

## 1.1. Overview

### 1.1.1 Purpose of this document

King County's intention in preparing this plan, the *2010 King County Open Space Plan: Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas* (Open Space Plan) includes establishing both a strategic and functional plan, as well as complying with Growth Management Act (GMA) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requirements.

#### 1.1.1.1 Strategic Plan

The Open Space Plan is a strategic plan guiding the activities and goals of King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Parks and Recreation Division (Parks and Recreation Division) for the next six years. The Open Space Plan is a revision of the 2004 plan, *King County's Open Space System: Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Working Resource Lands*, and will be updated at least every six years. It is consistent with the *King County Comprehensive Plan*, must be adopted by the King County Council, and must undergo State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

#### 1.1.1.2 Functional Plan

The Open Space Plan is a functional plan that implements the *King County Comprehensive Plan*. The *Comprehensive Plan* is a long range plan developed in response to the State Growth Management Act that addresses urban and rural land use, transportation, housing, economic development, recreation and open space, natural environment, facilities and services, cultural resources, resource lands, energy, and telecommunications. The policies established in the *Comprehensive Plan* serve as a blueprint for growth through 2022 and beyond. The *Comprehensive Plan* policies that are most applicable to the Open Space Plan are found in:

- Chapter Four - Environment
- Chapter Six - Parks, Open Space and Cultural Resources

#### 1.1.1.3 Growth Management Act (GMA) Requirements

The Open Space Plan complies with the Washington State Growth Management Act, which requires that jurisdictions include a Park and Recreation Element to the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan consistent with the Capital Facilities Element and provide estimates of park and recreation needs and demand for a ten year period. The Open Space Plan addresses the Growth Management Act's (RCW 36.70A.020) planning requirements that relate to parks and resource lands, including:

- *Open space and recreation.* Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.
- *Environment.* Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
- *Natural resource industries.* Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.
- *Property rights.* Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made.

- *Citizen participation and coordination.* Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.
- *Public facilities and services.* Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

#### **1.1.1.4 Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Requirements**

The Open Space Plan ensures that King County remains eligible for funding from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which administers state and federal grant funds for recreation and conservation projects in Washington State. The RCO requires that plans include the following information (*RCFB Manual 2: Planning Policies*, dated January 29, 2008):

1. Goals and objectives
2. Inventory of facilities, lands, programs, and their condition
3. Demonstrated process for public involvement in plan development and adoption
4. Demand and need analysis to define priorities for acquisition, development, preservation, enhancement and management
5. Capital Improvement Program list for land acquisition, development, and renovation projects
6. Documentation of Council Adoption

#### **1.1.2 Use of this document**

As with past versions of the Open Space Plan, this document will be used by the Parks and Recreation Division to guide capital planning, stewardship, and operations in its role as caretaker of a vast, diverse, and evolving open space system that today consists of 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, 26,000 acres of open space and 145,000 acres of conservation easements.

The Parks and Recreation Division's objectives for this plan include:

- Serving as a strategic plan guiding the division
- Establishing the policy framework for operating and capital funding priorities
- Improving coordination among King County agencies involved in expanding and stewarding King County's open space system
- Defining the division's role as a leader of regional trails, regional natural area parks, and regional recreation facilities
- Defining the division's role as a provider of local parks in the rural area of King County
- Providing clarification and guidance on maintenance and operations
- Guiding the development of individual park management and master plans

The Open Space Plan builds on and is informed by the planning efforts and public processes of previous documents, such as *King County's Open Space System: Parks, Trails, Natural Areas and Working Resource Lands (2004)*, the *King County Comprehensive Plan (2008)*, the *Parks Futures Task Force Report (2007)*, the *Regional Trails Inventory and Implementation Guidelines (2004)*, the *Parks Business Transition Plan (2002)*, and the 2009 King County Community Survey.

### **1.1.3 Structure of this document**

The Open Space Plan is organized into six chapters that provide an overview of King County, its landscape, and the parks, trails, natural areas, and forests that fall under the jurisdiction of the King County Parks and Recreation Division. Chapter One provides background and context, including the natural setting of King County as a landscape. Chapter Two provides an overview of the Parks and Recreation Division and its goals as a major open space provider. Chapter Three discusses King County's approach to and classification of open space, including an overview and inventory of the open space assets managed by the Parks and Recreation Division. Finally, Chapters Four, Five and Six relate to the Capital Improvement Program and operations of the Parks and Recreation Division.

Within each of the chapters are policy statements, which are numbered and highlighted in bold, a style and format similar to that of the *King County Comprehensive Plan*. The Open Space Plan also uses the same definitions of "should" and "shall" as the *King County Comprehensive Plan*. The use of the terms "shall," "will," "should," and "may" in policies determines the level of discretion exercised in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation, and other decisions. For clarification, "shall" and "will" in a policy mean that it is mandatory to carry out the policy, even if a timeframe is not included. "Shall" and "will" are imperative and nondiscretionary. Likewise, the use of "should" and "may" in a policy reflects noncompulsory guidance. "May" and "should" in a policy statement mean that there is discretion in implementation.

## **1.2. Profile and Demographics of King County**

King County, with its million inhabitants, is the 14<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the country, and at more than 2,100 square miles (1,365,760 acres), is approximately the size of the state of Delaware. It is among the fastest growing regions in the country, a trend that is expected to continue well into the future. Compared with other regions of the state, King County gained nearly one fourth of the state's growth in the 1990s and one-fifth in the 2000s. With nearly one-third of Washington State's population, King County is also the state's urban center and economic engine.

As King County government contemplates need and demand for conservation and recreation assets to serve the public now and in the future, changing demographic trends provide a critical roadmap for the open space system's growth and foundation for King County's values as an open space provider.

There are many demographic trends that inform King County's vision for acquisition, development, and management of its open space system, as well as a variety of agencies and efforts that track and report on these changes. The information below provides a cross-section of sources of information, issues and trends that shape King County's open space-related decision-making.

### **1.2.1 Trends in Population Growth and Distribution**

According to the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), the four-county, central Puget Sound area grew by more than 1.3 million people between 1970 and 2000. The region is expected to continue to experience healthy growth, with estimates projecting an increase of nearly 1.6 million more residents by 2040. According to the 2008 King County Growth Report, the county has gained some 147,000 new residents since 2000, an eight percent increase. This increase is equal to the size of the population of the city of Bellevue. King County is forecasted to grow 14 percent, adding some 260,000 new residents by 2022.

Currently in King County, the population is distributed into three broad classifications: a third in the city of Seattle, half in 38 suburban cities, and the rest in unincorporated King County. South King County has been growing rapidly over the past 20 years, absorbing almost half of the county's population growth. Since 2000, the Eastside has been the fastest growing sub-area.

With a population of approximately 341,000 people, unincorporated King County has and will continue to have a declining share of the population. Most of the people in unincorporated King County reside in Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), which are slated for annexation to cities in the coming years. The rural unincorporated areas of King County account for approximately eight percent of the total population, and less than five percent of countywide new residential construction and population growth occurs in the rural areas.

These trends in population growth and distribution in King County present serious challenges for the future of King County's open space system, in particular concerning revenue sources, recreational use patterns, and protection and conservation of ecological values.

*For more information:*

#### **King County Growth Report**

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/strategy/PerformMgmt/KCGrowthReport.aspx>

#### **PSRC Vision 2040**

<http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/>

### **1.2.2 Trends in Population Demographics**

The demographic make-up of King County has been changing as the population grows, affecting the make-up of Seattle, the suburban cities, and the unincorporated rural areas. Some 30 percent of the population includes people of color, with the largest population growth rates among Hispanic/Latinos

and Asians. The African-American population grew less rapidly, and the Native American population remained stable. Immigration has been a principle driver of population growth, and the foreign-born population has more than doubled over the past decade. The dispersion of people of color has occurred largely outside of Seattle in recent years, and South King County has seen minority populations double and triple in several communities.

Consistent with national trends, King County's average household size declined significantly during the 1970s and 1980s and has stabilized at about 2.38 persons per household. Single-person households are most common in King County, with married, no children households second, and married with children third. King County also has a maturing population, with the age category of 45-55 growing most rapidly. The average age of a King County resident is 38.

King County residents are highly educated, with more than 90 percent of the adult population having graduated from high school, and about 40 percent having a college education. This compares with 85 percent and 27 percent nationally.

