



Agenda
Planning Commission Workshop
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
City Manager's Conference Room | 975 George Washington Way

Commission Members: Chair Wallner, Vice-Chair Madsen and Commissioners Mealer, Wise, Palmer, Boring, and Berkowitz

Liaisons: Council Liaison Lemley and Alternate Council Liaison Luzzo Gilmour
Staff Liaison Development Services Manager Simon

Regular Workshop - 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order / Attendance:

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

April 26, 2017 Special Workshop

Agenda Items:

Business:

1. Discussion of proposed new Urban Recreation Zone
 - Rick Simon, Development Services Manager
2. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Map Updates
 -
3. Information regarding Critical Areas Ordinance Update
 - Rick Simon, Development Services Manager

Adjournment

The next Planning Commission Workshop is August 9, 2017

The next Planning Commission Meeting is July 26, 2017

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Council Chamber parking and access is available at the entrance facing George Washington Way. Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours prior to the Planning Commission Workshop by calling the City Clerk's Office at 942-7388.



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 07/12/2017

Agenda Category: Approval of Minutes

Prepared By:

Subject:

April 26, 2017 Special Workshop

Request:

Key I - Financial Stability & Operational Effectiveness

Recommended Motion:

Summary:

Attachments:

1. April 26, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes



MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL WORKSHOP
City Hall – 550 Swift Boulevard – Council Chamber
WEDNESDAY, April 26, 2017
7:30 PM

Call to Order:

Chair Wallner called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Chair Wallner, Vice-Chair Madsen, Commissioners, Mealer, Boring, Palmer, Berkowitz, and Wise. Also present were Council Liaison Dori Luzzo-Gilmour, and Development Services Manager Rick Simon.

Business:

Comprehensive Plan Draft Review

The Commission met with Consultants Ferdouse Oneza and Ben Floyd, who are working with the City to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission reviewed the draft Plan and discussed issues including, homelessness, open space, tiny houses, design goals, sustainable standards, complete streets and bike friendly communities.

Adjournment:

Chairman Wallner adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

PREPARED BY: Lynne Follett, Executive Assistant

REVIEWED BY: _____

Rick Simon, Secretary
Richland Planning Commission



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 07/12/2017

Agenda Category: Business

Prepared By: Rick Simon, Development Services Manager

Subject:

Discussion of proposed new Urban Recreation Zone

Request:

Key 5 - Natural Resources Management and Key 6 - Community Amenities

Recommended Motion:

None

Summary:

Much of the comments the city has received regarding the comprehensive plan update have centered on the Columbia Point South area and the type of development that may occur there under the comprehensive plan designation of "Commercial Recreation". Staff has drafted a new zoning category to be applied specifically to Columbia Point South that would provide for a mix of uses less intensive than Commercial Recreation but broader than the uses allowed in the Developed Open Space district. The attached memo and draft code are presented for Planning Commission discussion and consideration.

Attachments:

1. Memo - Proposed Urban Recreation Zone
2. Draft Urban Recreation Zone Provisions
3. Draft Amendments to RMC 23.30

MEMORANDUM

*Community and Development Department
Planning & Development Services Division*

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: RICK SIMON, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER

DATE: JULY 12, 2017

RE: PROPOSED URBAN RECREATION ZONE

Much discussion surrounding the comprehensive plan update process has been centered on the Columbia Point South area and its appropriate future use. Some of the opinions expressed stated that the proposed Commercial Recreation land use designation includes some uses that would not be appropriate on Columbia Point South. In an effort to develop a list of potential uses that would be more in keeping with the unique nature of the area, staff has developed a proposed new zoning district, titled "Urban Recreation". It is intended to be specifically applied to Columbia Point South and falls generally somewhere between Developed Open Space and Commercial Recreation in terms of the types of uses permitted.

Attached, please find a copies of the proposed zone in two separate forms. The first is a simple summary of the regulations for the proposed zone and also includes definitions of several terms used in the text of the draft code, including several new definitions. The second attachment shows how the new zone would be fit into the code, as part of Chapter 23.30 – Public Use Zoning Districts.

If the Commission is amenable to this concept of creating a new zone for Columbia Point South, then staff will schedule a public hearing for the Commission to consider adoption of the new code as part of your regular meeting on July 26th, so that the new code language can be considered alongside the comprehensive plan update.

DRAFT

URBAN RECREATION DISTRICT

6/30/17

Purpose

The urban recreational district (UR) is a special district providing for the establishment of uses that are intended to provide the public with places to gather for public events as well as provide some limited urban amenities as well as passive recreation and open space uses. It is the intent of the UR district to provide for a disbursed pattern of development that recognizes and protects both culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. This zoning classification is intended for those portions of the City that are publically owned and designated as commercial recreation under the Richland comprehensive plan. The UR district is intended to be used in conjunction with Title 26 RMC, the City Shoreline Master Program, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements when applicable and with Title 22 RMC, the City's Critical Areas Ordinance.

Uses Permitted:

Cultural Institutions;
Cultural Heritage Uses;
Public Campgrounds;
Public Parks;
General Park Operation and Maintenance Activities;
Passive Open Space Uses;
Utility Uses;
Special Events including Concerts, Tournaments and Competitions, Fairs, Festivals and Similar Public Gatherings;
Community Festivals and Street Fairs;
Trail Head Facilities and Trails for Pedestrian or Non-motorized Vehicle Use;
Health Spas;
Lodges;
Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds;
Restaurant Lounge;
Restaurant Sit-Down;
Delicatessen;
Portable Food Vendors;
Art Galleries;
Specialty Retail Stores;
Outdoor Theatre
Sporting Good Rentals

Criteria for Uses Within the Urban Recreation District:

Uses proposed within the Urban Recreation District shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. A cultural resource survey of the proposed development site shall be completed by a qualified professional. Copies of any such survey shall be distributed to the Umatilla Confederated Tribes and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for review and comment.
- b. Specific studies as required under Title 22.10 RMC (Critical Areas Ordinance) whenever a proposed development site is located within or in proximity to an area that exhibits characteristics of a wetland, critical wildlife habitat, or other identified critical area.

Setbacks:

No setbacks from property boundaries are required in the CR district, except those required by Shoreline, Critical Area Regulations, Building or Fire Codes.

The maximum building height of 40 feet is permitted within the Urban Recreation district.

Existing Code Definitions:**Art galleries.**

“Art galleries” means establishments or other private or public places intended primarily for art exhibitions where people may view and/or purchase paintings, sculptures, or other works.

“**Cultural institution**” means establishments such as museums, art galleries, and botanical and zoological gardens of historic, educational or cultural interests which are not operated for profit.

Health spa.

“Health spa” means a commercial facility providing body treatments, massage, gyms, spas, health and wellness activities and similar services.

Hotel.

“**Hotel**” means any building or portion thereof containing six or more guest rooms, which is used, designed, or intended to be used, let, or hired out to be occupied, or which is occupied by six or more individuals for compensation, whether the compensation be paid directly or indirectly.

Portable food vendor.

“Portable food vendor” means the vending of food and/or beverages from a movable cart-type stand which is located on the same lot as, and in conjunction with, a permitted use. Portable food vending stands cannot be self-propelled, must serve only walk-up customers, and may not be stored outdoors when the portable food vendor is not open for business.

“**Recreational vehicle campground**” means a lot or parcel of land occupied or intended for occupancy by recreational vehicles or tents for travel, recreational or vacation usage for short periods of stay subject to the provisions of this title.

Restaurant.

“Restaurant” means a retail establishment engaged in the preparation and sale of food and beverages, including coffee shops, sandwich shops, ice cream parlors, fast food take-out, espresso stands, and similar uses. The term “restaurant” can be further described by the following types:

- A. Restaurant, Drive-Through. A “restaurant” which has one or more drive-through lanes for ordering and dispensing of food and beverages to patrons remaining in their vehicles, for consumption off the premises. A drive-through restaurant may also have seating facilities.
- B. Restaurant, Lounge. A restaurant which includes licensed on-site provision of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises as an accessory to food service.
- C. Restaurant, Sit-Down. A restaurant at which all food and drink is consumed on the premises.
- D. Restaurant, Take-Out. A restaurant that offers a take-out service whereby food may be consumed off the premises. A take-out restaurant may also have seating facilities.

Specialty retail store.

“Specialty retail store” means one of a wide variety of stores involved in the retail sale of one or more general categories of specialty goods and merchandise, including but not limited to the

following types of specialty stores: sporting goods, bicycles, glassware and chinaware, fishing tackle, music, greeting cards, jewelry, toys, hobby supplies, games, cameras, gifts and souvenirs, sewing supplies, tobacco products, newspapers, magazines, and comic books, religious supplies, guns and gun supplies or other miscellaneous goods

Theater.

“Theater” means a facility used by and for the performing arts but not including cinema

New Code Definition:

“**Cultural heritage uses**” means a variety of uses traditionally practiced by Native Americans, including public gatherings, festivals, and camping. Modern interpretation of these uses would include buildings used as meeting centers, performing arts buildings, RV campgrounds, sales of locally produced foods and handcrafted items and similar uses.

“**Lodge**” means a building or portion thereof, used for overnight accommodation that takes advantage of or is in some way affiliated with a natural setting. Lodges can be a maximum of three stories in height.

“**Outdoor Theater**” means an outdoor facility used by and for the performing arts.

“**Sporting Good Rentals**” means a business engaged in short term rentals of outdoor related sporting goods such as bicycles, kayaks, paddle boards or similar items.

PUBLIC USE ZONING DISTRICTS

Draft 7-12-17

Sections:

23.30.010 Purpose of public use districts.

23.30.020 Public use districts permitted land uses.

23.30.030 Site requirements for public use districts.

23.30.040 Parking standards for public use districts.

23.30.010 Purpose of public use districts.

A. The parks and public facilities district (PPF) is a special use classification intended to provide areas for the retention of public lands necessary for open spaces, parks, playgrounds, trails and structures designed for public recreation and to provide areas for the location of buildings and structures for public education, recreation and other public and semi-public uses. This zoning classification is intended to be applied to those portions of the city that are designated as developed open space and public facility under the city of Richland comprehensive plan.

B. The natural open space use district (NOS) is a special use classification intended to provide area for the retention of publicly owned, natural open spaces that, due to their proximity to wetlands, shorelines, floodplains or critical habitat areas, are too sensitive for intensive use or development. This zoning classification is intended to be applied to those portions of the city that are designated as natural open space under the city of Richland comprehensive plan. [Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 04-09].

C. The urban recreational district (UR) is a special district providing for the establishment of uses that are intended to provide the public with places to gather for public events as well as provide some limited urban amenities as well as passive recreation and open space uses. It is the intent of the UR district to provide for a disbursed pattern of development that recognizes and protects both culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. This zoning classification is intended for those portions of the City that are publically owned and designated as commercial recreation under the Richland comprehensive plan. The UR district is intended to be used in conjunction with Title 26 RMC, the City Shoreline Master Program, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements when applicable and with Title 22 RMC, the City's Critical Areas Ordinance.

23.30.020 Public use districts permitted land uses.

In the following chart, land use classifications are listed on the vertical axis. Zoning districts are listed on the horizontal axis.

A. If the symbol “P” appears in the box at the intersection of the column and row, the use is permitted, subject to the general requirements and performance standards required in that zoning district.

B. If the symbol “S” appears in the box at the intersection of the column and row, the use is permitted subject to the special use permit provisions contained in Chapter [23.46](#) RMC.

C. If the symbol “A” appears in the box at the intersection of the column and the row, the use is permitted as an accessory use, subject to the general requirements and performance standards required in the zoning district.

D. If a number appears in the box at the intersection of the column and the row, the use is subject to the general conditions and special provisions indicated in the corresponding note.

E. If no symbol appears in the box at the intersection of the column and the row, the use is prohibited in that zoning district.

Land Use	PPF	NOS	UR
Public/Quasi-Public Uses			
Alternative School	P ¹		
Churches	P ²		
Clubs or Fraternal Societies	P ²		
Cultural Institutions	P ²		P
Cultural Heritage Uses			P
General Park Maintenance and Operations	P	P	P
Golf Courses	P		
Passive Open Space Uses	P	P	P
Power Transmission and Irrigation Wasteway Easements and Utility Uses	P ³	P ³	P
Public Agency Buildings	P ³	P ³	
Public Agency Facilities	P ³	P ³	
Public Campgrounds	P		P
Public Parks	P	P	P
Schools	P ⁴		

Land Use	PPF	NOS	<u>UR</u>
Special Events Including Concerts, Tournaments, and Competitions, Fairs, Festivals and Similar Public Gatherings	P		<u>P</u>
Trail Head Facilities	P	P	<u>P</u>
Trail for Equestrian, Pedestrian or Nonmotorized Vehicle Use	P	P	<u>P</u>
Recreational Uses			
Art Galleries	P		<u>P</u>
Boat Mooring Facilities	P		
<u>Outdoor Theatre</u>			<u>P</u>
Recreational Vehicle Campgrounds			<u>P</u>
Retail Uses			
Concessionaire	P ⁶	P ⁶	<u>P</u>
Health Spas			<u>P</u>
<u>Lodges</u>			<u>P</u>
Parking Lot	P	S ⁵	<u>P</u>
<u>Portable Food Vendors</u>			<u>P</u>
<u>Restaurant Sit-Down</u>			<u>P</u>
<u>Restaurant Lounge</u>			<u>P</u>
<u>Specialty Retail Stores</u>			<u>P</u>
<u>Sporting Good Rentals</u>			<u>P</u>
Miscellaneous Uses			
Micro- and Macro-Antennas	P		
On-Site Hazardous Waste Treatment and Storage	A	A	
Cemetery	P		

1. RMC [23.42.260](#)
2. RMC [23.42.050](#)
3. RMC [23.42.200](#)
4. RMC [23.42.250](#)
5. RMC [23.42.183](#)

[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; Ord. 13-08; Ord. 04-09].

23.30.030 Site requirements for public use districts.

A. A lot in a parks and public facilities district shall have at least an area sufficient to satisfy the requirements for minimum yard and off-street parking as required by this title.

B. The minimum yard requirements in the parks and public facilities district shall be the same as those in the adjacent zone district. Where there is more than one zone district adjacent to the parks and public facilities zone district, the yard requirement in the parks and public facilities district shall be the same as the one in the adjacent zone having the most compatible setback requirement.

C. In the following chart, development standards are listed on the vertical axis. Zoning districts are listed on the horizontal axis. The number appearing in the box at the intersection of the column and row represents the dimensional standard that applies to that zoning district.

Standard	PPF	NOS	<u>UR</u>
Maximum Building Height – Main Building	55 feet	0 feet ¹	<u>40 feet</u>

1. Permanent structures designed for human occupancy are not permitted in the NOS district.

[Ord. 28-05 § 1.02; amended during 2011 recodification].

23.30.040 Parking standards for public use districts.

Off-street parking space shall be provided in parks and public facilities zones in compliance with the requirements of Chapter [23.54](#) RMC. [Ord. 28-05 § 1.02].

23.30.050 Criteria for uses in the urban recreation district.

Uses proposed within the Urban Recreation District shall comply with the following requirements:

- A cultural resource survey of the proposed development site shall be completed by a qualified professional. Copies of any such survey shall be distributed to the Umatilla Confederated Tribes and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for review and comment.
- Specific studies as required under Title 22.10 RMC (Critical Areas Ordinance) whenever a proposed development site is located within or in proximity to an area that exhibits characteristics of a wetland, critical wildlife habitat, or other identified critical area.



PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 07/12/2017

Agenda Category: Business

Prepared By:

Subject:

Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Map Updates

Request:

Key 1 - Financial Stability & Operational Effectiveness; Key 2 - Infrastructure & Facilities; Key 3 - Economic Vitality; Key 4 - Targeted Investments; Key 5 - Natural Resources Management; Key 6 - Community Amenities & Key 7 - Neighborhoods & Community Safety

Recommended Motion:

None

Summary:

In response to comments received from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, staff has suggested some changes to the land use map for the City View West area. The attached memo describes the proposed changes together with maps of the revised proposal, the DNR proposal and the city's original preferred alternative that is part of the draft plan update.

Attachments:

1. Memo - Comprehensive Plan Update
2. Maps

MEMORANDUM

*Community and Development Department
Planning & Development Services Division*

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: RICK SIMON, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER

DATE: JULY 12, 2017

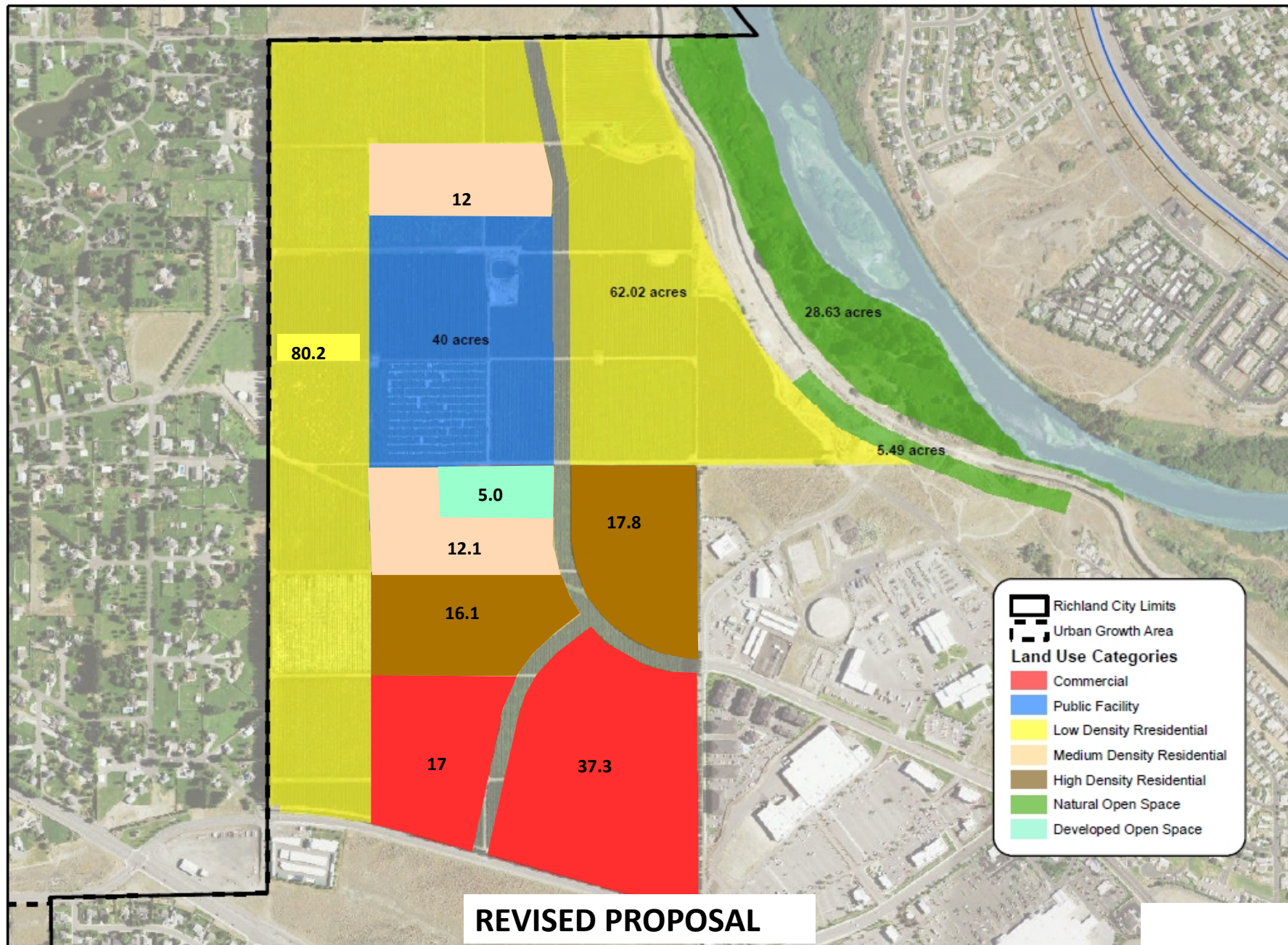
RE: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – MAP UPDATE

At a previous workshop, the Commission held a brief discussion concerning the City View West area that is under the ownership of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The draft plan included two alternative land use maps for the area, including a preferred alternative. In response to the city's circulation of the draft plan, the DNR submitted a map indicating their preferences for future land use in that area. The changes proposed by the DNR were to increase the amount of commercial and high density residential land use and to shift the location of the future school site to the north. The Commission was generally in agreement with the increased commercial land area, but wanted to retain the school site in a more central location.

