REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

A collaborative effort to integrate and elevate the many activities underway to conserve and enhance the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of the central Puget Sound region.
The ROSS encompasses four counties and eight watersheds.
WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

- Parks + Trails
- Sensitive Lands + Waters
- Rural + Resource Lands
- Urban Amenities

Green Infrastructure
Strategy

The science & art of employing the political, social, and other forces of a region to achieve success toward a common goal.
THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES OF OUR DAY

The ROSS is working to identify priorities and solutions for five key challenges where open space plays a critical role.

CLIMATE CHANGE  BIODIVERSITY  SOCIAL EQUITY  HUMAN HEALTH  ECONOMIC HEALTH
INTERCONNECTED SYSTEMS

- AIR
- WATER
- WORK
- PLAY
- FOOD
- SHELTER
- HEALTH
- TRANSPORT
- ENERGY
- MATERIALS
- CULTURAL
- AESTHETIC
- WASTE
- DISASTER MITIGATION
- EDUCATION
- COMMUNITY

Open Space Services
LEADERSHIP
VISION
TOOLS
ACTIONS
LEADERSHIP

VISION

TOOLS

ACTIONS

ROSS
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
A COLLECTIVE VISION
LOCAL PRIORITIES

STILLAGUAMISH*

CEDAR/SAMMAMISH
Scoping Completed 2010

KITSAP*

GREEN/DUWAMISH
Winter 2015

PUYALLUP/WHITE
Completed Summer 2014

CLOVERS/CHAMBER*

NISQUALLY*

SNOHOMISH
Winter 2015

*Funds currently being sought
REGIONAL ANALYSIS

WEAVING TOGETHER
WATERSHED PRIORITIES
This “VISION” is a **MOCK-UP**

It provides an **EXAMPLE** of the physical parameters of what a full ROSS (Regional Open Space Strategy) might look like

And how it would be **USEFUL** at a regional scale

It is only a **STARTING POINT** to elicit comments

and is only useful if there is a corresponding **INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK** to implement it
TRAILS

T-1  Connect Green River Trail and Cedar River Trail near and in Renton
T-2  Connect Green River Trail, East Lake Washington Trail and the Cedar River Trail near and in Renton
T-3  Continue constructing the Mountain To Sound Greenway Trail across Bellevue to and other missing sections
T-4  Continue constructing the Eastside Trail
T-5  Construct MTS missing link around Beacon Hill and industrial area
T-6  Connect the Centennial Trail to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail.
T-7  Complete missing links in the North Interurban Trail to connect Everett and Seattle
T-8  Connect the Centennial Trail to the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from Snohomish to Monroe.
A-1  Continue efforts to construct setback levee(s) with shoreline restoration in lower Puyallup River.
A-2  Protect the White River Corridor
A-3  Coordinate the numerous shoreline restoration projects on the Duwamish and Lower Green River
A-4  Coordinate stormwater management, flood surge protection and environmental enhancement efforts in the Duwamish and Lower Green Rivers
A-5  Restore the lower Green River while upgrading the levees in the Kent Valley.
A-6  Take land use and environmental management steps to protect water quality and habitat in the Soos Creek basin.
A-7  Address development impacts to water quality around Black Diamond.
A-8  Work with farmers in the Newaukum Creek basin to identify watershed friendly field drainage techniques.
A-9  Restore the lower Cedar River shoreline.
A-10 Take land use steps in uplands to maintain high water quality along the Cedar River
REGIONAL VISION

BIODIVERSITY

B-1 Initiate a region-wide update/synthesis of existing biodiversity assessments to identify the most ecologically important areas, the relative threat to each, and the priority actions.

B-2 Support the Pierce County Biodiversity Alliance efforts to implement the Lower White River Biodiversity Management Area Stewardship Plan.

B-3 Support King County’s efforts to acquire and manage the Bass Lake complex.
REGIONAL VISION

FOREST LANDS

F-1 Facilitate an interagency forest management strategy.

F-2 Identify strategies to manage public forests that have recently been acquired by public governments such as cities and counties.

F-3 Explore issues related to public forest management through a case study of forests newly acquired by Kitsap County Parks.
AGRICULTURAL LANDS

AG-1 Initiate a Comprehensive multi-county sustainable agriculture strategy.