The median household income in 2006 was \$63,500 in King County, up 19 percent from the 2000 census. There is a broad income distribution, with more than a quarter of the households reporting income levels of more than \$100,000 and almost one-third reporting incomes under \$40,000. There is a trend towards a shrinking middle class, with increases occurring among households with incomes of \$100,000 or more and increases occurring among households with incomes of \$25,000 or less. There is an income disparity by race, with African-American, Native American, and Hispanic households not showing much income growth since 2000.

These trends in population demographics should continue to inform King County, in particular concerning user needs/demand, communications, access issues, and public health issues.

*For more information:*

**King County Growth Report**

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/strategy/PerformMgmt/KCGrowthReport.aspx>

**PSRC Vision 2040**

<http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/>

### **1.2.3 Trends in Recreation**

There are many agencies, user groups and other entities tracking trends in recreational activities. The following summaries present an overview of some relevant trends that can help provide insight to King County in understanding and assessing future recreation infrastructure needs and opportunities.

#### **1.2.3.1 General Outdoor Recreation**

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Washington State agency that administers grant programs for outdoor recreation and open space conservation, found that walking is the most popular form of recreation statewide, with "team-individual sports and physical activity" ranked second. Nature activities ranked third. The RCO also found that most recreation takes place close to where people live and that there is a growing demand for safe places to walk, ride bikes, or play.

In addition, according to a 2006 survey, the RCO reports:

*"The most frequently occurring recreational activities in 2006 included walking without a pet (3.5 million times), observing or photographing wildlife or nature (3.1 million times), walking with a pet (2.7 million times), jogging or running (2.3 million times), and playground recreation (2.2 million times)."*

*“The most frequently mentioned activities that Washingtonians wanted to do more of in the 12 months following the survey interview included sightseeing (46.9%), picnicking or cooking outdoors (39.4%), hiking (33.5%), tent camping with a car or motorcycle (33.4%), and swimming or wading at a beach (28.4%).”*

It is important for King County to understand and monitor these trends and demands, as they may play a role in shaping the county’s prioritizing of infrastructure and investments in the open space system.

*For more information:*

**Recreation and Conservation Office**

[http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec\\_trends.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec_trends.shtml)

**1.2.3.2 Cyclists, Pedestrians and Connectivity**

Throughout King County and in particular in Seattle and other urban areas, bicycling has become increasingly popular for recreation as well as commuting and other transportation-related activities. State-wide, a 2006 survey by RCO indicated that more than 32 percent of Washingtonians bicycle, with the most common locations being on a road or street, an urban trail, or a rural trail. More locally, Cascade Bicycle Club estimates that more than 35 percent of people bicycle for recreation, and that between 6,000 – 10,000 commute by bike to Seattle each day.

Local and regional transportation strategies call for the development of an interconnected mobility system that supports more travel choices for bicyclists and pedestrians alike. Transportation 2040, the long-range transportation plan for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties, recognizes the importance of bicycling and walking as healthy mobility options. This plan includes hundreds of miles of additional on-road and off-road bike/pedestrian facilities, including a substantial enlargement of the regional trails system. In addition to enhancing overall mobility, these facilities provide King County residents environmental and health benefits from reduced dependence on automobiles.

These trends in providing transportation alternatives and safe places to walk and ride bikes should continue to inform King County, in particular concerning the long-term development and connectivity of countywide regional trails.

*For more information:*

**PSRC and Vision 2040**

<http://www.psrc.org/transportation/bikeped>

<http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/>

**KingStat**

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/measures/performance/pc-regional-trail-access.aspx>

**Recreation and Conservation Office**

[http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec\\_trends.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec_trends.shtml)

**Cascade Bicycle Club**

[http://www.cascade.org/About/pdf/Seattle\\_P-I\\_5-15-09.pdf](http://www.cascade.org/About/pdf/Seattle_P-I_5-15-09.pdf)

**1.2.3.3 Pet Ownership**

According to the American Pet Product Association, pet ownership is currently at its highest level with 63 percent of US households owning at least one pet. Pet ownership has been on a steady rise, and Americans spend an estimated \$40 billion on their pets annually. Moreover, as noted above, the 2006 RCO survey on outdoor recreation showed that walking with a pet was the third most frequent recreational activity in which Washingtonians participated.

This trend, while not directly related to outdoor recreation, demonstrates that there may be a variety of factors influencing how people use or are interested in using the county's open spaces, and King County should continue to monitor a wide range of topics.

*For more information:*

**American Pet Product Association**

<http://media.americanpetproducts.org/press.php?include=138671>

**Recreation and Conservation Office**

[http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec\\_trends.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/recreation/rec_trends.shtml)

## **1.2.4 Trends in Public Health**

### **1.2.4.1 Public Health and Obesity**

King County's Community Health Indicators Project presents available data for a variety of health indicators, along with showing trends over time, recent data, charts, tables, maps, and comparisons to other metropolitan counties. The indicators related to overweight and obese adults in King County point to a steady increase in both categories over the past ten years and show how the prevalence rates are distributed by ethnicity, income group, and location in the county, among other factors. With respect to youth, 2004 data show that 8.9 percent of the students in grades 8, 10, and 12 were overweight, and an additional 12.3 percent of students were at risk for being overweight.

Another indicator, physical inactivity (did not participate in any leisure time physical activity during the previous 30 days) shows that between 1996 and 2004, the prevalence among King County adults declined slightly but significantly from 15.2 percent to 14.5 percent, and compared to the other regions, adults in the south region consistently had higher rates of physical inactivity.

*For more information:*

**Community Health Indicators Project**

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/data/hokc.aspx>

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/data/chi2009.aspx>

### **1.2.4.2 "Nature Deficit Disorder"**

This term, made famous by Richard Louv's national bestselling book, *The Last Child in the Woods*, refers to the growing disconnect between children and the outdoors. His book, as well as a growing body of research, has begun to document how the lack of nature in children's lives is linked to trends such as obesity, attention-deficit disorders, and depression.

*For more information:*

**Children in Nature Network**

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/>

**Last Child in the Woods**

<http://richardlouv.com/last-child-woods>

While there are many factors that influence people's behaviors, these public health trends continue to inform King County, in particular concerning types and distribution of current and future recreational amenities and open space sites, accessibility issues, and educational and interpretive opportunities.

### **1.2.5 Equity and Social Justice**

In 2008, the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) conducted a GIS-based equity assessment which mapped benefits (for example, proximity to a park or trail) and burdens (for example, proximity to a wastewater regulator facility) related to demographic variables such as race, income and language. This analysis helped to identify and promote action on potential areas of disproportionality in DNRP's facility locations and historic levels of service delivery. This information will continue to guide decisions and partnerships.

*For more information:*

**King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative**

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/equity.aspx>

## **1.3 Context of Open Space in King County**

The open spaces in the county provide environmental benefits and recreational opportunities. They offer places to exercise, participate in competitive sports, socialize with others, and experience the solace of the natural environment. They provide habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as opportunities to retain agriculture and forest activities in the county. Trails link the features of the county's regional open space system and serve recreation, transportation and habitat corridor functions.

Altogether, the lands that make up the county's open space system contribute to residents' physical, mental and emotional health and support the high quality of life for which our area is known. The open space system also contributes to the economic strength of the county by attracting businesses, jobs and tourists. King County residents have repeatedly declared the importance of preserving open spaces and quality of life through their continued support of funding for parks and recreation and to acquire a wide range of open space lands.

Many entities have jurisdiction over open space sites located within the boundaries of King County, such as the county government, cities, school districts, ports, and state and federal agencies. Within King County government, multiple agencies are involved with open space lands, managing them for a variety of purposes and public benefits. The Parks and Recreation Division is a land manager with substantial holdings and management responsibility for several types of open spaces, which today includes 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, 26,000 acres of open space, and 145,000 acres of conservation easements. It should be noted, however, that due to the complexity of the open space system and collaboration necessary to manage it, land under the division's stewardship is not a static number and changes to reflect ongoing expansion, transition, and collaboration.

An open space inventory list is included in Section 3.5 of this plan, and although it can be expected to change over time, it provides a useful snapshot of the division's open space assets today.

Lands owned by other King County agencies also provide open space benefits in addition to the lands' primary roles, which may be associated with forest or agricultural conservation, flood hazard management, wastewater treatment plants and mitigation sites for public development projects. The mutual benefits of these types of sites increase and enhance the county's overall open space system.

### **1.3.1 What is 'open space'?**

The *King County Comprehensive Plan* defines an open space system as “a regional system of county-owned parks, trails, natural areas, working agricultural and forest resource lands, and flood hazard management lands. The regional network of open spaces provides benefits to county residents including recreation, conservation of natural and working lands, flood hazard management, wildlife habitat, and connections of critical areas.”