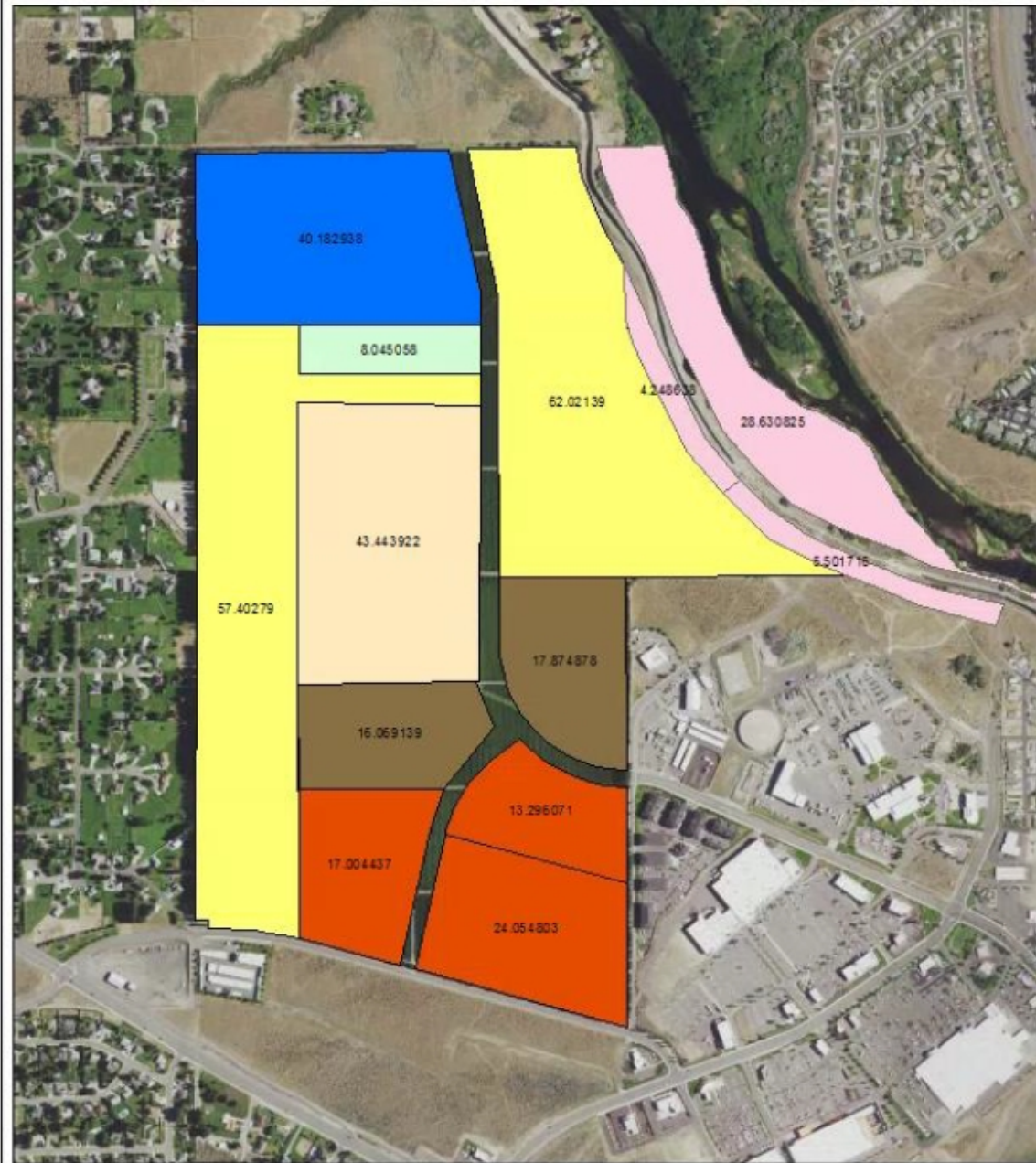
Based on that discussion, staff has developed a revised land use map for the area. This revised proposal, along with the preferred alternative identified in the draft plan and the DNR proposal are all attached. Acreages for the different land use plans are reported in the table below:

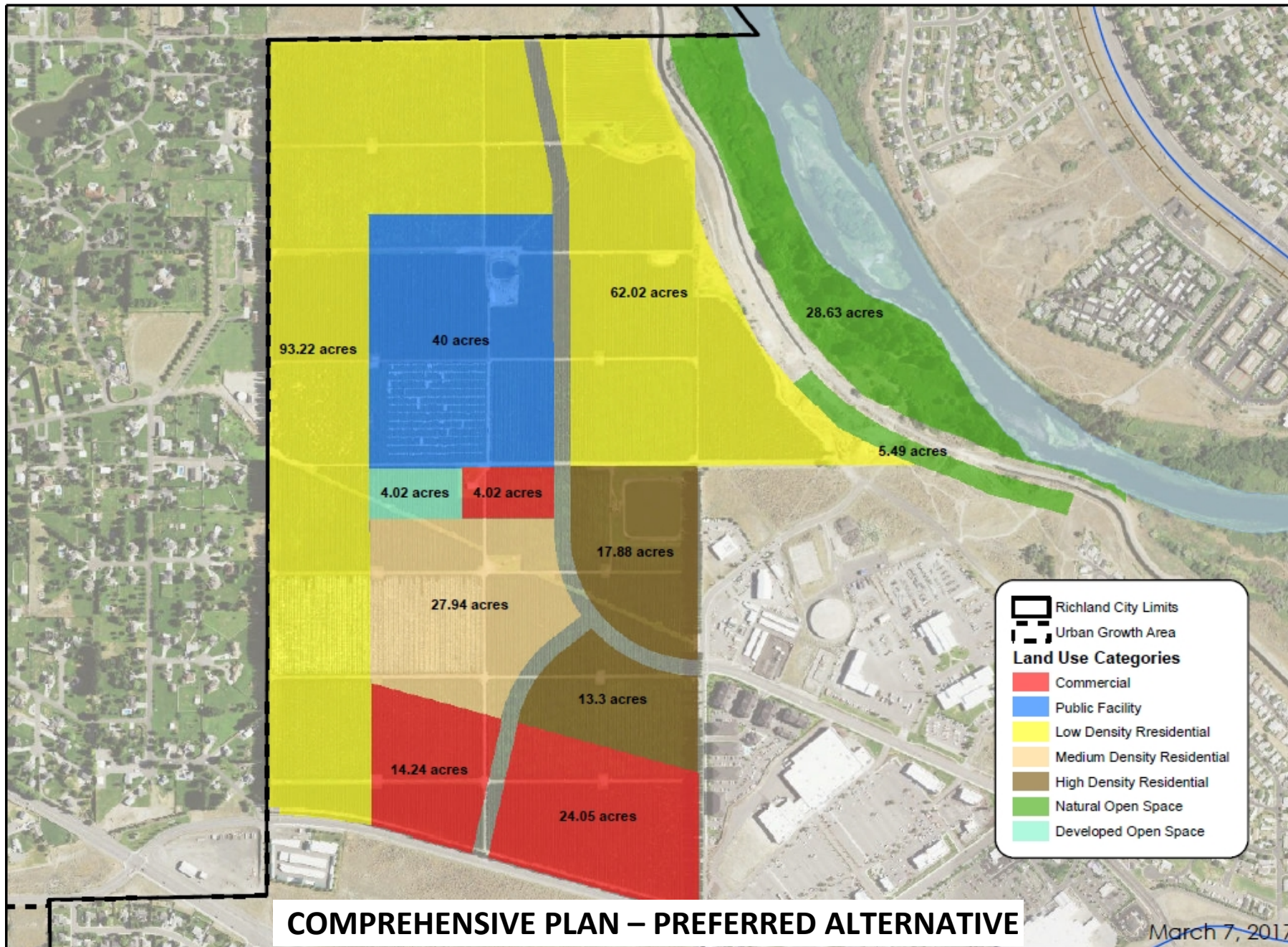
Land Use Category	Revised Proposal	Comp Plan Preferred Alternative	DNR Alternative
Low Density Residential	142.22	155.24	119.42
Medium Density Residential	25.12	27.94	43.44
High Density Residential	33.93	31.18	33.93
Commercial	54.3	42.31	54.24
Developed Open Space	5.0	4.02	8.04
Natural Open Space	34.12	34.12	39.3
Public Facility	40	40	40
Totals	334.69	334.81	338.37

If the Commission finds that the revised proposal is acceptable, the land use maps in the draft comprehensive plan will be updated to reflect the changes and the new map will be included in the version of the plan that will be presented to the Commission on the 26th for formal consideration.



DNR PROPOSAL







PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 07/12/2017

Agenda Category: Business

Prepared By: Rick Simon, Development Services Manager

Subject:

Information regarding Critical Areas Ordinance Update

Request:

Key 5 - Natural Resources Management

Recommended Motion:

None

Summary:

The attached memo and draft Critical Areas Ordinance includes the latest revisions proposed by the Kennewick Irrigation District. The memo outlines the specific changes and the rationale for them.

The intention is for the draft ordinance to be presented to the Commission at the regular meeting on the 26th for a final recommendation. If Commission members have questions or comments, please forward to staff and we will endeavor to provide responses for the meeting on the 26th.

Attachments:

1. Memo - Critical Areas Ordinance Revisions
2. Draft Critical Areas Ordinance
3. Public Comments

MEMORANDUM

Community and Development Department
Planning & Development Services Division

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: RICK SIMON, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES MANAGER

DATE: JULY 12, 2017

RE: CRITICAL AREA ORDINANCE UPDATE

As has been discussed at previous workshop sessions, the City and the Kennewick Irrigation District legal representatives have been engaged in conversation concerning the City's Critical Areas Ordinance. The KID has proposed the following minor changes to the draft, which are supported by staff. As I will not be in attendance at the workshop, I wanted to provide an explanation of the proposed amendments and the rationale for supporting them. Commissioners will have the opportunity to consider these changes and will be asked to recommend adoption of the draft Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) at the regular meeting scheduled for July 26th. Any questions regarding these changes can be directed to my email and I will endeavor to provide a response to the Commission prior to or at the regular meeting on the 26th.

The current draft ordinance, inclusive of the changes proposed by the KID is attached.

Amendment to definition of critical wildlife habitat and secondary habitat:

Proposed Change: The definition of critical wildlife habitat is found at the bottom of page 6 of the attached draft. A sentence was added to the definition of critical habitat as follows:

"Critical habitat" or "critical wildlife habitat" does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.

The same sentence was added to the definition of secondary habitat as well. (Refer to page 13 of the attached draft.)

Rationale for Change: State Law (RCW 36.70A.030(5)) provides a definition of fish and wildlife conservation areas. This definition was amended by the state legislature in 2012 and reads as follows:

"Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or

drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.”

The proposed change would simply recognize the change made to state law and include the exemption provided therein.

Impact of Proposed Change: Wildlife habitats found in Richland are typically associated with a river, a wetland area or along the Amon Basin. Wildlife corridors along the rivers would still be protected through both the critical areas regulations and the shoreline regulations. Wildlife habitat associated with wetland areas would not be impacted by this proposed code amendment either as both wildlife habitat and wetland regulations would continue to apply to those areas. Those portions of the Amon Basin that are strictly made up of artificial features would be exempted from CAO regulations. This would include the east fork of the Amon Basin. When the Clearwater Creek project was approved, the City required a study of this area to be conducted. It was the determination of the consultant preparing the study that the east fork was not a critical area. Public agencies reviewing this study did not object to this characterization of the east fork. The proposed code change would formally exempt the east fork from CAO regulations. The City would continue to apply the CAO regulations to the west fork of the basin because it has both a natural component and not just an artificial one. Wetland related protections would continue to apply to this area as well. Irrigation canals, like the South Badger Lateral Canal operated by the KID would clearly be exempted from CAO regulation, but the City has never attempted to apply CAO regulations to the canal in the past. The net impact of adding this exemption language would be to formalize the way the CAO regulations have been administered by the City in the past. The change is necessary to ensure that our local code remains consistent with state law.

Deletion of priority habitat definition

Proposed Change: The term “priority habitat” would be deleted from the definition section of the CAO. (Refer to page 10 of the attached draft.)

Rationale for Change: As staff reviewed the critical habitat definition changes as outlined above, we also reviewed priority habitat and found that it is only referenced in one location of the code, in Section 22.10.115(C) on page 22. In that reference, the code language refers to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife definition of priority habitat. A separate definition of the term is therefore unnecessary in the CAO and should be deleted to avoid any potential conflicts between the two definitions if Fish and Wildlife amends its definition in the future.

Impact of Proposed Change: None.

Addition of stormwater definition

Proposed Change: The term “stormwater” is not defined in the CAO, although it is used in the text of the ordinance. The proposed definition is found on page 13 of the attached draft and reads as follows:

“Stormwater” means runoff during and following precipitation and snowmelt events, including surface runoff, drainage and interflow and does not include irrigation surface runoff or drainage.

Rationale for change: This is the same definition of stormwater used in Title 16 of RMC, except that it specifically exempts irrigation water from the definition of stormwater. There are three references to stormwater made in the text of the CAO, including a standard that identifies that stormwater discharged into a wetland is a regulated activity (see RMC 22.10.070(H) on page 15 of the attached draft); standards for the retrofitting of stormwater detention and treatment for existing roads (see RMC 22.10.115(D) on page 23 of the attached draft); and a restriction on allowing stormwater to drain into a wetland (see RMC 22.10.125 on page 26). In all three of these cases, it is advantageous for the CAO regulations to specifically exempt irrigation overflow from stormwater standards, both for the continued operation of the KID irrigation system and to avoid any future debate regarding whether irrigation overflow should be treated before it placed back into the Amon Basin.

Impact of proposed change: The code amendment would not result in any change to how the City administers the CAO regulation. This code amendment would simply recognize the present KID practice of irrigation overflow water being dumped into the Amon Basin in a manner consistent with the original design of the KID system.

Addition of an exemption for operation of irrigation system

Proposed Change: A new exemption is proposed to be added to Section 22.10.360(I) (see page 51 of the attached draft) to read as follows:

- I. The operation, maintenance, or construction of canals, waterways, drains, reservoirs or other facilities that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by an irrigation district or company, provided that any new construction or related activity does not encroach into a critical area.*

Rationale for change: The proposed code language would provide for the continued operation of the KID system through the Amon Basin. Existing code language provides for the continued operation of existing buildings, streets, and utilities to be exempt from CAO requirements. The proposed language would specifically cover the operation of existing irrigation systems, treating them in the same manner.

Impact of proposed change: The draft code language would not result in any changes to the current operation of the KID system or in how the City administers its CAO regulations but provides a formal exemption for the continued operation of the existing irrigation system.

Public comments

Only one public comment has been received in recent weeks. An email from Patrick Paulsen is attached. His comment called for a balancing of code language in defining exemptions for wetlands and critical areas. Specifically, Mr. Paulsen indicated that the wetland exemptions not only include the specific language contained in the state law but also some guidance from regulatory agencies. The current definition of wetland (see “wetland” definition beginning at the bottom of page 13 on the attached draft) does reference the federal wetland delineation manual.

July 12, 2017 Draft

Article I. General Introduction

- 22.10.010 General purpose and intent.
- 22.10.020 General applicability of these regulations.
- 22.10.030 General relationship of regulations of one type of ~~sensitive~~ critical area protection to other regulations.
- 22.10.040 Definitions

Article II. Wetlands

- ~~22.10.050 Applicability to wetlands.~~ Reserved
- ~~22.10.060 Regulation wetlands.~~ Reserved
- 22.10.070 Regulated activities in wetlands.
- 22.10.080 Exemptions ~~to wetland regulations.~~ and allowed uses in wetlands
- 22.10.090 Wetland inventory maps.
- 22.10.100 Rating – Categories of wetland.
- 22.10.110 Wetland buffer areas.
- 22.10.115 Buffer modifications.
- 22.10.120 Wetland alteration and mitigation.
- 22.10.125 Stormwater runoff.
- 22.10.130 Mitigation standards, criteria, and plan requirements.
- 22.10.140 Wetland mitigation plan requirements.
- 22.10.150 Performance standards for wetlands mitigation planning.
- 22.10.160 Wetland monitoring program and contingency plan.
- 22.10.165 Unauthorized alterations and enforcement

Article III. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas

- ~~22.10.170 Definitions – Fish and wildlife habitat areas.~~ Reserved
- 22.10.180 Exemption from fish and wildlife regulations.
- 22.10.190 Fish and wildlife habitat inventory maps.
- ~~22.10.200 Classification of fish and wildlife habitat areas.~~ Reserved
- 22.10.210 Fish and wildlife habitat buffer areas.
- 22.10.220 Fish and wildlife habitat alteration.
- 22.10.230 Fish and wildlife habitat performance standards and incentives.

Article IV. Geologic Hazard Areas

- 22.10.240 Identification and definition.
- 22.10.250 Applicability to geological hazards.
- 22.10.260 Geologic hazard inventory maps.
- 22.10.270 Preliminary assessment.
- 22.10.280 Geologic reports and studies.
- 22.10.290 Administrative evaluation of geologic reports and studies.
- 22.10.295 Assurance.

Article V. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

- 22.10.300 Identification and definition
- 22.10.310 Critical aquifer recharge area maps
- 22.10.320 Exemptions for critical aquifer recharge area regulations
- 22.10.330 Reports and studies
- 22.10.340 Performance standards
- 22.10.350 Uses prohibited in critical aquifer recharge areas
- 22.10.360 General exemptions.
- 22.10.370 Permit process and application requirements.

- 22.10.380 Requirements of qualified consultants.
- 22.10.390 Land divisions.
- 22.10.400 On-site density transfer for **sensitive critical** areas.
- 22.10.405 Density bonus for increased buffers
- 22.10.410 General procedural provisions.
- 22.10.420 General savings provision – Reasonable use.
- 22.10.430 No special duty created.
- 22.10.440 Severability.

22.10.010 General purpose and intent.

- A. **Sensitive Critical** areas perform many important biological and physical functions that benefit the city of Richland and its residents.

These functions include, but are not limited to, the following (by type):

1. Wetlands: helping to maintain water quality; storing and conveying stormwater and flood water; recharging and discharging ground water; contributing to stream flow during low flow periods; stabilizing stream banks and shorelines; providing important wildlife habitat providing food, breeding, nesting and/or rearing habitat for fish and wildlife; improving water quality through biofiltration, adsorption and retention and transformation of sediments, nutrients and toxicants and serving as areas for recreation, educational and scientific study, and aesthetic appreciation; such beneficial functions are widely known as eco-system services; and
 2. Fish and wildlife habitat areas: maintaining species diversity and genetic diversity of local flora and fauna; providing opportunities for food, cover, nesting, breeding and movement for fish and wildlife; serving as areas for recreation, educational and scientific study and aesthetic appreciation; helping to maintain air and water quality; controlling erosion; and providing neighborhood separation and visual diversity within urban areas.
 3. In addition, certain portions of the city of Richland are characterized by geologic hazards that pose a risk to public and private property, to human life and safety and to the natural systems that make up the environment of the city of Richland. These lands are affected by natural processes that make them susceptible to landslides, seismic activity, and/or severe erosion. The city of Richland maintains that protection of **sensitive critical** areas and regulation of geologic hazards are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
 4. In addition, certain portions of the City are located within critical aquifer recharge areas that pose a risk to public health and safety. These lands are susceptible to the degradation of ground water quality and quantity that could potentially impact potable water systems.
- B. This section of the Richland Municipal Code contains standards, guidelines, criteria and requirements intended to identify, analyze, avoid and mitigate probable impacts to the city of Richland's **sensitive critical** areas ~~and geologic hazard areas~~ and to enhance and restore them when possible. The intent of these regulations is to protect ecological functions, avoid environmental impacts where such avoidance is feasible and reasonable. In appropriate circumstances, impacts to ~~sensitive and geologic hazard~~ **sensitive critical** areas that result from regulated activities may be minimized, rectified, reduced and/or compensated for, consistent with the requirements of this section. The city of Richland's goal shall be to achieve no net loss of wetlands

and to avoid probable impacts, to the extent practical, to ~~fish and wildlife habitat and within geologic hazard~~ other critical areas.

