

# Poulsbo Critical Areas Ordinance Update

<https://cityofpoulsbo.com/criticalareasupdate>



## Frequently Flooded Areas

### What are they?

Frequently flooded areas are lands in the floodplain subject to at least a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, or within areas subject to flooding due to high groundwater. These areas include, but are not limited to, streams, rivers, lakes, coastal areas, wetlands, and areas where high groundwater forms ponds on the ground surface. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) delineates flood hazards along major river and stream corridors to identify areas at risk from floodwater. This information is used for both floodplain management and insurance rating. FEMA maps have been adopted by the city. When assessing the potential for a flood hazard on a given site, City staff utilizes the FEMA maps; therefore, flood hazards are not reproduced on the City's Critical Area maps.

Alterations to natural floodplains generally result in increasing the flooding risk to people and property, and impact fish and wildlife habitat. Traditional flood control practices have been particularly damaging to fish and wildlife habitat, but contemporary methods are striving to provide an acceptable level of flood protection to people and property, while at the same time preserving and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Reducing risk to people and property is best achieved by limiting floodplain development and ensuring that allowed development does not increase flood elevations and flow velocities, change flood flow patterns, reduce flood storage, increase erosion, or increase the area of flood inundation.

### How do we protect them?

- Restrict development in mapped floodplains.
- Comply with adopted stormwater standards and best management practices.
- Assessments to ensure that development in flood areas does not adversely affect habitat.

### What changes are needed?

- None

### Why Do We Value Them?



Frequently flooded areas help maintain fish and wildlife habitat



Natural flood plains help to disperse and store water during storms and peak flows