Consistent with the *King County Comprehensive Plan*, the term “open space system” is used in this plan in its broadest definition. Multiple King County agencies manage and acquire land for open space purposes, from recreation to habitat conservation to flood hazard reduction. As this Open Space Plan primarily guides the Parks and Recreation Division, the focus of the policies and content of this document is on parks, trails, natural areas, and forest lands, which are those open space lands largely managed by the Parks and Recreation Division. The Parks and Recreation Division works collaboratively with other divisions on open space acquisition and conservation strategies, such as the Water and Land Resources Division, which stewards open space lands for agricultural and flood hazard management purposes.

### 1.3.2 Types and Functions of Open Space

There are a variety of types and functions of open spaces within and beyond King County's jurisdiction. Open space sites may provide one or more of the following functions:

- *Recreational Function.* Recreational open space includes areas for active and passive recreational activities and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. There is a wide range of use and development associated with this function. Recreational open space is provided by a combination of public sites and schools, and privately owned recreational facilities such as golf courses, campgrounds and resorts.
- *Environmental Function.* Open space for environmental purposes is usually identified by its physical characteristics, which might include geologic features, plant communities, fish and wildlife habitat, hydrologic and biologic characteristics, as well as cultural, scientific and scenic values. These open space lands contribute to air and water quality, and their protection may help mitigate the effects of climate change.

These lands can also be important for recreational and educational value, for hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing and outdoor education. However, there may only be a limited range of use on some sites to ensure ecological values are conserved.

Both public and private entities provide environmental open space, such as public parks and natural areas, private holdings and areas regulated to preserve their environmentally sensitive resources.

- *Community Shaping Function.* These open spaces provide relief from development in urban and suburban areas, preserve the natural character of an area, strengthen neighborhoods and communities, and separate differing land uses. A green corridor, the urban/rural greenbelt along the urban growth boundary, provides both physical and visual separation.

Greenways, waterways and large open space sites, as well as topographical features such as river valleys, hills and mountains, contribute to this shaping function. The combinations of these open space lands with their variety of attributes and often overlapping functions make up an extensive system of open space in King County. Together, they preserve the character of the area and provide for recreational enjoyment, environmental quality and the health and well-being of county residents.

### 1.3.3 Access to Open Space

Open spaces may be characterized by two factors: permanence and public access.

- *Permanent open space with public access:* These open spaces consist of publicly owned lands and easements with dedicated public access.
- *Permanent open space with limited public access:* These open spaces might include public school sites or open spaces within residential developments that have been dedicated for the benefit of homeowners, but not the general public. It may also include portions of publicly owned open space sites with limited access to preserve sensitive natural areas.
- *Permanent open space with no public access:* These open spaces include sites with development rights purchased through the Farmlands Preservation Program or Transfer of Development Rights Program (TDR), conservation easements purchased or dedicated for open space preservation as a condition of land use actions such as sensitive areas and their buffers, and lands preserved for drainage ways. Some natural areas purchased exclusively for habitat protection have no legal public access. These may protect specific open space values, but do not always include public access.
- *Open space that is not permanent and has no public access:* These lands add to our perception of open space and include lands in the Agricultural Production District, Forest Production District, regulated sensitive areas and rural areas. Also included are privately

owned open spaces such as golf courses, private parks and campgrounds; properties enrolled for ten year periods in the Current Use Taxation Program; and growth reserve tracts in subdivisions which may be held for future development.

#### **1.3.4 Park and Open Space Providers**

In King County, open space lands are a combination of the efforts of federal, state, and local public agencies and the private sector.

##### ***Federal Role***

Federal agencies have jurisdiction over open space lands within boundaries of King County and provide recreational opportunities such as trails, camping, picnicking, boat launching and mooring, and skiing. Most of these lands are in large holdings and much of it is roadless and accessible only by trail.

##### ***State Role***

State agencies also provide open space lands within the boundaries of King County. The majority of their lands are undeveloped and in a natural condition with developed areas providing access and support facilities for camping and passive recreation. The state-level agencies most involved in providing open space include Washington State Parks, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). State parks are managed for a variety of recreational opportunities; WDNR predominantly manages land for forest production and conservation and its lands support some recreational activities, mostly trail uses. WDFW focuses on protecting fish and wildlife resources and providing commercial and recreational opportunities, such as hunting and fishing.

##### ***Local Role***

Local agencies include traditional park and recreation departments found in counties, cities and towns. Other local agencies such as ports, utility districts and schools often provide some recreation and open space as a secondary benefit. These agencies provide the majority of public sites for active and passive recreation close to home. Cities generally provide smaller developed sites serving nearby city residents, while counties provide larger destination sites and less developed sites that serve a countywide or regional population base.

##### ***Private Sector***

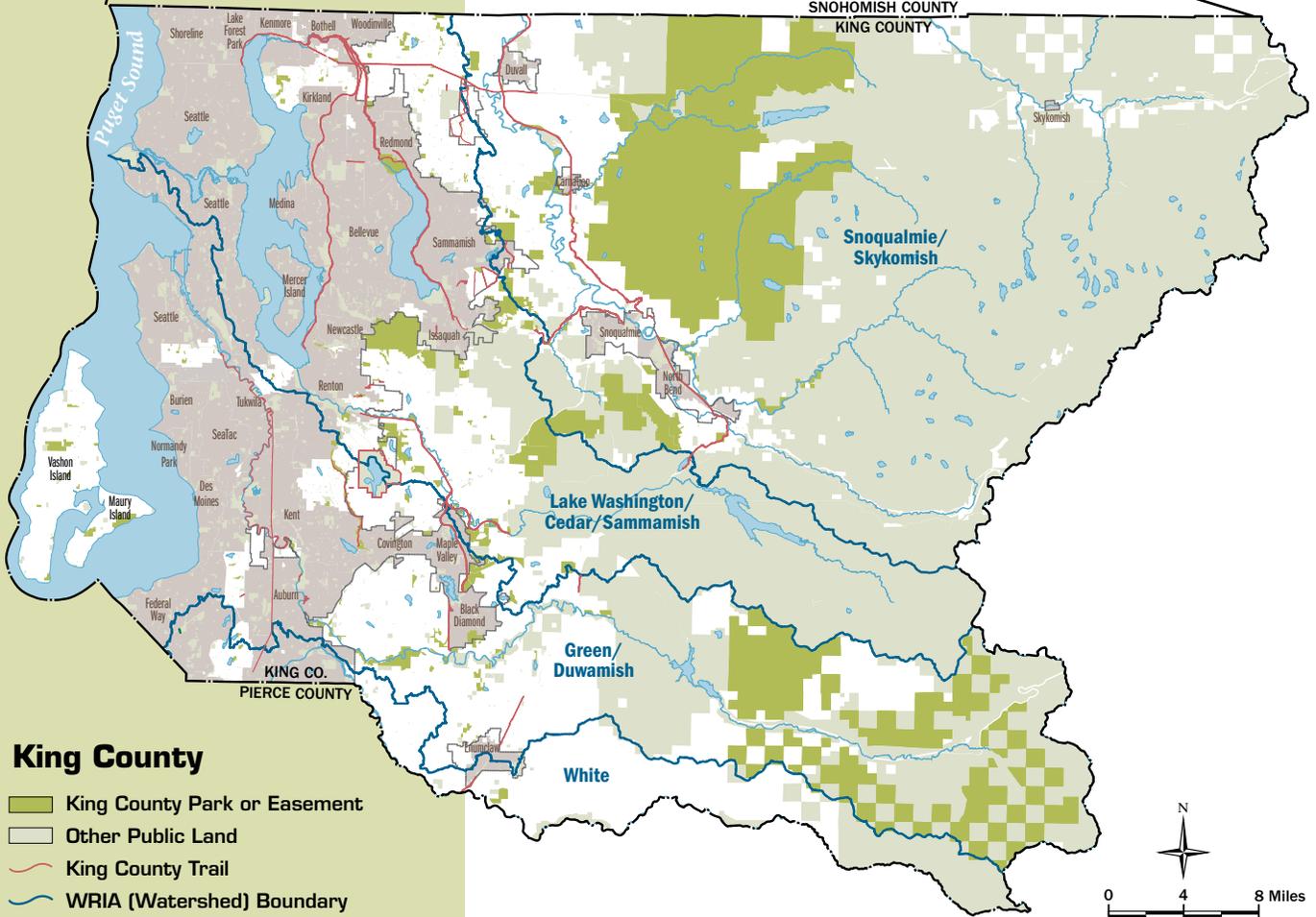
Private sector involvement is diverse, ranging from preservation of open space to provision of specific recreational facilities. It includes owners of private lands and facilities, and private non-profit land trusts that protect areas for their natural features and recreational use. Many of the open space lands in this category cannot be considered to have open public access or permanency.