C. It is the intent of this ~~section~~ chapter to:

1. Implement the goals and policies of the city of Richland's comprehensive plan, including those goals and policies that pertain to natural features and environmental protection; ~~aesthetics and community character; adequate housing and infrastructure; opportunities for economic development; creation of a balanced transportation system; adequate public facilities; and achievement of a mix of land use types and densities consistent with the city of Richland's land use plan;~~

2. Recognize and protect the beneficial functions of critical ~~Protect sensitive~~ areas through the application of the most current, accurate, and complete scientific or technical information available as determined according to WAC 173-26-201(2)(a), and in consultation with state and federal agencies and other qualified professionals and integrate the full spectrum of state, tribal, and federal programs;

3. Serve as a basis for exercise of the city of Richland's substantive authority under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the city of Richland's SEPA rules;

4. Comply with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and implementing rules; and

5. Coordinate environmental review and permitting of proposals to avoid duplication and delay.

D. The city of Richland further notes that Benton County, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Department of Ecology have identified and mapped some portions of the city of Richland – based on topographic, geologic, hydrologic, and habitat characteristics – where the conditions indicate that sensitive areas or geologic hazards may exist. Additional study and mapping are needed to verify that such conditions do prevail and are needed to identify other areas that are potentially ~~geologic hazards sensitive~~ critical areas. Mapping will enable the city of Richland to provide notice of the potential presence of ~~sensitive~~ critical areas or the risks associated with developing lands subject to geologic hazards to the public. It should be noted that the boundaries of the ~~sensitive~~ critical areas and geologic hazard areas displayed on these maps are approximate and are not intended to be used for individual site assessment. When differences occur between what is illustrated on these maps and current site conditions, the actual presence or absence of environmentally ~~sensitive~~ critical areas or geologic hazard areas on the site shall determine the action to be taken.

E. Compliance with the provisions of this chapter does not constitute compliance with other federal, state and local regulations. Other permits, including but not limited to HPA permits, Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits, and/or NPDES permits may be required. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with other requirements apart from the provisions of this chapter.

22.10.020 General applicability of these regulations.

- A. The provisions of these regulations shall apply to any activity that affects critical areas or their established buffers unless otherwise exempt.
- B. To avoid duplication, the following permits and approvals shall be subject to and coordinated with the requirements of these regulations: ~~clearing and~~ grading; subdivision or short subdivision; building permit; planned unit development; shoreline substantial development; variance; ~~conditional and special~~ use permits, and other permits leading to the development or alteration of land, rezones and annexations. The City shall not approve any permit or otherwise issue any authorization to alter the condition of any land, water or vegetation, or to construct or alter any structure or improvement in, over or on a critical area or associated buffer, without first assuring compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

22.10.030 General relationship of regulations of one type of ~~sensitive~~ critical area protection to other regulations.

These regulations shall apply as an overlay and in addition to zoning, land use and other regulations, including critical areas regulations, established by the city of Richland. The provisions of this chapter apply whether or not a permit or other type of City approval is being sought

- A. Areas characterized as ~~sensitive~~ critical may also be subject to other regulations established by this chapter due to the overlap or multiple functions of some sensitive or critical areas. For example, some landslide hazard areas (e.g., steep slopes) adjacent to wetlands may be regulated by buffering requirements according to the wetland management provisions of this chapter. Wetlands may be defined and regulated according to the wetland section and habitat management provisions of this chapter. In the event of any conflict among regulations in this chapter or with any other regulations of the City of Richland for a particular ~~sensitive~~ critical area, those regulations that provide greater protection to the environmentally ~~sensitive~~ or critical area shall apply.
- B. ~~These sensitive area regulations shall apply as an overlay and in addition to zoning, land use, and other regulations established by the city of Richland. In the event of any conflict between these regulations and any other regulations of the city of Richland, the regulations which provide greater protection to environmentally sensitive areas shall apply.~~

22.10.040 Definitions — ~~Wetlands~~.

For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:

“Administrator” means such person as the City Manager of the City of Richland shall designate to administer and enforce the provisions of this title.

“Applicant” means the person, party, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity that proposes any activity that could affect a ~~wetland~~. ~~sensitive~~ critical area.

“Agricultural activities, existing and ongoing” includes those activities conducted on lands defined in RCW 84.34.020(2), and those activities involved in the production of crops and livestock, including, but not limited to, operation and maintenance of farm and stock ponds or drainage ditches, irrigation systems, changes between agricultural activities, and normal operation, maintenance or repair of existing serviceable structures, facilities or improved areas. Activities that bring a previously nonagricultural area

into agricultural use are not part of an ongoing activity. An operation ceases to be ongoing when the area on which it was conducted is proposed for conversion to a nonagricultural use or has lain idle for a period of longer than five years, unless the idle land is registered in a federal or state soils conservation program.

~~“Artificially created wetland” means wetlands created through purposeful action from nonwetland sites, including but not limited to irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscaping amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands. (Term not used in text of code)~~

~~“Best available science” means use of a valid scientific process that includes the following:~~

~~1. Peer Review. The information has been critically reviewed by other persons who are qualified professionals or based on scientific publications.~~

~~2. Method. The methods used to obtain the information are clearly stated and able to be replicated. The methods are standardized in the pertinent scientific discipline or, if not, the methods have been appropriately peer-reviewed to assure their reliability and validity.~~

~~3. Logical conclusions and reasonable inferences. The conclusions presented are based on reasonable assumptions supported by other studies and consistent with the general theory underlying the assumptions. The conclusions are logically and reasonably derived from the assumptions and supported by the data presented. Any gaps in information and inconsistencies with other pertinent scientific information are adequately explained.~~

~~4. Quantitative Analysis. The data has been analyzed using appropriate statistical or quantitative methods.~~

~~5. Context. The information is placed in proper context. The assumptions, analytical techniques, data, and conclusions are appropriately framed with respect to the prevailing body of pertinent scientific knowledge.~~

~~6. References. The assumptions, analytical techniques, and conclusions are well referenced with citations to relevant, credible literature and other pertinent existing information. (Term not used in text of code)~~

“Best available science” means current scientific information used in the process to designate, protect, or restore critical areas that is derived from a valid scientific process as defined by WAC 365-195-900 through 925.

~~“Best management practices (BMPs)” excludes existing, ongoing, and new agricultural activities outside of sensitive areas and their buffers.~~ BMPs are current and evolving conservation practices, or systems of practices, management or operational measures, or design and construction techniques; or normal and accepted industry standards that are applied to land use activity in a manner which:

A. Controls soil loss and reduces water surface and ground water quality degradation caused by nutrients, wastes, toxics, and sediment; and

B. Minimizes and mitigates adverse impacts to the natural chemical, physical and biological environment of the city; and

C. Utilizes the city’s natural resources on a long-term, sustainable yield basis.

D. Protect trees, vegetation, and soils designated to be retained during and following site construction and use native plant species appropriate to the site for revegetation of disturbed areas; and
E. Prevent contamination of surface and groundwater resources, and protect from impacts to native and other desirable vegetation with BMPs for chemical pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer applications.

“Buffer” means an area adjacent to a critical area that functions to avoid loss or diminution of the ecologic functions and values of the critical area. Specifically, a buffer may:

- Preserve the ecologic functions and values of a system including, but not limited to, providing microclimate conditions, shading, input of organic material, and sediments; room for variation and changes in natural wetland, river, or stream characteristics; providing for habitat for lifecycle stages of species normally associated with the resource; and
- Physically isolate a critical area such as a wetland, river, or stream from potential disturbance and harmful intrusion from surrounding uses using distance, height, visual, and/or sound barriers, and generally including dense native vegetation, but also may include human-made features such as wildlife friendly fences and other barriers;
- Act to minimize risk to the public from loss of life, well-being, or property damage resulting from natural disasters such as from landslide or flooding.

~~“Channel migration zone” means the area along a river within which the channel(s) can be reasonably predicted to migrate over time as a result of natural and normally occurring hydrological and related processes when considered with the characteristics of the river and its surroundings. For the purpose of this program, the channel migration zone excludes areas separated from the active river channel by legally existing artificial structures that are likely to restrain channel migration including, but not limited to, flood control facilities, transportation facilities, and structures built above or constructed to remain intact through the 100-year flood. (Term not used in text of code.)~~

“Clearing” means the removal of trees, brush, grass, ground cover, or other vegetative matter from a site which exposes the earth’s surface of the site.

~~“Creation” means the production or formation of a wetland through artificial means from an upland (dry) site.~~ (wetland) means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop a wetland on an upland or deepwater site, where a wetland did not previously exist. Establishment results in a gain in wetland acreage [and function]. [A typical action is the excavation of upland soils to elevations that will produce a wetland hydroperiod and hydric soils, and support the growth of hydrophytic plant species.]

“Critical habitat” or “critical wildlife habitat” means habitat areas associated with threatened, endangered, sensitive, or priority species of plants or wildlife which, if altered, could reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term. Such areas are documented with reference to lists, categories and definitions of species promulgated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Non-Game Data System Special Animal Species); or by rules and regulations adopted currently or hereafter by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Critical habitat” also includes the following types of areas:

- A. Regionally rare native fish and wildlife habitat (i.e., one of five or fewer examples of the habitat within the Mid-Columbia region).

B. Fish and wildlife areas with irreplaceable ecological functions, including but not necessarily limited to the following:

1. The areas listed as a national wildlife refuge, national park, natural area preserve or any preserve or reserve designated under WAC 332-30-151;
2. The Lake Wallula wildlife habitat areas managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the Yakima River Wildlife Management Area and the Hanford Islands in the Columbia River managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
3. Category I wetlands as defined in RMC 22.10.100;
4. State nature area preserves or natural resource conservation areas identified by state law and managed by the Department of Natural Resources;
5. Documented habitat, other than accidental presence, of threatened or endangered species;
6. Documented habitat, other than accidental presence, of regional or national significance for migrating birds.

“Critical habitat” or “critical wildlife habitat” does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.

~~“Department” means the city of Richland community and development services group.~~

“Earth/earth material” means naturally occurring rock, soil, stone, sediment, or combination thereof.

~~“Enhancement” means the improvement of an existing viable wetland or buffer, such as by increasing plant diversity, increasing wildlife habitat, installing environmentally compatible erosion controls, or removing nonindigenous plant or pest animal species.~~

“Enhancement” (habitats in general) means the improvement of existing habitat such as by increasing plant density or structural diversity, or by removing nonindigenous or noxious species.

Enhancement (wetlands) means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland to heighten, intensify, or improve specific function(s) or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for specified purposes such as water quality improvement, flood water retention, or wildlife habitat. Enhancement results in a change in wetland function(s) and can lead to a decline in other wetland functions, but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. [Examples are planting vegetation, controlling non-native or invasive species, and modifying site elevations to alter hydroperiods.] Activities typically consist of planting vegetation, controlling non-native or invasive species, modifying site elevations or the proportion of open water to influence hydroperiods, or some combination of these activities.

“Erosion” means wearing away of rock or soil by the gradual detachment of soil and rock fragments by water, wind, ice, and other mechanical and chemical forces.

“Erosion Hazard Areas” are areas identified by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as having a severe rill and inter-rill erosion hazard.

“Establishment” (creation) means the manipulation of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a site to develop a wetland on an upland or deepwater site where a wetland did not previously exist. Establishment results in a gain in wetland acres. Activities typically involve excavation of upland soils to

Comment [k1]: I don't know why “district or” was omitted by KID. It is a component of the RCW definition.

elevations that will produce a wetland hydroperiod, create hydric soils, and support the growth of hydrophytic plant species.

“Excavation” means the mechanical removal of earth material.

~~“Existing and ongoing agricultural activities” include those activities conducted on lands defined in RCW 84.34.020(2), and those activities involved in the production of crops and livestock, including, but not limited to, operation and maintenance of farm and stock ponds or drainage ditches, irrigation systems, changes between agricultural activities, and normal operation, maintenance or repair of existing serviceable structures, facilities or improved areas. Activities that bring a previously nonagricultural area into agricultural use are not part of an ongoing activity. An operation ceases to be ongoing when the area on which it was conducted is proposed for conversion to a nonagricultural use or has lain idle for a period of longer than five years, unless the idle land is registered in a federal or state soils conservation program. (Note: moved to: “agricultural activities, existing and ongoing”)~~

“Federal Manual” or “federal methodology” means the methodology for identifying wetlands in the field as described in the current Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands.

~~“Fill/fill materials” means a deposit of earth materials placed by human or mechanical (machine) means.~~

“Fill” means earth or any other substance or material placed in or on the ground, including earth retaining structures. In wetlands it includes any action that raises the elevation or creates dry land.

“Filling” means the act of transporting or placing (by any manner or mechanism) fill material from, to, or on any soil surface, sediment surface, or other fill material.

~~“Geotechnical report or geotechnical analysis” means a scientific study or evaluation conducted by a qualified expert that includes a description of the ground and surface hydrology and geology, estimates of susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, and the extent of risk to the health and safety of persons and property. Such a report shall include conclusions and recommendations regarding the effect of the proposed development on geologic conditions, the adequacy of the site to be developed, the impacts of the proposed development, alternative approaches to the proposed development, and measures to mitigate potential site-specific and cumulative geological and hydrological impacts of the proposed development, including the potential adverse impacts to adjacent and down-gradient properties. Geotechnical reports shall conform to accepted technical standards and must be prepared by qualified professional engineers or geologists who have professional expertise regarding the regional and local geology and processes. (Term not used in text of code.)~~

~~“Grading” means any excavating, filling, clearing, leveling, or contouring of the ground surface by human or mechanical means.~~

“Grading” means the movement or redistribution of the soil, sand, rock, gravel, sediment, or other material on a site in a manner that alters the natural contour of the land.

“Habitat management” means management of land to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. This does not imply maintaining all habitat or individuals of all species in all cases.

“Habitat map” means maps of plant cover types/communities (titled: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas) adopted by the city of Richland to indicate the potential presence of wildlife species.

“High impact land use” means land uses that are generally associated with relatively high levels of human activity or disturbance, development of structures, or substantial wetland habitat impacts. Depending on their context, high impact land uses can include, but are not limited to, residential buildings and structures, active recreation areas and facilities, commercial and industrial land uses, buildings and structures, and similar uses and activities which create a significant potential for impacts to wetlands. The context for determining the impact of a land use includes the sensitivity of the wetland, the density and intensity of adjacent development, the amount of impervious surface, the orientation of proposed buildings and structures and other relevant factors as determined in an individual case.

“In-kind mitigation” means replacement of wetlands with substitute wetlands whose characteristics closely approximate those destroyed or degraded by a regulated activity.

“Landslide Hazard Areas” are areas that are potentially subject to landslides based on a combination of geologic, topographic, and hydrologic factors. They include any areas susceptible because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope (gradient), slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other factors. Landslide hazard areas include, but are not limited to, the following types of areas:

1. Areas delineated by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as having a severe limitation for building site development;
2. Areas designated as quaternary slumps, earthflows, mudflows, lahars, or landslides on maps published by the United States Geological Survey or Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology and Earth Resources;
3. Areas with all three of the following characteristics:
 - a. Areas with slope steeper than 15 percent;
 - b. Hillsides intersecting geologic contacts with a relatively permeable sediment overlying a relatively impermeable sediment or bedrock; and
 - c. Springs or ground water seepage;
4. Areas that have shown movement during the holocene epoch (from 10,000 years ago to the present) or which are underlain or covered by mass wastage debris of that epoch;
5. Areas with slopes that are parallel or subparallel to planes of weakness (such as bedding planes, joint systems, and fault planes) in subsurface materials;
6. Areas with slopes having gradients steeper than 80 percent subject to rockfall during seismic shaking;
7. Areas potentially unstable as a result of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion and undercutting by wave action;
8. Areas that show evidence of, or on, an active alluvial fan presently or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or catastrophic flooding; or
9. Areas with a slope of 40 percent or steeper and with a vertical relief of 10 or more feet except areas composed of consolidated rock. A slope is delineated by establishing its toe and top and measured by averaging the inclination over at least 10 feet of vertical relief.

“Low impact land use” means land uses that are typically associated with relatively low levels of human activity, disturbance or development and that are conducted in a manner as to minimize impacts to the buffer. Low impact land uses may include:

- A. Conservation or restoration activities aimed at protecting the soil, water, vegetation, or wildlife;
- B. Passive recreation, including walkways or trails located in the outer 25 percent of the buffer area;
- C. Educational and scientific research activities, provided prior approval is obtained from the approval authority;
- D. Normal and routine maintenance and repair of any existing public or private facilities, provided appropriate measures are undertaken to minimize impacts to the wetland and its buffer and that disturbed areas are restored immediately to a natural condition; or
- E. Agricultural land uses that do not create a significant probable wetland impact.

“Mitigation” means a series of prioritized actions that when achieved in full ensures project impacts will result in no net loss of habitat value or fish and wildlife populations.

“Mitigation” involves actions that proceed in sequence from the highest to the lowest priority as follows:

- A. Avoiding impacts to environmentally ~~sensitive~~ critical areas by not taking action or parts of actions.
 - B. Minimizing impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
 - C. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
 - D. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
 - E. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.
- While monitoring alone is not considered mitigation for purposes of these regulations, it may be part of a comprehensive mitigation program.

F. Monitoring the hazard or other required mitigation and taking remedial action when necessary.

“Native vegetation” means vegetation indigenous to the area in question.

~~“Out-of-kind mitigation” means replacement of wetlands with substitute wetlands whose characteristics do not closely approximate those destroyed or degraded by a regulated activity.~~

~~“Permanent erosion control” means continuous on-site and off-site control measures that are needed to control conveyance or deposition of earth, and turbidity or pollutants after development, construction, or restoration. (Term not used in text of code.)~~

Preservation (wetlands) means the removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, wetland conditions by an action in or near a wetland. This term includes the purchase of land or easements, repairing water control structures or fences, or structural protection. Preservation does not result in a gain of wetland acres [but may result in a gain in functions over the long term].

~~“Priority habitat” means a habitat type with unique or significant value to one or more species. An area classified and mapped as priority habitat must have one or more of the following attributes:~~

- ~~• Comparatively high fish or wildlife density;~~
- ~~• Comparatively high fish or wildlife species diversity;~~
- ~~• Fish spawning habitat;~~
- ~~• Important wildlife habitat;~~
- ~~• Important fish or wildlife seasonal range;~~
- ~~• Important fish or wildlife movement corridor;~~
- ~~• Rearing and foraging habitat;~~
- ~~• Important marine mammal haul-out;~~

- Refugia habitat;
- Limited availability;
- High vulnerability to habitat alteration;
- Unique or dependent species; or
- Shellfish bed.

A priority habitat may be described by a unique vegetation type or by a dominant plant species that is of primary importance to fish and wildlife (such as oak woodlands or eelgrass meadows or shrub steppe habitat). A priority habitat may also be described by a successional stage (such as, old growth and mature forests). Alternatively, a priority habitat may consist of a specific habitat element (such as a consolidated marine/estuarine shoreline, talus slopes, caves, snags) of key value to fish and wildlife. A priority habitat may contain priority and/or nonpriority fish and wildlife

"Priority species" means species requiring protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their persistence at genetically viable population levels. Priority species are those that meet any of the criteria listed below.

- Criterion 1. State-listed or state proposed species. State-listed species are those native fish and wildlife species legally designated as endangered threatened or sensitive. State proposed species are those fish and wildlife species that will be reviewed by the department of fish and wildlife for possible listing as endangered, or threatened.
- Criterion 2. Vulnerable aggregations. Vulnerable aggregations include those species or groups of animals susceptible to significant population declines, within a specific area or statewide, by virtue of their inclination to congregate. Examples include heron colonies, seabird concentrations, and marine mammal congregations.
- Criterion 3. Species of recreational, commercial, and/or tribal importance. Native and nonnative fish, shellfish, and wildlife species of recreational or commercial importance and recognized species used for tribal ceremonial and subsistence purposes that are vulnerable to habitat loss or degradation.
- Criterion 4. Species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as either proposed, threatened, or endangered.

"Qualified consultant," for purposes of these regulations, shall mean a professionally trained and/or certified wildlife biologist or ecologist or other professional with expertise in the scientific disciplines necessary to identify, evaluate and manage habitat.

"Qualified professional" for the purpose of these regulations, shall mean a person with experience and training in the pertinent scientific discipline, and who is a qualified scientific expert with expertise appropriate for the relevant critical area subject in accordance with WAC 365-195-905(4). A qualified professional must have obtained a B.S. or B.A. or equivalent degree in biology, ecology, engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, geomorphology, or related field, and two years of related work experience.

- A qualified professional for habitats or wetlands must have a degree in biology, ecology or related field and professional experience related to the subject species. A Qualified wetland specialist" is further defined below.
- A qualified professional for a geological hazard must be a professional engineer or geologist, licensed in the state of Washington.

- C. A qualified professional for critical aquifer recharge areas means a hydrogeologist, geologist, engineer, or other scientist with experience in preparing hydrogeologic assessments.

