



# Natural Environment Element

## Element Purpose:

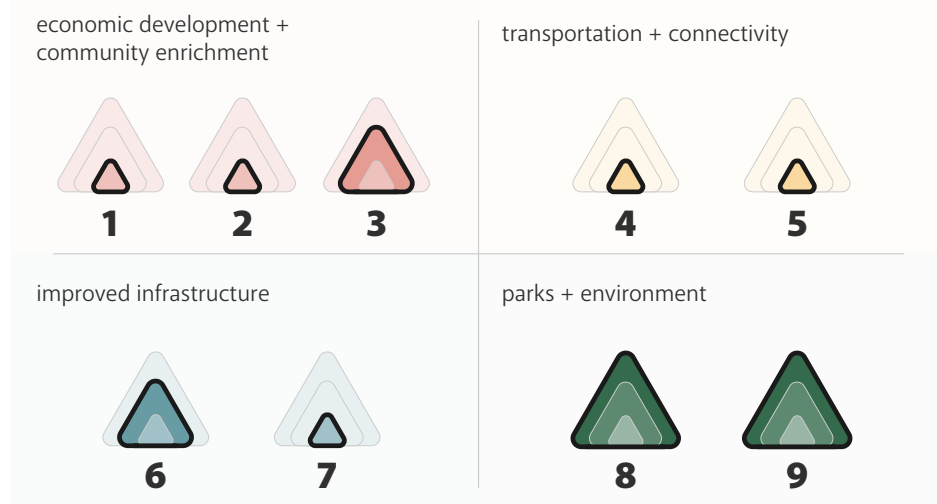
The Natural Environment Element of Sultan’s Comprehensive Plan highlights the city’s commitment to preserving its rich natural landscape, shaped by the Sultan and Skykomish Rivers. This element focuses on protecting critical areas such as wetlands, aquifer recharge zones, wildlife habitats, and flood-prone regions. It aligns with the 2044 Vision by ensuring environmental stewardship, enhancing climate resilience, and promoting sustainable development that balances growth with the preservation of Sultan’s unique natural features.

The 2024 update reflects Sultan’s vision of a safe and friendly community by addressing climate change, mitigating natural hazards, and safeguarding sensitive environmental areas. Key components include new policies for environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, and innovative development practices.

## How it relates to Sultan’s Community Vision:



## Relationship to Vision Strategies (Nine Big Ideas):



### Key:



## Why does the Natural Environment Element matter:

The Natural Environment Element of Sultan’s Comprehensive Plan is crucial. It ensures the preservation and protection of the city’s vital ecological areas, such as wetlands, rivers, and flood-prone zones. By addressing climate resilience and natural hazard mitigation, this element safeguards the community against risks like flooding and wildfires, which have become increasingly frequent and severe. It aligns with state mandates and community priorities, promoting sustainable development that respects the natural landscape and enhances the quality of life for residents.

By protecting these natural resources, the plan not only conserves the environment, but also ensures that future generations can enjoy Sultan’s unique natural assets.

## What’s New:

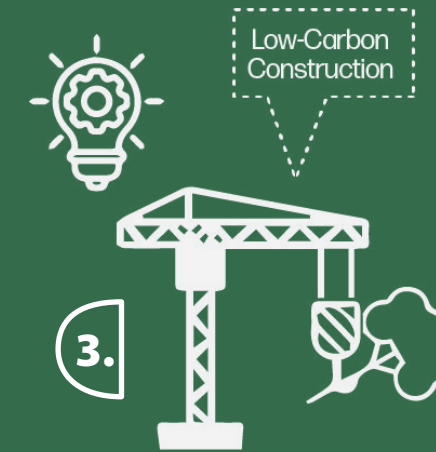


**1. Enhanced Environmental Policies:** The element introduces new and improved policies focused on environmental stewardship, climate change mitigation, and the protection of water bodies, wildlife habitats, and other natural features.



**4. Consolidation and Reorganization:** Goals, policies, and programs within the Natural Environment Element have been reorganized and consolidated for better functionality and usability

**2. Climate Resilience and Hazard Mitigation:** It includes updated strategies for planning climate resilience and mitigating natural hazards like floods and wildfires, aligning with state legislation and community priorities.



**3. Innovative Development Practices:** The plan promotes environmentally sensitive development practices and integrated, interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment.

**5. Expanded Community Engagement:** The element reflects extensive community input, emphasizing the importance of preserving open spaces, parks, and natural beauty while balancing growth and development.

