

### GOALS AND POLICIES

#### *Environmental Quality and Stewardship*

**GOAL EN-1** The City’s air, land, and water resources are restored and protected for future generations and are resilient to a changing climate<sup>10</sup>.

#### POLICIES

**Policy 1.1** Anticipate the effects of climate change by incorporating Best Available Science, considering long-term climate change projections, and planning for adaptive management of City regulations and internal procedures, as needed.

**Policy 1.2** Develop and implement environmental strategies that use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches to environmental assessment and planning, in coordination with local jurisdictions, tribes, and other stakeholders.<sup>11</sup>

**Policy 1.3** Collaborate with federal, state, and tribal<sup>12</sup> fish and wildlife agencies to identify priority habitats and species, to establish appropriate protections to ensure no net loss of ecological functions and values.<sup>13</sup>

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**Policy 1.4** Provide guidance to assist applicants in understanding and complying with federal and State fish and wildlife regulations for all public and private sector projects.

**Policy 1.5** Develop and implement programs that encourage and incentivize Tukwila residents and businesses to take active measures to protect, enhance, and plan for changing conditions of Tukwila’s natural environment to increase climate resiliency. Such measures could include, but are not limited to, the use of Low Impact Development (LID) techniques, natural streambank restoration, non-toxic lawn care, and composting and recycling.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Required by GMA goals

<sup>11</sup> Policy K\_EN-2;

<sup>12</sup> EN-2

<sup>13</sup> Consultant addition; other recycling policies are in Capital Facilities: partial K\_EN-2

<sup>14</sup> This policy should be eliminated for conciseness. Protection of priority species and habitats is included in Policy 4.1.2 and 4.1.4

<sup>15</sup> Consultant: Consider incentivizing measures that are resilient to a changing climate. Other practices that utilize the most current water conservation technologies and strategies such as water-smart landscapes, rainwater harvesting, and green infrastructure should also be considered and incentivized.

- Policy 1.6** Identify and preserve regionally significant open space networks through implementation of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan. Develop strategies and funding to protect lands that provide the following valuable functions:
- a. Ecosystem linkages and migratory corridors crossing jurisdictional boundaries;
  - b. Physical or visual separation providing buffers between incompatible uses;
  - c. Active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities;
  - d. Wildlife habitat and migration corridors that preserve and enhance ecosystem resiliency in the face of urbanization and climate change;
  - e. Preservation of ecologically sensitive, scenic, or cultural resources; and
  - f. Urban green space, habitats, and ecosystems.<sup>16</sup>

**GOAL 2** An educated public that understands the importance of protecting and enhancing the functions and values of environmentally critical areas, including fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, wetlands, floodplains, and the Green/Duwamish River, and actively assists in their stewardship.

**POLICIES**

**Policy 2.1** Develop and expand free or low-cost educational programs and materials for the community about the benefits of protecting and enhancing the City’s environmentally critical areas, the urban forest and wildlife habitat, and individual responsibilities for their stewardship in a changing climate. The City should continue to develop and support community-oriented wildlife educational programs, such as the Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Program, and communicate the requirements of City environmental regulations so as to maximize compliance and minimize code enforcement actions and environmental degradation.<sup>17</sup>

**Policy 2.2** Provide individualized education and technical support to residential property owners and general guidance to businesses regarding environmental stewardship and climate change resiliency strategies.

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<sup>16</sup> K\_EN-20, a-f  
<sup>17</sup> Combined with Policy 4.3 to enhance conciseness.  
<sup>18</sup> Combined into 4.3.1  
<sup>19</sup> Removed – redundant with Goal 2.  
<sup>20</sup> This policy should be eliminated and combined with Policy 4.3.2.

**Policy 2.3** Collaborate with environmental organizations and businesses to support recruiting and training of environmental stewards, identify and sponsor restoration projects, incorporate climate change-focused strategies and provide logistical support for their work. Action should be taken to encourage expanding the citizen volunteer base in Tukwila for restoration and enhancement of the City’s natural areas to promote the continued health of these systems.<sup>21</sup>

*The lack of a Goal #3 will be addressed with final formatting*

### *Water Resources*

**GOAL 4** Water resources that function as a healthy, integrated system; provide a long-term public benefit from enhanced environmental quality; are resilient from a range of climate-related events including increased flood events, changes in water temperature, and drought; and have the potential to reduce public infrastructure costs.<sup>22</sup>

### *Wetlands/ Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas*

**GOAL 5** Vital and self-sustaining fish and wildlife habitat areas and habitat corridors are protected and restored and that provide, where appropriate, opportunities for recreational and educational uses.<sup>23</sup>

### **POLICIES**

**Policy 5.1** Restore, protect, and enhance watershed functions and values through environmentally critical area restoration projects on public and private land to build resilience to climate change through ecological solutions. Restoration projects should improve habitat corridors and connections, particularly in riparian management zones and floodplain wetlands, wherever feasible.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> This policy should encourage collaborative efforts with the community to help ensure ecosystem functions are retained and are resilient to climate change.