“Qualified wetland specialist” means a person or firm with experience and training in wetland issues, and with experience in performing delineations, analyzing wetland impacts, and recommending wetland mitigation and restoration. Qualifications include:

- A. A Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree in biology, botany, ecology, environmental studies, fisheries, soil science, wildlife or related field, and two years of related work experience, including a minimum of one year of experience delineating wetlands using the Unified Federal Manual preparing wetland reports. Additional education may substitute for one year of related work experience; or
- B. Four years of related work experience and training, with a minimum of two years’ experience delineating wetlands with the Unified Federal Manual and preparing wetland reports.

~~Qualified Consultant. A “qualified wetland specialist” means a person or firm with experience and training in wetland issues, and with experience in performing delineations, analyzing wetland impacts, and recommending wetland mitigation and restoration. Qualifications include:~~

~~A. A Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts or equivalent degree in biology, botany, or environmental studies, fisheries, soil science, wildlife or related field, and two years of related work experience, including a minimum of one year of experience delineating wetlands using the Unified Federal Manual preparing wetland reports. Additional education may substitute for one year of related work experience; or~~

~~B. Four years of related work experience and training, with a minimum of two years’ experience delineating wetlands with the Unified Federal Manual and preparing wetland reports.~~

“Re-establishment:” means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former wetland. Re-establishment results in a gain in wetland acres (and functions). Activities could include removing fill material, plugging ditches, or breaking drain tiles.

“Regulated activity” means activities occurring in or near and/or potentially affecting a wetland or wetland buffer that are subject to the provisions of this section. Regulated activities generally include, but are not limited to, any filling, dredging, dumping or stockpiling, draining, excavation, flooding, construction or reconstruction, driving pilings, obstructing, shading, clearing or harvesting.

“Rehabilitation” (wetland): means the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural or historic functions [and processes] of a degraded wetland. Rehabilitation results in a gain in wetland function but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. [Activities could involve breaching a dike to reconnect wetlands to a floodplain or returning tidal influence to a wetland.]

"Restore", "Restoration" or "ecological restoration" means the reestablishment or upgrading of impaired natural or enhanced ecological shoreline processes or functions. This may be accomplished through measures including but not limited to re-vegetation, removal of intrusive shoreline structures and removal or treatment of toxic materials. Restoration does not imply a requirement for returning the shoreline area to pre-Columbia Basin Project, aboriginal or pre-European settlement conditions.

~~“Restoration” means the reestablishment of a viable wetland from a previously filled or degraded wetland site.~~

“Secondary habitat” or “secondary wildlife habitat” means areas with one or more of the following attributes: comparatively high wildlife density; high wildlife species richness; significant wildlife breeding habitat; significant wildlife seasonal ranges; significant movement corridors; limited availability; and/or high vulnerability. Secondary habitat offers less diversity of animal and plant species than critical habitat, but is important for performing the essential functions of habitat. “Secondary habitat” does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company.

“Seismic Hazard Areas” are areas subject to severe risk of damage as a result of earthquake induced ground shaking, slope failure, settlement, soil liquefaction, or surface faulting. One indicator of potential for future earthquake damage is a record of earthquake damage in the past. Ground shaking is the primary cause of earthquake damage in Washington. The strength of ground shaking is primarily affected by: (1) magnitude of an earthquake; (2) distance from the source of an earthquake; (3) type of thickness of geologic materials at the surface; and (4) type of subsurface geologic structure.

“Site” means any parcel or combination of contiguous parcels where the proposed project impacts a wetland(s) or other critical area.

“Slope” means an inclined earth surface, the inclination of which is expressed as the ratio of horizontal distance to vertical distance.

“Stormwater” means runoff during and following precipitation and snowmelt events, including surface runoff, drainage and interflow and does not include irrigation surface runoff or drainage.

“Structural diversity” means the relative degree of diversity or complexity of vegetation in a habitat area as indicated by the stratification or layering of different plant communities (e.g., ground cover, shrub layer, and tree canopy); the variety of plant species; and the spacing or pattern of vegetation.

“Structure” means a permanent or temporary edifice or building, or any piece of work artificially built or composed of parts joined together in some definite manner, whether installed on, above, or below the surface of the ground or water, except for vessels;

“Substrate” means the soil, sediment, decomposing organic matter or combination of those located on the bottom surface of the wetland.

~~“Temporary erosion control” means on-site and off-site control measures that are needed to control conveyance or deposition of earth, turbidity or pollutants during development, construction, or restoration. (Term not used in text of code.)~~

“Wetland” or “wetlands” refers to areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a

prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including but not limited to irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate the conversion of wetlands or wetland areas preserved as mitigation for the conversion of wetlands. For identifying and delineating a regulated wetland, the methodology shall be done in accordance with the approved federal wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements as provided WAC 173-22-035. ~~However, wetlands do include those artificial wetlands intentionally created to mitigate conversion of wetlands.~~

“Wetland buffer area” means a naturally vegetated and undisturbed, enhanced or revegetated zone surrounding a natural, restored or newly created wetland that is an integral part of a wetland ecosystem, and protects a wetland from adverse impacts to the integrity and value of the wetland. Wetland buffers serve to moderate runoff volume and flow rates; reduce sediment, chemical nutrient and toxic pollutants; provide shading to maintain desirable water temperatures; provide habitat for wildlife; and protect wetland resources from harmful intrusion.

~~Wetland Class. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland classification scheme uses a hierarchy of systems, subsystems, classes and subclasses to describe wetland types (refer to USFWS, December 1979, Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States for a complete explanation of the wetland classification scheme). Eleven class names are used to describe wetland and deepwater habitat types. These include: forested wetland, scrub-shrub wetland, emergent wetland, moss-lichen wetland, unconsolidated shore, aquatic bed, unconsolidated bottom, rock bottom, rocky shore, stream bed, and reef. (Term not used in text of code.)~~

“Wetland delineation” means the delineation requires the actual flagging or staking in the field of the edges of the wetland by a qualified consultant or their representative.

“Wetland determination” means a report prepared by a qualified consultant that identifies, characterizes and analyzes potential impacts to wetlands consistent with applicable provisions of these regulations. A determination does not include a formal delineation.

Article 2 - Wetlands

~~22.10.050 Applicability to wetlands.~~

~~A. See RMC 22.10.020 for general applicability.~~

~~B. Nonproject actions, limited to: rezones and annexations.~~

~~22.10.060 Regulation wetlands.~~

~~A. All Category I wetlands;~~

~~B. Category II and III wetlands greater than one-half acre; and~~

~~C. Category IV wetlands greater than one acre.~~

22.10.070 Regulated activities in wetlands.

The following activities which occur in conjunction with a development application within a wetland and its associated buffer, or outside a wetland or buffer, but affecting the wetland or buffer, shall be regulated pursuant to the standards of this chapter:

- A. Removing, excavating, disturbing or dredging soil, sand, gravel, minerals, organic matter or materials of any kind;
- B. Dumping, discharging or filling with any material;
- C. Draining, flooding or disturbing the water level or water table;
- D. Driving, piling or placing obstructions;
- E. Constructing, reconstructing, demolishing or altering any structure or infrastructure if the activity results in greater impervious surface coverage;
- F. Destroying or altering vegetation including through clearing, harvesting, intentional burning, shading or planting vegetation that would alter the character of wetland;
- G. Activities that result in significant changes in water temperature, physical or chemical characteristics of wetland water sources, introduction of pollutants, including water quantity and quality as stated in Chapter 90.03 RCW and Chapter 173-201 WAC;
- H. Alteration of natural drainage patterns or any activity that results in a discharge of stormwater runoff into a wetland; and
- I. Any other activities affecting a wetland or wetland buffer not otherwise exempt from the provisions of this section. [Ord. 48-93; Ord. 23-01].

22.10.080 Exemptions ~~to wetland regulations.~~ and allowed uses in wetlands

~~A. See RMC 22.10.300 for general exemptions to all sensitive areas.~~

~~B. The following activities shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided they are conducted using best management practices on wetlands:~~

~~1. Activities involving artificially created wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including but not limited to, grass-lined swales, irrigation and drainage ditches, detention facilities, and landscape features, except wetlands created as mitigation.~~

~~C. Notwithstanding the exemptions provided by RMC 22.10.300 and by this chapter, any otherwise exempt activities occurring in or near wetlands shall comply with the intent of these standards and shall consider on-site alternatives that avoid or minimize probable wetland impacts.~~

- A. Wetlands. The following wetlands are exempt from the buffer provisions contained in this Chapter and may be filled if impacts are fully mitigated based on provisions in RMC 22.10.120

Wetland alteration and mitigation. In order to verify the following conditions, a critical area report for wetlands must be submitted.

1. All isolated Category III and IV wetlands less than 1,000 square feet that:
 - a. Are not associated with riparian areas or buffer
 - b. Are not part of a wetland mosaic.
 - c. Do not contain habitat identified as essential for local populations of priority species identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or species of local importance.
 - d. Are not a vernal pool.
 - e. Are not an alkali wetland
 - f. Do not contain aspen stands
- B. Activities Allowed in Wetlands. The activities listed below are allowed in wetlands. These activities do not require submission of a critical area report, except where such activities result in a loss of the functions and values of a wetland or wetland buffer. These activities include:
 1. Conservation or preservation of soil, water, vegetation, fish, shellfish, and/or other wildlife that does not entail changing the structure or functions of the existing wetland.
 2. The harvesting of wild crops in a manner that is not injurious to natural reproduction of such crops and provided the harvesting does not require tilling of soil, planting of crops, chemical applications, or alteration of the wetland by changing existing topography, water conditions, or water sources.
 3. Agricultural activities that are existing and ongoing, provided that they implement applicable Best management Practices (BMPs) contained in the latest editions of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Field office Technical Guide; or develop a farm conservation plan in coordination with the local conservation district. BMPs and/or farm plans should address potential impacts to wetlands from livestock, nutrient and farm chemicals, soil erosion and sediment control and agricultural drainage infrastructure. BMPs and/or farm plans should ensure that ongoing agricultural activities minimize their effects on water quality, riparian ecology, salmonid populations and wildlife habitat.
 4. Drilling for utilities/utility corridors under a wetland, with entrance/exit portals located completely outside of the wetland buffer, provided that the drilling does not interrupt the ground water connection to the wetland or percolation of surface water down through the soil column. Specific studies by a hydrologist are necessary to determine whether the ground water connection to the wetland or percolation of surface water down through the soil column will be disturbed.
 5. Enhancement of a wetland through the removal of non-native invasive plant species. Removal of invasive plant species shall be restricted to hand removal unless permits from the appropriate regulatory agencies have been obtained for approved biological or chemical treatments. All removed plant material shall be taken away from the site and appropriately disposed of. Plants that appear on the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board list of noxious weeds must be handled and disposed of according to a noxious weed control plan appropriate to that species. Re-vegetation with appropriate native species at natural densities shall occur in conjunction with removal of invasive plant species.
 6. Educational and scientific research activities.
 7. Normal and routine maintenance and repair of any existing public or private facilities within an existing right-of-way, provided that the maintenance or repair does not expand the footprint or use of the facility or right-of-way.

- C. Notwithstanding the exemptions provided by this chapter, any otherwise exempt activities occurring in or near wetlands shall comply with the intent of these standards and shall consider on-site alternatives that achieve no net loss of ecological wetland functions.

22.10.090 Wetland inventory maps.

The approximate location and extent of wetlands within the city of Richland's planning area are shown on the sensitive critical areas maps adopted as part of this section. These maps shall be used only as a general guide for the assistance of property owners and the public, as the boundaries are generalized. The actual type, extent and boundaries of wetlands shall be determined in the field by a qualified consultant according to the procedures, definitions and criteria established by this chapter. In the event of any conflict between the wetland location or designation shown on the city of Richland's maps and the criteria or standards of this chapter, the results of applying the criteria and standards during the field investigation shall control.

22.10.100 Rating – Categories of wetland.

Wetlands shall be designated Category I, Category II, Category III, or Category IV ~~or locally significant~~ according to the ~~following~~ criteria:

A. ~~Category I, II, III, and IV are~~ As set forth in the Washington State Department of Ecology's Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington, ~~October 1991 (Publication No. 91-58) or as amended. Publication #04-06-030, as may be amended in the future (hereinafter referred to as the Ecology Wetlands Rating System).~~

~~B. "Locally significant wetlands" are those that are deemed important to the city of Richland because they function as part of a water quality or flood mitigation program, are planned to be or can be integrated into an identified open space plan or system, or serve other substantial public purposes. Locally significant wetlands may be considered for acquisition by the city of Richland pursuant to land trade, purchase of a fee or lesser interest, or other appropriate mechanism.~~

22.10.110 Wetland buffer areas.

- A. The establishment of wetland buffer areas shall be required for all development proposals and activities adjacent to wetlands to protect the integrity, function and value of the wetland. Buffers shall consist of an undisturbed area of vegetation established to protect the functions and values of the wetland. The standard buffer widths assume that the buffer is vegetated with a native plant community appropriate for the ecoregion. If the existing buffer is unvegetated, sparsely vegetated, or vegetated with invasive species that do not perform needed functions, the buffer should either be planted to create the appropriate plant community or the buffer should be widened to ensure that adequate functions of the buffer are provided. Buffers shall be determined in conjunction with considerations of wetland type and quality, approved wetland alterations, and required mitigation measures. Buffers are not intended to be established or to function independently of the wetland they are established to protect; the establishment of a buffer shall not operate to prevent a use or activity that would otherwise be permitted in the wetland subject to mitigation.

- A. B. Buffers shall be measured from the wetland edge as delineated using the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual and the Arid West Regional Supplement. Buffers shall be ~~Washington State Wetlands Identification and Delineation Manual and~~ marked in the field. Required buffer widths shall be determined according to the proposed land use (Table 22.10.110(C) below) and the wetland category in Table 22.10.110(D). ~~reflect the sensitivity of the wetland and the type and intensity of human activity proposed to be conducted near the wetland.~~
- C. ~~The following buffer widths are established:~~ The following table describes the types of land use:

WETLAND CATEGORY	HIGH—IMPACT LAND-USE	LOW—IMPACT LAND-USE
Category-I	150 feet	75 feet
Category-II	100 feet	50 feet
Category-III	50 feet	25 feet
Category-IV	50 feet	25 feet

Table 22.10.110(C) - Types of Land Uses

<u>Level of Impact from Proposed Change in Land Use</u>	<u>Types of Land Use Based on Common Zoning Designations</u>
<u>High</u>	• <u>Commercial</u> • <u>Urban</u> • <u>Industrial</u> • <u>Institutional</u> • <u>Retail sales</u> • <u>Residential (more than 1 unit/acre)</u> • <u>High-intensity recreation (golf courses, ball fields, etc.)</u> • <u>Conversion to high intensity agriculture (dairies, nurseries, greenhouses, growing and harvesting crops requiring annual tilling and raising and maintaining animals, etc.)</u> • <u>Hobby Farms</u>
<u>Moderate</u>	• <u>Residential (1 unit/acre or less)</u> • <u>Moderate-intensity open space (parks with biking, jogging, etc.)</u> • <u>Paved driveways and gravel driveways serving 3 or more residences</u> • <u>Paved trails</u> • <u>Conversion to moderate intensity agriculture (orchards, hay fields, etc.)</u> • <u>Utility corridor or right-of-way shared by several utilities and including access/maintenance road</u>

Low	• <u>Low-intensity open space (hiking, bird-watching, preservation of natural resources, etc.)</u> • <u>Timber management (cutting of trees only)</u> • <u>Gravel driveways serving 2 or fewer residences</u> • <u>Unpaved trails</u> • <u>Utility corridor without a maintenance road and little or no vegetation management.</u>
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- D. ~~Buffer widths may be modified by averaging buffer widths or by enhancing buffer quality as set forth herein.~~ The following buffer widths are established:

Table 22.10.110(D) – Buffer Widths

<u>Wetland Characteristics</u>	<u>Buffer Width by Impact of Proposed Land Use</u>	<u>Other Measures Recommended for Protection</u>
<u>Category IV Wetlands (For wetlands scoring less than 16 points for all functions)</u>		
<u>Score for all 3 basic functions is less than 16 points</u>	<u>Low – 25 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 40 ft.</u> <u>High – 50 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Category III Wetlands (For wetlands scoring 16-18 points for all functions)</u>		
<u>Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 5-7 points)</u>	<u>Low – 75 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 110 ft.</u> <u>High – 150 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Score for habitat 3-4 points</u>	<u>Low – 40 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 60 ft.</u> <u>High – 80 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Category II Wetlands (For wetlands that score 19-21 points or more for all functions or having the “Special Characteristics” identified in the rating system)</u>		
<u>High level of function for habitat (score for habitat 8-9 points)</u>	<u>Low – 100 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 150 ft.</u> <u>High – 200 ft.</u>	<u>Maintain connections to other habitat areas.</u>
<u>Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 5-7 points)</u>	<u>Low – 75 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 110 ft.</u> <u>High – 150 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>High level of function for water quality improvement and low for habitat (score for water quality 8-9 points; habitat less than 5 points)</u>	<u>Low – 50 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 75 ft.</u> <u>High – 100 ft.</u>	<u>No additional surface discharges of untreated runoff</u>
<u>Riparian forest</u>	<u>Buffer width to be based on score for habitat functions or water quality functions</u>	<u>Riparian forest wetlands need to be protected at a watershed or subbasin scale</u> <u>Other protection based on needs to protect habitat</u>

<u>Wetland Characteristics</u>	<u>Buffer Width by Impact of Proposed Land Use</u>	<u>Other Measures Recommended for Protection</u>
		<u>and/or water quality functions</u>
<u>Not meeting above characteristic</u>	<u>Low – 50 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 75 ft.</u> <u>High – 100 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Category I Wetlands (For wetlands that score 22 points or more for all functions or having the “Special Characteristics” identified in the rating system)</u>		
<u>Wetlands of High Conservation Value</u>	<u>Low – 125 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 190 ft.</u> <u>High – 250 ft.</u>	<u>No additional surface discharges to wetland or its tributaries.</u> <u>No septic systems within 300 ft. of wetland.</u> <u>Restore degraded parts of buffer.</u>
<u>High level of function for habitat (score for habitat 8-9 points)</u>	<u>Low – 100 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 150 ft.</u> <u>High – 200 ft.</u>	<u>Restore degraded parts of buffer.</u> <u>Maintain connections to other habitat areas</u>
<u>Moderate level of function for habitat (score for habitat 5-7 points)</u>	<u>Low – 75 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 110 ft.</u> <u>High – 150 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>High level of function for water quality improvement (8-9 points) and low for habitat (less than 5 points)</u>	<u>Low – 50 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 75 ft.</u> <u>High – 100 ft.</u>	<u>No additional surface discharges of untreated runoff</u>
<u>Not meeting above characteristics</u>	<u>Low – 50 ft.</u> <u>Moderate – 75 ft.</u> <u>High – 100 ft.</u>	<u>None</u>

22.10.115 Buffer modifications

1. Buffer width averaging shall be allowed only where the applicant demonstrates to the department that the wetland contains variations in sensitivity due to existing physical characteristics, that lower intensity land uses would be located adjacent to areas where the buffer width is reduced, that width averaging will not adversely impact the wetland functional values, and that the total area contained within the buffer after averaging is no less than that contained within the standard buffer prior to averaging.

2. Buffer width may be reduced by up to 25 percent if the existing buffer area is vegetated with greater than 90 percent areal cover of native species and a report by a qualified wetlands specialist demonstrates that a smaller than standard wetland buffer will provide all of the buffer functions necessary to protect all functions and values of the wetland. The department may require long-term monitoring of the buffer and wetland with appropriate contingency actions if adverse impacts to the wetland occur.