AG-2 Initiate a comprehensive agricultural lands and aquatic systems enhancement program

AG-3 Take immediate action to protect remaining agricultural land in the lower Puyallup Valley.

AG-4 *(Consult Forterra re: activities along the Snoqualmie)*.

AG-5 *(Consult Forterra re: activities along the Snohomish)*
ACTIVE LIVING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CD-1  Address the open space deficiencies and health impacts in the lower Green River Valley.

CD-2  Identify strategies for providing open space and recreation resources in rapidly growing communities.

CD-3  Provide community open spaces near the Highway 99 corridor in Snohomish County.

CD-4  Establish a “Greater Rainier” Coalition.

CD-5  Establish a Snoqualmie Valley Coalition

CD-6  Establish a Skykomish Valley Coalition.

CD-7  Establish a Stillaguamish Valley coalition.

CD-8  Build on the open space resources in the Hansville/Kingston/Port Gamble vicinity as a regional recreational and scenic amenity attractions along that corridor.

CD-9  Establish a “Hanging Gardens” Park in the Green River Gorge between Flaming Geyser Park and Kanaskat-Palmer State Parks.
REGIONAL VISION

COMBINED ACTIONS
REGIONAL VISION

GEOGRAPHICALLY LINKED STRATEGIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

• MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY: An excellent model for collaborative action.
• GREEN-DUWAMISH COALITION: Already forming to address watershed wide environmental, health, and recreational objectives.
• INDIANOLA-HANSVILLE PENINSULA: A suggestion to enhance this area’s attractions
• PUYALLUP GREEN “Y”. A short term opportunity to enhance this important multi-functional open space resource that would greatly benefit urban Pierce County.
• SNOHOMISH RIVERS: Need to know more about what is underway in this area.
• STILLAGUAMISH CORRIDOR: A suggestion
• WHITE RIVER ALLIANCE: An active group is working on biodiversity and shoreline protection.
• GREATER RAINIER COALITION: An economic and environmental effort.
REGIONAL VISION

URBAN COMMUNITIES
- Recreation opportunities for all
- Green infrastructure solutions
- Restored shorelines

AGRICULTURAL LANDS
- Sustainable agricultural economy
- Flood reduction and other ecosystem services
- Scenic and recreation value

TRAILS AND CONNECTIONS
- Access to regional resources
- Links from urban communities to rural and wilderness areas

WORKING FORESTS
- Sustainable yield
- Critical watershed and ecological functions
- Multiple uses

RIVER CORRIDORS
- Critical for ecological viability
- Brings nature into the city

RURAL LANDS
Protected waterheds
Open spaces used to define and support livable communities.

PARKS, WILDERNESS & PROTECTED AREAS
- Critical habitats
- High recreation value
- Supports tourism and economies of small communities
Snohomish County Agricultural Land

Actions to Sustain Farmland

- Strengthen transfer of development rights (TDR) program in which farmers can sell TDR credits to developers wishing to develop above base densities. Non-agricultural development would not be allowed on land after TDR credits are sold. Require TDR credits for all development above base rural densities for cluster development, LAMIRDS, and expanded UGA's.
- Expand opportunities for property owners to apply for farmland designation and tax incentives.
- Explore opportunities for new types of crops, especially in small lot upland areas.
- Repeal density bonus for cluster subdivisions unless TDR credits are purchased.
- Consider TDR program for non-designated farmland.
- Discourage development on small, non-conforming lots.
- Increase agri-tourism market. Add bicycle trails and enhance marketing program. Build greater public appreciation of farming’s importance.
- Allow farmers to protect land from erosion if combined with habitat restoration.
- Apply public funds to protect the public benefits of agricultural lands such as food security, flood reduction, water quality, habitat, aesthetics and recreation. Funds could pay for purchase of development rights, incentives for cities to participate in TDR program, or economic development activities.

Rural hamlets
Estuary Redevelopment/Restoration Strategy

1. Determine need for industrial space, then
2. Upgrade existing industrial facilities, and
3. Add compatible redevelopment, and
4. Improve infrastructure - all with environmental restoration and sustainable development techniques.

A conceptual example of an inter-jurisdictional open space strategy combining multiple actions to achieve multiple objectives.
LEADERSHIP
VISION
TOOLS
ACTIONS
Open Space Valuation

$25.2\ billion/\ year

That's the value of services open space provide in the Central Puget Sound region.

