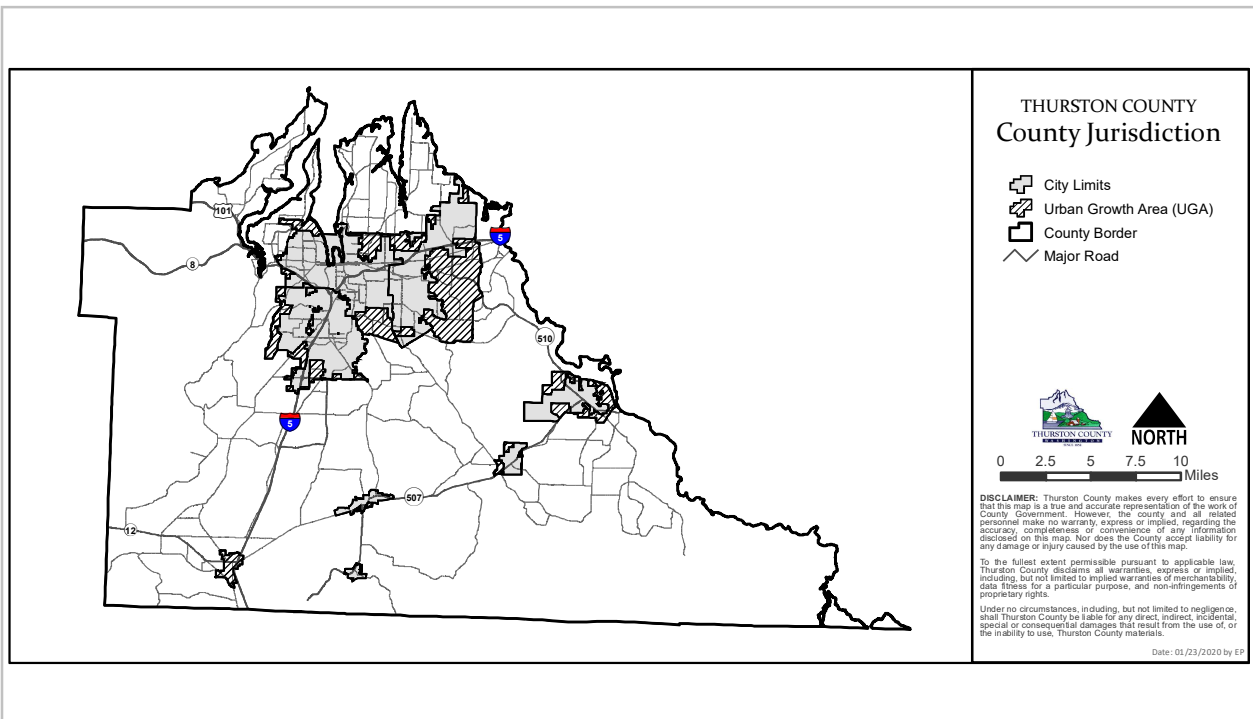


Last Updated: Feb 23, 2022

PRELIMINARY DOCKET ITEM BRIEFING SHEET

Applicant	Lawrence Jacobson
Request	A citizen requests a code amendment that would add a new chapter to the Thurston County code that would preserve natural areas by creating a registry of properties that landowners wish to preserve. Property owners could voluntarily enroll their small property into a county database in order to conserve the natural environment, recognize small landowners who retain and enhance the environment, provide small habitat refuges.
Location	Countywide, including Urban Growth Areas
APN	Countywide
Acres	N/A
Date received	July 6, 2020
Previous BoCC Action	Application received for consideration in 2021. BoCC directed to maintain this item on the preliminary docket for future consideration.
Key stakeholders	Thurston County citizens, land trusts, Native Plant Society, Conservation Districts, environmental groups.



Check all that apply:

Type of Request

- ☐ Comprehensive Plan Amendment
☐ Map ☐ Text
☒ Development Code Amendment
☐ Legally Required

Who Initiated Request:

- ☒ Citizen-Initiated
☐ City-Initiated
☐ Board-Initiated
☐ Staff-Initiated

Last Updated: Feb 23, 2022

DOCKET ANALYSIS

This side of the paper is maintained by assigned staff planner and presented at Board work session after public comment, for their consideration as they set the official docket.

Staff resource need: ☐ High (.5 FTE +) ☒ Medium (.5 - .25 FTE) ☐ Low (.25 FTE or less)

Public Interest: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low/unknown

Summary of written public comment:

58 comments, 6 against and 52 in favor

Support: protection of trees; option for landowners that don't fit into other programs or can't get conservation easements; creates greenspaces and protects habitat; creates visual relief; combats climate change

Against: tree preservation could cause issue in high wind storms - who is responsible for damage to property and public health; program would restrict a properties use long after its been sold; violates US Property Ownership rights; cost to preserve small properties should be burden of landowner and not of current and future taxpayers; legal issues in transferring property with restrictions still need to be ironed out

Priority: None stated; several comments "strongly support"

Staff analysis:

The proposed amendment would charge an application fee for the landowner to enroll and include a \$5000 penalty for removal from the program or destruction of resource. If docketed, staff would investigate on-going costs to administer, the County's role and obligations to monitor properties, review the Open Space Tax program to see if it could cover a natural landmark program, & research how the county could track properties over time.

Estimated time line: (ONLY FOR PREVIOUSLY OFFICIALLY DOCKETED ITEMS)

None - this item was not previously docketed.

Board Direction:

- ☐ Add to 2022-2023 Official Docket
- ☐ Maintain on 2023 Preliminary Docket
- ☐ Remove from Preliminary Docket

Board Direction is not provided until after 20-day written comment period.

Because this is a new docket year, all items are reconsidered.

ASSIGNED PLANNER: Not Assigned