~~3. Notwithstanding the reductions permitted in subsections (D)(1) and (2) of this section, buffer widths shall not be reduced by more than 50 percent of the required buffer or to less than 25 feet.~~

~~E. The minimum buffer width stated in subsection (E)(3) of this section shall be increased not more than 125 percent (buffer width x 1.25) when the qualified consultant determines, based upon a site-specific wetland analysis, that impacts on the wetland from a proposed development can only be mitigated by a greater buffer width. The standard wetland buffer width shall be increased:~~

~~1. When the adjacent land is susceptible to severe erosion and erosion control measures will not effectively prevent adverse wetland impacts; or~~

~~2. When the standard buffer has minimal or degraded vegetative cover that cannot be improved through enhancement; or~~

~~3. When the minimum buffer for a wetland extends into an area with a slope of greater than 25 percent, the buffer shall be the greater of:~~

~~a. The minimum buffer for that particular wetland; or~~

~~b. Twenty-five feet beyond the point where the slope becomes 25 percent or less.~~

~~F. Low impact uses and activities that are consistent with the purpose and function of the wetland buffer and do not detract from its integrity may be permitted within the buffer depending on the sensitivity of the wetland. Examples of uses and activities which may be permitted in appropriate cases include pedestrian trails, viewing platforms, stormwater management facilities such as grass-lined swales, and utility easements. Uses permitted within the buffer shall be located in the outer portion of the buffer as far as possible from the wetland.~~

~~G. Required buffers shall not deny all reasonable use of property. A variance from buffer width requirements may be granted by the city of Richland upon a demonstration by the applicant that:~~

~~1. There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property or to the intended use such as shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other properties and which support the granting of a variance from the buffer width requirements;~~

~~2. Such buffer width variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use possessed by other similarly situated property, but which because of special circumstances is denied to the property in question;~~

~~3. The granting of such buffer width variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvement; and~~

~~4. The granting of the buffer width variance will not materially affect the subject wetland.~~

~~5. All variances shall be in accord with RMC 23.70.110 through 23.70.170.~~

A. Buffer averaging to improve wetland protection may be permitted when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The wetland has significant differences in characteristics that affect its habitat functions, such as a wetland with a forested component adjacent to a degraded emergent component or a “dual-rated” wetland with a Category I area adjacent to a lower rated area.
 2. The buffer is increased adjacent to the higher functioning area of habitat or more sensitive portion of the wetland and decreased adjacent to the lower functioning or less sensitive portion as demonstrated by a critical areas report from a qualified wetland professional.
 3. The total area of the buffer after averaging is equal to the area required without averaging.
 4. The buffer at its narrowest point is never less than either $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required width or 75 feet for Category I and II, 50 feet for Category III, and 25 feet for Category IV, whichever is greater.
- B. Averaging to allow reasonable uses may be allowed when all of the following are met:
1. There are no feasible alternatives to the site design that could be accomplished without buffer averaging.
 2. The averaged buffer will not result in degradation of the wetland’s functions and values as demonstrated by a critical areas report from a qualified wetland professional.
 3. The total buffer area after averaging is equal to the area required without averaging.
 4. The buffer at its narrowest point is never less than either $\frac{3}{4}$ of the required width or 75 feet for Category I and II, 50 feet for Category III, and 25 feet for Category IV, whichever is greater.
- C. Reduction in buffer width based on reducing the intensity of impacts from proposed land uses
1. The buffer widths recommended for proposed land uses with high-intensity impacts to wetlands can be reduced to those recommended for moderate-intensity impacts under the following conditions:
 - a. For wetlands that score moderate or high for habitat (5 points or more for the habitat functions), the width of the buffer can be reduced if all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. A relatively undisturbed, vegetated corridor at least 100 feet wide is protected between the wetland and any other Priority Habitats as defined by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (“relatively undisturbed” and “vegetated corridor” are defined in the Washington State Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington – 2014 Update, or latest update). Priority Habitats in eastern Washington include:
 - Wetlands
 - Riparian zones
 - Cliffs
 - Urban natural open space
 - ii. The corridor must be protected for the entire distance between the wetland and the Priority Habitat by some type of legal protection such as a conservation easement.

iii. Measures to minimize the impacts of different land uses on wetlands, as applicable in Table 22.10.110(D), are applied.

b. For wetlands that score fewer than 5 points for habitat, the buffer width can be reduced to that required for moderate land-use impacts by applying applicable measures to minimize the impacts of the proposed land uses (see examples in Table 22.10.115 D).

D. Required Mitigation to minimize impacts to wetlands from changes in land uses with high impacts:

Table 22.10.115 D

<u>Types of Disturbance</u>	<u>Activities and Uses that Cause Disturbances</u>	<u>Required Mitigation</u>
<u>Lights</u>	• <u>Parking lots</u> • <u>Warehouses</u> • <u>Manufacturing</u> • <u>Residential areas</u>	• <u>Direct lights away from wetland</u>
<u>Noise</u>	• <u>Manufacturing</u> • <u>Residential areas</u>	• <u>Locate activity that generates noise away from wetland</u> • <u>If warranted, enhance existing buffer with native vegetation plantings adjacent to noise source</u> • <u>For activities that generate relatively continuous, potentially disruptive noise, such as certain heavy industry or mining, establish an additional 10' heavily vegetated buffer strip immediately adjacent to the outer wetland buffer</u>
<u>Toxic runoff*</u>	• <u>Parking lots</u> • <u>Roads</u> • <u>Manufacturing</u> • <u>Residential areas</u> • <u>Application of agricultural pesticides</u> • <u>Landscaping</u>	• <u>Route all new, untreated runoff away from wetland while ensuring wetland is not dewatered</u> • <u>Establish covenants limiting use of pesticides within 150 ft of wetland</u> • <u>Apply integrated pest management</u>
<u>Stormwater runoff</u>	• <u>Parking lots</u> • <u>Roads</u> • <u>Manufacturing</u> • <u>Residential areas</u> • <u>Commercial</u> • <u>Landscaping</u>	• <u>Retrofit stormwater detention and treatment for roads and existing adjacent development</u> • <u>Prevent channelized flow from lawns that directly enters the buffer</u> • <u>Use Low Intensity Development techniques</u>
<u>Change in water regime</u>	• <u>Impermeable surfaces</u> • <u>Lawns</u> • <u>Tilling</u>	• <u>Infiltrate or treat, detain, and disperse into buffer new runoff from impervious surfaces and new lawns</u>
<u>Pets and human</u>	• <u>Residential areas</u>	• <u>Use privacy fencing; plant dense vegetation to delineate buffer edge and to discourage disturbance</u>

<u>disturbance</u>		<u>using vegetation appropriate for the ecoregion; place wetland and its buffer in a separate tract</u>
<u>Dust</u>	• <u>Tilled fields</u>	• <u>Use BMPs to control dust</u>
* <u>These examples are not necessarily adequate for minimizing toxic runoff if sensitive, threatened or endangered species are present at the site.</u>		

- E. The minimum buffer width stated in Table 22.10.110(D) Wetland Buffer Widths shall be increased when the qualified consultant determines, based upon a site-specific wetland analysis, that impacts on the wetland from a proposed development can only be mitigated by a greater buffer width. The standard wetland buffer width shall be increased:
1. When the adjacent land is susceptible to severe erosion and erosion control measures will not effectively prevent adverse wetland impacts; or
 2. When the standard buffer has minimal or degraded vegetative cover that cannot be improved through enhancement; or
 3. When the wetland provides habitat for a species that is particularly sensitive to disturbance (listed by the federal government of the state as endangered, threatened, candidate, monitored or documented priority species or habitat for those species or has unusual nesting or resting sites such as heron rookeries or raptor nesting trees), the width of the buffer should be increased to provide adequate protection for the species based on its particular life-history needs; or
 4. When the minimum buffer for a wetland extends into an area with a slope of greater than 25 percent, the buffer shall be increased by 50 percent. the greater of:
 - a. The minimum buffer for that particular wetland; or
 - b. Twenty-five feet beyond the point where the slope becomes 25 percent or less.
- F. Low impact uses and activities (see Table 22.10.110(C)) that are consistent with the purpose and function of the wetland buffer and do not detract from its integrity may be permitted within the buffer depending on the sensitivity of the wetland. Examples of uses and activities that may be permitted in appropriate cases, based on guidance in the Wetlands and CAO Guidance for Small Cities, Eastern Washington version (dated January 2010, revised October 2012 and June 2016 and as may be amended in the future), include pedestrian trails, viewing platforms, stormwater management facilities such as grass-lined swales, and utility easements. Uses permitted within the buffer shall be located in the outer portion of the buffer as far as possible from the wetland.
- G. A variance from buffer width requirements may be granted by the city of Richland Hearing Examiner following Type II permit procedures as set forth in Title 19 of the Richland Municipal Code upon a demonstration by the applicant that the following criteria are met:
1. That the strict application of the bulk, dimensional or performance standards set forth in this title preclude, or significantly interfere with, reasonable use of the property;
 2. That the hardship described in (1) of this subsection is specifically related to the property, and is the result of unique conditions such as irregular lot shape, size, or natural features and the

application of this title, and not, for example, from deed restrictions or the applicant's own actions;

3. That the design of the project is compatible with other authorized uses within the area and with uses planned for the area under the comprehensive plan and applicable development regulations and will not cause adverse impacts to the wetland;
4. That the variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege not enjoyed by the other properties in the area;
5. That the variance requested is the minimum necessary to afford relief; and
6. That the public interest will suffer no substantial detrimental effect.

H. Signs and Fencing of Wetlands and Buffers

1. Temporary markers. The outer perimeter of the wetland buffer and the clearing limits identified in an approved permit or land use approval shall be marked in the field with temporary "clearing limits" fencing in such a way as to ensure that no unauthorized intrusion will occur. The marking is subject to inspection by the administrator prior to the commencement of permitted activities. Temporary marking shall be maintained throughout completion of all construction activities.
2. Permanent signs. As a condition of any permit or land use approval, the administrator may require the applicant to install permanent signs along the boundary of a wetland or its buffer. Permanent signs shall be made of an enamel-coated metal face and attached to a metal post. Signs, when required, shall be posted at an interval of one every fifty feet or one per lot if a lot is less than 50 feet wide and must be maintained by the property owner in perpetuity. Wording of the sign shall note the presence of a protected wetland area and/or wildlife habitat. Specific wording of the sign shall be approved by the administrator.
3. Fencing.
 - a. The applicant shall be required to install a permanent fence around the wetland or its buffer when domestic grazing animals are present or may be introduced on site.
 - b. Fencing installed as part of a proposed activity or as required by the administrator shall be designed so as not to interfere with species migration and shall be constructed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the wetland and associated habitat.

22.10.120 Wetland alteration and mitigation.

A. All adverse impacts to wetland functions and values shall be mitigated. Mitigation actions by an applicant or property owner shall occur in the following priority sequence:

1. Avoiding the impact by not taking a certain action or parts of actions or moving the action;
2. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology and engineering, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce adverse impacts;
3. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
4. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; ~~and/or~~
5. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. Preference shall be given to measures that replace the impacted functions on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the impact. However, alternative compensatory mitigation within the watershed that

addresses limiting factors or identified critical needs based on watershed or comprehensive resource management plans may be authorized.

6. Monitoring the adverse impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.

B. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the applicant or property owner shall seek to implement other appropriate mitigation actions in compliance with the intent, standards and criteria of this section. These shall include consideration of alternative site plans and building layouts and/or reduction in the density or scope of the proposal.

C. Alteration of wetlands and/or their buffers may be permitted by the ~~department~~ administrator subject to the following criteria:

1. Category I Wetlands. Alterations of Type I wetlands shall be avoided ~~subject to the reasonable use provisions of these regulations.~~

2. Category II, III and IV Wetlands.

a. Any proposed alteration and mitigation shall comply with the requirements of this section through RMC 22.10.150; and

b. Where enhancement is proposed, replacement ratios comply with the requirements of RMC 22.10.130(C); and

c. No net loss of wetland function and value will occur due to the alteration; and

d. Avoids alterations of wetlands previously enhanced or created as mitigation.

~~3. Category III Wetlands.~~

~~a. The proposed mitigation complies with the requirements of this section through RMC 22.10.150; and~~

~~b. Where enhancement is proposed, replacement ratios comply with the requirements of RMC 22.10.130(C); and~~

~~c. No net loss of wetland function and value will occur due to the alteration.~~

22.10.125 Stormwater runoff.

New development within 150 feet of a wetland buffer shall contain stormwater runoff within the developed portions of the site. No stormwater runoff shall drain into the wetland. Deviations from this standard may be approved by the ~~department~~ administrator; provided, that a study undertaken by a qualified consultant in accordance with the provisions of RMC 22.10.140 indicates that the potential discharge of stormwater runoff from a development site into a wetland is adequately mitigated to protect the functions and values of the wetland. In the case of a Category ~~3~~ III or Category ~~4~~ IV wetland, stormwater management facilities may be located within the outer 25 percent of the required wetland buffer; provided, that a determination is made that no other location is feasible and the location of such facilities will not have an adverse impact on the functions and values of the wetland.

22.10.130 Mitigation standards, criteria, and plan requirements.

~~A. Location and Timing of Mitigation.~~

- ~~1. Mitigation shall be provided on-site, except where on-site mitigation is not feasible or practical due to physical features of the property. The burden of proof shall be on the applicant to demonstrate that mitigation cannot be provided on-site.~~
- ~~2. When mitigation cannot be provided on-site, mitigation shall be provided in the immediate vicinity of and within the same watershed as the permitted activity on property owned or controlled by the applicant. When possible, this means within the same watershed as the location of the proposed project.~~
- ~~3. In-kind mitigation shall be provided except when the applicant demonstrates and the department concurs that greater functional and habitat value can be achieved through out-of-kind mitigation.~~
- ~~4. Only when it is determined by the department that subsections (A)(1), (2) and (3) of this section are inappropriate and/or impractical shall off-site, out-of-kind mitigation be considered.~~
- ~~5. Whether occurring on-site or off-site, the mitigation project shall occur near an adequate water supply (river, stream, ground water) with a hydrologic connection to the wetland to ensure a successful wetlands development or restoration.~~
- ~~6. Any agreed-upon proposal shall be completed before initiation of other permitted activities, unless a phased or concurrent schedule has been approved by the department.~~
- ~~7. Wetland acreage replacement ratios shall be as specified in subsection (C) of this section.~~

A. Types of Compensatory Mitigation. Mitigation for lost or diminished wetland and buffer functions shall rely on a type listed below in order of preference. A lower preference form of mitigation shall be used only if the applicant's qualified wetland professional demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Administrator that all higher-ranked types of mitigation are not viable, consistent with the criteria in this section.

1. Restoration: Restoration is divided into:

- a. Re-establishment.
- b. Rehabilitation.

2. Establishment (creation). If a site is not available for wetland restoration to compensate for expected wetland and/or buffer impacts, the Administrator may authorize creation of a wetland and buffer upon demonstration by the applicant's qualified wetland professional that:

- a. The hydrology and soil conditions at the proposed mitigation site are conducive for sustaining the proposed wetland and that creation of a wetland at the site will not likely cause hydrologic problems elsewhere;
- b. Adjacent land uses and site conditions do not jeopardize the viability of the proposed wetland and buffer (e.g., due to the presence of invasive plants or noxious weeds, stormwater runoff, noise, light or other impacts); and

- c. The proposed wetland and buffer will eventually be self-sustaining with little or no long-term maintenance.
- 3. Enhancement. Applications proposing to enhance wetland or associated buffers shall demonstrate how the proposed enhancement will increase the wetland's buffer's functions, how this increase in function will adequately compensate for the impacts, and how existing wetland functions at the mitigation site will be protected.
- 4. Protection/Maintenance (Preservation). Permanent protection of a Category I or II wetland and associated buffer at risk of degradation can be used only if:
 - a. The administrator determines that the proposed preservation is the best mitigation option;
 - b. The proposed preservation site is under threat of undesirable ecological change due to permitted, planned, or likely actions that will not be adequately mitigated under existing regulations;
 - c. The area proposed for preservation is of high quality or critical for the health of the watershed or basin due to its location. Some of the following features may be indicative of high-quality sites:
 - i. Category I or II wetland rating (using the wetland rating system for Eastern Washington);
 - ii. Rare or irreplaceable wetland type or aquatic habitat that is rare or a limited resource in the area;
 - iii. The presence of habitat for priority or locally important wildlife species;
 - iv. Provides biological and/or hydrological connectivity;
 - vi. Priority sites in an adopted watershed plan.
 - d. Permanent preservation of the wetland and buffer will be provided through a conservation easement or tract held by an appropriate natural land resource manager, such as a land trust.
 - e. The administrator may approve other legal and administrative mechanisms in lieu of a conservation easement if determined to be adequate to protect the site.
 - f. Ratios for preservation in combination with other forms of mitigation generally range from 10:1 to 20:1, as determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the quality of the wetlands being impacted and the quality of the wetlands being preserved. Ratios for preservation as the sole means of mitigation generally start at 20:1.

B. Location and Timing of Mitigation.

- 1. Location of Compensatory Mitigation. Compensatory mitigation actions shall be conducted within the same sub-drainage basin and on the site of the alteration except when all of a through d below apply. In that case, mitigation may be allowed off site within the subwatershed of the impact site. When considering off-site mitigation, preference should be given to using alternative mitigation, such as a mitigation bank, an in-lieu fee program, or advanced mitigation.
 - a. There are no reasonable opportunities on site or within the sub-drainage basin (e.g., on-site options would require elimination of high-functioning upland habitat), or opportunities on site or within the sub-drainage basin do not have a high likelihood of success based on a determination

of the capacity of the site to compensate for the impacts. Considerations should include: anticipated replacement ratios for wetland mitigation, buffer conditions and proposed widths, available water to maintain anticipated hydrogeomorphic classes of wetlands when restored, proposed flood storage capacity, and potential to mitigate riparian fish and wildlife impacts (such as connectivity).

- b. On-site mitigation would require elimination of high-quality upland habitat.
 - c. Off-site mitigation has a greater likelihood of providing equal or improved wetland functions than the altered wetland.
 - d. Off-site locations shall be in the same sub-drainage basin unless:
 - i. Established watershed goals for water quality, flood storage or conveyance, habitat, or other wetland functions have been established by the City and strongly justify location of mitigation at another site.
 - ii. The design for the compensatory mitigation project needs to be appropriate for its location (i.e., position in the landscape). Therefore, compensatory mitigation should not result in the creation, restoration, or enhancement of an atypical wetland. An atypical wetland refers to a compensation wetland (e.g., created or enhanced) that does not match the type of existing wetland that would be found in the geomorphic setting of the site (i.e., the water source[s] and hydroperiod proposed for the mitigation site are not typical for the geomorphic setting). Likewise, it should not provide exaggerated morphology or require a berm or other engineered structures to hold back water. For example, excavating a permanently inundated pond in an existing seasonally saturated or inundated wetland is one example of an enhancement project that could result in an atypical wetland. Another example would be excavating depressions in an existing wetland on a slope, which would require the construction of berms to hold the water.
2. Timing of Compensatory Mitigation. It is preferred that compensatory mitigation projects be completed prior to activities that will disturb wetlands. At the least, compensatory mitigation shall be completed immediately following disturbance and prior to use or occupancy of the action or development. Construction of mitigation projects shall be timed to reduce impacts to existing fisheries, wildlife, and flora.
3. The administrator may authorize a one-time, temporary delay in completing construction or installation of the compensatory mitigation when the applicant provides a written explanation from a qualified wetland professional as to the rationale for the delay. An appropriate rationale would include identification of the environmental conditions that could produce a high probability of failure or significant construction difficulties (e.g., project delay lapses past a fisheries window, or installing plants should be delayed until the dormant season to ensure greater survival of installed materials). The delay shall not create or perpetuate hazardous conditions or environmental damage or degradation, and the delay shall not be injurious to the health, safety, or general welfare of the public. The request for the temporary delay must include a written justification that documents the environmental constraints that preclude implementation of the

compensatory mitigation plan. The justification must be verified and approved by the City administrator.

C. Mitigation Performance Standards.

1. Adverse impacts to wetlands functions and values shall be mitigated. Mitigation actions shall be implemented in the preferred sequence identified in RMC 22.10.120(A). Proposals which include less preferred and/or compensatory mitigation shall demonstrate that:

a. All feasible and reasonable measures will be taken to reduce impacts and losses to the original wetland; including a description of how preferred order of wetlands mitigation was followed: 1) restoration (including reestablishment and rehabilitation); 2) creation (establishment); 3) enhancement in combination with restoration or creation; and 4) preservation of high quality, at risk wetlands.

b. Compensatory mitigation shall be allowed only after mitigation sequencing is applied and higher priority means of mitigation are determined to be infeasible, and shall achieve equivalent or greater wetland ecological functions.

~~b. c.~~ No overall net loss will occur in wetland functions and values; and

~~e. d.~~ The restored, created or enhanced wetland will be as persistent and sustainable as the wetland it replaces.

D. Wetland Replacement Ratios.

1. Where wetlands alterations are permitted by the ~~department~~ administrator, the applicant shall restore or create equivalent areas of wetlands in order to compensate for wetland losses. Equivalent areas shall be determined according to acreage, function, type, location, timing factors, and projected success of restoration or creation.

2. The following acreage replacement ratios shall be applied: used as targets. The department may vary these standards if the applicant can demonstrate and the department agrees that the variation will provide adequate compensation for lost wetland area, functions and values, or if other circumstances as determined by the department justify the variation.

