

## Appendix H. Glossary

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**Corridor:** For wildlife, a continuous link of intact habitat that allows wildlife to move through an area. Corridors are essential for wildlife to maintain viable populations.

**Conservation:** Securing lands and the benefits they provide for the future. Conservation includes a broad suite of actions and efforts with the aim of sustaining the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of an area. Careful preservation and protection of something; planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

**Conservation Futures:** The Washington State Legislature enabled counties to collect taxes to establish a Conservation Futures fund<sup>i</sup>. This program enables counties to preserve lands of public interest for future generations.

**Degraded:** Describes open spaces that are not providing ecosystem services at their original, natural level. The condition of these services has been reduced.

**Ecosystem services:** Ecosystem services (and goods) produce the many life-sustaining benefits we receive from nature—clean air and water, fertile soil for crop production, pollination, and flood control<sup>ii</sup>. These ecosystem services are important to environmental and human health and well-being, yet they are limited and often taken for granted.

**Green infrastructure:** Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many community benefits<sup>iii</sup>. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and other elements and practices to restore some of the natural processes required to manage water and create healthier urban environments. At the city or county scale, green infrastructure is a patchwork of natural areas that provides habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. At the neighborhood or site scale, stormwater management systems that mimic nature soak up and store water.

**Habitat:** The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

**Intact:** Describes open spaces that are providing ecosystem services at their original, natural level. These open spaces require minimal restoration in order to function.

**Landscape Conservation and Local Infrastructure Program (LCLIP):** The LCLIP program provides a financing tool for large cities in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties to invest in infrastructure in designated TDR receiving areas.

**Long-term protection:** Land that has a conservation easement or that is owned outright by a public agency, tribe, or conservation non-profit.

**Low impact development:** Low Impact Development is a stormwater and land use management strategy that tries to mimic natural hydrologic conditions by emphasizing conservation, use of on-site

natural features, site planning, and distributed stormwater best management practices (BMPs) integrated into a project design<sup>iv</sup>. Low impact development best management practices emphasize pre-disturbance hydrologic processes of infiltration, filtration, storage, evaporation, and transpiration. Common low impact development practices include bio-retention, rain gardens, permeable pavements, minimal excavation foundations, vegetated roofs, and rainwater harvesting.

**Open space:** Open Space is an embracing term for a diverse spectrum of lands - public and private, spread across a rural and urban continuum, on large and small scales - that create the natural and built green infrastructure on which we depend. This includes public parks, local and regional trail systems, wetlands and water bodies, wilderness lands, resource lands for agriculture and timber production, as well as urban green spaces like parkways, rain gardens and green roofs<sup>v</sup>.

**Open space services:** See ecosystem services.

**Preservation:** Maintaining open spaces in their existing or original state.

**Protection:** Keeping open spaces safe from damage, harm, or destruction. Can include legal restrictions that limit activities on open space lands.

**Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs):** A county program that allows for a tax reduction incentive in proportion to the open space benefits a property provides.

**Public-Private Partnership:** A public-private partnership is a contractual arrangement between a public agency and a private sector entity<sup>vi</sup>. Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. In addition to the sharing of resources, each party shares in the risks and rewards potential in the delivery of the service and/or facility.

**Restoration:** Bringing back to a former position or condition. For open spaces, this means bringing open space services that have been degraded or destroyed back to a functioning condition on the land.

**Stormwater:** Stormwater, or stormwater runoff, is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground<sup>vii</sup>. The runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment that can harm our rivers, streams, lakes, and coastal waters.

**Transfer of Development Rights (TDR):** TDR is a market-based mechanism that supports the voluntary transfer of development rights from areas where a community would like to discourage development to places where that community would like to focus new growth.

**VISION 2040:** VISION 2040 is the integrated transportation, economic development, and growth management plan for the central Puget Sound region.

**Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA):** The Washington State Department of Ecology and other state natural resources agencies have divided the Washington into 62 "Water Resource Inventory Areas" or "WRIAs" to delineate the state's major watersheds.

**Watershed:** A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir, mouth of a bay, or any point along a stream channel. The word watershed is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment. Ridges and hills that separate two watersheds are called the drainage divide. The watershed consists of surface water--lakes, streams, reservoirs, and wetlands--and all the underlying ground water. Larger watersheds contain many smaller watersheds<sup>viii</sup>.

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<sup>i</sup> Washington State Legislature. 2018. RCW 84.34.240. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=84.34.240>.

<sup>ii</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. 2018. Ecosystem Services. <https://www.epa.gov/eco-research/ecosystem-services>.

<sup>iii</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. 2018. What is green infrastructure? <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>.

<sup>iv</sup> Washington State Department of Ecology. 2018. Low Impact Development Guidance. <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Stormwater-permittee-guidance-resources/Low-Impact-Development-guidance>.

<sup>v</sup> Regional Open Space Strategy. 2017. <http://openspacepugetsound.org/open-space>.

<sup>vi</sup> National Council for Public-Private Partnerships. 2018. Public-Private Partnerships Defined. <https://www.ncppp.org/ppp-basics/7-keys/>.

<sup>vii</sup> Environmental Protection Agency. 2018. NPDES Stormwater Program. <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>.

<sup>viii</sup> USGS. 2018. What is a Watershed? <https://water.usgs.gov/edu/watershed.html>.