LEADERSHIP
VISION
TOOLS
ACTIONS

ROSS
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
INTEGRATE A COLLECTIVE VISION
ENHANCE OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT
Instead of:  
Planning how to fit parks into our cities?

What if:  
We figured out how to fit cities into the park . . .
Instead of:  
Focusing on the cost of green infrastructure

What if:  
We focused on the return on our investment . . .
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY
FINANCING AND GOVERNANCE
The Problem

The open space (natural capital) that supports our economy and communities continues to be degraded and lost due to land conversion and under-funded stewardship efforts.

Failure to divert substantial, long-term financial resources and prioritize open space planning will have devastating consequences:

- Local economies will divert $100M+ each year to replace lost ecosystem services.
- The region will suffer more frequent and costly losses from natural disasters and ongoing stressors like drought.
- Residents will experience a reduced quality of life
The ROSS encompasses four counties and eight watersheds.
Critical Components

• **Vision** for an integrated open space/economic/urban development model that is sustainable and resilient

• **Funding** for open space at the scale needed to assure long-term stewardship of our natural capital assets
Vision

To purchase and maintain sufficient open space to support a robust economy and livable communities.
Goods

- Food
- Water Supply
- Medicine
- Fiber
- Fuel
- Minerals
- Carbon
Services

Flood Risk Reduction
Gas & Climate Stability
Water Quality
Fire Risk Reduction
Soil Erosion Control
Sediment Transport
Natural Pest and Disease Control
Soil Formation
Water Flow and Temperature Regulation
Supporting Functions

Pollination

Biodiversity and Habitat

Nutrient Cycling

Net Primary Production
Cultural Functions

Aesthetic

Recreation

Cultural Values

Spiritual & historic

Science & education
Each year the Central Puget Sound Region receives $11B-$25B in ecosystem services from open space.
Asset Value for Open Space

Four Counties

$329-824 billion
The Cost of Losing natural capital
Figure 1. Track of Hurricane Katrina, August 23–29, 2005, showing spatial extent and storm intensity along its path (source: NOAA)
$200 Billion
Funding

The scale of funding needed?
Grey Infrastructure

Federal and State Agencies Investing in Grey Infrastructure

United States
Department of Transportation (USDOT):
ensure fast, safe, efficient, and accessible transportation system

FHWA
FTA

Legend:
Federal Agency  State Agency
Green Infrastructure

Federal & State Agencies Investing in Green Infrastructure

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): 8% of the 2015 budget went to conservation and forestry programs.
- Department of Interior (DOI): DOI manages 20% of all land in the U.S. and includes agencies such as NPS, USGS, USFWS, and Bureau of Land Management.
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR): manages state trust lands to support the preservation of forest, water, and habitat.
- Department of Agriculture (WSDA): food safety and plant protection.

- United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA): federal grants to environmental state agencies, cities, counties, and districts.
- Bureau of Commerce: NOAA is located within this bureau, “NOAA is America’s environmental intelligence agency.”
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): habitat conservation, salmon/endangered species recovery, and land management.

- Department of Defense (DoD): invests billions in environmental programs such as restoration projects and new technologies.
- Corporation for National & Community Service: focus areas include disaster services and environmental stewardship.
- Department of Transportation (DOT): the state nickel tax helps fund environmental projects, works with stormwater and fish issues, and replaces wetland sites.
- Parks and Recreation Commission: parks and recreation, primary funding from the Discovery Pass.

- Department of Homeland Security: the home of FEMA.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): provides disaster recovery assistance and interested in sustainable communities.
- Department of Health (DOH): safe drinking water, food safety, shellfish protection, wastewater management, environmental health, etc.
- Conservation Commission: state toxics control and other conservation oversight.

- Department of Transportation (DOT): home of the Natural Environment and Human Environment offices.
- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP): prevent urban stormwater runoff pollution, protect and restore habitat, and recover shellfish beds.
Investments not costs

What does rate of return on investment for open space mean to you!
Next Steps

- Refine the vision for open space required to support a robust economy and livable communities.

- Estimate return on investment from priority green space to be protected.

- What scale of investment O&M, Capital Budget is needed?

- Plan Open Space Summit to discuss governance structure and funding mechanisms.
A COLLECTIVE VISION
A COLLECTIVE IMPACT