WETLAND SYSTEM WETLAND CREATION AND	WETLAND CREATION AND	WETLAND ENHANCEMENT RATIO**
CATEGORY/CLASS	REPLACEMENT RATIO*	
Category I	6:1	12:1
Category II and III		
—Forested	3:1	6:1
—Scrub/Shrub or 2:1		4:1
Emergent		

WETLAND SYSTEM WETLAND CREATION AND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT RATIO**
CATEGORY/CLASS REPLACEMENT RATIO*

Category IV 1.5:1 3:1

* Acres replaced: acres altered.

** Acres enhanced: acres altered.

Table 22.10.130(C) Mitigation ratios for eastern Washington¹

Category and Type of Wetland Impacts	Re-establishment or Creation	Rehabilitation Only ²	Re-establishment or Creation (R/C) and Rehabilitation (RH) ²	Re-establishment or Creation (R, C) and Enhancement (E) ²	Enhancement Only ²
All Category IV	1.5:1	3:1	1:1 R/C and 1:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 2:1 E	6:1
All Category III	2:1	4:1	1:1 R/C and 2:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 4:1 E	8:1
Category II Forested	4:1	8:1	1:1 R/C and 4:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 6:1 E	16:1
Category II Vernal Pool	2:1 Compensation must be seasonally ponded wetland	4:1 Compensation must be seasonally ponded wetland	1:1 R/C and 2:1 RH	Case-by-case	Case-by-case
All other Category II	3:1	6:1	1:1 R/C and 4:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 8:1 E	12:1
Category I Forested	6:1	12:1	1:1 R/C and 10:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 20:1 E	24:1
Category I based on score for functions	4:1	8:1	1:1 R/C and 6:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 12:1 E	16:1
Category I Natural Heritage site	Not considered possible ³	6:1 Rehabilitation of a Natural Heritage site Case by case	R/C Not considered possible ³	R/C Not considered possible ³	Case-by-case
Category I Alkali	Not considered possible ³	6:1 Rehabilitation of an alkali wetland	R/C Not considered possible ³	R/C Not considered possible ³	Case-by-case
Category I Bog	Not considered possible ³	6:1 Rehabilitation of a bog Case by case	R/C Not considered possible ³	R/C Not considered possible ³	Case-by-case

1. Ratios for rehabilitation and enhancement may be reduced when combined with 1:1 replacement through creation or re-establishment. See Table 1b, Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part 1: Agency Policies and Guidance--Version 1, (Ecology Publication #06-06-011a, Olympia, WA, March 2006 or as revised).

2. These ratios are based on the assumption that the rehabilitation or enhancement actions implemented represent the average degree of improvement possible for the site. Proposals to implement more effective rehabilitation or enhancement actions may result in a lower ratio, while less effective actions may result in a higher ratio. The distinction between rehabilitation and enhancement is not clear-cut. Instead, rehabilitation and enhancement actions span a continuum. Proposals that fall within the gray area between rehabilitation and enhancement will result in a ratio that lies between the ratios for rehabilitation and the ratios for enhancement
3. Natural Heritage sites, alkali wetland, and bogs are considered irreplaceable wetlands because they perform some functions that cannot be replaced through compensatory mitigation. Impacts to such wetlands would therefore result in a net loss of some functions no matter what kind of compensation is proposed.

Reference:

Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10. March 2006. Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part I: Agency Policies and Guidance (Version 1). Washington State Department of Ecology Publication #06-06-011a. Olympia, WA.

~~3. The qualified consultant in the wetlands report may, where feasible, recommend that restored or created wetlands shall be a higher wetland category than the altered wetland in exchange for requiring less than the required amount of restored or created wetland acreage for Categories II, III, and IV only.~~

3. Credit/Debit Method. To more fully protect functions and values, and as an alternative to the mitigation ratios found in the joint guidance “Wetland Mitigation in Washington State Parts I and II” (Ecology Publication #06-06-011a-b, Olympia, WA, March, 2006, or as revised), the administrator may allow mitigation based on the “credit/debit” method developed by the Department of Ecology in “Calculating Credits and Debits for Compensatory Mitigation in Wetlands of Eastern Washington: Final Report” (Ecology Publication #11-06-015, August 2012, or as revised).

22.10.140 Wetland mitigation plan requirements.

Where it is determined by the city administrator that compensatory wetland mitigation is required or appropriate, a mitigation plan shall be prepared consistent with the provisions below and shall also meet the minimum requirements contained in the Wetlands and CAO Guidance for Small Cities, Eastern Washington version (dated January 2010, revised October 2012, June 2016, and as amended in the future). The purpose of the plan is to prescribe mitigation to compensate for impacts to the wetland functions, values and acreage as a result of the proposed action. This plan shall consider the chemical, physical, and biological impacts on the wetland system using a recognized wetlands assessment methodology and/or best professional judgment. The mitigation plan shall be prepared in two phases, a conceptual phase and a detailed phase.

A. Conceptual Plan – Standards and Criteria. The applicant shall prepare a conceptual mitigation plan for submission to the department administrator at a premitigation conference. The conceptual mitigation plan shall include:

1. General goals of the mitigation plan;
2. A review of literature or experience to date in restoring or creating the type of wetland proposed;
3. Location of proposed wetland compensation area;
4. General hydrologic patterns on the site following construction;
5. Nature of compensation, including wetland types (in-kind ~~and out-of-kind~~), general plant selection and justification, approximate project sequencing and schedule, and approximate size of the new wetland buffer;

6. A conceptual maintenance plan; and

7. Conceptual monitoring and contingency plan.

B. Detailed Plan – Standards and Criteria. Following acceptance of the conceptual mitigation plan by the department administrator, the applicant will prepare a detailed mitigation plan. Each detailed plan shall contain, at a minimum, the following seven components, and shall be consistent with the standards in RMC 22.10.100 through 22.10.130:

1. A clear statement of the objectives of the mitigation. The goals of the mitigation plan should be stated in terms of the new wetland functions and values compared to the functions and values of the original wetland. Objectives should include:

2. Qualitative and quantitative standards for success of the project, including hydrologic characteristics (water depths, water quality, hydroperiod/hydrocycle characteristics, flood storage capacity); vegetative characteristics (community types, species composition, density, and spacing); faunal characteristics, and final topographic elevations.

3. An ecological assessment of the wetland values and wetland buffers that will be lost as a result of the activities, and of the replacement wetlands and buffers, including but not limited to the following:

i. Acreage of project;

ii. Existing functions and values;

iii. Sizes of wetlands, wetland buffers, and areas to be altered;

iv. Vegetative characteristics, including community type, areal coverage, species composition, and density;

v. Habitat type(s) to be enhanced, restored, or created; and

vi. Dates for beginning and completion of the mitigation project, and sequence of construction activities.

4. A statement of the location, elevation, and hydrology of the new site, including the following:

a. Relationship of the project to the watershed and existing water bodies;

b. Topography of site using the smallest readily available intervals, preferably one-foot contour intervals but two-foot is acceptable;

c. Water level data, including depth and duration of seasonally high water table;

d. Water flow patterns;

e. Grading, filling and excavation, including a description of imported soils;

f. Irrigation requirements, if any;

g. Water pollution mitigation measures during construction;

h. Areal coverage of planted areas to open water areas (if any open water is to be present); and

i. Appropriate buffers.

5. A planting plan, describing what will be planted, and where and when the planting will occur, as follows:
 - a. Soils and substrate characteristics;
 - b. Specify substrate stockpiling techniques; and
 - c. Planting instructions, including species, stock type and size, density or spacing of plants, and water and nutrient requirements.
6. A monitoring and maintenance plan, consistent with RMC 22.10.160.
 - a. Specify procedures for monitoring and site maintenance including control of invasive species; and
 - b. Submit monitoring reports to the ~~department~~ administrator.
7. A contingency plan, consistent with these regulations.
8. A detailed budget for implementation of the mitigation plan, including monitoring, maintenance and contingency phases.
9. A guarantee, in the form of a bond or other security device in a form and amount acceptable to the city attorney, assuring that the work will be performed as planned and approved, consistent with these regulations, including monitoring, maintenance and contingency.

22.10.150 Performance standards for wetlands mitigation planning.

- A. The following performance standards shall be incorporated into mitigation plans submitted to the city of Richland:
1. Plants should be indigenous to the region (not introduced or foreign species);
 2. Plants should be adaptable to a broad range of water depths;
 3. Plants should be commercially available or available from local sources;
 4. Plant species high in food and cover value for fish and wildlife are recommended, when possible;
 5. Plants should be mostly perennial species;
 6. Avoid committing significant areas of site to species that have questionable potential for successful establishment;
 7. Plant selection must be approved by wetlands biologist/ecologist;
 8. Water depth is not to exceed six and one-half feet (two meters);
 9. The grade or slope that water flows through the wetland is not to exceed six percent;
 10. Slopes within the wetland basin and the buffer zone should not be steeper than 3:1 (horizontal to vertical);
 11. The substrate should consist of a minimum of one foot, in depth, of clean (uncontaminated with chemicals, or solid/hazardous wastes) inorganic/organic materials;

12. Planting densities and placement of plants should be determined by a qualified professional and shown on the design plans;

13. The wetland (excluding the buffer area) should not contain more than 60 percent open water as measured at the seasonal high water mark;

14. Minimum buffer widths should extend ~~25 to 100 feet from the wetland boundary~~; from the wetland boundary in accordance with buffer requirements in Table 22.10.110(D) Wetland Buffer Widths for the proposed category rating of the wetland that will be created.

15. The planting plan must be approved by the ~~deputy city manager for~~ community ~~and~~ development ~~services~~ administrator or consultant acting on behalf of the city;

16. Stockpiling should be confined to upland areas and contract specifications should limit stockpile durations to less than four weeks. Any area designated as open space shall not be used to stockpile material;

17. Planting instructions which describe proper placement, diversity, and spacing of seeds, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, sprigs, plugs, and transplanted stock;

18. Apply controlled release fertilizer, if reasonable and prudent, at the time of planting and afterward only as plant conditions warrant (determined during the monitoring process);

19. Install an irrigation system, if necessary, for initial establishment period; and

20. Construction specifications and methods must be approved by a qualified consultant and the ~~department~~ administrator.

B. On completion of construction, the wetland mitigation project must be signed off by the applicant's qualified consultant and the ~~department~~ administrator. Signature will indicate that the construction has been completed as planned and all design elements have been fully and correctly implemented. If there have been changes in the implementation of the plan, a written explanation from the consulting biologist must be included.

22.10.160 Wetland monitoring program and contingency plan.

A. A monitoring program shall be implemented to determine the success of the mitigation project and any necessary corrective actions. This chapter shall determine if the original goals and objectives are being met.

B. A contingency plan shall be established for compensation in the event that the mitigation project is inadequate or fails. A performance and maintenance bond or other acceptable security device is required to ensure the applicant's compliance with the terms of the mitigation agreement. The amount of the performance and maintenance bond shall equal 125 percent of the cost of the mitigation project for a period of ~~three~~ five years. The ~~department~~ administrator may agree to reduce the bond in phases in proportion to work successfully completed over the period of the bond.

1. During monitoring, scientific procedures for establishing the success or failure of the project must be used;

2. For vegetation determinations, permanent sampling points shall be established;
3. Vegetative success will be defined as 80 percent ~~per year~~ survival of planted trees and shrubs and 80 percent ~~per year~~ cover of desirable understory or emergent species during the monitoring period;
4. Submit monitoring reports on the current status of the mitigation project to the ~~department~~ administrator. The reports are to be prepared by a qualified consultant and reviewed by the city's consultant and should include monitoring information on wildlife, vegetation, water quality, water flow, stormwater storage and conveyance, and existing or potential degradation, and shall be produced on the following schedule:
 - a. At the time of construction;
 - b. Thirty days after planting;
 - c. Early in the growing season of the first year;
 - d. End of the growing season of the first year;
 - e. Twice the second year; and
 - f. Annually thereafter;
5. Monitor ~~between three and for~~ five growing seasons, ~~depending on the complexity of the wetland system. The time period will be determined and specified by the qualified consultant in writing prior to the implementation of the site plan;~~ If the mitigation goals are not obtained within the initial 5-year period, the applicant remains responsible for restoration of the natural resource values and functions until the mitigation goals agreed to in the mitigation plan are achieved;
6. If necessary, correct for failures in the mitigation project;
7. Replace dead or undesirable vegetation with appropriate plantings, based on the approved planting plan or RMC 22.10.150;
8. Repair damages caused by erosion, settling, or other geomorphological processes;
9. Redesign mitigation project (if necessary) and implement the new design; and
10. Correction procedures shall be approved by a qualified consultant and the ~~department~~ administrator.
11. The area where the mitigation occurred and any associated buffer shall be located in a critical area tract, a conservation easement or similar legal instrument as approved by the Administrator to ensure the future protection of the mitigation site.

22.10.165 Unauthorized Alterations and Enforcement

A. When a wetland or its buffer has been altered in violation of this Chapter, all ongoing development work shall stop and the critical area shall be restored. The administrator shall have the authority to issue a "stop-work" order to cease all ongoing development work and order restoration,

rehabilitation, or replacement measures at the owner's or other responsible party's expense to compensate for violation of provisions of this Chapter.

B. Requirement for Restoration Plan. All development work shall remain stopped until a restoration plan is prepared and approved by City. Such a plan shall be prepared by a qualified professional using the currently accepted scientific principles and shall describe how the actions proposed meet the minimum requirements described in Subsection C. The administrator shall, at the violator's expense, seek expert advice in determining the adequacy of the plan. Inadequate plans shall be returned to the applicant or violator for revision and resubmittal.

C. Minimum Performance Standards for Restoration. The following minimum performance standards shall be met for the restoration of a wetland, provided that if the violator can demonstrate that greater functions and habitat values can be obtained, these standards may be modified:

1. The historic structure, functions, and values of the affected wetland shall be restored, including water quality and habitat functions.

2. The historic soil types and configuration shall be restored to the extent practicable.

3. The wetland and buffers shall be replanted with native vegetation that replicates the vegetation historically found on the site in species types, sizes, and densities. The historic functions and values should be replicated at the location of the alteration.

4. Information demonstrating compliance with other applicable provisions of this Chapter shall be submitted to the Administrator.

D. Site Investigations. The administrator is authorized to make site inspections and take such actions as necessary to enforce this Chapter. The administrator shall present proper credentials and make a reasonable effort to contact any property owner before entering onto private property.

E. Penalties. See Section 22.10.410.

F. If the wetland affected cannot be restored, money from any associated penalties shall be deposited in a dedicated account for the preservation or restoration of landscape processes and functions in the watershed in which the affected wetland is located. The administrator may coordinate its preservation or restoration activities with others to optimize the effectiveness of the restoration action.

G. Illegal modifications. Wetland rating categories shall not change due to illegal modifications made by the applicant or with the applicant's knowledge.

Article III. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas

~~22.10.170 Definitions—Fish and wildlife habitat areas.~~

~~For purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:~~

~~“Critical habitat,” or “critical wildlife habitat” means habitat areas associated with threatened, endangered, sensitive, or priority species of plants or wildlife which, if altered, could reduce the likelihood that the species will maintain and reproduce over the long term. Such areas are documented with reference to lists, categories and definitions of species promulgated by the Washington Department of Wildlife (Non-Game Data System Special Animal Species) as identified in WAC 232-12-011 or 232-12-014 and in the priority habitat species lists compiled in compliance with WAC 365-190-080; or by rules and regulations adopted currently or hereafter by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.~~

~~“Critical habitat” also includes the following types of areas:~~

~~A. Regionally rare native fish and wildlife habitat (i.e., one of five or fewer examples of the habitat within the Mid-Columbia region).~~

~~B. Fish and wildlife areas with irreplaceable ecological functions, including the following:~~

~~1. The areas listed as a national wildlife refuge, national park, natural area preserve or any preserve or reserve designated under WAC 332-30-151;~~

~~2. The Lake Wallula wildlife habitat areas managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the Yakima River Wildlife Management Area and the Hanford Islands in the Columbia River managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;~~

~~3. Category I wetlands as defined in RMC 22.10.100;~~

~~4. State nature area preserves or natural resource conservation areas identified by state law and managed by the Department of Natural Resources;~~

~~5. Documented habitat, other than transient and/or occasional presence, of threatened or endangered species;~~

~~6. Documented habitat, other than transient and/or occasional presence, of regional or national significance for migrating birds.~~

~~“Enhancement” means the improvement of existing habitat such as by increasing plant density or structural diversity, or by removing nonindigenous or noxious species.~~

~~“alt” means a species, plant community type, or habitat that has been introduced or modified as a result of human actions.~~

~~“Habitat management” means management of land to maintain species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated subpopulations are not created. This does not imply maintaining all habitat or individuals of all species in all cases.~~

~~“Habitat map” means maps of plant cover types/communities (titled: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas) adopted by the city of Richland to indicate the potential presence of wildlife species.~~

~~“Native vegetation” means vegetation existing on a site or plant species that are indigenous to the area in question.~~

~~“Priority species” means fish and wildlife species requiring protective measures for their perpetuation due to their population status, their sensitivity to habitat alteration and/or their recreational, commercial, or tribal importance, as identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.~~

~~“Qualified consultant,” for purposes of these regulations, shall mean a professionally trained and/or certified wildlife biologist or ecologist or other professional with expertise in the scientific disciplines necessary to identify, evaluate and manage habitat. See RMC 22.10.320 for more information.~~

~~“Secondary habitat” or “secondary wildlife habitat” means areas with one or more of the following attributes: comparatively high wildlife density; high wildlife species richness; significant wildlife breeding habitat; significant wildlife seasonal ranges; significant movement corridors; limited availability; and/or high vulnerability. Secondary habitat offers less diversity of animal and plant species than critical habitat, but is important for performing the essential functions of habitat.~~

~~“Structural diversity” means the relative degree of diversity or complexity of vegetation in a habitat area as indicated by the stratification or layering of different plant communities (e.g., ground cover, shrub layer and tree canopy); the variety of plant species; and the spacing or pattern of vegetation.~~

~~“Wildlife habitat” means areas that provide food, protective cover, nesting, breeding or movement for fish and wildlife and with which individual species have a primary association.~~

~~“Wildlife report” means a report, prepared by a qualified consultant, that evaluates plant communities and wildlife functions and values on a site, consistent with the format and requirements established by this chapter. [Ord. 48-93; Ord. 23-01].~~

22.10.180 Exemption from fish and wildlife regulations.

A. See RMC 22.10.~~300~~360 for general exemptions to all ~~sensitive~~ critical areas.

B. The following activities shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter related to fish and wildlife habitat, provided they are conducted using best management practices:

1. Activities involving artificially created habitat, including but not limited to grass-lined swales, irrigation and drainage ditches, detention facilities such as reservoirs, ponds, and landscape features, except for habitat areas created as mitigation.

C. Notwithstanding the exemption provided by this section, any otherwise exempt activities occurring in or near critical habitat areas shall comply with the intent of these standards and shall consider on-site alternatives that avoid or minimize potential habitat impacts and shall consider the timing of exempt work to minimize disturbances to wildlife including disturbance to migratory bird nesting sites.

22.10.190 Fish and wildlife habitat inventory maps.

The approximate location and extent of habitat areas within the city of Richland’s planning area are shown on the maps adopted as part of this chapter. These maps shall be used as a general guide only for the assistance of property owners and other interested parties; boundaries are generalized. The actual type, extent, and boundaries of habitat areas shall be determined by a qualified professional according to the procedures, definitions, and criteria established by this article. In the event of any conflict between the

habitat location or type shown on the city of Richland's maps and the criteria or standards of this article, the criteria and standards resulting from the field investigation shall control.

~~22.10.200 Classification of fish and wildlife habitat areas.~~

~~Wildlife habitat areas shall be established as critical, secondary or tertiary according to the criteria established in RMC 22.10.170.~~

22.10.210 Fish and wildlife habitat buffer areas.

- A. A. The establishment of buffer areas shall be required for regulated activities in or adjacent to habitat areas. Buffer shall consist of an undisturbed area of native vegetation established to protect the integrity, functions, and values of the affected habitat. Enhancement of buffers may be required if a portion of the buffer has been cleared, or if tree or shrub cover is substantially less than a native climax community.

B. Buffer widths for the riparian areas adjacent to the Columbia and Yakima Rivers are set forth in RMC 26.60.42. For all other, non shoreline, wildlife habitat areas, the following buffer widths are established:

WILDLIFE HABITAT TYPE	HIGH IMPACT LAND USE	LOW IMPACT LAND USE
Critical	150	75
Secondary	100	50

C. Buffers shall be measured, on a horizontal plane, from the habitat edge as delineated by a qualified consultant. Required buffer widths shall reflect the sensitivity of the habitat and the type and intensity of human activity proposed to be conducted nearby. Buffers shall be determined by the ~~department~~ administrator based on information in the wildlife report supplemented by its own investigations, the sensitivity and value of the habitat areas, the intensity and design of the proposed use, and adjacent uses and activities.