**WASHINGTON STATE**



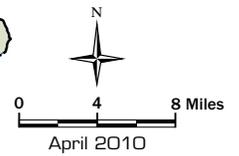
**King County**

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
KING COUNTY**



**King County**

- King County Park or Easement
- Other Public Land
- King County Trail
- WRIA (Watershed) Boundary
- Urban Growth Area Boundary
- Incorporated Area



## **1.4 Community Setting: The Landscape of King County**

Within the 2,100 square miles (1,355,760 acres) that make up King County are majestic mountain ranges, forests, farmlands, waterways and shorelines that define the natural beauty and character of the region's landscape, which extends from Puget Sound on the west to 8,000-foot Mt. Daniel at the Cascade crest to the east.

This landscape was created by an active geological history of advance and retreat of glacial ice sheets, volcanic activity and constant erosion by wind and water. These natural features provide open spaces that offer scenic beauty and a wide range of outdoor recreational activities, create critical habitat for fish and wildlife, help maintain air and water quality, and provide numerous other benefits that contribute to the high quality of life in the county.

In the following section, the major regions that shape the setting of King County's open space system are presented geographically by watershed, focusing on key corridors within each, as well as providing an overview of the wildlife, scenic, recreation or other features that characterizes each area.

A watershed is defined simply as the land from which rain collects and runs to a single point. It is delineated by the ridges that are its boundaries, shaped by hills, valleys and plains, and tempered by the forests, fields, lakes, and marshes. Approaching open space from this perspective encourages planning at the landscape level, which facilitates more integrated and comprehensive stewardship in the long-term.

More detailed information about King County's watersheds, fish and wildlife, other natural features, and recreational opportunities may be found in other county inventories, plans, reports and studies. These include individual park management and master plans, regional trail planning documents, programmatic plans for King County's natural area parks and forest lands, Salmon Recovery (Water Resource Inventory Area, or WRIA) plans, drainage basin plans and water quality plans. See Appendix II for a list of source documents that contributed to this plan.

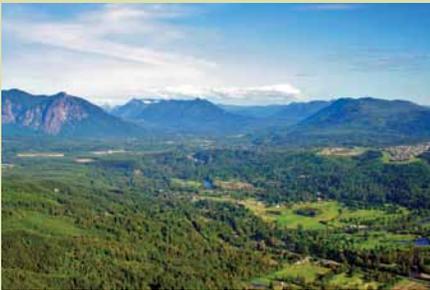
### 1.4.1 Snoqualmie/Skykomish Watershed



Tolt River Bridge at Tolt-MacDonald Park



Yurt at Tolt-MacDonald Park



Snoqualmie River Valley Three Forks Area



Snoqualmie Valley Trail



Chinook Bend Natural Area

The Snoqualmie/Skykomish watershed extends from the crest of the Cascade Mountains to the confluence with the Skykomish River north of Duvall, covering northeast King County. The basin is bisected by the jurisdictional border between King and Snohomish Counties and eventually drains to the Snohomish River and out into Puget Sound near the city of Everett. Within the boundaries of King County, the watershed encompasses more than 680 square miles, making it the county's largest drainage basin. The watershed includes the Tolt River, Raging River, Miller River, Tokul Creek, Griffin Creek, Harris Creek, Patterson Creek, and other tributaries.

The major rivers in this watershed include the Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and Snohomish Rivers. The Snoqualmie River originates near the city of Snoqualmie. Two miles downstream from the headwaters, the river plunges over a cliff creating the 268-foot high Snoqualmie Falls. The Falls are a natural wonder, an important Native American cultural site, and a source of hydroelectric power. The river runs more than 43 miles through an agricultural valley and the rural cities of Carnation and Duvall to its confluence with the Skykomish River (in Snohomish County), and then forms the Snohomish River that flows through the cities of Snohomish and Everett on its way to Puget Sound.

There are two federally recognized tribes in this watershed: the Tulalip Tribes, and the Snoqualmie Tribe, with the Tulalip Tribes being the legal successor in rights for natural resources in the watershed. Public and private forest lands and wilderness cover nearly 75 percent of the basin, and agriculture land uses cover five percent. Urban land use is currently concentrated near the estuary and is largely outside the boundaries of King County. Trends in land use show that it is shifting from working farm and forest resource lands to more urban coverage. Population growth in the basin is expected to increase 59 percent, from just over 300,000 in 2000 to over 500,000 in 2030, though this will largely occur in the parts of the basin outside of the boundaries of King County.

Approximately 75 percent of the Snoqualmie Watershed located within the boundaries of King County lies within King County's Forest Production District (FPD). Most significantly, King County acquired a 90,000-acre forest conservation easement on the Snoqualmie Tree Farm, which provided an additional level of forest conservation in this region. In addition, a predominate portion of King County's Mitchell Hill Connector Forest, a 430-acre working forest site, is located within this watershed. Most of the Snoqualmie River floodplain downstream of Snoqualmie Falls is zoned

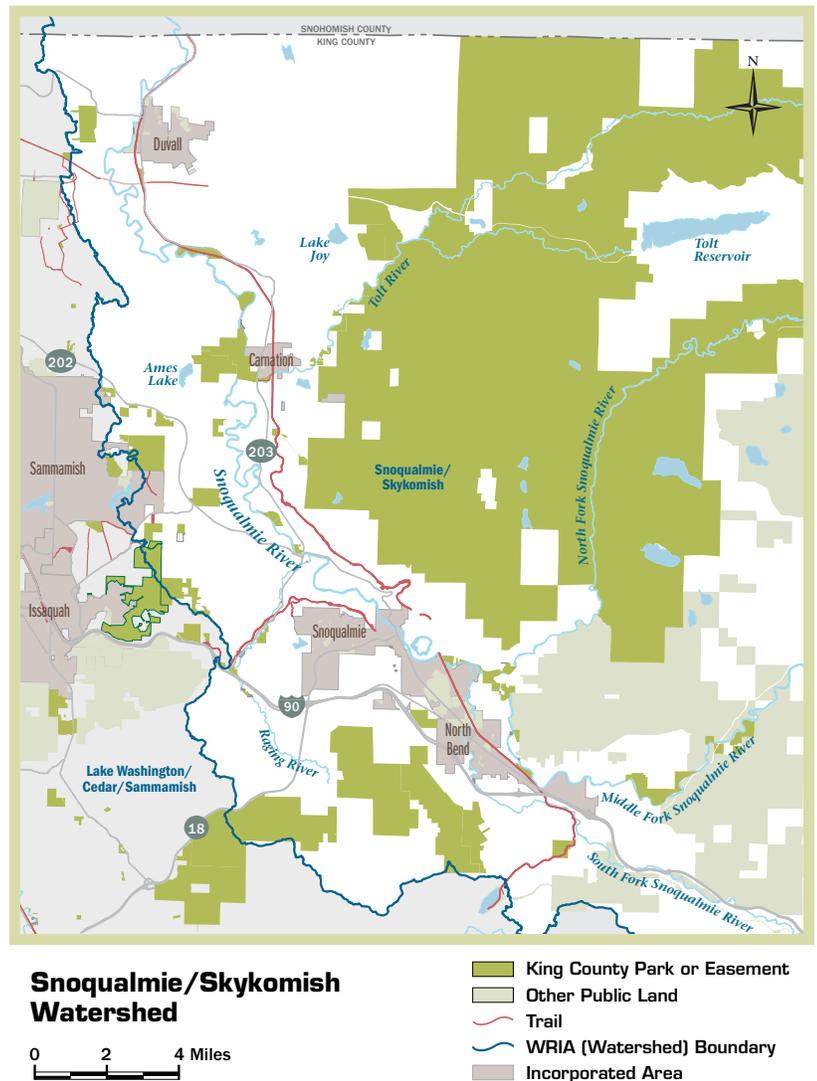
for agriculture and lies within the 14,500 acre Snoqualmie Agriculture Production District (APD). Almost 5,000 acres of farmland within the APD has been protected through King County's Farmland Preservation Program.

Nine salmonid species live in the basin – Chinook, coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon; steelhead and rainbow, cutthroat, bull trout and mountain white fish. In the 1980s, the Snohomish watershed (of which the Snoqualmie/Skykomish watershed is a part) supported one third of the wild coho salmon entering Puget Sound on an annual basis.

