

Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project



**Planning and Sustainability Commission
Continued Hearing
February 23, 2021**

Project Purpose

Ezones are a zoning tool that the city has used for 30 years to protect streams, wetlands, flood areas, forests, steep slopes and wildlife habitat.

The zones need to align with the features they are intended to protect.

Protecting natural resources is a key strategy to achieve climate resiliency.

Relationship to Adopted Plans

- Climate Action Plan
- 2035 Comprehensive Plan
- Climate Emergency Declaration
- State Land Use Goal 5
- Metro Title 13

Climate Resiliency

Rivers, streams and wetlands are the natural stormwater infrastructure of the city



Climate Resiliency

Warmer wetter winters could result in more frequent or larger flood events



Climate Resiliency

Maintaining trees and vegetation on steep slopes reduce the risk of landslides



Climate Resiliency

Maintaining and increasing tree canopy will help keep the air cool as the summers get hotter and drier

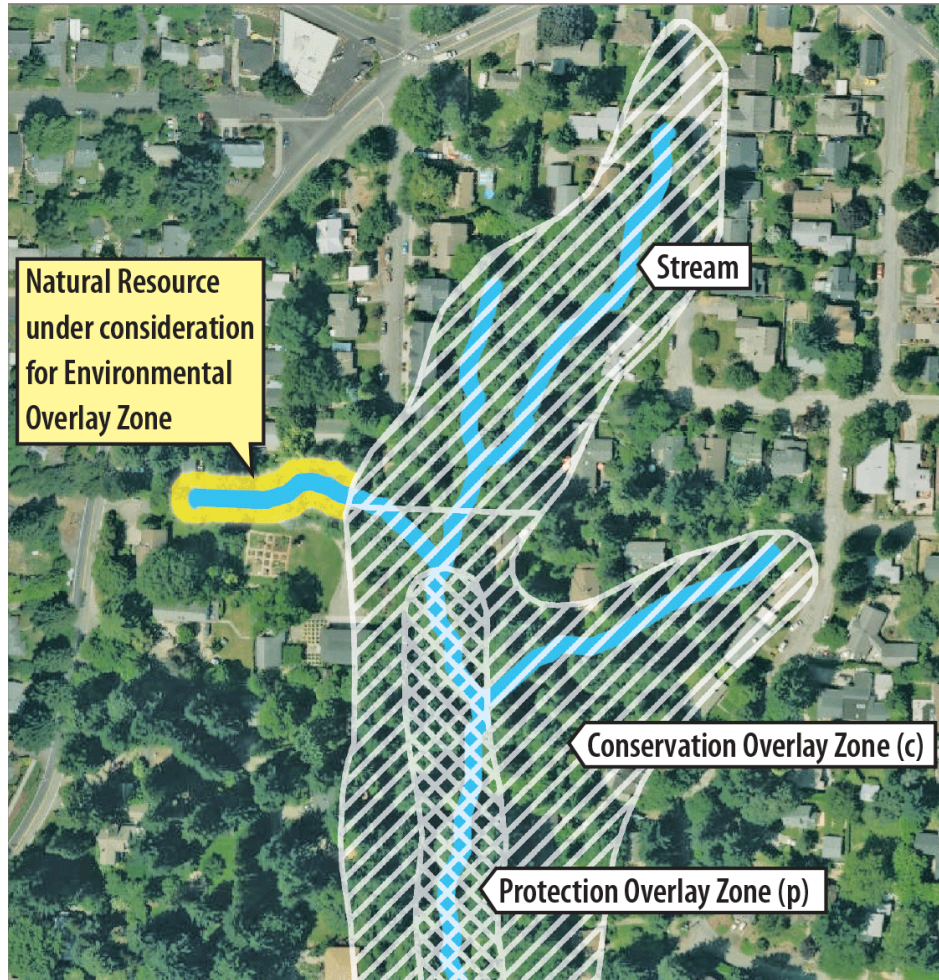


Climate Resiliency

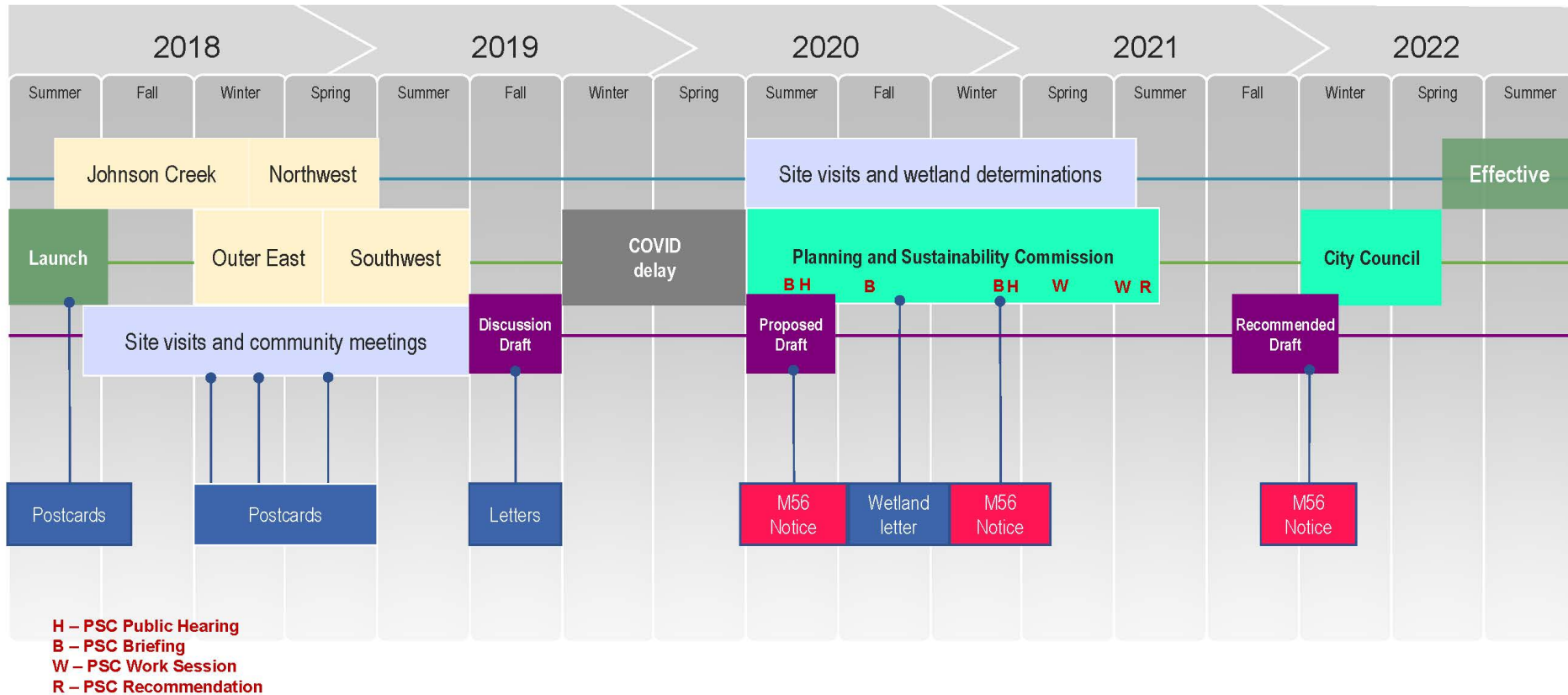
Conserving habitat areas to support wildlife, particularly listed and at-risk species, that must also adapt to climate changes



Project Purpose



Project Timeline



Public Testimony

Next Steps

- **July 27** – PSC Public Hearing
- **September/February** – PSC Briefings
- **February 23** – *Continued* PSC Public Hearing
- **April 13** – *Tentative* PSC Work Session (zoning code amendments)
- **July 27** – *Tentative* PSC Work Session (zoning map amendments)
- **August** – *Tentative* PSC Recommendation
- **Fall/Winter** – City Council Hearings

Climate Emergency Declaration

WHEREAS, warmer, wetter winters will increase the risk of localized flooding and landslides, and hotter, drier summers will increase the risk of extreme heat events, both of which will have a direct impact on private property, public infrastructure, and the health and well-being of frontline communities that are disproportionately at risk from these natural hazards;

