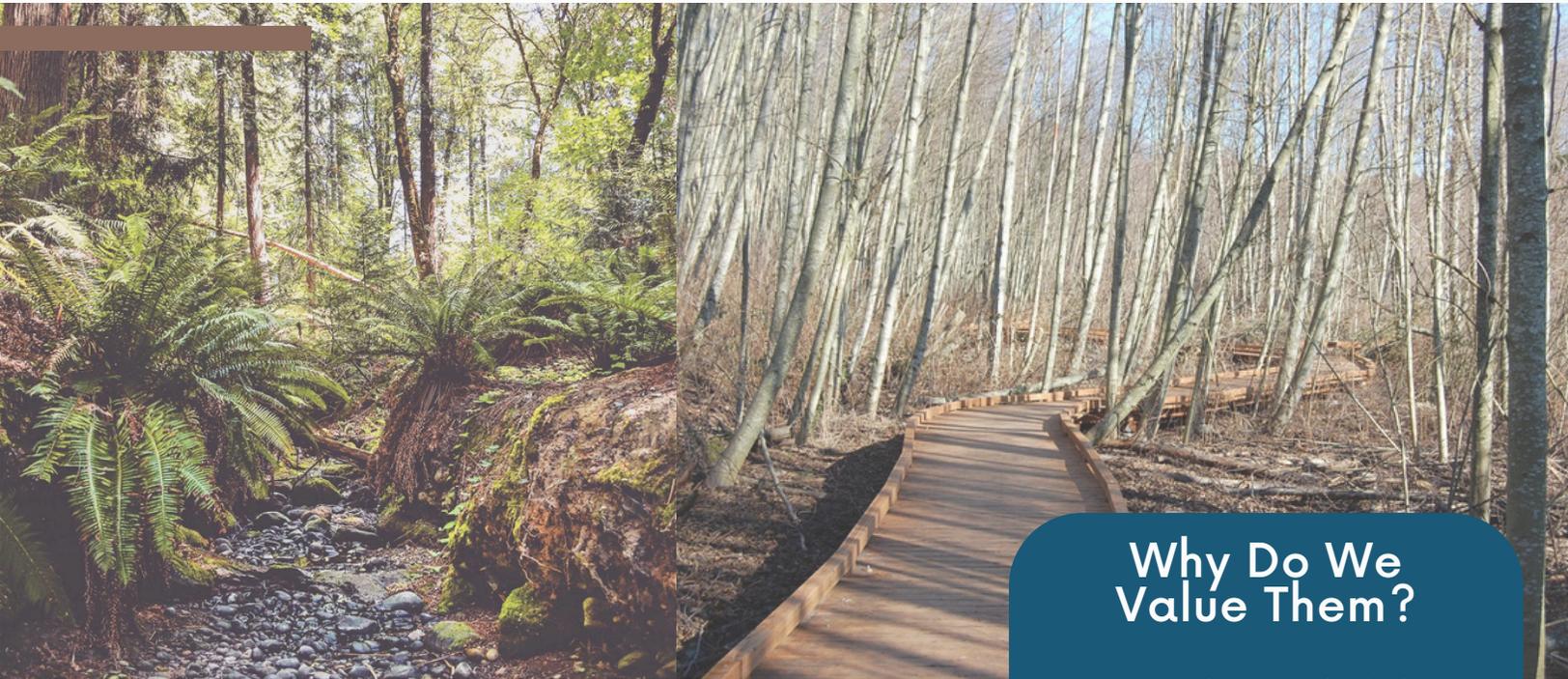


# Poulsbo Critical Areas Ordinance Update

<https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate>



## Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)

### What are they?

Groundwater aquifers supply water to lakes, wetlands, and streams and to public and private wells that provide drinking water. Rainfall contributes to surface water and recharges the groundwater as precipitation infiltrates through the soil. Land development changes the natural aquifer hydrologic cycle and reduces the land's capacity to absorb and retain rainfall and reduces the groundwater recharge potential.

The GMA requires the classification of recharge areas for aquifers according to the vulnerability of the aquifer. Vulnerability is the combined effect of hydrogeological susceptibility to contamination and the contamination loading potential. High vulnerability is indicated by land uses that contribute contamination that may degrade groundwater and hydrogeological conditions that facilitate degradation. Low vulnerability is indicated by land uses that do not contribute contaminants that degrade ground water and those conditions that do not facilitate digression.

The Poulsbo Aquifer is a sole-source aquifer. This means it supplies the majority of our drinking water, and there are no reasonable alternative sources if it becomes contaminated.

### How do we protect them?

- Identify and classify aquifer recharge areas.
- Reduce contamination risks by limiting high-risk activities and uses in aquifer recharge areas.

### What changes are needed?

- None

### Why Do We Value Them?



Aquifers provide drinking water, so the water that refills them must be clean and uncontaminated.



Aquifers provide water to streams and wetlands that are essential to local habitat and ecology

