormwater management onsite.

W9-2 King County Farmland Conservation

As funding opportunities arise, King county can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the King Conservation District could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County farmland.

W9-3 Duwamish River Restoration

King County, the city of Seattle, city of Tukwila, Boeing, Port of Seattle, and other partners are working to restore important habitat along the Duwamish River. The *Duwamish Blueprint* is guiding restoration priorities; however, funding is needed to complete the restoration projects identifiedⁱⁱⁱ.

W9-4 Green Duwamish Watershed Working Forest Viability

King County can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the King Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County farmland.

W9-5 Hanging Gardens Park

The ROSS project recommended establishing a “Hanging Gardens” park in the Green River gorge.

W9-6 Duwamish Sea level Rise Investigation

Seattle Public Utilities is exploring potential options for water containment, shoreline restoration and property protection along the Duwamish in low areas subject to flooding and future sea level rise. Such open space could provide multiple benefits – stormwater and flood management during future high tides, public access, a natural shoreline for juvenile salmon, stormwater treatment and green space.

W10-1 Puyallup, White, and Carbon Setback Levy Projects

Pierce County has identified several locations along the Puyallup, Carbon, and White Rivers where levee setbacks can increase flood storage area and relieve flooding on developed areas. These sites also provide an opportunity to enhance and increase salmon habitat by recreating side channels and adding habitat features such as log jams. To implement these projects, Pierce County must acquire the land by the levee.

W10-2 White River Riparian Corridor Preservation

Pierce County is working to protect intact riparian habitat along the White River through acquisition of land or easements on key shoreline properties. The White River supports several species of salmon, including threatened chinook salmon and steelhead trout. These riparian areas not only support healthy salmon habitat in the river, they also provide a migration corridor for elk. The river forms the border between Pierce and King counties at this location and provides an opportunity for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on open space conservation. Pierce County has identified this area as the Lower White River Biodiversity Management Area and the county, along with several conservation groups and King County, has written a stewardship plan for the area.

W10-3 Green Heart Initiative

The Puyallup Watershed Initiative, PCC Farmland Trust, and other partners are interested in protecting remaining farmland in the lower Puyallup Valley through purchase and transfer of development rights and providing technical assistance to farmers. Funding for planning, coordination, and acquisition is needed. This is also linked to the Puyallup and White rivers levee setback recommendations.

W10-4 Foothills and Interurban Trails Connection

Pierce County is leading the effort to complete the Foothills trail. The existing trail runs from Puyallup to Buckley. The plan is to continue the trail to Puyallup where it connects with the Riverwalk Trail to Tacoma and Sumner. There it will connect with the Interurban Trail that extends through Kent and Auburn. The trail in Buckley will continue east into King County and Enumclaw.

W10-5 Foothills Trail to Mount Rainier

Pierce County, Forterra, and the cities of Carbonado, Buckley, and Puyallup are planning the completion of the Foothills Trail to the entrance of Mount Rainier National Park.

W10-6 Train to the Mountain Trail

Pierce County is planning the Train to the Mountain trail to connect Eatonville to Elbe, Alder, and Paradise in Mount Rainier National Park. This regional trail would provide access to several recreation destinations and connect to other planned regional trails.

W10-7 Puyallup White Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, Pierce county can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the Pierce Conservation District and other partners could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues.

W10-8 Puyallup White Watershed Working Forest Viability

Pierce County can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the Pierce Conservation District, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management. The King County Land Conservation Initiative has identified priorities for King County farmland.

W10-9 Tacoma Mall Stormwater Park

The community in and around the Tacoma Mall regional growth center is home to many low-income people and people of color. Health outcomes could be improved by adding a neighborhood park in this area, which is currently lacking. Adding a park to the area provides an opportunity to develop a facility that provides both recreational/open space opportunities for residents and stormwater management for the area. Green and gray stormwater infrastructure could be incorporated into a new park to provide community, economic and environmental benefits. Coordination between the parks and recreation department and the public works (stormwater) department will allow the groups to pool resources and save on land acquisition costs, development costs, and management costs. This regional stormwater facility could also facilitate redevelopment of the area if developers were able to pay a fee to support the regional facility in lieu of providing stormwater management onsite.