<sup>22</sup> Climate change is anticipated to impact water resources by increasing the frequency and severity of flooding and temperature-related impacts.

<sup>23</sup> The inclusion of habitat corridors will aid in the protection of the function and values of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, as well as other environmentally critical areas.

<sup>24</sup> Supporting restoration opportunities that reconnect floodplain wetlands and restore natural processes will improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and mitigate impacts of flooding and erosion. When planning and prioritizing restoration projects it will be important to identify locations where these efforts will be most beneficial and effective in the long-term.

<sup>25</sup> This policy should be eliminated and combined with Policy 4.5.1 for conciseness.

- Policy 5.2** Develop best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater management and related maintenance activities to avoid impacts to riparian management zones or other environmentally critical areas. Where riparian vegetation is disturbed through development or maintenance activities, restoration should be required to preserve the functions and values of the habitat.<sup>26</sup>
- Policy 5.3** Identify staff, financial support, or funding opportunities for restoration projects, wherever feasible, to enhance anadromous fish habitat in riparian management zones, wetlands and the Green/Duwamish River, including projects identified in the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Habitat Restoration Program, the Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, WRIA 9 Duwamish-Green Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan, or other regional watershed restoration plans.<sup>27</sup>
- Policy 5.4** Ensure that new development, open space protection efforts, and mitigation projects support the State’s streamflow restoration law. Promote robust, healthy, and sustainable salmon populations and other ecosystem functions, working closely within WRIA 9 and utilizing adopted watershed plans.<sup>28</sup>
- Policy 5.5** Prohibit piping of watercourses, except where unavoidable for access purposes. Wherever feasible and practical, encourage removal of piped sections of watercourses when permitting any new or redevelopment activities to improve riparian habitat functions and values.<sup>29</sup>
- Policy 5.6** Prohibit creation of new fish barriers and, where possible, encourage elimination of existing barriers to fish passage through implementation of capital improvement projects, coordination with regional partners and the WRIA 9 Lead Entity to seek funding opportunities, and by providing incentives to private sector development.<sup>30</sup>
- GOAL 6** **Riparian management zones, floodplains, wetlands, and their buffers are protected from encroachment and degradation and improved through impact**

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<sup>26</sup> This policy should plan for increased stormwater management demands associated with increased flood events to avoid the potential for overflow events and related adverse environmental impacts.

<sup>27</sup> This policy should be broadened to include enhancement of anadromous fish habitat, including salmonids, and utilization of regional Watershed Restoration Plans, when available.

<sup>28</sup> En-10

<sup>29</sup> This policy should be revised to expand encouragement of removal of piped watercourses for any type of development review and highlights the purpose of removal.

<sup>30</sup> Working with regional partners will strengthen this policy and lead to better long term collaboration and results.

**avoidance, mitigation, enhancement, and restoration projects to increase resiliency to impacts from climate change<sup>31</sup>.**

### POLICIES

- Policy 6.1** Regulate land use and development, using Best Available Science, to protect and improve natural vegetation and hydrology, habitat corridors, and open spaces, to prevent significant erosion, sedimentation, or degradation of areas of potential geologic instability, wetlands, floodplains, fish and wildlife habitat areas and their associated buffers.<sup>32</sup>
- Policy 6.2** Ensure mitigation sequencing is applied to avoid or minimize impacts to environmentally critical areas, consistent with federal and State guidelines.<sup>33</sup>
- Policy 6.3** Require and enforce mitigation in order to ensure no net loss of environmentally critical area functions, as well as mitigation designed to replace environmentally critical area acreage lost due to development.<sup>34</sup>
- Policy 6.4** Ensure the effectiveness of environmentally critical area mitigation by improving City oversight, tracking, and monitoring of mitigation sites.<sup>35</sup>
- Policy 6.5** Allow off-site wetland mitigation only when a site-specific study, prepared by a qualified professional, documents that there are no feasible opportunities for on-site mitigation, is greater functional benefit, no significant adverse impact to the drainage sub-basin, and no significant adverse impact to existing wetlands or riparian management zones.<sup>36</sup>
- Policy 6.6** Consider creating a City in-lieu fee program for future wetland mitigation, or collaborate with King County to establish in-lieu fee sites in Tukwila for wetland restoration projects, including projects along the Green/Duwamish River

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<sup>31</sup> Supporting restoration opportunities that reconnect floodplain wetlands and restore natural processes will improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and mitigate impacts of flooding and erosion.

