



# OLYMPIA

Natural Environment

2045

City Council Acceptance of Chapter Update – June 10, 2025



# Agenda

- Natural Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan - overview
- Review Chapter update process
- What we heard: Key themes & edits
- Discussion



Photo: Aerial view of downtown Olympia and the 4<sup>th</sup> avenue bridge

# The Natural Environment Chapter:

- Environmental Justice
- Habitat stewardship & urban forestry
- Puget Sound & salmon recovery
- Critical areas protection
- Managing pollution
- Connecting people to nature
- Balancing human and environmental well-being
- Climate resilience and adaptation\*

\* Related goals & policies finalized as part of the Climate element of the Plan



Photo: A group of children planting trees at Grass Lake Nature Park

# Update Process

New requirements from the State Legislature

Emerging trends & new research

Input from community & advisory entities

Interdepartmental staff input

**Draft Chapter Updates**

Photo: A row of oak trees along a grassy strip separates the street from the sidewalk



# Timeline

## Phase I Outreach & Edits

- **Spring:** Begin community engagement – tabling events
- **Summer:** Public open house workshops and e-survey
- **Fall:** targeted outreach (agencies, organizations, Squaxin Island Tribe)

2023

## Phase II Outreach & Edits

- **Winter:** First draft of revisions out for review
- **Spring:** Advisory committees & commissions initial briefing
- **Fall:** Second draft of revisions out for review, additional Tribal input

2024

## Council Review

- **Winter:** Land Use & Environment review; Council Study Session
- **Spring:** Preliminary Council acceptance of Chapter
- **Fall:** Final acceptance of Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update in full

2025

Updates from State Legislature  
Emerging trends & research  
Interdepartmental staff input  
Community & Advisory input

## What We Heard – Most Common Topics:

- Multi-benefit, **nature-based solutions**
- **Interconnected relationship:** public health & well-being and a healthy environment
- **Urban Forest Management Planning** to guide policy and set balanced tree canopy goals
- **Salmon recovery;** Tribal treaty rights & Indigenous history, culture, and knowledge
- **Development** challenges and opportunities
- **Pollution** monitoring & reduction



Photo: Two small children stand near the shoreline during high tide at Squaxin Park

Updates from State Legislature  
Emerging trends & research  
Interdepartmental staff input  
Community & Advisory input

## What We Heard – Most Common Topics:

- Environmental justice
- Workforce development
- Safe & accessible greenspaces
- Healthy habitat for wildlife populations
- Capitol Lake Estuary Restoration
- Climate change, particularly sea-level rise, urban heat islands, and water conservation



Photo: Two small children stand near the shoreline during high tide at Squaxin Park

# Discussion





## Contact info

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Download & read the Comprehensive Plan  
Find other opportunities to provide input