There is growing interest in the recreation opportunities within the watershed on federal, state, county, and local government lands, much of which is focused on and along the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries. King County's Snoqualmie Valley Trail is highly valued as a recreational corridor providing opportunities for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians to enjoy the valley and experience its rich natural beauty and agriculture history. The trail links existing county parks, such as the 550-acre Tolt-McDonald Park and Griffin Creek, Tolt River, Patterson and Chinook Bend Natural Areas, offering a variety of active and passive experiences from organized sports to hiking and mountain biking to camping. With the state's popular Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area (WDR) just miles away, the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River is quickly developing a reputation for 'destination recreation'.

The Middle Fork is recognized as a top whitewater kayaking destination, drawing river enthusiasts from across the county. A collaborative effort involving federal, state, county and local agencies and community and recreation groups has been working to expand recreational opportunities in this area, as well as expand and formalize public access to the river. King County's 658-acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Area offers river access at the Dorothy Bridge. Downriver, the 40-acre Tanner Landing Park, which is under development as of 2010, will serve as the key river access site for kayaks, canoes, rafts, and other non-motorized boats.

County-owned upland sites offer hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding and include Soaring Eagle Park (620 acres), Duthie Hill Park (120 acres) and portions of the 1,300-acre Grand Ridge Park (also part of Sammamish watershed). King County provides additional recreational opportunities at Preston Community Park and Athletic Fields, and the historic Preston Community Center. In total, King County manages more than 5,000 acres of parks and natural areas in the Snoqualmie basin.





*Cavanaugh Pond*



*Cedar River Trail*



*Cedar River*



*Taylor Mountain*

## **1.4.2 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed**

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The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed covers 692 square miles and contains two major river systems (Cedar and Sammamish), three large lakes (Washington, Sammamish, and Union), and numerous creeks including Issaquah and Bear Creeks. Other significant tributaries to the Lake Washington drainage are May Creek, Coal Creek, Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek, Fairweather Creek, Yarrow Creek, Juanita Creek, Forbes Creek, Lyon Creek, McAleer Creek, Thornton Creek, and Ravenna Creek. The basin drains to Lake Washington and out through the Hiram Chittenden Locks into Puget Sound. The watershed is located predominantly in western King County, but about 15 percent extends northward into Snohomish County. It is the most densely populated watershed in Washington, and approximately 55 percent of the land area is inside the Urban Growth Area (UGA). The watershed's projected population for 2022 is 1.6 million. Two areas, following the Cedar River and the Sammamish River, are highlighted below.

### **1.4.2.1 Cedar River**

The Cedar River is the largest tributary to Lake Washington and drains an elongated basin of 188 square miles that flows approximately 50 miles from its headwaters in the Cascade Mountains to the city of Renton and Lake Washington.

The Cedar River basin can be divided into two reaches: the Upper Cedar River from the Cascade Crest to the Landsburg Diversion Dam and the Lower Cedar River from the Landsburg Dam to the mouth at the city of Renton. The Upper Cedar River watershed is 25 miles in length and contains roughly 79,951 acres. The Cedar River Municipal Watershed, owned by the City of Seattle, encompasses most (79,452 acres) of this part of the basin to provide a major part of the area's water supply. The municipal watershed is almost entirely coniferous forest and is governed by a Habitat Conservation Plan. The upper reach is almost entirely forested with approximately 90 percent (71,588 acres) supporting commercial timber harvest for more than 120 years.

The Lower Cedar River drains 42,240 acres and includes 21.7 miles of mainstem river and 15 tributaries, and drains a 66-square-mile area. The lower basin has an extensive hydrological system that includes 15 named tributaries, and many high-value wetlands, lakes, and aquifers. The aquatic habitat of the Lower Cedar River basin has been altered dramatically since the 1800s by human activity such as water supply dams, agriculture, coal mining, railroad construction, and development. Most of the lower basin remains forested, with less than half low- to medium-density development, and

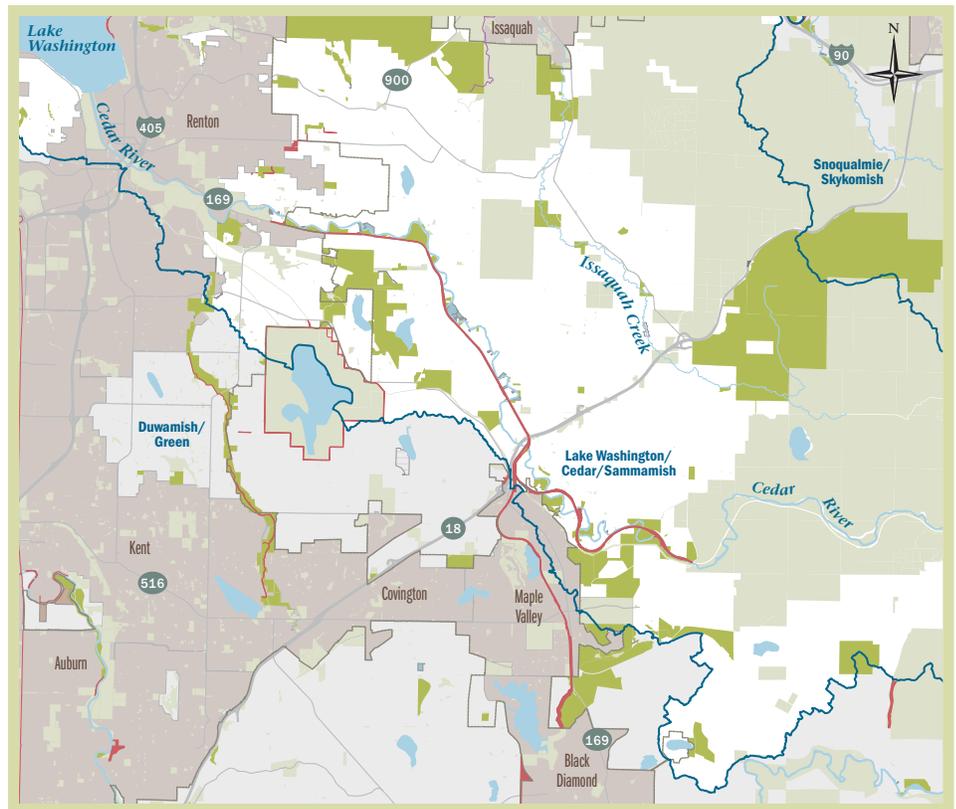
a smaller percentage high-density. The Lower Cedar River is located primarily within the jurisdictional boundary of King County, with the remaining area in the cities of Renton, Maple Valley and Kent.

The Cedar River corridor provides a network for fish and wildlife migration. Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon, kokanee, winter steelhead, bull trout, and coastal cutthroat are known species to inhabit the Cedar River system. The Lower Cedar River main stem and four main fish-bearing tributaries (Lower Rock Creek, Walsh Lake Diversion, Peterson Creek and Taylor Creek) provide spawning habitat for Chinook, sockeye and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. The Cedar River's Chinook population is one of the native stocks that comprise the evolutionarily significant unit of Puget Sound Chinook salmon, which is listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Cedar River offers fishing, swimming, and whitewater recreation. In addition, the river corridor provides recreation opportunities at the local and regional levels. While the municipal watershed is closed to public access, active and passive recreational opportunities can be found along the river at the City of Renton's Maplewood Golf Course, and the following Renton parks: Cedar River Trail (24 acres), Cedar River (23 acres), Riverview (11 acres) and Ron Regis (45 acres).

The 16-mile Cedar River Trail, owned and maintained King County, follows a former railroad right-of-way alongside the river from King County's Landsburg Park to downtown Renton and continues on a city trail to the shores of Lake Washington. The Cedar River Trail links a number of King County-owned park sites, providing a scenic natural setting in addition to recreation and educational/interpretive experiences for those passing along on foot, bicycle or horse. The eastern terminus of the trail currently ends at Seattle's Cedar River Watershed at Landsburg. A branch of the trail, Green to Cedar River Trail, connects with the City of Maple Valley's Lake Wilderness Park and continues to the Four Corners area of Maple Valley. Future interagency agreements may someday establish links between the Cedar River Trail and the county's Snoqualmie Valley Regional Trail and Iron Horse State Park.

King County's open space assets in this corridor provide mostly passive recreation opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, and protect other environmental benefits, and many are located along the length of the river. In addition to 20 natural area parks, King County also owns McGarvey Open Space (400 acres) and Spring Lake/Lake Desire Park (390 acres).



**Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (Southeast)**

- King County Park or Easement
- Other Public Land
- Trail
- WRIA (Watershed) Boundary
- Incorporated Area

0 1 2 Miles



*Sammamish River Trail*



*Concert at Marymoor Park*



*Marymoor Connector Trail*



*Cougar Mountain Park*



*Grand Ridge Park*

### 1.4.2.2 Sammamish River

The Sammamish Watershed is part of the greater Lake Washington/ Cedar River drainage and is approximately 240 square miles. The basin encompasses the land area which drains to Lake Sammamish, the Sammamish River and out into Lake Washington. The Sammamish River is 13.8 miles from its origin at the north end of Lake Sammamish to its mouth at the northern tip of Lake Washington. The Sammamish Watershed includes Swamp Creek, North Creek, Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, Cottage Lake Creek, Evans Creek, Issaquah Creek, Tibbetts Creek and a number of smaller creeks draining to the east and west shores of Lake Sammamish.

Over the past century, the Sammamish River has been significantly altered by human activities, including lowering of the water level of Lake Washington. In the 1960s, the river channel was deepened and straightened to increase its flood-flow capacity and to drain the surrounding wetlands for farming and development. Ongoing restoration and enhancement efforts are helping to mitigate these actions and improve water quality and habitat.

The Sammamish River Valley is known for its farming history, and approximately 1,100 acres of the valley have been designated as an Agricultural Production District (APD). Through the Farmlands Preservation Program, King County has acquired development rights on more than 800 acres of the APD, which has been instrumental in retaining agricultural production in the scenic valley.

The Sammamish River is primarily a migratory corridor for Chinook, coho, sockeye and kokanee salmon and steelhead trout that spawn in Issaquah Creek, Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, North Creek and Swamp Creek.

#### **Bear-Evans Creek Sub Basin**

The Bear-Evans Creek basin is comprised of approximately 32,100 acres that includes three sub-basins: Cottage Lake, Bear Creek, and Evans Creek. In total, there are more than 100 miles of streams. There are nine lakes and more than 2,000 acres of wetlands within the basin. Local jurisdictions within the basin include unincorporated King County, unincorporated Snohomish County, the City of Redmond, the City of Sammamish and the City of Woodinville.

The Bear Creek basin provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for the following salmonids: Chinook, sockeye, coho, kokanee, coastal cutthroat, and steelhead. A unique resource is a cold-water spring that is 5 to 7 degrees centigrade colder than the rest of Bear Creek and is partially responsible for the cooler temperatures of the Sammamish River downstream of its confluence. Also found in the basin are extensive freshwater mussel populations, freshwater sponges, river otters, crayfish and a good representation of aquatic insects.

King County has acquired priority parcels and conservation easements in the basin. Key natural area parks, which protect habitat and also provide opportunities for hiking and wildlife observation, include the 160-acre Cold Creek/Bassett Pond Natural Area complex, three natural areas along Bear Creek totaling about 100 acres and the 150-acre Paradise Lake site. Two additional natural areas help critical areas near Evans Creek.

### Issaquah Creek Sub Basin

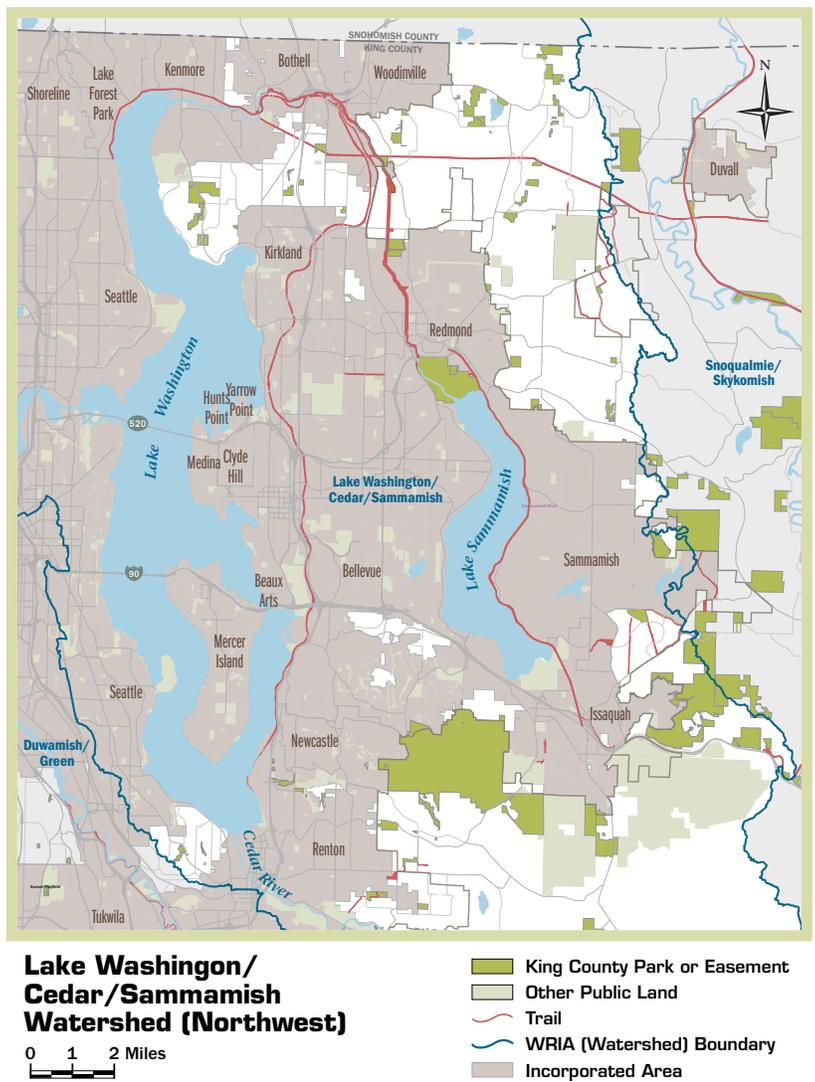
The Issaquah Creek Basin is one of the three most significant basins in urbanizing King County. Issaquah Creek is the main tributary to Lake Sammamish with headwaters originating from the steep slopes of Cougar, Squak, Tiger and Taylor mountains. The basin encompasses about 61 square miles and includes Holder, Carey, Fifteen-mile, and McDonald creeks as tributaries to Issaquah Creek. More than 75 percent of the basin is forested, with the remainder in wetlands and pastures, and with less than 10 percent as urban or cleared areas. More than 40 percent of the land is in public ownership by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks, King County, and City of Issaquah. However, the population in the basin is projected to increase 18 percent by 2020.

The upper and middle Issaquah Creek Basin is identified as a Regionally Significant Resource Area because of its exceptional fisheries habitat and undeveloped character. Eight species of salmonids (six anadromous) are known to utilize the Issaquah Basin. The Issaquah Creek Hatchery currently produces Chinook, coho, and Lake Washington steelhead. An early-run kokanee stock is also present in Issaquah Creek.

The basin includes a significant amount of public open space for conservation and recreation purposes. Squak Mountain State Park is a 1,545-acre, day-use site that features miles of trails in wilderness solitude for both equestrians and hikers. King County manages several sites within the sub-basin: Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park (approximately 3,100 acres), the Cougar-Squak and Squak-Tiger Corridors (700 acres), the 190-acre Preston Ridge Park, and the 1,200-acre Grand Ridge Park (portion in the Snoqualmie Watershed). King County's 1,800 acre Taylor Mountain Forest and Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Tiger Mountain Forest are managed as working forest lands, protecting and conserving important salmon habitats, providing sustainable timber production, and providing passive recreation opportunities. The state also manages the 4,500-acre West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Conservation Area. The county owns almost 6,000 acres of forest easement land in the Upper Raging River area. In addition, King County has acquired 150 acres of land for ecological purposes, which includes Log Cabin Reach and Middle Issaquah Reach Natural Areas.

Several regional trails link the various parts of the Sammamish Watershed. The Sammamish River Trail runs along both sides of the river with a hard surface trail on one side and a soft surface trail along the other. The trail links numerous county park sites and parks in the cities of Bothell, Woodinville and Redmond. The trail links with the Burke-Gilman Trail to the west and offers more than 20 miles of paved trail for bicyclists and walkers along waterways in urban and suburban King County. The Marymoor Connector Trail links the Sammamish River Trail to the East Lake Sammamish Trail, extending the trail connection into the city of Issaquah.

While most county-owned open space sites in this area provide passive recreation opportunities, such as hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, there are several important active recreation facilities including Marymoor Park, Sixty Acres Park and Northshore Athletic Fields.