<sup>32</sup> Wildlife and plant species and habitats already strained by urban fragmentation will be further stressed by climate change. Consideration of habitat corridors and open spaces will aid in the protection of the function and values of environmentally critical areas.

<sup>33</sup> This policy should be revised to update the reference to environmentally critical areas.

<sup>34</sup> This policy should be revised to update the reference to environmentally critical areas.

<sup>35</sup> Portions of the existing policy are requirements in the CAO. It is recommended to revise the goal to focus on areas of improvement of implementation outside of the existing code requirements.

<sup>36</sup> The policy should be reinforced to document that there are no opportunities for on-site mitigation in compliance with mitigation sequencing.

shoreline, when a site specific study, prepared by a qualified professional, documents that there are no feasible opportunities for on-site mitigation.<sup>37</sup>

**Policy 6.7** In collaboration with other agencies, develop a program to provide guidance to property owners interested in restoring or enhancing environmentally critical areas, shorelines or associated buffers on their private property that public or private sector projects can utilize to compensate for impacts on project sites that lack opportunities for on-site mitigation.<sup>38</sup>

### *Water Quality and Quantity*

**GOAL 7** **Protect, enhance and plan for changing conditions of Tukwila’s water resources for the benefits of recreation, fish and wildlife resources and habitat, flood protection, and open space to create a more climate resilient city for current and future generations.**<sup>39</sup>

### **POLICIES**

**Policy 7.1** Retrofit existing City surface water systems and improve surface water management through use of low-impact development (LID) techniques for all new development and redevelopment to improve the water quality of discharges.<sup>40</sup>

**Policy 7.2** Prevent and reduce pollution and sedimentation of water resources through implementation of surface water, stormwater, and land clearing regulations and inspections.<sup>41 42</sup>

**Policy 7.3** Adopt policies, regulations, and processes, related to new or existing fossil fuel facilities, which are designed to protect and preserve natural ecosystems from

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<sup>37</sup> The policy should note the importance of landscape-scale, watershed-based restoration and mitigation projects and allow the City to consider off-site compensatory mitigation for projects in areas where compensatory mitigation can be difficult or impractical to achieve.

<sup>38</sup> This policy should provide additional specificity on the intent of the program to provide off-site mitigation opportunities where private property owners are willing to allow project proponents to conduct restoration or enhancement activities to compensate for impacts that have occurred on another site.

<sup>39</sup> Changing this language aligns this goal with sustainable practices that prioritize economic, environmental, and social benefits as well as adding a climate element.

<sup>40</sup> This language is in line with the Surface Water Management section of the Comprehensive Plan and is encouraged by the WA Dept. of Ecology. This will also allow for the elimination of policy 4.7.6 as it was incorporated into this policy.

<sup>41</sup> While sediment is a type of water pollutant this policy should address all pollutants. Additionally, this policy should be expanded to include all erosion, not just erosion associated with streambanks and channels, this includes nearby hillsides and upland areas under development.

<sup>42</sup> Similar to K-EN-24.

the construction and operational impacts of fossil fuel facilities, and prepare for and mitigate any impacts of fossil fuel disasters the community.<sup>43</sup>

**Policy 7.4** Prohibit the application of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, algaecides, rodenticides, etc.) to surface water systems or their buffers, unless warranted to protect ecological functions of the system, and inform applicators about State pesticide licensing regulations.<sup>44</sup>

**Policy 7.5** Develop public outreach materials and implement management programs to reduce the use of chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides, having negative impacts on surface water systems or their buffers, unless warranted to protect ecological values and functions.<sup>45</sup>

**Policy 7.6** Prevent, mitigate, and remediate harmful environmental pollutants and hazards, including light, air, noise, soil, and structural hazards, where they have contributed to racialized health or environmental disparities, and increase environmental resiliency in frontline communities.<sup>46</sup>

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**GOAL 8** Surface water generated by urban development does not exceed pre-development discharge rates.

