



I-108 Analysis¹
Critical Areas Comprehensive Plan Update

2025 Update to 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan

December 2024

¹ In response to King County Comprehensive Plan Policy I-108 and King County Code (K.C.C.) 20.18.030 requirements for an analysis of proposed policy changes.

Policy	Type of Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New policy • Substantive change • Clarification of existing intent • Technical Change 	Rationale for the proposed change	If a proposed new policy or substantive change to an existing policy	
			Anticipated outcome of the proposed change, including effects on affected geographic area(s) and populations	Planned Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned implementation of proposal (Regulatory (K.C.C.), Capital Project, and/or Programmatic) • If a "shall" policy and implementation is regulatory, description of proposed regulations • If a "shall" policy and implementation is capital project and/or programmatic, are additional resources needed? • If a "shall" policy and implementation is capital project and/or programmatic, anticipated timeline for implementation
Chapter 5 Environment				
((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.))	Substantive change	BAS is clear that small wetlands especially in urban areas are important. The research indicates that a broader approach to protecting wildlife such as mammals, birds, and amphibians is needed, as buffers alone may not prevent the populations of many species from declining. Wetlands located in urban areas are generally less common and are more impacted by adjacent light and noise pollution, often contain non-native and invasive plant species, and lack intact vegetated corridors or habitat patches connecting adjacent habitat. Conserving wetland habitats, habitat patches, and vegetated corridors networks in urban areas and throughout the watershed is critical for certain species and provides refuge from drought and increasing temperatures due to climate change.	Category IV wetlands smaller than 2,500 square feet will now be protected consistent with BAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Planned implementation of proposal:</u> Regulatory • <u>Description of proposed regulations:</u> K.C.C. 21.A.24.335.C implements this policy and is proposed to be removed as part of this ordinance. • <u>Anticipated resource need:</u> n/a • <u>Anticipated timeline:</u> n/a