

September 26, 2023

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Kitsap County  
Comprehensive Plan Briefing  
Critical Areas Ordinance Update  
League of Women Voters Kitsap






# Comprehensive Plan Update 2024

- Required by Growth Management Act
- Does not apply to Tribal lands
- Directs actions on:
  - Growth
  - Infrastructure
  - Environmental protection
  - Housing choices







# What is in a Comprehensive Plan?

- Land Use – Zoning & UGA sizing
- Economic Development – Employment
- Environment – Critical Areas & Shoreline
- Transportation – Roads & Transit
- Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- Capital Facilities – Utilities, Buildings & Services
- Housing & Human Services
- Sub-Area & Neighborhood Plans
- Climate Change



# Growth Management Act

- Urban Growth
- Reduce Sprawl
- Transportation
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Property Rights
- Permits
- Resource Lands
- Open Space/Recreation
- Environment
- Resident Participation
- Public Facilities/Services
- Historic Preservation
- Shorelines



# Housing Affordability

- Housing out of reach for more residents each year; rentals and ownership.
- Housing supply mostly single-family detached home focused.
- How can we incentivize housing types and sizes to control costs and provide housing for various income ranges?




A landscape photograph showing a stream flowing through a forest. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding trees and sky. Several large, weathered logs are partially submerged in the stream. The forest consists of many bare trees, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall tone is somewhat somber and naturalistic.

# Climate Change

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Sea level rise
- Wildfire prevention



A large crowd of people is gathered for a parade. In the foreground, a dense crowd of people of various ages and ethnicities is visible. In the background, several vintage cars, including a red one, a blue one, and a white one, are driving down a street. The scene is bright and festive.

## 2020-2044 Growth

- Population – 70,747 New Residents
- Employment – 46,023 New Jobs
- Focused growth in Silverdale, Kingston, and incorporated cities.

*\*Based on VISION 2050*

# Update Process

- Public outreach and comment (*continuous throughout process*)
- Draft Alternatives for public input & Board consideration
  - ✓ Alt #1 – No Action
  - ✓ Alt #2 – Compact Growth/Urban Center Focus
  - ✓ Alt #3 – Dispersed Growth Focus
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Draft Comp Plan chapter Elements
- Preferred alternative, goals & policies, and County Code are presented to the Board for consideration (*Public Hearing*)
- Final Environmental Impact Statement & Comp Plan
- Board considers documents and maps (*Public Hearing*)
- Board approval



# More Information

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Webpage:  
[Kcowa.us/cao](http://Kcowa.us/cao)

Email:  
[compplan@kitsap.gov](mailto:compplan@kitsap.gov)

Phone:  
(360) 337-5777







# Overview: Kitsap County 2024 Critical Areas Ordinance Update

- Policies and regulations that guide environment protections and promotes public safety in the County's critical areas
- Based on Best Available Science (BAS) and Gap Analysis review
- Last review conducted in 2017
- Required update was every 8 years, now every 10 years with Comprehensive Plan
- Target adoption date **June 30, 2024**



# Purpose of a Critical Areas Ordinance Update

01

Align the CAO with applicable Best Available Science (BAS), State laws and guidelines in effect at the time of the review;

02

Assure consistency of the CAO with the County's comprehensive plan and development regulations; and

03

Provide clarifications to improve usability and predictability of the CAO for applicants and reviewers.



# Types of Critical Areas

A photograph of a wetland area. In the foreground, there is a stream with a fallen log across it. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding trees and sky. The banks are covered in lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and various plants. In the background, there are more trees and a glimpse of a building or structure.