**POLICIES**

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**Policy 8.1** Require that all proposed development applications identify hydrologic features, both on- and off-site, that could be impacted by the project. Evaluate and prevent project impacts on on-site and off-site floodplains, wetlands, drainage features and springs to avoid adverse impacts to existing environmentally critical

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<sup>43</sup> EN-26, c & b

<sup>44</sup> Was part of 4.7.3, but made a separated policy because of focus, application vs. education- see 4.7.4

<sup>45</sup> Pesticides is an all-encompassing term and examples of pesticides do not need to be included. Nutrient loading, partially caused by lawn and garden fertilizers, are a common cause of diminished water quality and should be included in this language. Human health should not be included under this policy as this policy is applicable to water quality and as such having good water quality will support human health. Applicators should already be aware of State pesticide licensing regulations and if not, then this could be considered one of the public outreach materials that are discussed within this policy (put into new policy 4.7.4)..

<sup>46</sup> EN-25

<sup>47</sup> Eliminate this policy and combine it with Policy 4.7.3 as discussed above.

<sup>48</sup> Eliminate this policy and combine it with Policy 4.7.2 as illicit surface water discharges would include pollutants from stormwater and land clearing.

<sup>49</sup> Eliminate this policy and incorporate it into policy 4.7.1.

<sup>50</sup> Absorbed into Policy 2.2

area hydrology to meet today’s climate needs and prepare for future climate needs.<sup>51</sup>

***Flood Control***

**GOAL 9**      **Protect and enhance the natural flood attenuation functions of wetlands, floodplains and floodways and plan for increased seasonal flooding associated with climate change to reduce and prevent damage to life, property, and public safety.**<sup>52</sup>

**POLICIES**

**Policy 9.1**      Restrict or prohibit development that could create a danger to health, safety, and property due to potential flood hazards.<sup>53</sup>

**Policy 9.2**      Coordinate and fund holistic flood hazard management efforts through the King County Flood Control District.<sup>54</sup>

**Policy 9.3**      Work cooperatively to meet regulatory standards for floodplain development as these standards are updated for consistency with relevant federal requirements including those related to the Endangered Species Act.<sup>55</sup>

**Policy 9.4**      Wetlands provide services that have the potential to reduce impacts of climate change. As such the City of Tukwila will promote wetland restoration and enhancement throughout the city and ensure that development avoids and minimizes impacts to wetlands and their buffers and provides compensatory mitigation to retain equal or greater wetland functions and values within the same drainage basin or watershed, and results in no net loss of wetland area except in limited circumstances.<sup>56</sup>

**Policy 9.5**      Plan for changes in seasonal flood events associated with climate change and reduce flooding that adversely affects public health, safety, and general welfare,

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<sup>51</sup> This policy could either be removed, as it should be a requirement of the development code however adding language specific to climate change allows for it to be retained as a policy.

<sup>52</sup> This changed language is in line with Climate Change projections for Washington State and will help utilize the natural floodplain to protect the city of Tukwila.

<sup>53</sup> Complying with federal regulations is not optional. Eliminate this language as it is a requirement and should already be occurring with development permits.

<sup>54</sup> EN-12

<sup>55</sup> EN-13

<sup>56</sup> This revised policy is better in line with BAS and incorporates the climate element.



and protect against flood damage through surface water and flood management projects.<sup>57</sup>

**Policy 9.6** Minimize adverse impacts to water resources by conserving native shoreline vegetation or using bioengineering and natural solutions to enhance stream banks and shoreline stability and reduce hazards associated with slope failures and erosion. Invasive plant removal and replacement of native trees and shrubs should be prioritized over retention of low functioning vegetation.<sup>58</sup>

**Policy 9.7** Require mitigation to achieve the goal of no net loss of ecological functions and maintenance of good water quality by requiring setbacks, buffers, and stormwater treatment and detention facilities to adhere to BAS recommendations and guidelines.<sup>59</sup>

### GOAL 10 (Levees) - MOVED TO CAPITAL FACILITIES

#### *Earth Resources*

**GOAL 11** Protect the ecological integrity of the natural environment, including functions and services, while allowing for compatible growth and development by minimizing development in geologically hazardous areas and protecting surface water features.<sup>60</sup>

#### POLICIES

**Policy 11.1** In geologically hazardous areas, require areas where vegetation must remain undisturbed, land disturbance minimized and cut-and-fill construction limited, to protect slope stability on sites cleared for development. Require significant replanting and maintenance upon completion of development.