~~D. Buffer widths may be modified by averaging buffer widths or by enhancing buffer quality as set forth herein.~~

~~1. Buffer width averaging shall be allowed only where the applicant demonstrates to the department that:~~

~~a. The habitat contains variations in sensitivity due to the existing physical characteristics;~~

~~b. That lower intensity land uses would be located adjacent to areas where buffer width is reduced;~~

~~c. That width averaging will not adversely impact the habitat functional values; and~~

~~d. That the total area contained within the buffer after averaging is no less than that contained within the standard buffer prior to averaging.~~

~~2. Buffer width may be reduced by up to 25 percent if the existing buffer area is vegetated with greater than 90 percent areal cover of native species and a report by a qualified fish/wildlife specialist demonstrates that a smaller than standard buffer will provide all of the buffer functions necessary to protect all functions and values of the habitat. The department may require long-term monitoring of the buffer with appropriate contingency actions if adverse impacts to the wetland occur. In no instance, however, shall the buffer width be reduced by more than 50 percent of the required buffer or be less than 25 feet.~~

D. Administrative Buffer Adjustments.

1. The required buffer widths established in this section may be modified by the City administrator for a development on existing legal lots of record in place at the time of adoption of this program, in accordance with the provisions of this section only where the applicant demonstrates all of the following:

a. Averaging is necessary to avoid an extraordinary hardship to the applicant caused by circumstances peculiar to the property, and no feasible alternative exists;

b. The designated buffer area contains variations in sensitivity to ecological impacts due to existing physical characteristics or the character of the buffer varies in slope, soils, or vegetation;

c. The total area contained within the buffer after averaging is no less than that contained within the standard buffer prior to averaging;

d. The minimum buffer width at its narrowest point shall not be less than seventy five (75) percent of the buffer width established under this section; and

e. The buffer width averaging does not result in a net loss of ecological function.

2. Standard Buffer Reduction. Reductions of up to twenty-five (25) percent of the standard buffer may be approved if the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the administrator that a mitigation plan developed by a qualified professional indicates that enhancing the buffer (by removing invasive plants or impervious surfaces, and planting native vegetation, or installing habitat features or other means) will result in a reduced buffer that functions at a higher level than the existing standard buffer. Any mitigation plan that includes the planting of vegetation shall also include a monitoring program.

3. In-fill Development. In an effort to facilitate in-fill development in approved plats, the administrator may approve requests to reduce the standard wildlife habitat buffers up to a maximum of fifty (50) percent for a new single-family residence and appurtenant structures in accordance with the following criteria:

a. Where there are single-family residences within 150 feet on either side of the proposed residence in an existing plat, the buffer shall be determined as the greater of one of the following three options: 1) a common line drawn between the nearest corners of the nearest residences; 2) a common line calculated by the average of the nearest residence's' existing buffer; or 3) a fifty (50) percent reduction of the standard buffer.

b. Where there is only a residence located within 150 feet on one side of the proposed residence in an existing plat, the standard buffer shall be determined as the greater of a common line drawn between the nearest corner of the nearest residence and the nearest point of the standard buffer on the adjacent

vacant lot, a common line calculated by the average of the nearest residence's setback and the standard buffer for the adjacent vacant lot, or a fifty (50) percent reduction of the standard buffer.

E. The buffer width stated in subsection (B) of this section shall be increased ~~not more than 125 percent (buffer width x 1.25)~~ when the qualified consultant determines, based upon a site-specific habitat analysis, that impacts on the habitat from a proposed development can only be mitigated by a greater buffer width. The standard habitat buffer width shall be increased:

1. When the adjacent land is susceptible to severe erosion and erosion control measures will not effectively prevent adverse habitat impacts; or

2. When the standard buffer has minimal or degraded vegetative cover that cannot be improved through enhancement; or

3. When the wetland or other habitat area provides habitat for a species that is particularly sensitive to disturbance (such as sensitive, threatened or endangered species), the width of the buffer should be increased to provide adequate protection for the species based on its particular, life-history needs; or

~~3.~~ 4. When the minimum buffer for a habitat extends into an area with a slope of greater than 25 percent, the buffer shall be the greater of:

a. The minimum buffer for that particular habitat; or

b. Twenty-five feet beyond the point where the slope becomes 25 percent or less.

F. Low impact uses and activities which are consistent with the purpose and function of the habitat buffer and do not detract from its integrity may be permitted within the buffer depending on the sensitivity of the habitat involved. Examples of uses and activities which may be permitted in appropriate cases include pedestrian trails, viewing platforms, stormwater management facilities such as grass-lined swales and utility easements.

G. Required buffers shall not deny all reasonable use of property. A variance from buffer widths requirements may be granted by the city of Richland Hearing Examiner, in accordance with the procedures set forth in RMC Title 19 for Type II permits, upon a showing by the applicant that:

~~1. There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property or to the intended use such as shape, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other properties and which support the granting of a variance from the buffer width requirement;~~

~~2. Such buffer width variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use possessed by other similarly situated property but which because of special circumstances is denied to the property in question;~~

~~3. The granting of such buffer width variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvement; and~~

~~4. All variances shall be in accord with RMC 23.70.110 through 23.70.170.~~

1. That the strict application of the bulk, dimensional or performance standards set forth in this title preclude, or significantly interfere with, reasonable use of the property;

2. That the hardship described in (1) of this subsection is specifically related to the property, and is the result of unique conditions such as irregular lot shape, size, or natural features and the application of this title, and not, for example, from deed restrictions or the applicant's own actions;
3. That the design of the project is compatible with other authorized uses within the area and with uses planned for the area under the comprehensive plan and applicable development regulations and will not cause adverse impacts to the habitat;
4. That the variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege not enjoyed by the other properties in the area;
5. That the variance requested is the minimum necessary to afford relief; and
6. That the public interest will suffer no substantial detrimental effect.

22.10.220 Fish and wildlife habitat alteration.

A. Adverse impacts to habitat functions and values shall be mitigated to the extent feasible and reasonable. Mitigation actions by an applicant or property owner shall occur in the following preferred sequence:

1. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of actions;
2. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology and engineering, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce adverse impacts;
3. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
4. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action;
5. Compensating for the impact by replacing ~~or providing substitute resources or environments~~ enhancing, or providing similar substitute resources or environments. Preference shall be given to measures that replace the impacted functions on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the impact;
6. Monitoring the impact over time and taking corrective measures to minimize additional impacts.

B. Where impacts cannot be avoided, the applicant or property owner shall seek to implement other appropriate mitigation actions in compliance with the intent, standards and criteria of this section. In an individual case, these actions may include consideration of alternative site plans and layouts, reductions in the density or scope of the proposal, and/or implementation of the performance standards listed in RMC 22.10.230.

C. Alteration of habitat and/or their buffers may be permitted by the ~~department~~ administrator subject to the following standards:

1. Critical Habitat. Alterations of critical habitat shall be avoided, subject to the reasonable use provisions of this chapter.

2. Secondary Habitat. Alterations of secondary habitat may be permitted; provided, that the applicant mitigates adverse impacts consistent with the performance standards and other requirements of this chapter.

22.10.230 Fish and wildlife habitat performance standards and incentives.

A. The performance standards and criteria contained in this section shall be incorporated into plans submitted for regulated activities and shall:

1. Consider habitat in site planning and design;
2. Locate buildings and structures in a manner that preserves and minimizes adverse impacts to important habitat areas;
3. Integrate retained habitat into open space and landscaping, consistent with the provisions of all open space and landscaping requirements;
4. Where possible, consolidate habitat and vegetated open space in contiguous blocks;
5. Locate habitat contiguous to other habitat areas, open space or landscaped areas to contribute to a continuous system or corridor that provides connections to adjacent habitat areas and allows movement of wildlife;
6. Use native species in any landscaping of disturbed or undeveloped areas and in any enhancement of habitat or buffers;
7. Emphasize heterogeneity and structural diversity of vegetation in landscaping and food producing plants beneficial to wildlife;
8. Remove and/or control any noxious or undesirable species of plants and animals;
9. Preserve significant trees and/or snags, preferably in groups, consistent with achieving the objectives of these standards;
10. Buffers shall be preserved and shall be surveyed, staked, and fenced prior to any constructed work, including grading and clearing, that may take place on the site; and
11. Temporary erosion and sedimentation controls, pursuant to an approved plan, shall be implemented during construction.

B. A landscape vegetation management plan shall be submitted consistent with the requirements, goals and standards of this chapter. The plan shall reflect the report prepared pursuant to RMC 22.10.310370 Any required mitigation, including supplemental buffer plantings, shall be guaranteed by a bond or other acceptable security device. Such bond or other security device shall be required to assure successful establishment of required planting for an appropriate monitoring period. The amount of the bond or other security device shall equal 125 percent of the cost of the mitigation project for a period of five years. The administrator may agree to reduce the bond in phases in proportion to work successfully completed over the period of the bond.

C. As an incentive to encourage preservation of secondary habitat as defined in this article, the net amount of landscaping required by the city of Richland may be reduced by one-quarter acre for each one acre of secondary habitat and buffer preserved on the site; however, that amount cannot exceed 50 percent of the amount of required landscaping. The reduction shall be calculated on the basis of square feet of habitat preserved or enhanced and square feet required. Habitat and habitat buffer that is enhanced by the applicant may also qualify for this reduction. Preservation of secondary habitat shall be execution of an easement or other protective device acceptable to the city of Richland.

Article IV. Geologic Hazard Areas

22.10.240 Identification and definition.

A. Geologic hazard areas identification and designation shall be consistent with the minimum guideline classifications established in WAC [365-190-120](#) which includes any future amendments to the code. Areas that are susceptible to one or more of the following types of hazards shall be classified as a geologic hazard area:

1. Erosion hazard;
2. Landslide hazard;
3. Seismic hazard; and
4. Mine hazard.

B. Erosion Hazard Areas. Those areas that are identified by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as having a severe rill and inter-rill erosion hazard.

C. Landslide Hazard Areas. Those areas that are potentially subject to landslides based on a combination of geologic, topographic, and hydrologic factors. They include any areas susceptible because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope (gradient), slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other factors. Landslide hazard areas include, but are not limited to, the following types of areas:

1. Areas delineated by the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service as having a severe limitation for building site development;
2. Areas designated as quaternary slumps, earthflows, mudflows, lahars, or landslides on maps published by the United States Geological Survey or Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology and Earth Resources;
3. Areas with all three of the following characteristics:
 - a. Areas with slope steeper than 15 percent;
 - b. Hillsides intersecting geologic contacts with a relatively permeable sediment overlying a relatively impermeable sediment or bedrock; and
 - c. Springs or ground water seepage;

4. Areas that have shown movement during the holocene epoch (from 10,000 years ago to the present) or which are underlain or covered by mass wastage debris of that epoch;
5. Areas with slopes that are parallel or subparallel to planes of weakness (such as bedding planes, joint systems, and fault planes) in subsurface materials;
6. Areas with slopes having gradients steeper than 80 percent subject to rockfall during seismic shaking;
7. Areas potentially unstable as a result of rapid stream incision, stream bank erosion and undercutting by wave action;
8. Areas that show evidence of, or on, an active alluvial fan presently or potentially subject to inundation by debris flows or catastrophic flooding; or
9. Areas with a slope of 40 percent or steeper and with a vertical relief of 10 or more feet except areas composed of consolidated rock. A slope is delineated by establishing its toe and top and measured by averaging the inclination over at least 10 feet of vertical relief.

D. Seismic Hazard Areas. Those areas subject to severe risk of damage as a result of earthquake induced ground shaking, slope failure, settlement, soil liquefaction, or surface faulting. One indicator of potential for future earthquake damage is a record of earthquake damage in the past. Ground shaking is the primary cause of earthquake damage in Washington. The strength of ground shaking is primarily affected by: (1) magnitude of an earthquake; (2) distance from the source of an earthquake; (3) type of thickness of geologic materials at the surface; and (4) type of subsurface geologic structure.

E. Mine Hazard Areas. Those areas underlain by, adjacent to, or affected by mine working areas as designated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

22.10.250 Applicability to geological hazards.

The provisions of this article shall apply to any activity that occurs in or within 200 feet of a geologic hazard area unless otherwise exempt. These activities include but are not limited to the following:

- A. Removing, excavating, disturbing or dredging soil, sand, gravel, minerals, organic matter or materials of any kind;
- B. Dumping, discharging or filling with any material;
- C. Driving piling or placing obstructions;
- D. Constructing, reconstructing, demolishing or altering the size of any structure or infrastructure which has an adverse effect on a geologic hazard area; destroying or altering vegetation through clearing or harvesting; and any project permit established in Chapter 19.20 RMC.

22.10.260 Geologic hazard inventory maps.

The approximate location and extent of geologic hazard areas within the city of Richland's planning area are shown on the [critical](#) areas maps adopted as part of this chapter. These maps should be used as a

general guide only for the assistance of property owners and the city of Richland to identify and designate geologic hazard areas.

22.10.270 Preliminary assessment.

A. The ~~city of Richland~~ [administrator](#) shall conduct a preliminary assessment of the proposed activity. The preliminary assessment shall consist of reviewing geologic hazard inventory maps, conducting an on-site evaluation, and, if necessary, consulting with state and/or federal agencies to determine whether there is a reasonable belief that a proposed activity may be present within 200 feet of a geologic hazard area. In the event there is a disagreement as to whether the activity is within 200 feet of a geologic hazard area, a geologic report prepared by a qualified consultant as defined in RMC 22.10.~~320~~[380](#) shall be required, at the property owner or applicant's expense, to determine this issue.

B. If it is determined that there is a reasonable belief that a proposed activity may be present within 200 feet of a geologic hazard area, then geologic reports and studies are required at the property owner or applicant's expense.

22.10.280 Geologic reports and studies.

A. Geologic studies and reports shall comply with the requirements established in RMC 22.10.~~310~~[370](#)(B)(6), Permit process and application requirements. ~~These studies and reports shall be prepared using best available science to protect the functions and values of the geologic hazard area. Best available science includes using a valid scientific process that includes the following:~~

~~1. Peer Review. The information has been critically reviewed by other persons who are qualified professionals or based on scientific publications.~~

~~2. Method. The methods used to obtain the information are clearly stated and able to be replicated. The methods are standardized in the pertinent scientific discipline or, if not, the methods have been appropriately peer-reviewed to assure their reliability and validity.~~

~~3. Logical conclusions and reasonable inferences. The conclusions presented are based on reasonable assumptions supported by other studies and consistent with the general theory underlying the assumptions. The conclusions are logically and reasonably derived from the assumptions and supported by the data presented. Any gaps in information and inconsistencies with other pertinent scientific information are adequately explained.~~

~~4. Quantitative Analysis. The data has been analyzed using appropriate statistical or quantitative methods.~~

~~5. Context. The information is placed in proper context. The assumptions, analytical techniques, data, and conclusions are appropriately framed with respect to the prevailing body of pertinent scientific knowledge.~~

~~B. References. The assumptions, analytical techniques, and conclusions are well referenced with citations to relevant, credible literature and other pertinent existing information.~~

22.10.290 Administrative evaluation of geologic reports and studies.

The ~~city of Richland~~ administrator shall review the geologic reports and studies to determine the significant risks posed by the activity to life and property on and off the project site. The city of Richland may approve, conditionally approve or deny an activity, as appropriate, based on the degree to which significant risks are posed to public and private property and to the health and safety of the community. Conditional approval of the activity may include mitigation measures based on the geologic reports and studies. Where potential impacts of the activity cannot be effectively mitigated, or where the risk to public health, safety and welfare of the community is significant notwithstanding mitigation, the activity shall be denied.

22.10.295 Assurance.

The ~~city of Richland~~ administrator may require assurance from the owner or applicant and/or its geologic consultant that the activity creates a minimal risk of danger to life or property on or off the project site. Such assurance may include the following:

- A. A letter from the geologic consultant who prepared the required study and report stating that the activity creates a minimal risk of danger to life or property on or off the project site; or
- B. A letter from the owner or applicant stating its understanding and acceptance of any risk of injury or damage associated with the activity and agreeing to notify any future purchasers of the site, portions of the site, or structures located on the site of the geologic hazard.

Article V. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Protection

22.10.300 Identification and definition.

Critical aquifer recharge areas (CARAs) are defined as those areas having a critical recharging effect on aquifer use for potable water in community systems. CARAs are classified and designated as follows:

- A. Those areas designated as “Wellhead Protection Areas” pursuant to WAC 246-290-135(3) and the groundwater contribution area in WAC 246-291-125. Wellhead protection areas shall, for the purpose of this regulation, include the identified recharge areas associated with either Group A public water supply wells and those Group B wells with a wellhead protection plan filed with the City and/or Benton Franklin Health District; and
- B. Any land identified in the Soil Survey of Benton County as having high potential for aquifer recharge, as determined by the Administrator.

In order to protect the public health and safety, prevent degradation of ground water and for potentially usable potable water, and to provide for regulations that prevent and control risks to the degradation of ground water quality and quantity, development in CARAs shall be subject to the standards described in this section.

22.10.310 Critical Aquifer Recharge Area maps.

The approximate location and extent of aquifer recharge areas are shown on the critical areas maps. Wellhead protection areas are shown in the City's adopted Wellhead Protection Plan as presented in the City's 2017 Water System Plan. These maps should be used as a general guide only for the assistance of property owners and the city of Richland to identify and designate critical aquifer recharge areas.

22.10.320 Exemptions from Critical Aquifer Recharge Area regulations.

The following activities shall be exempt from the CARA provisions of this section, provided they are conducted using best management practices for protecting surface and ground water quality:

1. Single-family residential development.
2. Development and improvement of parks, recreation facilities, open space, or conservation areas resulting in less than five percent total site impervious surface area that do not increase the use of a hazardous substance.
3. Group A public water system source development and associated infrastructure.
4. Public water supply aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) facilities.
5. Public water pipelines and supply storage structures.
6. The following underground storage tank (UST) systems, including any piping connected thereto:
 1. Any UST system holding hazardous wastes subject to Subtitle C of the Federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, or a mixture of such hazardous waste and other regulated substances;
 2. Any wastewater treatment tank system that is part of a wastewater treatment facility regulated under Section 402 or 307(b) of the Clean Water Act;
 3. Equipment or machinery that contains regulated substances for operational purposes such as hydraulic lift tanks and electrical equipment tanks;
 4. Any UST system whose capacity is one hundred ten (110) gallons or less;
 5. Any UST system that contains a de minimis concentration of regulated substances;
 6. Any emergency spill or overflow containment UST system that is expeditiously emptied after use;
 7. UST systems used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored; except that such systems which store in excess of one thousand one hundred (1,100) gallons are subject to the release reporting requirements of WAC 173-360-372;
 8. Any pipeline facility (including gathering lines) regulated under:
 - a. The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968 (49 U.S.C. App. 1671, et seq.), or
 - b. The Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979 (49 U.S.C. App. 2001, et seq.), or
 - c. Which is an intrastate pipeline facility regulated under state laws comparable to the provisions of the law referred to in Section 40.410.010(B)(3)(j)(1) or (2) of this definition;

9. Surface impoundments, pits, ponds, or lagoons;
10. Stormwater or wastewater collection systems;
11. Flow-through process tanks;
12. Storage tanks situated in an underground area (such as a basement, cellar, vault, mineworking drift, shaft, or tunnel), if the storage tank is situated upon or above the surface of the floor.

22.10.330 Reports and Studies

Reports for CARAs shall be submitted to the administrator by the applicant when a development proposal activity not otherwise exempted as provided in Section 22.210.320 is proposed on a parcel within an aquifer recharge area. Requirements for a hydrogeologic assessment are found in Section 22.10.370.

22.10.340 Performance Standards

1. Activities may only be permitted in a critical aquifer recharge area if the applicant can show that the proposed activity will not cause contaminants to enter the aquifer and that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the recharging of the aquifer.
2. The proposed activity must comply with the water source protection requirements and recommendations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Benton County Health Department.
3. The proposed activity must be designed and constructed in accordance with existing local, state and federal laws and regulations, and the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington, as amended (Ecology 2004) and/or the locally adopted program, as applicable.

