

7. The county should designate and manage Critical Areas in a manner that will sustain dependent human and wildlife use and avoid loss of life and damage to structures.
8. The county should identify and designate in the Critical Areas regulations geographic areas with unusual physical features or high sensitivity to human impacts that require management approaches specially designed for each area.

OBJECTIVE 2: *Water Resource Management Approaches* – To coordinate water resources planning, funding and implementation within Thurston County to ensure high quality surface and groundwater, preserve the functions of water resources, ensure compatibility between land and water uses and minimize the costs of parallel programs.

POLICIES:

1. The county should manage county-wide water resources through a coordinated water resources program that integrates county groundwater, stormwater, lakes, stream and wetland programs related to water quantity and quality.
2. The county should consider the hydrologic continuity between ground and surface water when managing water resources.
3. The county should address water resource concerns by the appropriate scale, such as a catchment, subwatershed or sub-basin for surface waters and by aquifers for groundwater.
4. The county should support watershed planning processes conducted under RCW 90.82 as a framework for comprehensive water resource management.
5. The county should involve affected stakeholders in groundwater, watershed and stormwater basin planning.
6. The county should support and implement the county-adopted water resource plans addressing watersheds, stormwater, sewerage, groundwater, water supply and solid waste, including the Northern Thurston County Ground Water Management Plan and the South Thurston County Aquifer Protection Strategy.
7. The county should protect public water supplies from contamination to avoid the cost of developing new water sources.
8. The county should manage water resources for multiple beneficial uses. Use for one purpose should preserve opportunities for other uses, while maintaining overall water quality. When conflicts arise, the natural system should be given priority, particularly if the use would be detrimental to anadromous fish or public safety.
9. The county should monitor both surface water and groundwater to evaluate program effectiveness, establish long-term trends for both water quality and water quantity, and provide for the early detection of pollution, to minimize the damage and the cost of resource restoration, and to provide a basis for adaptive management.