WHEREAS, protecting, restoring, and managing our urban natural resources – including rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, trees, and unique habitats – mitigates risks, sequesters carbon, and builds resilience to the impacts of climate change, provides benefits to human physical and mental health, protects private property and public infrastructure, and supports the intrinsic value of natural ecosystems and biodiversity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED ...

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work collaboratively with Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, as well as other City bureaus, Metro, and state and federal agencies to incorporate information from climate modelling related to hydrology and flooding for the metro area in the update of regulations that protect and restore flood areas to reduce the impacts of future flooding on property, public infrastructure, and public health, and support recovery of threatened and endangered species;

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is directed to work collaboratively with the Bureau of Development Services, Bureau of Transportation, Water Bureau, Bureau of Environmental Services, and Portland Parks & Recreation to update regulations that protect and enhance tree canopy to reduce heat island impacts on public health;

Bureau of Environmental Services, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Portland Bureau of Transportation are directed to collaborate on the creation of a citywide integrated and prioritized green infrastructure action plan;

Take Home Message

Ezone Purpose: The environmental overlay zones are intended to protect streams, wetlands, flood areas, steep slopes, forests and wildlife habitat.

Project Purpose: Because the overlay zones were applied a long time ago, they don't always follow the actual resources. This project is fixing that.

Types of Environmental Overlay Zones:

Conservation 'c' zone – Allows some new development that is sensitive to the natural resources

Protection 'p' zone – New development is mostly not allowed in the p zone

Key Points:

You can maintain and repair your existing house, driveway and deck.

You can maintain your yard and fence.

You can remove dead/dangerous trees and trees near your house.

You must replace trees that are removed.