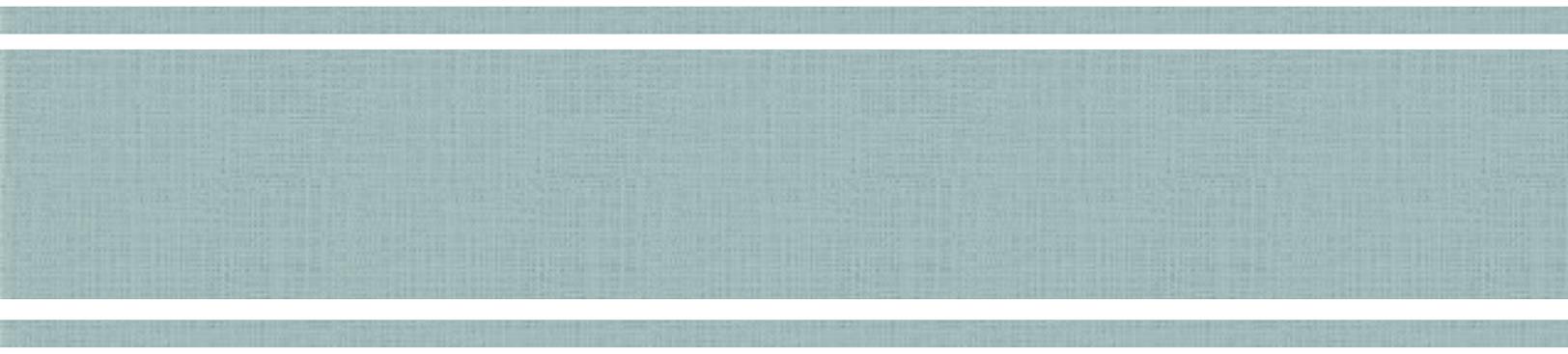
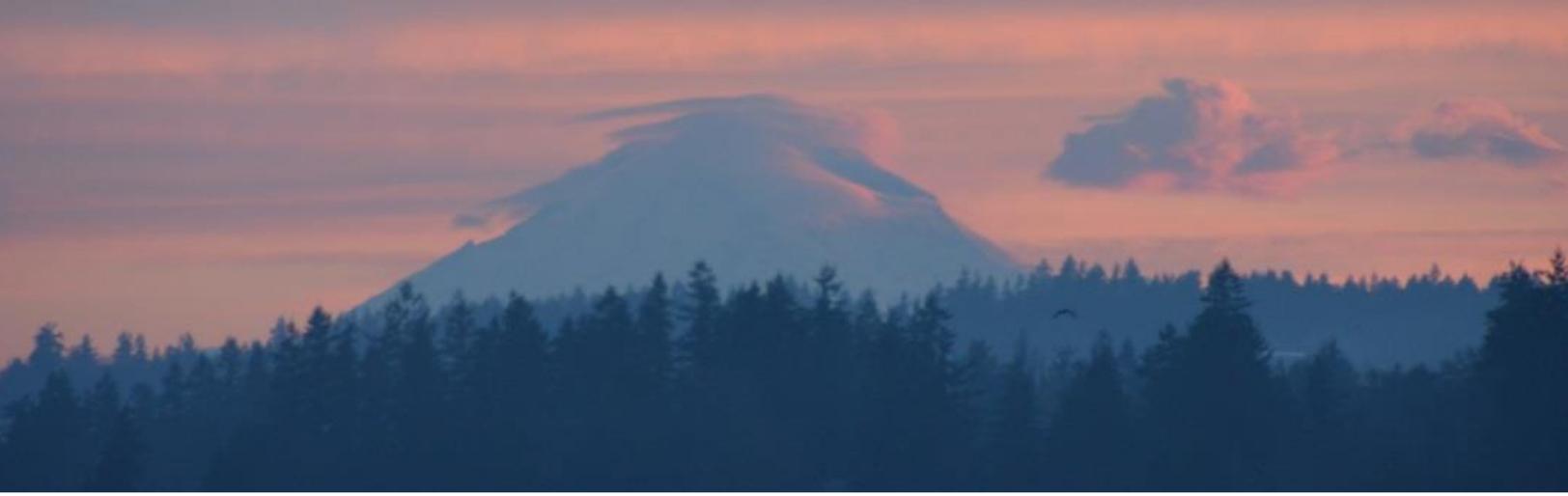




