



CITY OF DUVALL
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PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Lara Thomas, Planning Director
HEARING DATE: August 19, 2015
PROJECT: Duvall Watershed Plan



I. INTRODUCTION

Proponent /Property Owner: City of Duvall, PO Box 1300, Duvall, WA 98019

Project Description: 2015 Duvall Watershed Plan (Watershed Plan)

Requested Action: Hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to City Council

Review Process: Type IV, City Council decision

Exhibits:

1. Staff Report
2. Watershed Plan
3. Duvall Watershed Plan – list of meetings
4. SEPA Determination
5. Public Hearing Notice
6. Department of Commerce – submittal

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Duvall is considering a new Watershed Plan for adoption, with the Planning Commission public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. The City Council public hearing is scheduled for September 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Educational Service Center. Planning Commission is expected to make a recommendation to City Council on September 2, and City Council is scheduled to make a final decision on September 15.

Like many communities on the urban fringe, the City of Duvall is striving to promote economic growth and development without sacrificing its rural character and environmental assets that are at the heart of the community's "small town – real life" identity. To help the city in achieving this goal, Duvall completed analysis and prepared a Watershed Plan that: (1) informs the ongoing 2015 Comprehensive Plan update; (2) focuses future development based on an understanding of watershed processes; (3) protects and improves forest cover and open space; and (4) strengthens sensitive area and stormwater management to maintain water flow pathways and provide enhanced protection for important resources.

The Watershed Plan is both a technical document and a policy document. Technical elements identify existing watershed characteristics in and immediately surrounding Duvall. Policy elements provide the City a roadmap for protecting watershed processes and focusing future development in appropriate areas within the city and its urban growth area. Development of the Watershed Plan has been funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program. The grant has been administered by the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Commerce as part of a six-year strategy to protect and restore watersheds that flow to the Puget Sound.

To inform the Watershed Plan, the City convened a Watershed Planning Advisory Group to guide both technical and policy development. Advisory Group members included representatives from the Snoqualmie Tribe, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Stewardship Partners, Wild Fish Conservancy, Washington State Departments of Ecology and Commerce, King County Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and City of Duvall Planning and Public Works Departments. In addition to participating in the committee, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum staff worked closely with the City as a technical partner throughout the project. The City also engaged the community during development of the Plan through several public events and activities, including a booth at Duvall Days in 2014, presentations and workshops at Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and an Open House earlier this year. The City also created a webpage for the project with links to draft Watershed Plan materials and collected public input via an online survey.

City staff completed detailed analysis of subbasin conditions across Duvall, including consideration of forested and impervious land cover, water quality parameters, and aquatic habitat. Analysis was completed under a watershed assessment framework developed by the Department of Ecology. Based on results of watershed analysis, the Watershed Plan categorizes subbasins across Duvall into one of five management groups:

- **Management Group 1 – Protect / Restore:** Subbasins of highest importance; highest priority for protection and restoration.
- **Management Group 2A – Highest Conservation:** Subbasins of moderate importance that are also highly intact; highest priority for conservation and appropriate for limited development.
- **Management Group 2B – Moderate Conservation:** Subbasins that may be appropriate for some additional development, but also require protection of remaining important areas.
- **Management Group 2C – Lowest Conservation:** Subbasins where more intense development is appropriate, with focused protection of remaining important areas.
- **Management Group 3 – Urban Development:** Subbasins below average importance and highly degraded; areas where more intense development should be focused.

Using this management group framework, the Watershed Plan identifies goals and policies that seek to direct future development in a way that protects and restores Duvall's watershed processes. These goals and policies will be incorporated into the Environment and Sustainability Element, a new chapter of the Comprehensive Plan currently under development as part of the 2015

Comprehensive Plan update. To implement watershed goals and policies, the Plan identifies actions the City can take to improve forest cover, water quality, wildlife habitat, and soils.

Staff has worked closely with the Planning Commission and the City Council to review the policy recommendations, incorporate additional policies, and adjust existing policy recommendations to better fit the Duvall Community. To provide some context to proposed goals and policies, Planning staff set up a physical and virtual tour of examples of watershed type policies that have been implemented within the region. The Land Use Committee and a Planning Commissioner completed a watershed project tour of several projects (low impact development strategies, cluster development, cottage development, green building, tree and vegetation protection, etc.).

After the City adopts the Watershed Plan and other long-range planning policies, staff will work with the Planning Commission and City Council to prioritize the drafting of watershed policies into the zoning code, Development Design Standards, and stormwater regulations.

III. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

SEPA Compliance:

The City of Duvall issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on July 17, 2015. No comments or appeals were filed with the City (Exhibit 4).

Public Hearing Notice:

A Notice of Public Hearing published in the Seattle Times on August 10, 2015, and posted at Duvall City Hall, the Library, and the Post Office on August 11th. All legal requirements for public notice have been satisfied (Exhibit 5).

Department of Commerce Notification:

On June 30, 2015, Planning submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce (DOC), Material ID #21405 (Exhibit 6), the Watershed Plan for review. The 60-day review will be completed by August 31, 2015.

Planning Commission Review:

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing August 19, 2015. The Commission will take public testimony and make a recommendation to City Council.

VI. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The City of Duvall received a NEP Puget Sound Watershed Protection and Restoration Grant to draft a comprehensive Watershed Plan customized to the Duvall Community.
2. The City appointed a technical advisory committee that included representatives from the Snoqualmie Tribe, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Stewardship Partners, Wild Fish Conservancy, Washington State Departments of Ecology and Commerce, King County Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and City of Duvall Planning and Public Works Departments.
3. The City held several advisory committee meetings, Planning Commission workshops, City Council work sessions, and Land Use Committee meetings.

4. The City was the recipient of the 2015 Green Globe Award for its initial work on the Watershed Plan.
5. The City held a community meeting, reached out to homeowners associations, hosted a webpage for the Watershed Plan, utilized the Mayor's bi-monthly newsletter, the monthly newsletter, and the City's Facebook page to solicit community input and recommendations.
6. The City of Duvall issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) on July 17, 2015. No comments or appeals were filed with the City.
7. The Department of Commerce was provided a copy of the draft Watershed plan for review and comment June 30, 2015.
8. The notice of public hearing before the Planning Commission and City Council for the Watershed Plan were duly advertised in accordance with the Duvall Municipal Code.
9. Planning Commission will make a recommendation to City Council.
10. City Council will make a final decision on the proposed Watershed Plan.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends the Planning Commission hold a public hearing, take public testimony, and recommend the City Council approve the 2015 Watershed Plan.