



A-25 Update Forest Lands Conversion Ordinance and Review Tree Protection Standards: **Scope of Tree Protection Review**

Board of County Commissioners Briefing

February 3, 2022

Overview of Today's Briefing

- Overview of Project
 - What does tree protection look like today?
 - How did we get here?
 - What is driving this project?
- Review options for scope of work for updating tree protection provisions
- **Direction requested** on scope of work for updating tree protection provisions



Background

- Docket Item A-25, “Update Forest Conversion Ordinance” added to official docket in 2018
- Previously included on official and preliminary dockets under various names between 2004 and 2018
- In 2022, Docket Item A-25 clarified to focus on forest conversion and rural tree protection - urban tree protection standards to be reviewed and updated through County’s joint plan review and updates
- BoCC priority 8 out of 16 county-initiated development code amendments

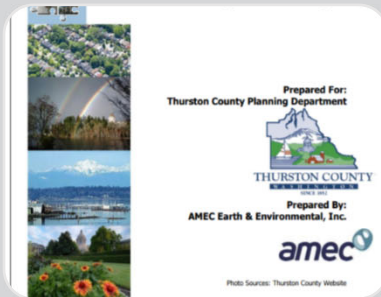


Current Provisions

- Forest Conversion Ordinance contains provisions for Type IV General Forestry permits and Conversion Option Harvest Plans with different standards for rural areas and North County UGA's (TCC Chapter 17.25)
- Zoning codes contain standards for open space, landscaping, and low impact development (Titles 20, 21, 22 and 23)
- Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Ordinance contain standards for tree retention and replanting in sensitive environmental areas (Titles 19 and 24)

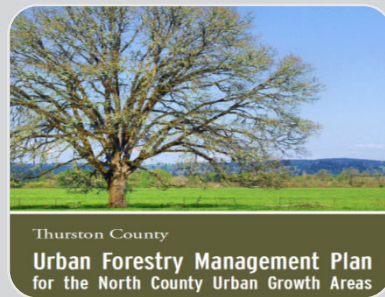


Current Policies



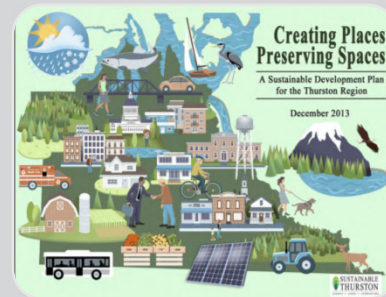
2011

UGA Canopy Report completed with DNR grant



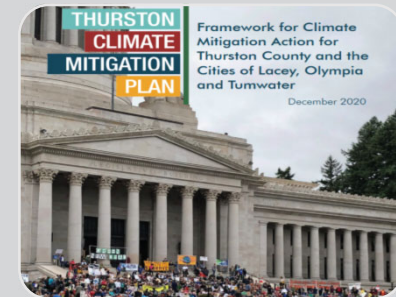
2013

Draft UFM completed for North County UGAs
Not adopted



2014

Sustainable Thurston Community Project finalized



2018 | 2021

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation Guiding Docs adopted



Project Drivers

- Included in the Development Code Docket
- Sustainable Thurston Community Project and Thurston County Comprehensive Plan call for 'no net loss' and protection of forestlands
- Climate Mitigation Guiding Doc includes 20+ action items related to forest conversions and tree protection
- North County Cities in process of updating Urban Forestry Management Plans and tree protection provisions



Project Components

- **Scoping**
 - Existing programs and policies
 - Targeted stakeholder outreach
 - Grants research
 - Options development
- Regional Coordination
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- Package Development - Amendment Proposals and Program Elements
- PC and BOCC Hearings, Review, and Action



Options for Scope of Review

- **Scope of Work Option 1 (Base)** – Update Forest Conversion Ordinance for clarity and consistency.
- **Scope of Work Option 2** – Update canopy assessment *and* update Conversion Ordinance for clarity and consistency.
- **Scope of Work Option 3** – Establish incentive-based stewardship program in addition to Conversion Ordinance update



Scope of Work Option 1

Update Code for Clarity and Consistency

Estimated late-2022

- Clarify existing provisions, streamline permitting processes, and address inconsistencies between various sections of code
- Advance suggested code amendments from 2013 urban forest management planning effort
- Simplify existing provisions to make them clearer to understand and easier to implement
- Targeted community and stakeholder engagement
- May not meet Comp Plan and Climate Mitigation Plan targets



Scope of Work Option 2

Update Canopy Assessment to Guide Changes in Tree Protection Provisions

Estimated early-2023

- Complete code updates under Option 1
- Update 2011 canopy inventory to provide insight into changes in canopy coverage and identify areas vulnerable to conversion
- Work with regional partners to fund technical support for the canopy data analysis
- Set canopy goals, guiding changes in rural tree protection provisions
- Inform ongoing planning efforts for Climate Mitigation, SMP, VSP, and HCP

Scope of Work Option 3

Establish Forest Stewardship Program to support small forest landowners

Estimated late-2023

- Complete code updates under Option 1
- Complement tree protection provisions with incentive-based program for small forest landowners
- Work with regional partners to expand resources for tree preservation and reforestation
- Build on investments being made at state level to preserve and expand forest resources
- Seek professional services support to establish forest stewardship program framework
- Dovetails with ag updates to County conservation programs



Next Steps

- Direction requested from BoCC on scope of tree protection update by February 10, 2022

Scope of Work Option 1 (base): Update Code for Clarity and Consistency

Scope of Work Option 2: Base and Update Canopy Assessment

Scope of Work Option 3: Base and Establish Forest Stewardship Program

- Following BoCC Direction, work will continue in 2022



Thank you!

For questions, contact:

Ashley Arai, Associate Planner
(360) 545-5476