Element 7

# ENVIRONMENT





## VISION

Protect Bremerton's natural environment by meeting the needs of today's citizens without compromising the needs of future generations



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### ***Environment Introduction***

Bremerton has a vital interest in preserving its natural beauty and ensuring long-term environmental health. With vast marine shorelines, freshwater lakes, coastal bluffs, wetlands, a preserved watershed area, and scenic views of two mountain ranges, Bremerton is part of a complex ecosystem and provides a stunning natural setting for its residents and visitors. This natural setting is one of the most important amenities to Bremerton residents and visitors alike. While it is expected that Bremerton will increase in population over the next 20 years, it is imperative that the environmental resources be protected, and, where possible, enhanced. Sustainability is a concept that addresses the problems and needs of the present, without compromising the needs of the future. In spirit, sustainability protects and adds natural beauty and function with growth. This Element provides a vision and commitment by the City of Bremerton to bring a sustainable approach to land use management.

This element of the Plan contains broad environmental goals and policies. Some of the Plan's other elements also include goals and policies addressing how environmental values specifically relate to the topics of those elements. For instance, the Land Use Element includes goals and policies governing development near environmental critical areas, and the Transportation Element addresses possible environmental impacts and improvements associated with transportation choices.

# Environment

## Goals & Policies

### **Goals & Policies**

This section contains Bremerton's environmental goals and policies. Goals represent the City's general objectives, while policies provide more detail about the steps needed to achieve each goal's intent. The goals and policies maintain key natural processes and functions that provide the natural physical foundation for the community while acknowledging the need to accommodate for growth.

### **Environmental Goals**

The following are the Environmental goals for the City of Bremerton:

***E1. Stewardship: Provide stewardship by considering long-range implications of City policies on the environment, to conduct City operations in a manner that protects the environment, and to provide education on how the City, its businesses, and residents can improve the quality of the environment.***

***E2. Earth: Preserve and enhance vegetation and earth resources.***

***E3. Water: Protect water resources for present and future generations.***

***E4. Air: Maintain good federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.***

# Environment

## Goals & Policies

### ***Environmental Policies***

The following are the Environmental policies that support the goals:

**E1: Stewardship: *Provide stewardship by considering long-range implications of City policies on the environment, to conduct City operations in a manner that protects the environment, and to provide education on how the City, its businesses, and residents can improve the quality of the environment.***

### ***Stewardship: Planning***

**E1A** Promote waste reduction and recycling measures throughout the community. Ensure that waste disposal occurs in an environmentally safe, efficient manner.

**E1B** Reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills by reducing the amount of waste generated and promoting recycling and reusing materials.

- Provide attractive, well-maintained recycling bins and garbage receptacles in public spaces that separate different types of waste.
- Ensure that all City departments practice recycling and attempt to reduce waste.

**E1C** Maintain and support a public “Spring Cleaning” collection day for yard waste.

**E1D** Use the brownfields approach and grants to identify and restore potentially environmentally degraded property.

**E1E** Encourage environmentally sensitive businesses and practices.

- Explore options to provide incentives to companies and facilities locating in Bremerton, and recognize existing facilities and companies that opt to use green building techniques or follow effective pollution prevention and product stewardship practices.

**E1F** Promote use of alternative energy.

### ***Stewardship: Development***

**E1G** Ensure code flexibility to enable and encourage environmentally sensitive development.

# Environment

## Goals & Policies

**E1H** Use Best Available Science to preserve and enhance the functions and values of critical area through policies, regulations, programs and incentives.

**E1I** Utilize, where feasible, Best Management Practices (BMPs) and technology in City projects and practices to achieve effective environmental stewardship.

**E1J** Encourage the use of sustainable building methods and materials (such as those specified under certification like *LEED*, *Built Green*, *Salmon Safe*, and *Living Building Challenge*) that may reduce impacts on the built and natural environment.

**E1K** Continue the City's role as a caretaker of Bremerton's urban forest, a diverse mix of native and non-native trees, shrubs and groundcovers, which line our streets and shade and beautify our homes, businesses, parks and natural areas.