### 1.4.3 Green/Duwamish Watershed



*Green River Natural Area*



*Soos Creek Trail*



*Soos Creek Trail*



*Auburn Narrows Natural Area*



*Green River Trail*

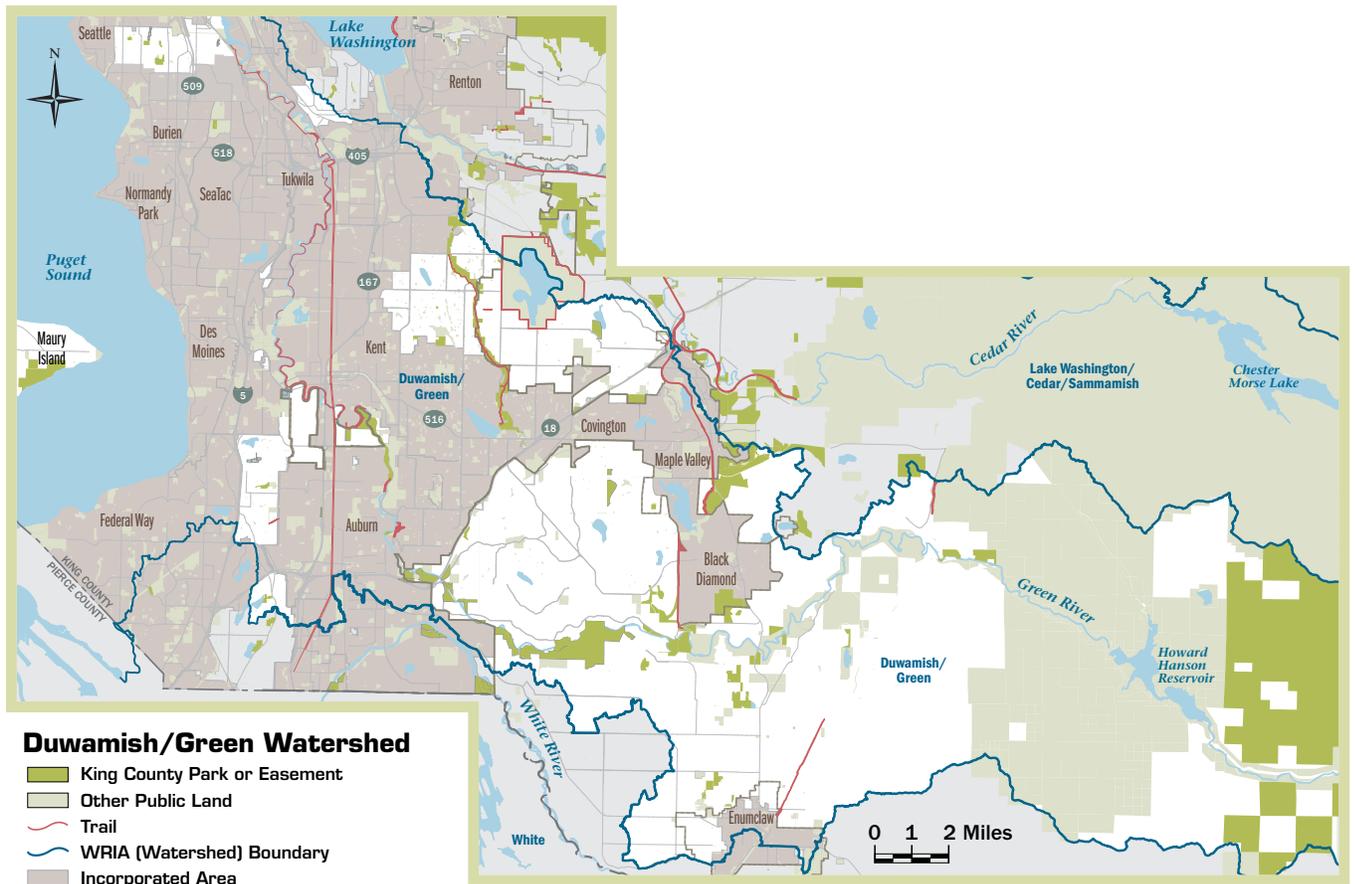
The Green-Duwamish River Watershed is located in southern King County and covers 482 square miles. The river is the longest river in the county, flowing for more than 93 miles beginning high in the Cascade Range and winding to its mouth at Elliott Bay in Seattle. The mountainous headwaters of the Green River are within the forested Tacoma Municipal Watershed, which supplies most of the drinking water for the Tacoma area. The river leaves the watershed as a high-volume, fast-moving river and exits through the scenic 300-foot-deep Green River Gorge. The Green River becomes the Duwamish at its confluence with the remains of the historical Black River at Tukwila.

The Green-Duwamish River Watershed is divided into four sub-watersheds: the Green-Duwamish Estuary/Elliott Bay/Harbor Island to Tukwila; the Lower Green River from Tukwila to Auburn Narrows; the Middle Green River from Auburn Narrows to Howard Hanson Dam; and the Upper Green River from the dam to the headwaters. The watershed includes the Black River, Springbrook Creek, Mill Creek, Soos Creek, Jenkins Creek, Covington Creek, Newaukum Creek, Crisp Creek, and other tributaries.

Land in the Upper Green River sub-watershed is almost entirely used for forest production. The Middle Green sub-watershed is a mix of residential, commercial forestry, and agricultural land uses. The Lower Green River sub-watershed is characterized as residential, industrial, and commercial land uses. The Green-Duwamish Estuary sub-watershed is split between residential and industrial uses. The population of the watershed is approximately 400,000.

Due in part to the river's braided, meandering characteristics and its pools, riffles and glides in some locations, the Green River provides high quality habitat to eight species of anadromous salmon: Chinook, coho, chum, sockeye, and pink salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, steelhead, and bull trout/Dolly Varden.

There are three regional trails in this watershed, including the southern segment of the nearly straight, 15-mile Interurban Trail and the 7.5-mile Soos Creek Trail. The Green River Trail winds more than 19 miles from Cecil Moses Park near Seattle's south boundary to North Green River Park in south Kent, near the city of Auburn. The trail follows the Green River through industrial lands near the Duwamish Waterway in Tukwila out to the broad Green River Valley. It provides excellent views and access to the Green River and surrounding river valley.



The Green/Duwamish River Watershed also contains a significant amount of public lands, which are managed for conservation and recreation, among other purposes. Active recreation opportunities are predominantly provided by city jurisdictions, such as Seattle, Tukwila, and Kent. Washington State manages three very popular state parks: the 480-acre Flaming Geyser Park, the 120-acre Nolte State Park and the 320-acre Kanaskat-Palmer State Park, which includes camping facilities. These parks provide river and lake access for whitewater rafting, kayaking and boating, and for shoreline activities like wildlife watching, fishing, picnicking and hiking. Flaming Geyser Park has unique methane seeps or “geysers” and includes a model airplane flying field.

King County owns many open space sites in this watershed, which range from five to 1,700 acres and offer mostly passive recreation and water access, such as the 105-acre Auburn Narrows Natural Area, a popular fishing site, the 922-acre Green River Natural Area, and Whitney Bridge Park (30 acres), which offers picnicking and boat access. The 136-acre North Green River Park offers additional recreation amenities, including soccer fields and a community garden.

