



CRITICAL AREAS - PHASE 2

Locally Important Species and Habitats

Background

- ❖ Phase 1 (BAS updates) – adopted by City Council at 2nd reading on August 16, 2016
EFFECTIVE DATE IS AFTER ADOPTION BY DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

- ❖ Phase 2
 - ✓ Options to protect locally important species and habitats
NO RECOMMENDATION BY OLYMPIA PLANNING COMMISSION
 - ✓ Shoreline Master Program amendment (concurrent with Phase 2 adoption)
ADOPTION RECOMMENDED BY OLYMPIA PLANNING COMMISSION



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CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ **Many species/habitats already protected by City CAO and SMP and by State DFW Priority Habitat and Species list**

- ❖ **Great Blue Heron habitat protection**
 - ✓ **Annual and additional seasonal buffers around known habitat**
 - ✓ **Provide and/or replace vegetative screening**
 - ✓ **Restrict timing on certain activities to avoid nesting season**
 - ✓ **Restrict development within a nesting colony**

- ❖ **Nomination process for potential additional locally important species/habitats**



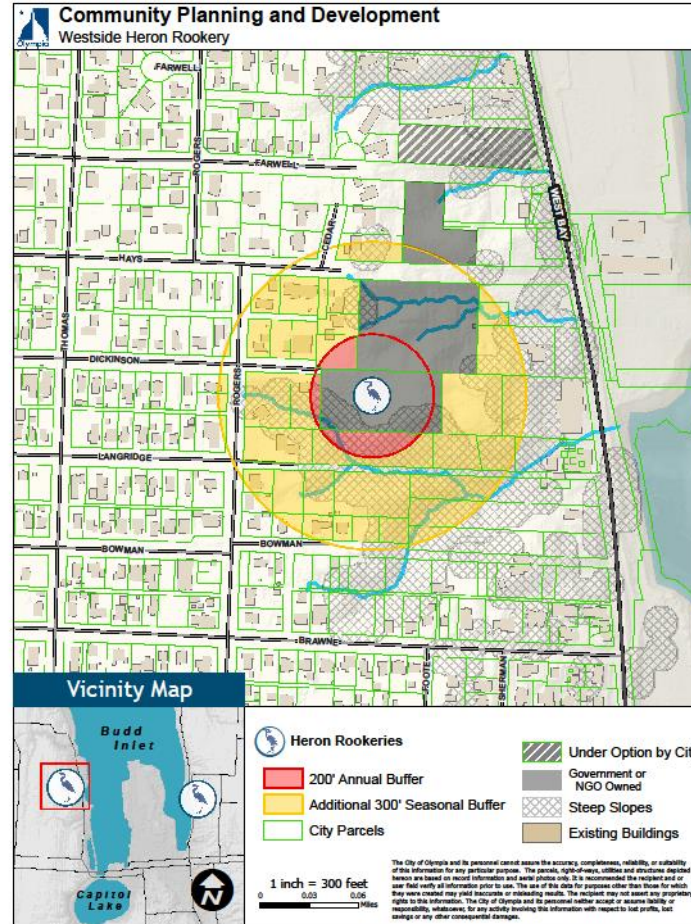
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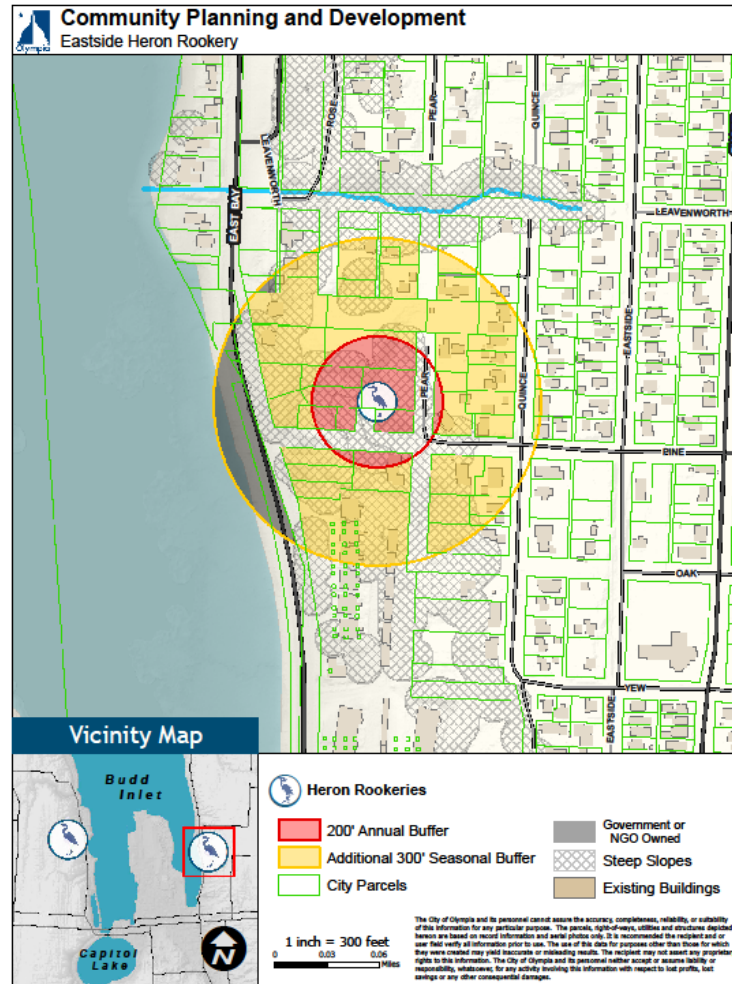
Definitions – Great Blue Heron

