



KITSAP COUNTY

CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE

2024 PERIODIC UPDATE



In accordance with the [Growth Management Act](#) (GMA), Kitsap County is conducting its 2024 periodic update of its Critical Areas Ordinance. The Kitsap CAO Ordinance was last reviewed in 2017 and is being updated in conjunction with the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, with adoption planned in June of 2024.

Five types of critical areas will be reviewed and updated:

1. Wetlands
2. Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water
3. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
4. Frequently flooded areas
5. Geologically hazardous area

The project kicked off in March and Phase 1 will be wrapping up this month. There was a virtual public meeting in May. The county hired a consultant to compile information on the Best Available Science and provide a Gap Analysis that will be presented to the BOCC on 6/28.

Following the 6/28 meeting the BOCC, Phase 2 of the project will begin, which is the “technical code development” phase. Working groups comprised of technical experts from state agencies, community interest groups, and tribal representation, will begin meeting to evaluate the consultant summary. In parallel, the planning team will be looking to capture public feedback and input. It’s during this phase that we’ll be launching the CKCC CAO Committee to gather feedback specific to CK.

Phase 3 is expected to be held the first 6 months of next year. There will be continued opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the proposed changes before the BOCC holds a public hearing and deliberations on the final draft ordinance.

In addition to participating on the CKCC CAO Committee, members of the community can track plan progress and get information on any upcoming public meetings and project milestones by going to the CAO page on the county website: kcowa.us/cao. You can also view the recording and presentation materials from the May 17th public meeting on that page.