

Topic Area: Environmental Protection

Member Introductions:

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Discussion Issues:

Concern that growth will result in degradation of the environment.

- Particular concern with growth resulting in a depletion of the local aquifer.
- Need a balance between growth/development and environmental protection.

Concern that ownership should not convey unlimited rights to develop or modify the property.

Issues of preservation of Streams for Water Flow, Water Quality and Control Water Temperature

- North Kitsap needs healthy streams to sustain salmon runs.

How do we identify and protect the natural environment of Kingston neighborhoods and public spaces.

- The natural environment is a primary reason folks moved to Kingston.
- Concern that development and exploitation for economic gain will degrade the environment.
- Particular concern for preservation of old growth/heritage trees both on public lands and residential neighborhoods.
 - What will removal do to shade and local temperature.
 - What is criteria for trees worthy of preservation.
 - How can development include requirements and incentives for preservation.

Short Term Solutions:

Water Flow and Reserves:

- Suggest the county & KPUD model the local aquifer and simulate growth, climate changes, rainfall variability and population growth to determine capacity and boundaries for use of the limited water resource.
- There should be a price or tax on water usage that would limit excessive usage.
 - This must include a variable rate proportional to usage including a “standard allowance” before the onset of fees.
 - Will require method to monitor private wells.

Preservation of Trees:

- Need to start with a mapping of significant trees.
- Need definition of local trees of value and factors that dictate preservation of specific trees. Age, rarity, size, aesthetic, botanical, ecological & historic value.
- County needs criteria, policy, and enforcement program to preserve significant trees.

Develop and enforce Critical Area Ordinance to preserve trees.
Tree preservation should have a long term outlook, (50 to 100 years).

Concern for control and removal of invasive species, (ivy, holly, scotch broom).

Long Term Solutions:

Water Flow and Conservation of Reserves:

Same as short term water conservation solutions.

Preservation of Trees:

- Need to include green belts in growth management plans.
- Focus on development of what could be green belts, beyond current green belts.
- Green belts should consist of trees variety that has long term sustainability and reflects climax species.
- Need program to diversify tree and brush species.
- Need a set of county regulations to promote preservation.
- Need county incentives, (tax credit), to preserve, and replace trees with sustainable forests.
- There should be a County Forester with oversight of all public lands.
- County to study and maintain a map of “heritage trees” and potential forests on both Public and Private Lands.

There should be an assessment of environmental factors on buildable property before the sale and defined and disclosed restrictions on development. The county should offer some type of “conservation trust” similar to GPC land trusts.

How will group members contribute to solving the issues:

- Members should join the KCAC environmental committee.
- Individuals should engage in removal of invasives on personal and public property.
- Environmental committee should prepare and publish articles on tree preservation.
- County should implement a program of incentives for small property owners to preserve/maintain trees.