- ❖ **Great Blue Heron Nesting Season** is generally Feb 1 through Aug 31
- ❖ **Great Blue Heron Nesting Colony** is the area inside the line created when the outermost nesting trees are connected. This line is the nesting colony boundary of two or more nests.
- ❖ **Great Blue Heron Core Zone** is the area consisting of a great blue heron nesting colony and an additional 200 feet.
- ❖ **Great Blue Heron Management Area** is the area consisting of a great blue heron nesting colony, the 200 foot core zone, and an additional 300 feet.

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Locally Important Species and Habitats Development Considerations Matrix

IF HERONS ARE PRESENT:

Nesting colony	No development (exception: reasonable use doctrine)
Core Zone (200 ft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development activities allowed Sept 1-Jan 31• With biologist determination, alternative dates for development may be allowed• Subject to mitigation sequencing and habitat management plan
Management Area (additional 300 ft)	Development allowed but no loud noise (over 92 decibels) during nesting season



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Development Considerations Matrix

IF HERONS ARE NOT PRESENT (based on report from qualified professional) and within 10 years of active nest:

Nesting colony	No development (exception: reasonable use doctrine)
Core Zone (200 ft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development activities allowed Apr 15-Jan 31• Subject to mitigation sequencing and habitat management plan
Management Area (additional 300 ft)	Development allowed anytime



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Council Options:

1. Adopt ordinance to amend SMP and establish future nomination process, but **not including** locally important species protections for great blue herons.
2. Adopt ordinance to amend SMP, **plus** locally important species protections for great blue herons and future nomination process.
3. Adopt ordinance to amend SMP, with modification to remove future nomination process.
4. Identify questions and issues for additional research and refer back to Planning Commission for recommendation.



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Development Considerations

- ❖ No development in the nesting colony
- ❖ Activities causing loud noises above the ambient level restricted in the breeding season – generally Feb 1-Aug 31
- ❖ All screening trees must be retained or replaced
- ❖ Development within the annual buffer must follow mitigation sequencing
- ❖ If nesting colony abandoned, area should be protected for 10 years from last known active nesting season



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Development Considerations Matrix

IF HERONS ARE PRESENT:

Nesting colony	No development (exception: reasonable use doctrine)
Year-round buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development activities allowed Sept 1-Jan 31• Subject to mitigation sequencing and habitat management plan
Seasonal buffer	Development allowed but no loud noise (over 92 decibels) Sept 1-Jan31



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Development Considerations Matrix

IF HERONS ARE NOT PRESENT (based on report from qualified professional) and within 10 years of active nest:

Nesting colony	No development (exception: reasonable use doctrine)
Year-round buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development activities allowed Apr 1-Jan 31• Subject to mitigation sequencing and habitat management plan
Seasonal buffer	Development allowed anytime



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Suggested Non-Regulatory Protections

- ❖ **Best Protection: Acquire land to be protected**
 - ✓ City and private partnerships
 - ✓ Support purchase by non-profit groups

- ❖ **Encourage other City departments to consider habitat protection in land acquisition activities**

- ❖ **Coordinate with non-profit groups to develop citizen-science programs to assist in monitoring status of locally important habitat and species**



