



King County

2025 Update to 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan

August 2025

In Chapter 3, Rural & Natural Resources, on page 3-36, after Policy R-755, amend as follows:

R-755a King County should explore implementing the Voluntary Stewardship Program within the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District through engagement with the Indian tribes, the King Conservation District, farmers, and other interested parties.

In Chapter 5, Environment, on page 5-3, after Policy E-106, amend as follows:

E-106a King County shall recognize Indigenous Knowledge, also known as traditional ecological knowledge, as an important aspect in informing the development of rules, regulations, projects, and programs for the protection of critical areas.

In Chapter 5, Environment, on page 5-51, amend as follows:

((E-412 A small Category IV wetland that is less than 2,500 square feet and that is not part of a wetland complex may be altered to move functions to another wetland as part of an approved mitigation plan that is consistent with E-413 and E-414.))

In Chapter 5, Environment, on page 5-56, after Policy E-904, amend as follows:

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (RCW 36.70A.705) was created under GMA in 2011 to balance the protection and enhancement of critical areas on agricultural lands with the long-term support of viable agriculture in selected watersheds. It is an alternative approach to critical areas protection for agricultural activities. The Voluntary Stewardship Program requires the development of a watershed work plan by a local work group with diverse and broad representation from the agricultural industry, Indian tribes, King Conservation District, Agriculture Commission, and other interested parties. A state approved work plan must address specific Voluntary Stewardship Program criteria and becomes the critical areas regulatory tool for agriculture in selected watersheds in place of traditional critical areas regulations for a ten-year period. A monitoring and adaptive management plan is also required as part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program. While King County has not opted into the Voluntary Stewardship Program, the County should continue to evaluate whether participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program would be a better tool to address protection of critical areas and agricultural lands.

E-905 King County should explore adaptive management techniques to protect and enhance critical areas within or adjacent to agricultural activities, such as through enrollment in the Voluntary Stewardship Program, collection of data, and engagement with the Indian tribes, the King Conservation District, farmers, and other interested parties.

In Chapter 5, Environment, on page 5-24, after Policy E-334, amend as follows:

E-334a King County should consider species and habitats of cultural importance to Indian tribes in its planning, development review, and capital projects.

In the Glossary, on page G-10, amend as follows:

Habitat

Habitat is the ((area where wildlife normally lives and grows. Habitat components include food, water, cover (security, breeding, thermal) and space)) the locality, site and particular type of environment occupied by an organism at any stage in its life cycle.

In the Glossary, on page G-25, amend as follows:

Wetland Functions

The physical, biological, chemical, and geologic interactions among different components of the environment that occur within a wetland. Wetland~~((s perform))~~ functions ~~((that are grouped into three categories:))~~ include, but are not limited to, functions that improve water quality, functions that change the water regime in a watershed such as flood storage, and functions that provide habitat for plants and animals. (See Chapter 5, Environment)

Wetland Values

Values are estimates~~((, usually subjective,))~~ of the worth, merit, quality, or importance of wetland processes, characteristics, or attributes that are considered to ~~((valuable and beneficial to))~~ benefit society. Values vary by watershed or ~~((human))~~ community. Examples of wetland values include ~~((E))~~ education, research, aesthetics, and recreation ~~((are examples of other wetland attributes that may be considered values in that they are beneficial to society))~~.