

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ELEMENT

The Natural Environment Element provides a foundation for the County's multifaceted approach for protecting the natural environment and for protecting life, health and safety from natural hazards.

The Natural Environment Element:

Recognizes the beauty and value of Snohomish County's natural landscapes;

Relies on regulatory and non-regulatory programs to protect the environment;

Promotes a healthy and safe environment for County residents;

Seeks a balance between urban, rural and working resource lands with open space lands contributing natural ecological services;

Supports equitable access to, and distribution of benefits attributed to natural spaces.

Key Natural Environment Element Policy Amendments for the 2024 Update

- Acknowledges the value and importance of ecosystem services provided by the natural environment.
- Incorporates new policies promoting preservation of urban trees and a new urban forest program.
- Highlights public health benefits associated with natural open space and promotes equitable access.
- Supports the role of natural vegetation and trees in climate change resiliency and temperature moderation.
- Removes several goals, objectives and policies for relocation into the newly reorganized Capital Facilities and Utilities Element and the new Climate Change Element.

To make a comment on the DEIS:

bit.ly/2024DEIS



Review all proposed Natural Environment Element policies online here:
snohomishcountywa.gov/6304

Review the storymap on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) here:

bit.ly/SnoCoDEIS