**Policy 11.2** Require setbacks for buildings and other infrastructure where needed, from the top and/ or toe of steep slopes, to reduce risks of slope failure and risks to public safety.

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<sup>57</sup> Climate change models predict an increase in winter rainfall events which has the potential to lead to increased seasonal flooding. By planning for these events the city will be able to prevent or reduce the adverse impacts associated with flood events.

<sup>58</sup> This revision will allow for the abatement of noxious weeds and low functioning vegetation while encouraging the retention of native plant species.

<sup>59</sup> This policy revision will help demonstrate compliance with the GMA requirement of BAS.

<sup>60</sup> By protecting the functions and services of the natural environment and reducing development in geologically hazardous areas the city can help reduce costs associated with flooding, erosion, and other natural disasters.

- Policy 11.3** Require the use of erosion control measures and, where warranted, written erosion and sediment control plans, to minimize erosion during and after construction activities on steep slopes or other erosion-prone areas.
- Policy 11.4** Utilize geotechnical reports and other existing resources to update the City’s GIS data to incorporate and maintain a geologically hazardous areas layer. <sup>61</sup>
- Policy 11.5** Ensure that proposed development projects in mapped coal mine hazard areas adequately consider and mitigate for possible risks.
- Policy 11.6** Actively manage protective forest canopies on geologically hazardous slopes, both public and private, through regulatory requirements, incentives, investment, and partnerships.

### *Urban Forestry*

**GOAL 12** **Trees are recognized by Tukwila citizens, businesses, City staff and decision-makers for their benefits to the environment, climate adaptation, urban infrastructure, and their aesthetic value.**<sup>62</sup>

### **POLICIES**

- Policy 12.1** Develop a formal urban forest management plan to promote and guide preservation, restoration and maintenance of a sustainable urban forest that is consistent with tree canopy goals and ecosystem management priorities, using the goals and policies of this chapter as a basis for guidance.<sup>63</sup>
- Policy 12.2** Ensure that the benefits of trees are factored into site design, zoning and permit decisions, including resistance to drought, retention of large or significant trees, tree canopy considerations, and the preservation of open space, tree, and green space.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> There are many resources currently available that contain geologically hazardous areas information. The WA Department of Natural Resources has a Geologic Information Portal available to the public at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/geologyportal>.

<sup>62</sup> Trees can aid in mitigating the impacts of climate change by providing shade, carbon storage and other related benefits.

<sup>63</sup> Urban heat island effect can be mitigated through establishment and retention of tree canopy. Open spaces and native landscaping should be managed to maintain ecosystem functions and contribute to habitat connectivity on a City-wide landscape-scale.

<sup>64</sup> Development actions, such as converting forests into impervious surfaces, can increase the urban heat island effect. Encouraging the preservation of open spaces and considering trees that are resistant to drought can help reduce the impacts of climate change.

<sup>65</sup> This policy should be eliminated and combined with Policy 4.12.2

- Policy 12.3** Continue to fund an urban forester/municipal arborist position within the City, to provide expertise for urban forest management planning, incorporate climate resiliency strategies, provide oversight of tree planting and maintenance, and assistance to all City departments that have responsibilities for tree management.<sup>66</sup>
- Policy 12.4** Educate the public, elected officials and City staff about the importance of urban forest planning and management and benefits provided by trees in Tukwila.<sup>67</sup>
- Policy 12.5** Develop tree valuation methods to reflect the value trees provide, including considering the benefits that trees provide in a changing climate for use in assessing fines, determining damages, or estimating loss of tree benefits.<sup>68</sup>
- Policy 12.6** Identify funding sources to support urban forestry planning and management and establish an urban forestry budget and account to preserve and enhance the urban forest sites on publicly-owned property.<sup>69</sup>
- Policy 12.7** Consider developing an “exceptional” or “heritage” tree program to foster tree appreciation in the community and encourage retention of open and green spaces.<sup>70</sup>
- Policy 12.8** Enhance the urban tree canopy to provide wildlife habitat, support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, protect and improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity. Prioritize places where Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; low-income populations; and other frontline community members live, work, and play.<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> A licensed arborist or urban forester benefits the City by providing guidance on appropriate strategies that will improve the resiliency of planned or existing urban forests to the impacts associated with a changing climate.

<sup>67</sup> This policy should be expanded to include the importance of urban forest planning and management for clarity and continuity with the other policies in this section.