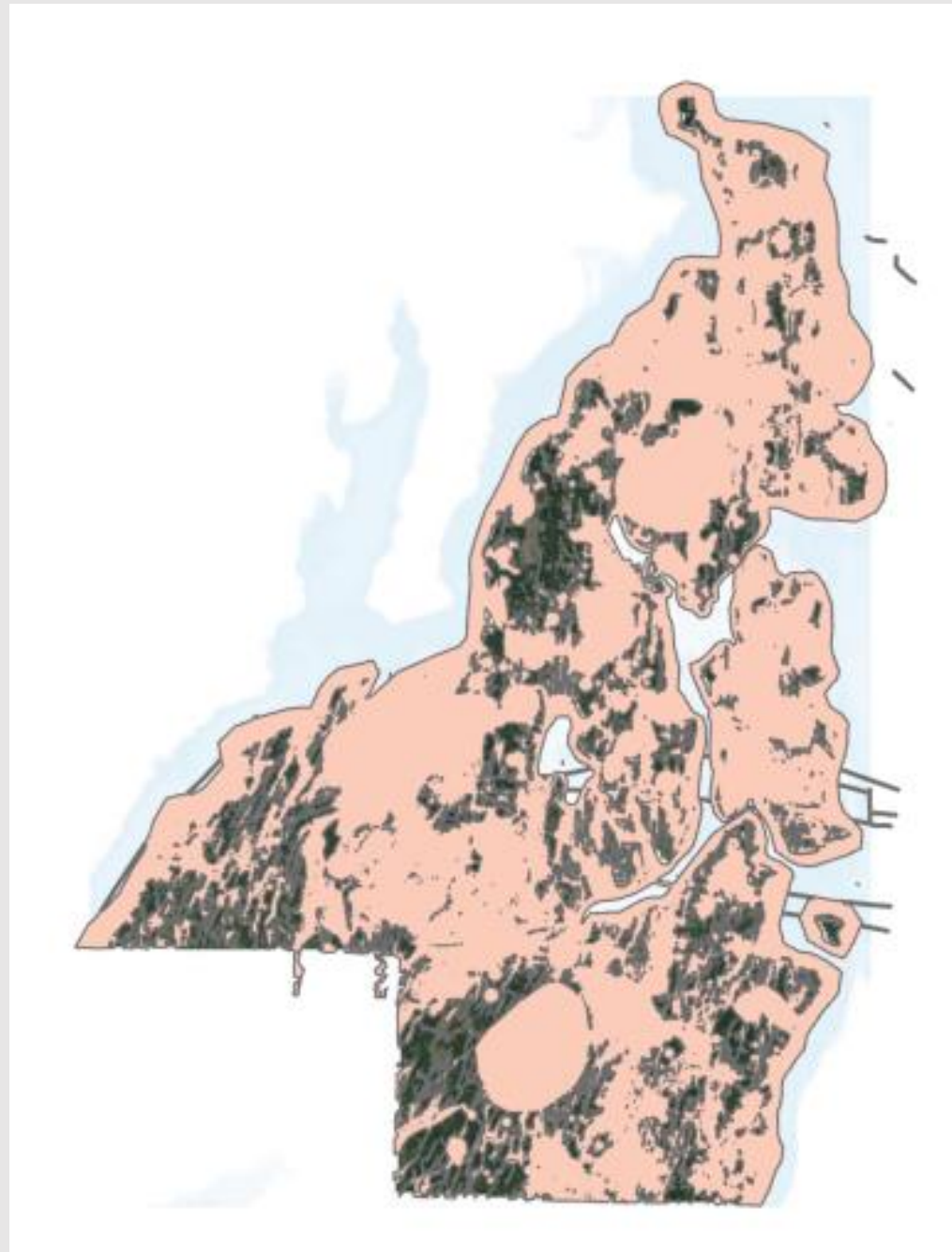
- Fish & Wildlife Conservation Areas
- Geological Hazardous Areas
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Wetlands



66% of land in Kitsap County has one or more critical area present.


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Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas are the most prevalent critical area in Kitsap County.



*\*Critical Areas shown in pink*





# Public Participation Plan Elements



Public engagement opportunities



Public feedback



Working groups



Community consultations



Inclusive outreach



A large fish, possibly a salmon, is swimming in a stream. The water is clear and flowing over rocks. The background shows a forest floor with fallen leaves and some green plants.

# Working Groups

## Purpose

- Provide technical recommendation on Best Available Science & code updates

## Standing Members

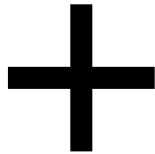
- Representatives from local Tribes & community organizations with expertise in planning and critical areas

## Technical Experts

- Staff from appropriate state agencies with training and expertise in a specific critical area topic



Technical Experts	Agency
Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas	Dept. Fish & Wildlife
	Dept. of Ecology
Wetlands	Dept. Fish & Wildlife
	Dept. of Ecology
	Kitsap Public Health District
Frequently Flooded Areas	Dept. of Ecology
	USGS
	Kitsap Public Health District
Geologically Hazardous Areas	Dept. of Ecology
	Dept. of Natural Resources
	Kitsap Public Health District
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Dept. of Ecology
	Kitsap Public Utilities District
	Kitsap Public Health District



Standing Members
Tribe or Organization
Suquamish Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Squaxin Island Tribe
Puyallup Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
Point No Point Treaty Council
Jamestown Tribe
Kitsap Alliance of Property Owners
Kitsap Builders Association
Kitsap Environmental Group
Futurewise



**Working  
Groups  
Members**





# Working Group Meetings

- Fish & Wildlife Conservation Areas Thursday, July 20 @ 1pm-4pm
- Wetlands Tuesday, July 25 @ 9am-12pm
- Frequently Flooded Areas Wednesday, July 26 @ 9am-12pm
- Geological Hazardous Areas Thursday, July 27 @ 9am-12pm
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Thursday, July 27 @ 1pm-4pm



# Best Available Science (BAS)

- ❖ GMA Requirement
- ❖ Based on WAC Criteria: Peer review, methods, logical conclusions, quantitative analysis, context, references
- ❖ Describes “functions and values”. Looks at any BAS since last update in 2017.
- ❖ Literature review – informs “Gap and Consistency Analysis” document
- ❖ Consider local applicability & implementation
- ❖ Currently available for public review on project page





# Gap and Consistency Analysis

- ❖ **Required** Changes for consistency with state law and guidelines
- ❖ **Recommended** Changes based on Best Available Science review and evaluation of current code
- ❖ **Discretionary** Changes based on need for improvement or clarity in various code sections
  
- ❖ Draft amendments will be available for public review in late 2023.







## NEXT STEPS:

Present – December 2023	Continued Working Group Meetings
Present – February 2024	County Staff preparing draft code amendments
March 2024	Draft Amendments Available
April 2024	Public Comment Period
June 2024	Target Adoption



# For more information:

Project webpage: [kcowa.us/cao](https://kcowa.us/cao)

Comments & Questions:  
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