

DISCLAIMER – Potential Landslide Hazard Areas

This map identifies areas that have been categorized as potential landslide hazard areas. The map does not purport to identify actual landslide hazards or existing landslide risks for specific properties. Depending upon the nature of any proposed development, further investigation of the site and a detailed evaluation of the landslide hazard by a licensed geological engineer or engineering geologist may be recommended or even required. The information included on this map is subject to change without notice. King County makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or rights to the use of such information. King County shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in such information regardless of their cause, and King County shall not be liable for any decision made, action taken, or action not taken by the user in reliance upon such information. This document is not intended for use as a surveyed product. King County shall not be liable for any general, special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages including, but not limited to, lost revenues or lost profits resulting from the use or misuse of the information contained on this map. Any sale of this map is prohibited except by written permission of King County.

BACKGROUND

This map was created by King County staff and reviewed by independent scientists with the University of Washington, the Washington Department of Natural Resources - Division of Geology and Earth Resources, and private industry. The map was based upon an interpretation of LiDAR hillshade imagery combined with a review of published geologic mapping. No new field data were collected to use in creating this map.

Potential landslide hazards shown here include known slumps and other deep-seated landslides, debris fans, rock falls, rock avalanches, snow avalanche zones, undifferentiated and/or indistinct mass wasting features, and landforms suggestive of an increased landslide hazard. All of these features are mapped together irrespective of landslide type, actual hazard levels of individual features, history of past landsliding, and potential risk to structures and residents, solely to counsel residents on the possible need for further investigation, such as prior to a proposal for new development.

Although many of these sites exhibit clear evidence of past landsliding, they are considered here only to be *potential* hazards. In most cases, they are not to be thought of as actual hazards until after further investigation and confirmation through a site-specific evaluation. Critical areas restrictions in the King County Zoning Code (21A.24) also call for a 50-foot buffer around landslide hazards unless reduced following a geotechnical study of the site and the landslide hazard.

Given the resolution of the existing LiDAR imagery, only larger landslides are visible and were mapped here. For example, many hillsides in King County are subject to small failures that are not visible on the LiDAR data. Such small slope failures commonly occur on slopes that are greater than 40% grade, which are regulated as steep slope critical areas. Development is only allowed on or near steep slopes if a geotechnical evaluation shows that the slope is stable or that mitigation is included to ensure that the development will not create a landslide hazard or be impacted by slope instability. These are essentially the same standards that must be met for larger-scale landslide hazards. ***A complete view of all of the potential landslide hazards for a specific property should include a review of the location and heights of nearby steep slopes.*** Steep slopes are shown on a separate iMap layer. Please refer to that layer for further information.

For further information and general guidance in using this map, please contact the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review at 206-296-6600.

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