<sup>68</sup> The assessment of tree valuation should include the future benefits that trees provided in contributing to climate resiliency, particularly for shade and carbon storage.

<sup>69</sup> This policy should be expanded to define the purpose of the urban forestry planning and management fund to support City departments that have responsibilities for tree management and preservation.

<sup>70</sup> Open spaces contribute to habitat connectivity and ecosystem functions. Retention of tree canopy can help mitigate the urban heat island effect.

<sup>71</sup> EN-11

**Policy 12.9** Encourage public and partner organization involvement in urban forest stewardship, through volunteer events, free training workshops, and other related community events.<sup>72</sup>

**GOAL 13** Overall City tree canopy increased in diversity and total cover, with an increase in the use of native species, by 2034, and No Net Loss of canopy cover in individual zoning categories, or environmentally critical areas and open spaces<sup>73</sup>

### POLICIES

**Policy 13.1** The City shall adopt and implement updated tree canopy goals and shall continue to amend policies to support stormwater management and water quality improvement in receiving waters. The City will provide mapping of City-owned or operated properties with tree canopy no later than December 31, 2028, as based on available existing data.<sup>74</sup>

**Policy 13.2** Promote and support a systematic approach to enhancing the city through carefully planned plantings and ongoing maintenance of street trees, public landscaping, and open spaces to support a sustainable and environmentally just future for residents of Tukwila.<sup>75</sup>

**Policy 13.3** Promote soil stability using natural drainage systems and retention of existing native vegetation when determined feasible and practical by a qualified geotechnical engineer in a site -specific assessment.<sup>76</sup>

**Policy 13.4** Conduct forest practices within environmentally critical and shoreline areas in a manner that ensures water quality, maintains, or increases tree canopy cover,

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<sup>72</sup> This policy should be expanded to clarify “other means”. Promotion of community events could help encourage public participation and highlight the importance of urban forest stewardship.

<sup>73</sup> This policy will be modified upon finalization of the 2023 tree inventory data; it has been broadened, while still retaining the intent of increased canopy and no net loss. By proposing to increase diversity of trees, as well as total canopy cover, the City will be more likely to resist the effects of a changing climate. Per the 2024-29 NPDES permit, by December 31, 2028, Permittees will need to adopt and implement the City’s updated tree canopy goals and policies to support stormwater management and water quality improvement in receiving waters.

<sup>74</sup> Per 2024-29 NPDES permit

<sup>75</sup> Most of these policy points are implemented into other policies within this section. Proposed language encompasses these points in addition to addressing the urban heat island effect which can have detrimental effects on residents in underserved areas. By promoting and enhancing tree canopy cover and access to open space the public welfare and urban habitat areas can be greatly improved.

<sup>76</sup> It is important to promote the use of native vegetation to stabilize slopes when site conditions allow, however certain circumstances may require other methods of soil stabilization.

and maintains native vegetation buffer strips sufficient to protect fish populations and to avoid erosion of stream banks.<sup>77</sup>

**Policy 13.5** Ensure that required replacement trees at maturity will provide an equivalent or greater shade cover than the removed tree(s), and replacement trees are suitable species fit for future conditions based on climate change models. This may result in the need to have multiple trees replace a single tree and will allow for the flexibility of avoiding conflict with existing or future infrastructure and/or public or private utilities.<sup>78</sup>

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**Policy 13.6** Promote the utilization of grants and other funding opportunities to develop tree planting and urban forest rehabilitation programs for City parks, open spaces, wildlife habitats and corridors, and other publicly owned lands. Collaborate with other agencies, such as Washington’s Department of Transportation, to promote planting in highway interchanges and other locations that are underserved or at higher risk to being vulnerable to the effects of climate change.<sup>83</sup>

**Policy 13.7** Collaborate with other government, non-profit organization, school, and private sector entities, to promote urban forest management and restoration, the use of native plants in the urban landscape, and removal of impervious surfaces to support the City’s tree canopy cover goals and mitigate the urban heat island effect.<sup>84</sup>

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**Policy 13.8** Evaluate current development requirements to identify opportunities to increase tree canopy, and opportunities to remove pavement and install appropriate plantings. Priority should be given to areas or zoning designations that are

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<sup>77</sup> This language will add clarity to the importance of the urban canopy in environmentally critical areas and the role they play in maintaining ecological integrity of these areas.

<sup>78</sup> It is not always appropriate or desirable to have a species with a larger tree canopy. Preferred language would result in greater shade cover without necessarily required a larger canopy from a single tree.