**E1L** Reduce solid waste generation through salvage and reuse of building materials, including architecturally and historically significant materials.

### ***Stewardship: Education***

**E1M** Promote community awareness, responsibility, and participation in sustainability efforts through public outreach programs and other opportunities for change. Serve as a catalyst and facilitator for partnership to leverage change in the broader community.

**E1N** Encourage environmental stewardship for the care and planting of trees through well-considered outreach and educational materials, along with City incentives.

**E1O** Educate citizens about sources of pollution.

- Provide information to the public regarding the negative impact to water quality from the use of pesticides and herbicides. Encourage a reduction in the use of pesticides and herbicides.

### **E2: Earth: *Preserve and enhance vegetation and earth resources.***

**E2A** Preserve environmental quality by taking into account the land's suitability for development, and directing intense development away from critical areas.

**E2B** Encourage conservation of critical areas and nonrenewable resources

**E2C** Ensure that development review includes evaluating potential negative impacts of habitat and avoids impacts or properly mitigates it, including off-site impacts.

**E2D** Preserve the integrity of riparian corridors and steep slopes through the preservation of native plants and the replacement of invasive, non-native plants with native plants.

**E2E** Preserve and enhance trees, native vegetation, and integrate suitable native plants in urban landscape development.

**E2F** Maintain and improve the City's tree canopy. Consider proper vegetation selection, taking into consideration potential conflicts, such as sidewalks and overhead utilities.

**E2G** During development review strive to preserve existing healthy and safe trees on private, commercial, and public property.

**E2H** Adopt lighting standards to prevent light pollution.

**E2I** Manage the City Utility Lands for multiple purposes including protecting water processes and forest habitat.

### **E3: Water: *Protect water resources for present and future generations.***

**E3A** Preserve and protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas through regulation, acquisitions, incentives, and other techniques, including considering regional initiatives such as the Chico Creek basin project and other salmon recovery plans.

**E3B** Preserve and protect natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, aquifers, streams, and water bodies as these are critical features that regulate surface flows and recharge groundwater.

# Environment

## Goals & Policies

**E3C** Participate in regional species protection efforts, including salmon habitat enhancement and restoration, including identify, prioritize, and eliminate physical barriers and other impediments to anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.

**E3D** Manage aquatic and riparian habitats to preserve and enhance their natural functions and processes, which provide fish and wildlife habitat and protect water quality.

**E3E** Conserve and protect groundwater resources.

**E3F** Promote alternatives to traditional stormwater practices for new construction, encourage onsite filtration, and require the use of Best Management Practices.

**E3G** Conserve and protect groundwater resources.

- Provide for well-head protection where appropriate.
- Protect aquifer recharge areas, especially those used to provide public water supplies.
- Coordinate measures to protect groundwater resources by using watershed plans and planning efforts.

**E3H** Apply Bremerton's Shoreline Master Program (adopted as a functional plan as identified in the appendix) goals and policies to development and redevelopment within the shoreline jurisdiction.

**E3I** Encourage restoration of degraded shoreline areas in coordination with shoreline redevelopment and the City's voluntary shoreline restoration.

**E3J** Coordinate with Bremerton-Kitsap Public Health District to abate environmental pollution from failing septic systems within City limits.

**E3K** Incorporate findings and science from joint County/City watershed planning efforts.

**E3L** Educate the public on best management practices regarding use of pesticides and fertilizers to prevent run-off of chemicals and pollution of water bodies.

***E4: Air: Maintain good federal, state, regional, and local air quality standards through coordinated, long-term strategies that address the many contributors to air pollution.***

**E4A** Maintain high air quality through land use and transportation planning and management.

**E4B** Advocate for expansion of transit and encourage car-sharing, cycling and walking, to limit or reduce vehicle trips as a strategies for reducing vehicle-related air pollution.

**E4C** Continue the city’s commute trip reduction (CTR) program and work with Bremerton’s employers to encourage their participation in CTR.

**E4D** Reduce the amount of airborne particulates through a street sweeping program, dust abatement on construction sites, covered loads of hauled materials, and other methods to reduce dust sources.

**E4E** Support and explore the multijurisdictional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, address climate change, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and other impacts of changing of global conditions.

\*Additional policies may be added here to address greenhouse gas emissions.