

Pierce County Town Hall Summary



Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- **Pierce county has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes that support a diversity of species. The community has succeeded in implementing landscape-scale conservation, protecting urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts, with broad community support for conservation natural lands, maintenance of watershed health and salmon recovery.**
- **Pierce county has fertile soils that support agriculture and forestry, and a community that values working forests, farms and agriculture.**
- **Pierce county is a community made up of diverse and proud people that are aware of watershed issues and hold landscape sustainability as a goal.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.**

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- **Stormwater discharge from urban city streets and farm runoff continue to damage the water and habitats in Puget Sound.**
- **The difficulty and expense of protecting and restoring nearshore and urban areas will be a great challenge for us.**
- **Collaborations are sometimes short-lived and fragile. There is little collaboration and coordination among efforts to maintain biodiversity.**
- **The lack of a community-wide consensus on, governmental commitment to and planning for long-term landscape planning in the face of rapid population growth has directly contributed to the degradation and loss of views, clean air, clean water, and working, natural and open lands.**
- **Lack of a connection between people and the natural resources they rely on.**
- **Tax burdens impact the community.**

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Clean drinking water.**
- **Sustainably managed family farms and timberlands which include a large portion of the open and forested landscape important to water quality and quantity.**
- **Protection of intact natural resources, restoration/recovery for degraded environments and long-term stewardship of water resources.**

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- **Urban open spaces, forests, views, trails, wilderness experiences, fishing opportunities, parks, estuaries, and natural shorelines that are readily accessible to the public.**
- **Maintenance of our area's cultural and biological diversity.**
- **The merger of economic and environmental interests, so as to encourage alternative ways for maintaining a high quality of life and continuing to grow (smart growth, increased density of development, public transportation, smarter commutes, lighter human impacts).**
- **Continuation of our agricultural heritage through viable, local food production.**
- **Community involvement in decision-making.**
- **Connectivity among natural open spaces to support access and movement for wildlife and people.**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Enhance the diversity of our economy.**
- **Promote economic and business growth while maintaining the beauty of this region. Protect natural resource-based economies such as small timberland owners and fisheries. Recognize and support the ecological and economic values of open space and forests for maintaining water quality and quantity.**
- **Protect and connect natural habitats and open spaces that stretch from our backyards to the mountains in order to maintain access and connectivity for wildlife and people.**
- **Provide opportunities for personal, family and community inspiration through connections to the natural environment, community gardens, parks and open spaces. Promote healthy lifestyles, a high quality of life and a sense of history by maintaining a healthy environment, and by providing ways of engaging with the landscape for everyone, such as ensuring a supply of locally grown and organic produce at neighborhood markets.**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Preservation, restoration and livability of urban environments needs to be a priority.**
- **Planning should tie together local and state-wide efforts and protect biodiversity. Planning should balance immediate and long-term demands, as well as integrate economic and environmental interests. Such planning must be equitable and should recognize that protection, conservation and restoration have direct economic benefits for our communities.**
- **Success will depend on personal connections through access to natural lands and the outdoors.**
- **Rural economies are important to the success of our communities.**

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- **The Cascades should be an integrated landscape with economic, environmental, and social characteristics.**
- **Our preservation and conservation actions must begin now; we can't wait 100 years or we will be too late.**

Waters

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, are you proud of?

- **Pierce county has built broad community support for salmon recovery and increased public awareness of watershed issues.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have been successful in implementing creative, collaborative, watershed-level conservation efforts.**
- **Our community holds sustainability as a goal.**

What characteristics of this community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, worry you?