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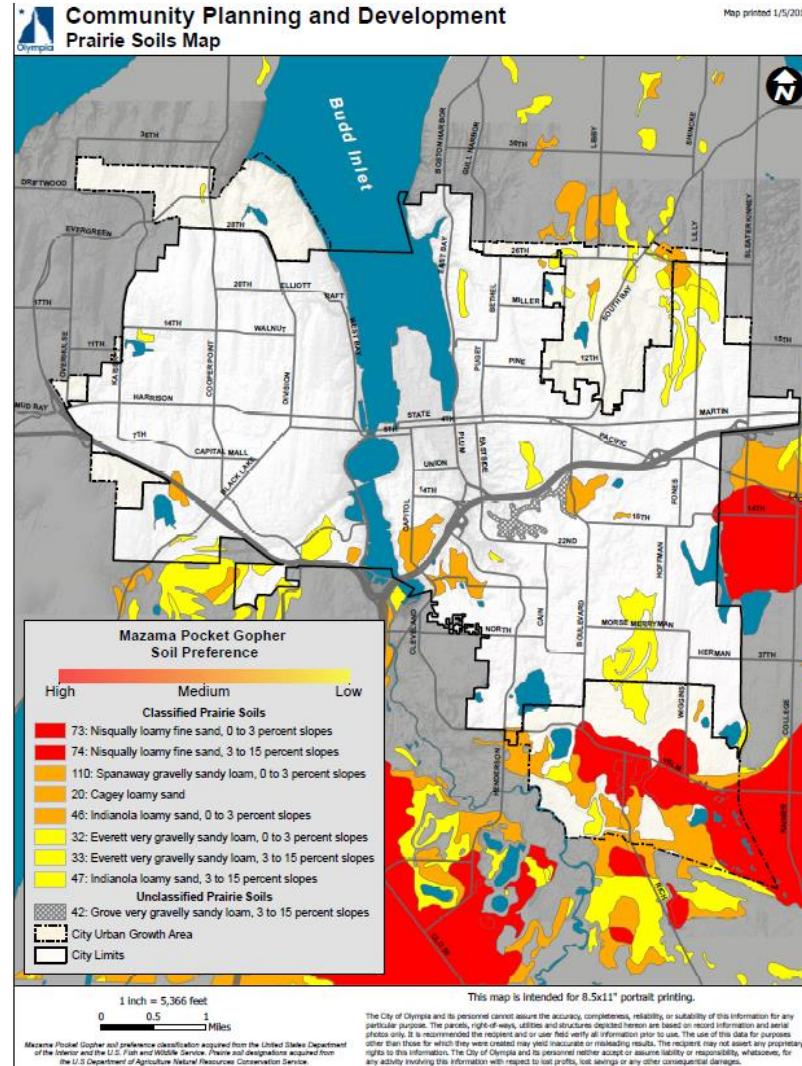
Miscellaneous map information

The following slides depicting

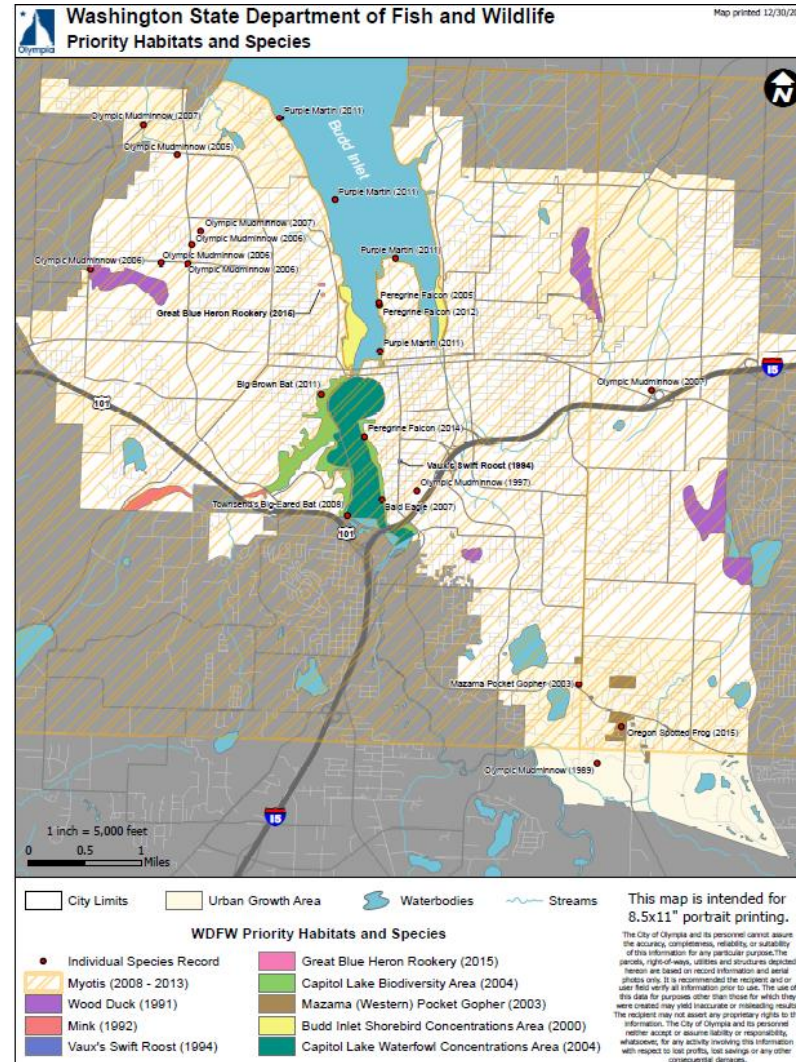
- ❖ **prairie soils locations (Mazama pocket gopher habitat),**
- ❖ **WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species map, and**
- ❖ **the Shoreline Master Program map amendment**

are for information and guidance only.

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Shoreline Management Program Map



Map Amendment