<sup>79</sup> NG: We have this now.<sup>80</sup> Added this last statement to 14-3.

<sup>80</sup> Added this last statement to 14-3.

<sup>81</sup> Eliminate this policy. It is repetitive of Policy 4.13.5, which we largely already have.

<sup>82</sup> Eliminate this policy. It is repetitive of Policy 4.13.5

<sup>83</sup> There are many opportunities for grants and other funding sources that should be utilized whenever possible. The proposed language will help promote these funding sources while expanding the areas that can benefit from these programs while preparing for a changing climate and making Tukwila a more equitable place for its residents.

<sup>84</sup> Broadening the language of this policy will help address not just the tree canopy but other factors that play a role in mitigating the effects of a changing climate.

<sup>85</sup> This policy should be eliminated as the code likely does not restrict increased plantings so long as they do not interfere with utilities or other infrastructure, and it is already a policy to preserve existing trees or replace them per Policy 4.13.5.

currently underserved or lack proximity to public open spaces and recreational areas.<sup>86</sup>

**GOAL 14** Tukwila’s streetscapes and landscaped areas are sustainable and attractive, and its urban forest is healthy, diverse, and safe.

### POLICIES

**Policy 14.1** Conduct periodic tree/urban forest inventories and assess the health of trees and forests in Tukwila’s public spaces to determine maintenance needs and restoration opportunities. Any restoration should be done in coordination with Policy 4.13.8.<sup>87</sup>

**Policy 14.2** Develop maintenance plans and programs for trees on City property or rights-of-way to ensure that maintenance pruning is properly carried out, that diseases and pest infestations are managed, that hazardous trees are identified and managed in a timely manner to reduce risks, invasive vegetation is properly managed, and any replacement trees are sustainably located following the concept of “right tree, right place.”<sup>88</sup>

**Policy 14.3** Consistent with landscape code requirements, educate property owners, property managers, City and public and private utility maintenance staff, and landscape contractors to promote best practices for soil preparation, planting techniques, pruning (including near utility lines), trenching, root protection, and general tree care.<sup>89</sup>

**Policy 14.4** Enforce landscape regulations including financial guarantees, monitoring, and maintenance to ensure successful plant establishment. Landscape code should state qualified professional requirements for landscape design, installation and maintenance.<sup>90</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> This policy could be broadened to include all development standards, not just parking lot landscaping standards, within each zoning designation while also promoting equity.

<sup>87</sup> Periodic maintenance and coordination with restoration efforts supports the sustainability goal. 14.13.8 = “Develop tree planting and urban forest rehabilitation programs for City parks and other publicly-owned lands. Collaborate with other...”

<sup>88</sup> Streetscapes and utility corridors must be managed for public safety and long-term sustainability. Ensuring that tree management is based on expert advice that considers surrounding land use is important to reduce maintenance needs and increase sustainability. This may involve a plan that provides approved lists of tree species for specific land uses (e.g., city street, utility corridor).

<sup>89</sup> Simplified policy language. The focus here is on education.

<sup>90</sup> Simplified policy to apply more broadly. This revision is consistent with current regulations under TMC 18.52–Landscape Requirements. Qualified professional standards are listed under Landscape Plan Requirements TMC 18.52.110. Current code requires professional certifications for design; BMPs are noted for installation and maintenance.

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**Policy 14.5** Ensure landscape code considers wildlife habitat corridors and urban heat island effect in landscape development standards. This includes—requiring a diversity of tree species native to the ecoregion in landscape planting plans as site conditions allow.<sup>92</sup>

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## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Goal 15:** Tukwila infrastructure and investments enable Tukwila residents to make choices that emit lower greenhouse gas emissions.

**Policy 15.1** Adopt and implement policies and programs that support King County’s target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2040 (compared to a 2007 baseline), including net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies, by 2050. Evaluate and update these targets over time to incorporate the latest climate science and statewide targets aimed at limiting the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming growth under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).<sup>97</sup>

**Policy 15.2** Plan for development patterns that minimize air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, through the following actions:

- a. Direct growth to Urban Centers and other mixed-use or high-density locations that support mass transit, encourage non-motorized modes of travel, and reduce trip lengths.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> This policy was eliminated and combined with Policy 4.14.4 above.

<sup>92</sup> Cleaned up policy language and included references to climate change stressors and resiliency strategies.