- **Stormwater discharge from urban city streets and farm runoff continue to damage the water and habitats in Puget Sound.**
- **The difficulty and expense of protecting and restoring nearshore and urban areas will be a great challenge for us.**
- **Collaborations are sometimes short-lived and fragile.**

What characteristics about the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Clean drinking water**
- **Species diversity**
- **Fishing experiences**
- **Small timber land owners who own a large proportion of the forested landscape that is important to water quality and quantity**
- **Public access**
- **Public education**
- **Community involvement**
- **Merger of economic and environmental interests**
- **Principles of long-term stewardship and management of water resources**
- **Principles of protection for intact environments and restoration and recovery for degraded environments**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Protect the biodiversity of natural systems**
- **Enhance the diversity of our economy**

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- **Protect natural resource-based economies such as though that support small timber land owners and fisheries.**
- **Protect an outdoor way of life by connecting natural and urban spaces.**
- **Build a concept of community at the watershed-level**
- **Promote education**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Preservation, restoration and livability of our urban environments needs to be a priority.**
- **Planning must balance immediate and long-term demands, as well as integrate economic and environmental interests.**
- **Success will depend on personal connections and access to natural lands and the outdoors.**

Cascades

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, are you proud of?

- **Pierce county has beautiful and diverse natural landscapes and open spaces that support a diversity of species.**
- **Pierce county has protected lands in perpetuity.**
- **Pierce county has fertile soils for agriculture and forestry.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have nearby publicly accessible natural resources.**
- **Our community is made up of diverse and proud people.**

What characteristics of this community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, worry you?

- **Unplanned and unrestrained growth and sprawl from urban centers into the foothills of the Cascades has led to the loss of natural and open lands in our county.**
- **A lack of community direction and planning has directly contributed to the sprawl and loss of natural and open lands.**

What characteristics about the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Small family farms**
- **Sustainable working forests stewarded with good timber management**
- **Community involvement**
- **A coordinated vision for foothills landowners**
- **Merger of economic and environmental interests**

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- **Public transportation system that accommodates a growing economy and the environment.**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Connect natural areas for wildlife and people**
- **Maintain access to lands and open spaces so that we can provide our community with historical connections, spaces for spirituality, and linkages to outdoors**
- **Enhance the diversity of our economy**
- **Realize the ecological and economic values of trees and forests to maintaining water quality and quantity**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Preservation of Mount Rainier as a large and natural space**
- **Protection of the biodiversity of our region.**
- **Rural economies are important to the success of our communities.**
- **The Cascades should be an integrated landscape with economic, environmental, and social characteristics.**
- **Planning that ties together local and state-wide efforts, protects biodiversity and integrates economic and environmental interests.**

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, are you proud of?

- **Pierce county has urban open spaces, parks, trails, views, mature forests, estuaries, and natural shorelines that are nearby and publicly accessible.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have developed and maintained important urban and neighborhood infrastructure.**
- **Our community is made up of a diversity of people.**
- **Our county supports working farms and agriculture.**
- **Communities in Pierce county have been successful in conserving and restoring lands and waters at the landscape-level.**

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, worry you?

- **Rapid population growth and a lack of commitment to long-term planning has led to the loss and degradation of farmlands, natural lands, views, clean air and clean water in our region.**
- **Lack of government support, collaboration and coordination among efforts to maintain biodiversity.**
- **Lack of a connection between people and the natural resources they rely on.**

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- **Costly attention to the nearshore.**
- **Tax burdens will impact our communities.**

What characteristics about the community, especially the “Communities Landscape” do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Urban open spaces, forests, views, trails, wilderness experience, parks, estuaries, natural shorelines.**
- **The Principle of restoration and recovery of natural areas.**
- **Cultural and biological diversity.**
- **Alternative ways to maintain a high quality of life and continue to grow (smart growth, increased density of development, public transportation, smarter commutes, lighter human impacts).**
- **A sense of our agricultural heritage through viable, local food production.**
- **Community involvement in decision-making.**
- **Connectivity among natural open spaces to support access and movement for wildlife and people.**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Build strong values for natural resources and the environment that will promote economic and business growth while maintaining the beauty of this region.**
- **Create natural habitats that stretch from our backyards to the mountains.**
- **Provide opportunities for personal, family and community inspiration through connections to the natural environment, community gardens, parks and open spaces.**
- **Promote a healthy lifestyle and high quality of life by maintaining a healthy environment, providing locally grown and organic produce at neighborhood markets, and sustaining a vision of people as part of environment.**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Protection, restoration, and conservation have direct economic benefits.**
- **Preservation of farmland and conservation actions must begin now, we can't wait 100 years or we will be too late.**
- **Planning and management must occur at a large-scale.**
- **Equity must be considered.**