W10-10 Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve Protection and Restoration

Lake Kapowsin is one of Pierce County's largest natural lakes and the state's first freshwater aquatic reserve. Pierce County, Washington DNR, Forterra, and Tahoma Audubon are working to protect and restore Lake Kapowsin's shorelines, wetlands, and surrounding uplands.

W11-1 Nisqually Community Forest Expansion

The Nisqually Land Trust has been working with the Nisqually Indian Tribe, the Nisqually River Foundation and the Northwest Natural Resources Group to develop a community forest in the Nisqually River watershed^{iv}. In 2015, the Nisqually Land Trust obtained a grant from the Community Forest Program, which helped the group purchase 640 acres of forestland. They are managing this forest to support the recovery of salmon populations in the Nisqually basin and plan to acquire additional forestland to augment the community forest. Funding to support the expansion of the community forest could come from a variety of sources including grants, ecosystem service credits, or partnerships with other interested parties.

W11-2 Nisqually Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, Pierce and Thurston counties can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the Pierce and

Thurston Conservation Districts and other partners could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues.

W11-3 Nisqually Watershed Working Forest Viability

Pierce and Thurston counties and their partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the Pierce and Thurston Conservation Districts, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management.

W15-1 North Kitsap Shoreline and Forest Protection

The Kitsap Forest & Bay Project is working to conserve forest, wetlands and shoreline surrounding Port Gamble Bay in north Kitsap County. Kitsap County, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Suquamish Tribe, Forterra, Great Peninsula Conservancy and a coalition of 30 local and state agencies, businesses and community groups are working in partnership to implement this comprehensive conservation strategy.

W15-2 Bremerton to Belfair Trail

Kitsap County and the city of Bremerton are considering a regional trail to connect Bremerton to the community of Belfair. This regional trail would provide access to several recreation destinations and connect to other planned regional trails. Work to include this trail in local plans is needed.

W15-3 Bremerton to Port Orchard Trail Connection

Kitsap County, Port Orchard and Bremerton are considering a mixed-use trail to connect Bremerton to Port Orchard and to other planned regional trails. Work to include this trail in local plans is needed.

W15-4 Cascadia Marine Water Trail Enhancements

Enhanced facilities (put-ins, camping facilities, signage) are needed to support the Cascadia Marine Trail. These investments would be relatively low-cost and would add amenities and prominence to this unique recreational opportunity.

W15-5 Kitsap Watershed Farm Viability

As funding opportunities arise, Kitsap and Pierce counties can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep remaining farmland for farmers. With additional funding the Kitsap and Pierce Conservation Districts and other partners could provide technical assistance for sustainable drainage, infrastructure, soil enhancement and other issues.

W15-6 Kitsap Watershed Working Forest Viability

Kitsap and Pierce counties and their partners can use transfer and purchase of development rights to keep the most at-risk forestland for foresters. Additional funding is needed for the Kitsap and Pierce Conservation Districts, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Extension, and other partners to expand technical assistance provided for sustainable forestry and land management.

W15-7 Olympic Trail

Kitsap County and other partners are planning to extend the Sound to Olympics Trail across Kitsap County. It will connect the Mountains to Sound Greenway and other trails in Seattle across Puget Sound

via both the Winslow and Kingston ferries, with the Olympic Discovery Trail beyond the Hood Canal Bridge.

W15-8 McNeil Island Habitat Protection

McNeil Island has ecologically important natural lands and aquatic systems. Strategies to conserve this unique habitat should be considered. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife has included McNeil Island in its South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Management Plan^v.

ⁱ Snohomish County. 2017. Sustainable Lands Strategy. <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2194/Sustainable-Lands-Strategy>.

ⁱⁱ King County. 2017. Eastside Rail Corridor Trail. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/parks-recreation/parks/trails/regional-trails/popular-trails/eastside-rail-corridor.aspx>.

ⁱⁱⁱ King County. 2014. Duwamish Blueprint. <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/plan-implementation/DuwamishBlueprint.aspx>.

^{iv} Nisqually Land Trust. 2017. Nisqually Community Forest. <http://nisquallylandtrust.org/our-lands-and-projects/nisqually-community-forest/>.

^v Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Management Plan. <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00540/>.