

Environment and Sustainability

A sustainable approach to planning balances new development with environmental and climate change considerations. In the Suburban Area, this includes continuing to preserve parks, government-designated wilderness areas and nature reserves, privately owned conservation areas, wetlands and beaches, and other environmentally sensitive areas based on Regional Plan direction. It can also mean requiring or encouraging sustainable building practices, and community design that makes active and public transportation options more attractive than driving a single-occupant vehicle.

Opportunities

The Suburban Area is characterized by a diversity of forested areas, wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastlines. Protecting our natural environment is crucial to preserving our quality of life, climate resilience and opportunities for outdoor recreation. These are all key to building healthy, sustainable and complete communities. The Suburban Plan is an opportunity to help address climate change through:

- ▶ Encouraging a reduction in carbon emissions;
- ▶ Supporting climate adaptation and preparing for extreme weather events;
- ▶ Considering ecologically important areas;
- ▶ Creating comfortable pedestrian environments; and
- ▶ Supporting an increase in tree cover.



Tools

- ▶ Require watercourse setbacks and coastal elevations.
- ▶ Encourage site planning to consider existing natural features through flexible design regulations in areas where there are environmentally valuable or sensitive lands.
- ▶ Identify flood prone areas and consider appropriate development in those areas.
- ▶ Permit district energy facilities and renewable energy technologies.
- ▶ Consider open and green spaces in large development projects.



The Suburban Plan can:

- ▶ Require stormwater management practices
- ▶ Support climate change adaptation
- ▶ Encourage sustainable energy
- ▶ Maintain parks and conservation areas
- ▶ Consider ecologically sensitive areas