#### 1.4.4 White River Watershed



*Pinnacle Peak and Mt. Rainier from Foothills Trail*



*View of Enumclaw from Pinnacle Peak*



*Pinnacle Peak*



*Foothills Trail*

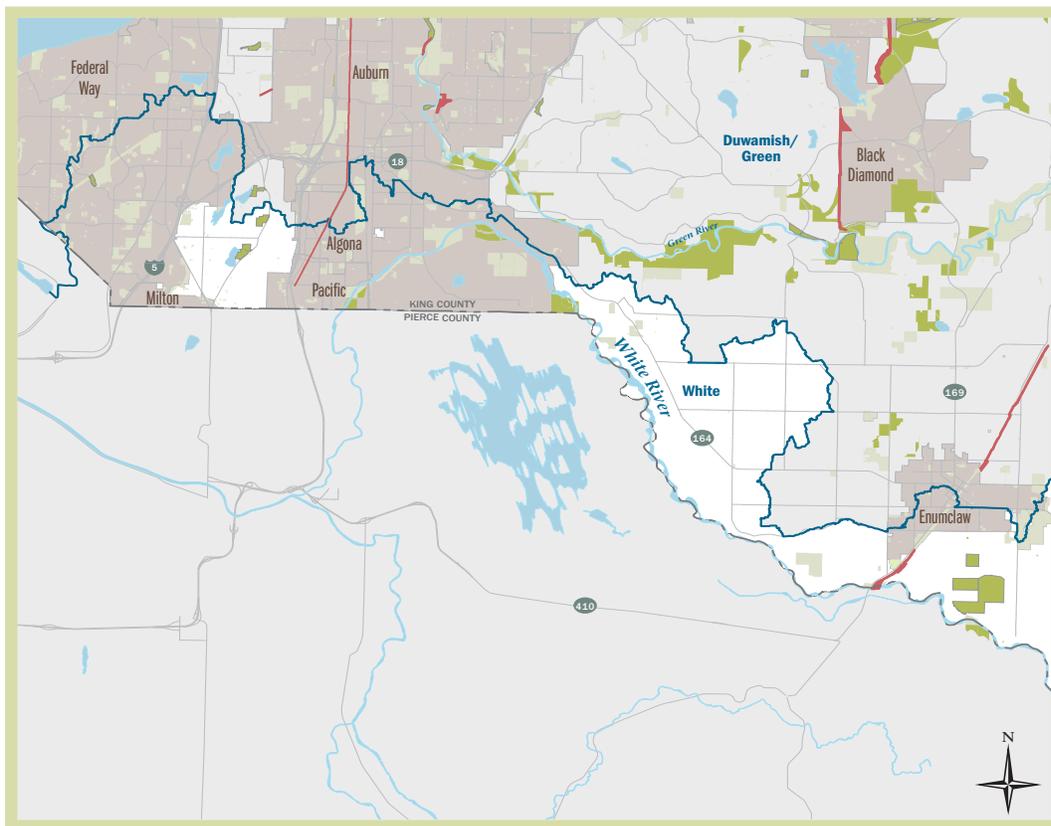
Part of the larger Puyallup - White Watershed, the White River, which is located along the southern border of King County, originates from glaciers on Mount Rainier, travels 68 miles, and drains 494 square miles before ultimately meeting the Puyallup River near the city of Sumner and heading out to Puget Sound at Commencement Bay in Tacoma. As the vast majority of the Puyallup – White Watershed lies within the boundaries of Pierce County, the description below focuses on the White River and the specific areas and resources within the boundaries of King County.

On its way downstream, the White River is joined by many smaller tributaries, including Silver Creek, Huckleberry Creek and Camp Creek. The White River joins with West Fork of the White River just before reaching the Greenwater River at the town of Greenwater, where they merge to form the boundary between Pierce and King Counties. The White River is dammed at the Mud Mountain Dam, and downstream of this dam, between Enumclaw and Buckley, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) operates a diversion dam. This dam, found upstream of the mouth of Boise Creek, redirects water through a canal into Lake Tapps and eventually back into the White River about 20 miles downstream from the dam. The water remaining in the White River flows through the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation and the cities of Auburn and Pacific before joining with the Puyallup River in Sumner. The Puyallup River flows into Puget Sound at Commencement Bay in the city of Tacoma.

The White River's headwaters and a majority of the river are protected by the Seattle and Tacoma Municipal Watersheds, Mount Rainier National Park and the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. Downstream of Mud Mountain Dam and upstream of the PSE diversion dam, the river flows through various land uses including farm pastures, residential properties and undeveloped forest riparian zones and private forestlands. Within this reach, the river flows between large blocks of public land, including King County's 260-acre Pinnacle Peak Park, the City of Enumclaw's Anderson Riverview Park, as well as land managed by King County for flood management purposes.

Between the PSE diversion dam and the Muckleshoot Reservation, farms dominate the plateau above the river, and a majority of the steep, forested bluffs are owned by PSE. Most of the PSE lands are managed under a Wildlife Management Plan, which covers 2,079 acres of this reach of the river in both King and Pierce Counties.

The White River and its tributaries serve as spawning, rearing and transportation areas for Chinook, pink, chum, and coho



### White River Watershed



- King County Park or Easement
- Other Public Land
- Trail
- WRIA (Watershed) Boundary
- Incorporated Area

salmon, as well as rainbow, steelhead and cutthroat trout. The largest runs are pink and chum, which are natural, and coho, which is mixed hatchery and natural run. The native spring run Chinook salmon is listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened. The White River system is also home to native char (bull trout and/or Dolly Varden).

With much of the open space land either in the ownership of PSE, within the reservation, or privately held as agricultural properties, public access is limited in this area. With its sweeping vista of Mount Rainier and the Enumclaw valley, King County's 256-acre Pinnacle Peak Park offers passive recreation, such as hiking and horseback riding, and the state's 619-acre Federation Forest has 12 miles of hiking trails and an interpretive center. Other recreational opportunities are provided by city jurisdictions such as Enumclaw, Auburn, and Pacific. The US Army Corps of Engineers has the Mud Mountain Dam Recreation Area, which offers excellent vistas of the White River Valley and hiking, picnicking and other recreational opportunities.

### 1.4.5 Vashon - Maury Island



*View from Maury Island Marine Park*



*Maury Island Marine Park Beach*



*Dockton Park*



*Raab's Lagoon*



*Island Center Forest*

Vashon-Maury Island is located in central Puget Sound, midway between the cities of Seattle and Tacoma. It contains a total land area of 37 square miles (24,000 acres), with about 30 square miles on Vashon Island and seven on Maury Island. Vashon Island is about 13 miles long and four miles across; Maury Island is five miles long and about one mile across. The topography of Vashon-Maury Island varies from sea level to elevations in excess of 460 feet. At these upper elevations the topography levels off into gently rolling plateaus.

The island has a population of about 10,000 and features a rural character. Low-density residential development covers much of the area, with higher density residential areas concentrated in small towns and along parts of the shoreline. The islands of Vashon and Maury are much less developed than mainland King County and feature such natural resources as forests, wetlands, streams and a sole source aquifer, all of which support the biologically productive saltwater shoreline. Vashon-Maury Island is about 73 percent forested land; non-forest covers about 16 percent and developed land 11 percent.

Vashon-Maury Island has been altered significantly in the last 100 years. Virtually all of the original pre-settlement wetland forests and upland forests were logged and removed by the late 1800s. Second growth timber was heavily logged in the mid 1900s. Although forest lands have regenerated on the island, natural land cover has been altered from the earlier large spans of mature coniferous forests to younger mixed forests with a significant hardwood presence.

Vashon's freshwater environment includes more than 70 mapped streams and creeks, which originate from upland seeps and wetlands and drop through the steep channels through the bluff line that surrounds the island. Vashon-Maury Island also has a number of significant, high quality freshwater wetland systems. The two primary stream basins representing a substantial portion of the island's freshwater environment are the Shinglemill Creek and Judd Creek basins.

The Vashon-Maury Island nearshore accounts for 51 miles of the 92 miles of marine shoreline found within the boundaries of King County. It supports a variety of life and ecosystem functions and is characterized by a combination of beaches, bluffs, lagoons, spits, pocket estuaries, and fringing eelgrass and kelp beds. Much of the surrounding nearshore waters are under some sort of marine protected status.

Salmonid species inhabiting streams on Vashon-Maury Island include coastal cutthroat trout, rainbow/steelhead trout, coho salmon, chum salmon, and Chinook salmon. Fifteen island streams are known to support salmonids. Juvenile and adult coho, Chinook and coastal trout have been observed at numerous points along the marine shorelines, as well.

Approximately seven percent of Vashon-Maury Island is in public ownership, and the Vashon Maury Island Land Trust holds conservation easements on several private properties and owns a few nature reserve parcels. King County and the Vashon Park District offer recreational opportunities, with the park district managing land and facilities such as wildlife habitat, resource activities, trails, athletic fields, indoor community centers, and interpretive centers.

King County's 320-acre Maury Island Marine Park offers close to 1.5 miles of Puget Sound shoreline and provides habitat for a diversity of marine species. Dockton Park (20 acres) lies along the eastern shoreline of Quartermaster Harbor and is primarily used as a marina, picnic and boat launch area, and summer swim beach. The county has acquired more than 200 acres of natural area sites, such as Neil Point, Piner Point, and Raab's Lagoon, which are largely undeveloped and provide public access to the shoreline as well as significant ecological value. In addition, Island Center Forest (369 acres) and Dockton Forest (86 acres), which are managed as working forests, provide passive recreation, such as hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.



**Vashon - Maury Island**

- King County Park or Easement
- Other Public Land
- Incorporated Area

0 1 2 Miles

