


August 9, 2023

Presented by:  
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Kitsap County  
Critical Areas Ordinance Update  
Kingston Community Advisory  
Council







# 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

- 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*

# EXISTING CONDITIONS KINGSTON

## Critical Areas Map

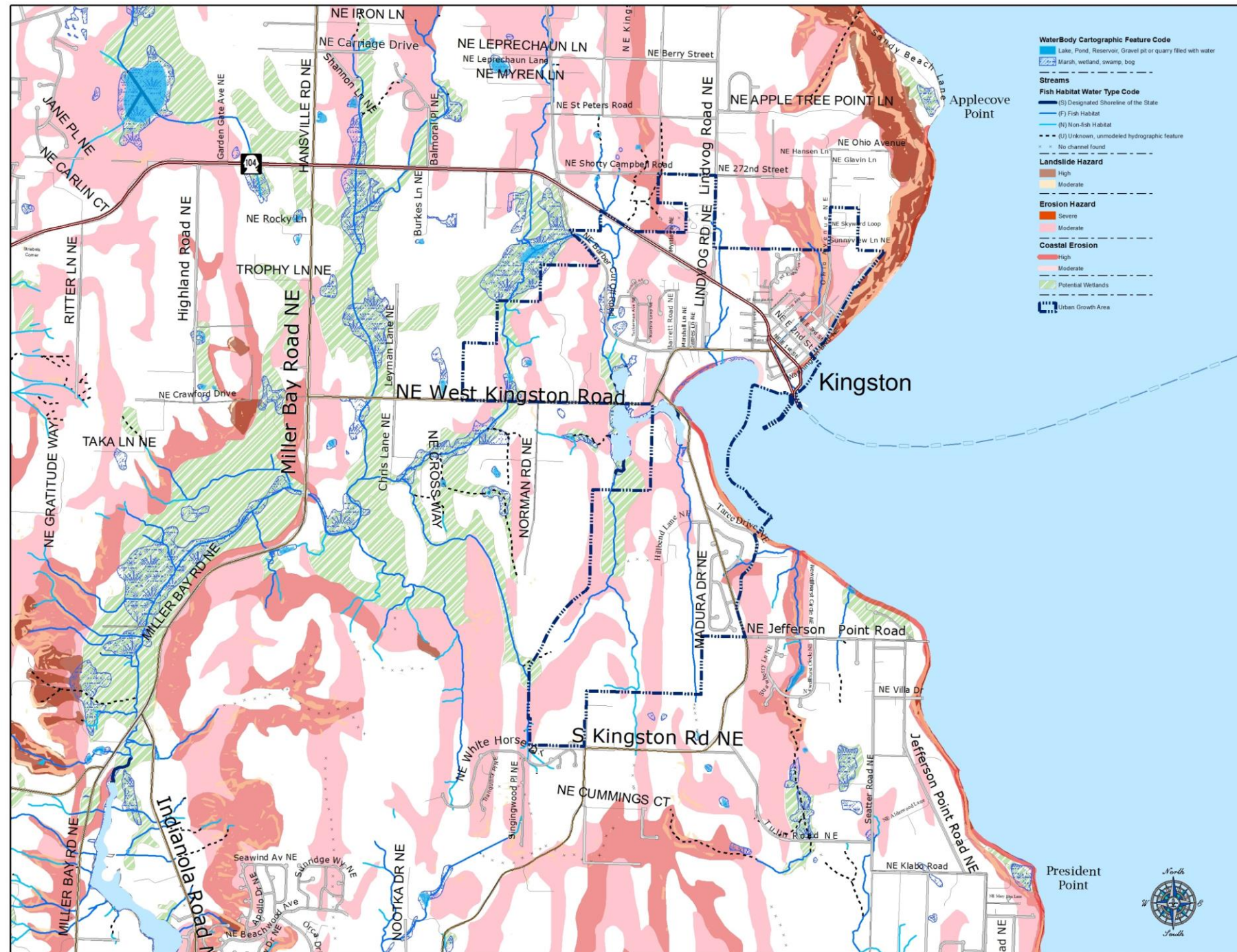
Streams


Wetlands

Waterbodies

Hydric soils

Moderate and high  
geologic hazard areas





# 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 banks are covered with fallen leaves and some green vegetation. The fish is the central focus of the image, moving from left to right.

# Working Groups

## Purpose

- Provide technical recommendation on Best Available Science & code updates

## Standing Members

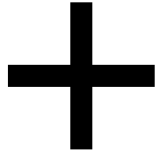
- Representatives from local Tribes & community organizations with expertise in planning and critical areas

## 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





# 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.



# PHASE 1

## BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE & INITIATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Develop outreach and engagement materials
- Launch website
- Distribute surveys
- Project kick-off public presentation
- Identify members for Working Group

**January 2023 - June 2023**

# PHASE 2

## TECHNICAL CAO DEVELOPMENT

- Hold virtual public meetings & in-person Open House
- Hold Working Group meetings and provide summary documents
- Consultation meetings with community groups as needed/requested
- Briefings and/or work studies with Planning Commission and Board of County

**June 2023 - December 2023**

# PHASE 3

## REVIEW & ADOPTION PROCESS

- Planning Commission public hearing to receive public comments on final draft plan and make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners
- Board of County Commissioner public hearing to receive public comments and make final decision to adopt, deny or modify final draft plan

**January 2024 - June 2024**



## NEXT STEPS:

Phase Two Schedule	
July 18, 2023	Planning Commission Briefing & Work Session: Best Available Science & Project Scope
July 20, 2023	Working Group Meetings begin
July 2023	Community Consultation meetings with community groups as needed/requested
August 2023	Project presentations to County Community Advisory Committees
Aug. - Dec 2023	Updates to BoCC & Planning Commission as needed (TBD)
Aug. - Dec. 2023	County Staff preparing draft code amendments



# For more information:

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

Comments & Questions:  
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