Regional Open Space Conservation Plan
Putting the Plan into Action

Regional Staff Committee
June 21, 2018
Comments on the draft

• Include more discussion of urban open space
  • Benefits, challenges to maintaining/increasing
  • What are the urban open space conservation needs?
    • Tools, actions to increase access
• Tribal treaty rights, history of open space and Native Americans
• Add strategy on regional trails
• Include drinking water source areas in aquatic systems
Regional Open Space Network

Regional Trails: 339 miles

- Working forests: 1.4 million acres
- Natural lands: 1.5 million acres
- Urban Open Space: 35,000 acres
- Aquatic systems: 1.0 million acres
- Farmland: 203,000 acres
Conservation Needs

- Not in long-term protection (fee or easement)
- For working forests, not designated for forestry or < 20 acres
- For aquatic and natural lands – undeveloped areas
- Trails that will complete existing trails, connect trails, or planned trails
## Conservation Needs

<table>
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<td>28,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>93,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>81,700</strong></td>
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</table>

**463,000 acres**
Urban Open Space Needs

Priority:
• Level of canopy cover
• Index of demographics:
  • Income level, race, language

Needs:
• 24 parks to address neediest gap areas
• 4 additional Regional Growth Centers
• 19 additional transit communities
Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working
4. Protect remaining key habitat areas
5. Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents
6. Build a regional trail network
7. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. **Keep working lands working** Added PDR as tool
4. Protect remaining key habitat areas
5. Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents
6. Build a regional trail network
7. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
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Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working
4. Protect remaining key habitat areas
5. **Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents**  
   Reworded, moved up
6. Build a regional trail network
7. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working
4. Protect remaining key habitat areas
5. Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents
6. **Build a regional trail network**  New strategy
7. Enhance stewardship on open space lands
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
3. Keep working lands working
4. Protect remaining key habitat areas
5. Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents
6. Build a regional trail network
7. Enhance stewardship on open space lands **Both private and public lands**
8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
Action Plan

1. Incorporate open space conservation into all levels of planning
2. Support growth in the right places
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5. Support urban open space and increase access to nearby nature for urban residents
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8. Restore habitat in high value areas
9. Coordinate planning among and within agencies and jurisdictions
10. Build multi-benefit green infrastructure
    PSRC working on PSP NTA to accelerate development of stormwater parks
Next Steps

- Publish final plan in June and publicize
- Work with partners on identified actions
- Advance use of key conservation tools
  - Transfer of Development Rights
  - Conservation finance & ecosystem services markets
- Return on investment analysis
- Watershed management plans
- Multi-benefit green infrastructure
- Hazard mitigation plans
- Incorporate into VISION 2050
Potential VISION 2050 Policy Areas

• Focusing growth within a stable urban growth area
• Protecting and restoring lands in the regional open space network
• Avoiding development impacts on the regional open space network
• Promoting open space access for all people
• Protecting and improving the health of Puget Sound and aquatic systems
• Treating water as a resource
Potential VISION 2050 Policy Areas (Continued)

- Advancing multi-benefit green infrastructure
- Expanding tree canopy protection
- Encouraging stewardship of open space lands
- Completing the spine of the regional trail network
- Planning for urban open space to support mixed-use centers
- Protecting Tribal Treaty Rights
Potential VISION 2050 Actions

• Update the Regional Open Space Plan.
• Identify new conservation funding strategies.
• Lead and support initiatives to improve water quality.
• Provide technical assistance on open space.
• Work on regional environmental planning.
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https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-open-space-conservation-plan