<sup>93</sup> This policy should be eliminated. It is already covered by Policies 4.14.2 and 4.14.4 above. If a qualified professional prepares the design and installs the trees (consistent with CMC 18.40.130), then the additional policy language is unnecessary.

<sup>94</sup> This policy should be eliminated; the city adopted a list of approved trees in 2017, plus it is redundant with Policy 4.14.2. Appropriate street tree species should be covered in the “maintenance plans and programs for trees on City property or rights-of-way” under Policy 4.14.2

<sup>95</sup> This policy should be eliminated; it is generally covered under Policy 4.14.3 above. Specific requirements for utilities may be incorporated into landscape regulations, but all projects should be held to professional standards. A specific policy for transmission lines appears to be unnecessary.

<sup>96</sup> This policy could be deleted. Environmentally critical area regulations require no net loss of stream/wetland/buffer functions. The way this policy is phrased, it implies Net Ecological Gain is the goal, which is more than required under No-Net-Loss. Recommend the City review the intent and consider deleting this policy if No-Net-Loss standards are deemed sufficient. No-Net-Loss is what’s required under the WAC 365-196-830(4).

<sup>97</sup> EN-27

<sup>98</sup> K\_EN-28a.

- b. Through interjurisdictional and local efforts, facilitate modes of travel other than single-occupancy vehicles including transit, walking, bicycling, and carpooling;<sup>99</sup>
- c. Encourage the transition to a sustainable energy future by reducing demand through efficiency and conservation, supporting the development of energy management technology, and meeting reduced needs from sustainable sources.<sup>100</sup>
- d. Support and provide incentives to increase the percentage of new development and redevelopment— both public and private—to be built at higher-performing energy and environmental standards.
- e. Implement infrastructure design manuals that incorporate energy saving strategies and develop regulations that provide extra flexibility or density bonuses to proposals that implement green building standards, such as the Living Building Challenge or LEED certification.<sup>101</sup>

**Policy 15.3** Reallocate public space dedicated to carbon intensive uses, such as single occupant vehicle lanes and parking, toward transit, pedestrian, and bike facilities.<sup>102</sup>

**Policy 15.4** Develop minimum standards for rights-of-way and new private streets that require facilities for safe protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to all destinations.<sup>104</sup>

**Policy 15.5** Ensure all federal and state air quality standards are met and reduce emissions of air toxics and greenhouse gases.<sup>105</sup>

**Policy 15.6** Recognize that dense development utilizes less resources per person and promote greater densities and mixed uses near Tukwila’s urban centers and high-capacity transit. Work with local transit and transportation agencies to provide additional multi-modal access and transit frequency to underserved areas.<sup>106</sup>

**Policy 15.7** Recognize, protect, restore, and enhance Tukwila’s natural resources, by expanding or improving existing parks, wetlands, estuaries, and the urban tree canopy, and enhance access to passive and active recreation areas, improving air

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<sup>99</sup> K\_EN-28b and d

<sup>100</sup> K\_EN-4

<sup>101</sup> K\_EN28C and E

<sup>102</sup> K\_EN-28 and EN-28b

<sup>104</sup> K\_EN-28 and EN-28b

<sup>105</sup> WAC 173-420-080, MPP-En-22

<sup>106</sup> K\_EN-28a, and d



and water quality, and improving opportunities for carbon sequestration in Tukwila.<sup>107</sup>

**Policy 15.8:** Prioritize investments in areas in proximity to underserved and historically marginalized populations in order to ensure that all Tukwila residents have equal access to public spaces, natural areas, the urban tree canopy, and the opportunity to make low-emission choices in a low-pollutant environment, regardless of their race, social, or economic status.<sup>108</sup>

**Policy 15.9** In order to minimize air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate modes of travel other than single-occupancy vehicles including transit, walking, bicycling, and carpooling, plus, for trips that must be made via single-occupant vehicle, facilitate electric vehicle adoption by creating requirements for electric vehicle charging installations in residential and commercial developments.<sup>109</sup>

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### RELATED INFORMATION

Natural Environment Background Report  
Tukwila Sensitive Areas Map  
Tukwila Shoreline Master Program  
WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Enhancement Plan  
Abandoned Underground Coal Mine Hazards Assessment Report  
Tukwila Urban Tree Canopy Assessment  
Tukwila Municipal Code, Chapter 18.45  
Green Tukwila 20-year Stewardship Plan

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<sup>107</sup> K\_EN-32

<sup>108</sup> K\_EN5 and EN-25

<sup>109</sup> EN-30