22.10.350 Uses Prohibited in Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

The following activities and uses are prohibited in CARAs:

1. Landfills. Landfills, including hazardous or dangerous waste, municipal solid waste, special waste, woodwaste, and inert and demolition waste landfills;
2. Underground Injection Wells. Class I, III, and IV wells and subclasses 5F01, 5D03, 5F04, 5W09, 5W10, 5W11, 5W31, 5X13, 5X14, 5X15, 5W20, 5X28, and 5N24 of Class V wells;
3. Mining in critical aquifer recharge areas determined to be highly susceptible in the City's Wellhead Protection Plan.
 - a. Metals and hard rock mining;
 - b. Sand and gravel mining.
4. Wood Treatment Facilities. Wood treatment facilities that allow any portion of the treatment process to occur over permeable surfaces (both natural and manmade);
5. Storage, Processing, or Disposal of Radioactive Substances. Facilities that store, process, or dispose of radioactive substances.

Article VI. General Information

22.10.360 General exemptions.

The following activities shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter, provided they are conducted using best management practices:

A. Existing and ongoing agricultural activities, as defined in RMC 22.10.040 and subject to the provisions found in RMC 22.10.080(B)(3).

B. Maintenance, operation and reconstruction of existing roads, streets, utilities, and associated structures; provided, that reconstruction of any structures may not increase the impervious area;

C. Normal maintenance, repair and reconstruction of residential or commercial structures; provided, that reconstruction of any structures may not increase the impervious floor area;

D. Site investigative work and studies necessary for preparing land use applications, including soils tests, water quality studies, wildlife studies and similar tests and investigations; provided, that any disturbance of **sensitive** critical areas shall be the minimum necessary to carry out the work or studies;

E. Educational activities, scientific research, and outdoor recreational activities, including but not limited to interpretive fields, bird watching, fishing and hiking, that will not have a significant effect on the habitat area;

F. Public agency emergency activities necessary to prevent an immediate threat to public health, safety or property, provided that retroactive mitigation is required to restore a site to a pre-emergency response condition to ensure no net loss of ecological functions;

G. Prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter any of the following activities that have met all conditions of approval in a timely manner and are consistent with the reasonable use provisions of this chapter:

1. Complete applications as defined by the appropriate ordinance;
2. Approved preliminary plats; and
3. Development of legally created lots which have been recorded with Benton County;

H. Minor activities not mentioned above and determined by the community and development services group to pose minimal risk to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

I. The operation, maintenance, or construction of canals, waterways, drains, reservoirs or other facilities that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by an irrigation district or company, provided that any new construction or related activity does not encroach into a critical area.

22.10.370 Permit process and application requirements.

A. Preapplication Conference. All applicants are encouraged to meet with the ~~planning and development services manager of the city of Richland or his or her representative~~ administrator prior to submitting an application subject to these regulations. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss the city of Richland's ~~sensitive~~ critical areas requirements, processes, and procedures; to review any conceptual site plans prepared by the applicant; to discuss appropriate investigative techniques and methodology; to identify potential impacts and mitigation measures; and to familiarize the applicant with state and federal programs, particularly those pertaining to wetlands. Such conference shall be for the convenience of the applicant and any recommendations shall not be binding on the applicant or the city of Richland.

B. Application Requirements. The information required by this section should be coordinated with reporting requirements required by this section for any other ~~sensitive~~ critical area located on the site.

1. Prior to the issuance of a SEPA threshold determination for a proposal, a wetland determination, wetland delineation report, fish and wildlife habitat report, ~~or~~ geologic hazard report or critical aquifer recharge area report must be submitted to the ~~city of Richland~~ administrator for ~~review upon request of the planning and development services manager~~ if such ~~sensitive~~ critical areas are indicated on any portion of the site. The purpose of the reports is to determine the extent and function of ~~wetlands, and the extent, type, function and value of wildlife habitat on any site~~ sensitive critical areas where regulated activities are proposed. The report will also be used by the ~~city of Richland~~ administrator to determine the appropriate ~~wetland rating designation and buffering requirement for the wetland, or the sensitivity and appropriate classification of the habitat, appropriate buffering requirements, and~~ implementation of critical area regulations and the extent to which potential impacts of proposed activities are addressed by existing regulations that provide environmental analysis and measures that avoid or otherwise mitigate the probable specific adverse environmental impacts of proposed activities.

2. In addition, wetland boundaries must be staked and flagged in the field by a qualified consultant. ~~employing the federal methodology. Field flagging must be distinguishable from other survey flagging on the site. The field flagging must be accompanied by a wetland delineation report.~~

3. ~~Applicants for activities within 200 feet of geologic hazard areas shall conduct technical studies and reports which include the following:~~

~~a. Review site history and available information;~~

~~b. Conduct a surface reconnaissance of the site and adjacent areas;~~

~~c. Conduct subsurface exploration suitable to the site and proposal to assess geotechnical geohydrologic conditions;~~

~~d. Recommend surface water management controls during construction and operation;~~

~~e. Propose construction scheduling;~~

~~f. Recommendations for site monitoring and inspection during construction;~~

~~g. Conduct a detailed stability analysis of the existing landslide that demonstrates that the proposal will result in a suitable factor of safety during and following site development;~~

~~h. Evaluate the presence of geologic conditions giving rise to geologic hazards;~~

- ~~i. Evaluate the safety and appropriateness of the proposed activities;~~
- ~~j. Recommend appropriate construction practices, monitoring programs and other mitigating measures required to ensure achievement of the purpose and intent of these regulations. The format of any required reports shall be determined by the city of Richland;~~
- ~~k. A characterization of soils, geology and drainage;~~
- ~~l. A characterization of ground water conditions including the presence of any public or private wells in the immediate vicinity; and~~
- ~~m. Analysis of proposed clearing, grading and construction activities, including construction scheduling; potential direct and indirect, on-site and off-site, impacts from development; and proposed mitigation measures, including any special construction techniques, monitoring or inspection programs (during and after construction), and surface water management controls.~~

3. The report on any ~~sensitive~~ critical area shall include the following information:

- a. Vicinity map;
- b. A map showing:
 - i. Site boundary, property lines and roads;
 - ii. Internal property lines, rights-of-way, easements, etc.;
 - iii. Existing physical features of the site including buildings, fences, and other structures, roads, parking lots, utilities, water bodies, etc.;
 - iv. Contours at the smallest readily available intervals, preferably at five-foot intervals; and
 - v. For large (50 acres or larger) or complex projects with wetlands or habitat areas, an aerial photo with overlays displaying the site boundaries and wetland delineation or habitat area(s) may be required. Generally, an orthophotograph at a scale of one inch equals 400 feet or greater (such as one inch equals 200 feet) should be used. If an orthophotograph is not available, the center of a small scale (e.g., one inch equals 2,000 feet) aerial enlarged to one inch equals 400 feet may be used;

~~c. The report for any sensitive area must describe:~~

- vi. Locational information including legal description and address;
- vii. All natural and manmade features within 150 feet of the site boundary;
- viii. General site conditions including topography, acreage, and water bodies or wetlands; and
- ix. Identification of any areas that have previously been disturbed or degraded by human activity or natural processes.

~~5.~~ 4. In addition to the general report requirements, a report on wetlands shall include the following information:

- a. Delineated wetland boundary;

b. The wetland boundary must be accurately drawn at an appropriate engineering scale such that information shown is not cramped or illegible. The drawing shall be prepared by a surveyor. Generally, a scale of one inch equals 40 feet or greater (such as one inch equals 20 feet) should be used. Existing features must be distinguished from proposed features;

c. Site designated on the wetlands areas maps described in RMC 22.10.090;

d. Hydrologic mapping showing patterns of water movement into, through, and out of the site area;

e. Location of all test holes and vegetation sample sites, numbered to correspond with flagging in the field and field data sheets;

f. Field data sheets from the Federal Manual, numbered to correspond with sample site locations as staked and flagged in the field; and describe:

i. Specific descriptions of plant communities, soils, and hydrology;

ii. A summary of existing wetland function and value; and

iii. A summary of proposed wetland and buffer alterations, impacts, and the need for the alterations as proposed. Potential impacts may include but are not limited to loss of flood storage potential, loss of wildlife habitat, expected decreases in species diversity or quantity, changes in water quality, increases in human intrusion, and impacts on associated wetland or water resources. If alteration of a Category I, II, III or IV wetland is proposed, a wetland mitigation plan is required according to the standards of RMC 22.10.140.

6. 5. In addition to the general report requirements, a report on fish and wildlife habitats shall include the following information. (The level of detail contained in the report shall generally reflect the size and complexity of the proposal and the function and value of the habitat. The ~~department~~ [administrator](#) may require field studies at the applicant's expense in appropriate cases.):

a. A map of vegetative cover types, reflecting the general boundaries of different plant communities on the site;

b. A description of the species typically associated with the cover types, including an identification of any critical wildlife species expected to be found;

c. The results of searches of Washington State Department of Natural Resource's Natural Heritage and Washington State Department of Wildlife's nongame data system databases, if available; and

d. Additional information on species occurrence available from the city of Richland or Benton County or [the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife](#);

e. ~~And describe~~ Include the following descriptions:

i. The layers, diversity and variety of habitat found on the site;

ii. Identification of edges between habitat types and any species commonly associated with that habitat;

iii. The location of any migration or movement corridors;

iv. A narrative summary of existing habitat functions and values; and

v. A summary of proposed habitat and buffer alterations, impacts, and mitigation. Potential impacts may include but are not limited to clearing of vegetation, fragmentation of wildlife habitat, expected decreases in species diversity or quantity, changes in water quality, increases in human intrusion, and impacts on wetlands or water resources.

vi. Describe how mitigation meets the criteria of RMC 22.10.220 including the specified mitigation sequence.

6. In addition to the general report requirements, applicants for activities within 200 feet of geologic hazard areas shall conduct technical studies and reports which include the following:

- a. Review site history and available information;
- b. Conduct a surface reconnaissance of the site and adjacent areas;
- c. Conduct subsurface exploration suitable to the site and proposal to assess geotechnical geohydrologic conditions;
- d. Conduct a detailed stability analysis of the existing landslide that demonstrates that the proposal will result in a suitable factor of safety during and following site development;
- e. Characterize soils, geology and drainage;
- f. Characterize ground water conditions including the presence of any public or private wells in the immediate vicinity; and
- g. Analyze proposed clearing, grading and construction activities, including construction scheduling; potential direct and indirect, on-site and off-site, impacts from development; and proposed mitigation measures, including any special construction techniques, monitoring or inspection programs (during and after construction), and surface water management controls.
- h. Evaluate the presence of geologic conditions giving rise to geologic hazards;
- i. Evaluate the safety and appropriateness of the proposed activities;
- j. Recommend appropriate construction practices, monitoring programs and other mitigating measures required to ensure achievement of the purpose and intent of these regulations. The format of any required reports shall be determined by the administrator;
- k. Recommend surface water management controls during construction and operation;
- l. Propose construction scheduling;
- m. Recommend site monitoring and inspection during construction;

7. In addition to the general report requirements, a report for Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas must meet the following requirements:

- a. Available information regarding geologic and hydrogeologic characteristics of the site including the surface location of all CARAs located on site or immediately adjacent to the site, and permeability of the unsaturated zone;

- b. Ground water depth, flow direction, and gradient based on available information;
- c. Currently available data on wells and springs within one thousand feet of the project area;
- d. Location of other **sensitive critical** areas, including surface waters, within one thousand feet of the project area;
- e. Available historic water quality data for the area to be affected by the proposed activity; and
- f. Evaluation of the potential impact of the proposed development on groundwater quality, both short and long term, based on an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal in combination with existing and potential future land use activities; and
- g. A proposed mitigation plan, as applicable. Applicants must demonstrate how they will integrate necessary and appropriate best management practices to prevent degradation of groundwater.
- 8 In addition to the general report requirements, a report on floodplain development shall include the information required by RMC 23.34.100 Floodplain district – Development permit.

C. Permit Process. This section is not intended to create a separate permit process for development proposals. To the extent possible, the **city of Richland administrator** shall consolidate and integrate the review and processing of **sensitive critical** area-related aspects of proposals with other land use and environmental considerations and approvals.

22.10.380 Requirements of qualified consultants.

All reports or studies are to be performed by a professional, licensed or qualified as a consultant, in the **sensitive critical** area at issue. The **city of Richland administrator** shall determine whether a person is a qualified consultant based on the criteria established in WAC 365-195-905(4).

22.10.390 Land divisions.

All proposed divisions of land which include regulated **sensitive critical** areas shall comply with the following procedure and development standard:

- A. New lots shall contain at least one building site, including access that is suitable for development and is not within the regulated **sensitive critical** area or its associated buffer or setback in which a restriction of prohibition on alteration is provided by this program.

22.10.400 On-site density transfer for **sensitive critical areas.**

A. An owner of a residential site or property containing **sensitive critical** areas may be permitted to transfer the density attributable to the **sensitive critical** area and associated buffer area or setback to another nonsensitive portion of the same site or property, subject to the limitations of this section and other applicable regulations.

B. Density can be transferred from the sensitive critical portion and associated buffer area or setback to the nonsensitive portion of the residential site subject to the following conditions:

1. The basis for the density transfer will be an actual site plan for the site or property as if it did not have the sensitive critical area, subject to the provisions of the underlying zoning classification, applicable setbacks, and other standards of the city code or other land development regulations.

2. Based on the above site plan, a portion of the density that could be achieved on the sensitive critical portion and associated buffer or setback of the site can be transferred to the nonsensitive portion of the site. The following chart indicates the amount of density that can be transferred, based on the degree of sensitivity of the sensitive critical area:

CATEGORY OF <u>SENSITIVE CRITICAL</u> AREA	PERCENT OF DENSITY ON <u>SENSITIVE CRITICAL</u> AREA THAT MAY BE TRANSFERRED ON SITE
Category I and II Wetlands	25%
Critical Habitat	
High and Very High Geologic Hazard	
Seismic Hazard	
Category III and IV Wetlands	100%
Secondary Habitat	
Low and Medium Geologic Hazard	

3. In transferring the density from the sensitive critical portion of the site and its associated buffer or setback to the nonsensitive portion of the site the density of the nonsensitive portion of the site may be increased up to the equivalent next density classification. However, in the case of the highest density multifamily zoning classifications, the density may not be increased beyond the current density.

4. The nonwetland portion of the site is not constrained by another environmentally sensitive critical or geologic hazard area regulated by this code.

5. The nonwetland portion of the site is subject to the density limitations of the new density zoning classification, and to applicable setbacks, and other standards of the city code or other land development regulations.

C. An on-site density transfer shall meet the requirements and follow the procedures of:

1. Planned unit development, RMC 23.50.010;
2. Plats and subdivisions, RMC Title 24.

D. The fact that development rights have been sold or received, and all related conditions, will be recorded, in a form acceptable to the city attorney, to become a part of the deed of the “sending” and “receiving” properties.

22.10.405 Density bonus for increased buffers.

1. An owner of a residential site or property containing sensitive critical areas who chooses to increase the buffers adjacent to a wetland or wildlife habitat area beyond the minimums required under this title shall be permitted to increase the density on the portion of the site that lies outside of a critical area or its required buffer. The amount of density bonus shall be based on the amount of additional buffer lands provided, through a calculation of the area of the additional buffer and/or wildlife corridor proposed on-site, expressed as a percentage of the total site area, exclusive of the total wetland, wetland buffer area and/or wildlife corridor as required under the provisions of this chapter. This percentage can then be doubled and applied to the total number of units located within the non-critical area portion of the site to determine the allowed density increase.

An example application of the density bonus provision is as follows: An applicant has a 15 acre site with an identified wetland area and buffer and proposes an additional .75 acres of buffer, which translates to 5% of the total site. This entitles the developer to a 10% increase in lot count. If the existing zoning permitted 40 lots, the density bonus would entitle the applicant to an additional 4 lots.

2. In order to qualify for a density bonus:
 - a. Any additional wetland buffer area must be adjacent to the required wetland buffer area;
 - b. Any additional habitat buffer area must be adjacent to the required habitat buffer area;
 - c. A wildlife corridor not otherwise required by this title may qualify for a density bonus provided that the fish and wildlife habitat report prepared by a qualified consultant identifies the location of said wildlife corridor as beneficial to priority, threatened or endangered species.
3. In transferring the density bonus from the sensitive portion of the site and its associated buffer or setback to the non-sensitive portion of the site, the density of the non-sensitive portion of the site may be increased up to the equivalent next density classification. However, in the case of the highest density multifamily zoning classifications, the density may not be increased beyond the current density.

22.10.410 General procedural provisions.

A. Interpretations and Conflicts. Any question regarding interpretation of these regulations shall be resolved pursuant to the procedures set forth in RMC 23.70.070.

B. Penalties and Enforcement. Any person who has violated any provision of this chapter shall have committed a civil infraction subject to a civil penalty as set forth in RMC 10.02.050(E).

Provided, if the same violator has been found to have committed an infraction violation for the same or similar conduct two separate times, with the violations occurring at the same location and involving the same or similar sections of the Richland Municipal Code or other similar codes, the third or subsequent violation shall constitute a misdemeanor, punishable as provided in RMC 1.30.010 for criminal offenses.

C. Appeals from permit decisions shall be governed by the procedures set forth in Chapter 19.70 of the Richland Municipal Code.

22.10.420 General savings provision – Reasonable use.

A. The standards and regulations of this chapter are not intended, and shall not be construed or applied in a manner, to deny all reasonable economic use of private property. If an applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the ~~city of Richland~~ administrator that strict application of these standards and the utilization of cluster techniques, planned unit development, and transfer of development rights would deny all reasonable economic use of its property, development may be permitted subject to appropriate conditions, derived from this chapter as determined by the ~~deputy city manager~~, community and development services director, and after all variance requests from the ~~board of adjustment~~ hearing examiner have been denied.

B. An applicant for relief from strict application of these standards shall demonstrate the following:

1. That no reasonable use with less impact on the critical habitat and/or hazard area and buffer is feasible and reasonable;
2. That there is no feasible and reasonable on-site alternative to the activities proposed, considering possible changes in site layout, reductions in density and similar factors;
3. That the proposed activities, as conditioned, will result in the minimum possible impacts to wetlands and buffers;
4. That all reasonable mitigation measures have been implemented or assured;
5. That all provisions of the city's regulations allowing density transfer on site and off site have been considered.

22.10.430 No special duty created.

It is the purpose of this chapter to provide for the health, welfare, and safety of the general public, and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this chapter. No provision or term used in this chapter is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the city or any of its officers, agents, or employees for whom the implementation or enforcement of this chapter shall be discretionary and not mandatory.

Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to be, nor shall be construed to create or form the basis for any liability on the part of the city or its officers, agents, and employees for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of any premises to abate a nuisance or to comply with the provisions of this chapter or be a reason or a consequence of any inspector, notice, or order, in connection with the implementation or enforcement of this chapter, or by reason of any action of the city related in any manner to enforcement of this chapter by its officers, agents or employees.

22.10.440 Severability.

The provisions of this chapter are declared to be separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or portion of this chapter to any person or circumstance shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this chapter or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

DRAFT

I recently attended a planning commission workshop. The topic of the new critical areas ordinance was discussed, in particular a request from the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) to include specific language from the State's GMA statutes regarding the definitions of wetlands and wildlife habitat.

I don't have either the current draft language or KID's requested language in front of me, so my comments won't be specific. However, from the discussion my understanding is that KID's proposal is to include language from the state regulations in the City's critical area ordinance, and I'm assuming that the language they'd like included is similar to this section from RCW 36.70A.035

"Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands."

I do not believe this type of language should be included without additionally including guidance regarding the interpretation of this language from regulatory agencies. For example, guidance from the State Department of Ecology

(<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1006015.pdf>) clarifies that:

1. The definition also distinguishes between "natural" and "artificial" wetlands. The definition requires that if an irrigation induced wetland is to be considered artificial, and thus not subject to state regulation as a wetland, it must meet both of the following characteristics:
 1. It was intentionally created; and
 2. It is in a formerly non-wetland (upland) site.

(So if an existing wetland is used as an irrigation return, it is still a wetland)

In addition, Ecology clarifies that:

The term "intentionally created," and the examples given in the definition, require that the artificial wetland not be the result of an accident or an unexpected by-product of some other intentional act. Therefore, artificial wetlands are found where someone intentionally creates a water feature such as a ditch, pond, or canal. The only situation where an artificial wetland results from an unintentional action is when construction of a road (after July 1, 1990) inadvertently creates a new wetland.

In short, I believe it would be difficult to give a balanced definition of what qualifies as a critical area if specific language in state law is directly quoted and thereby given undue emphasis. My preference would be to use more general language such as “as defined in state law and as currently interpreted by regulatory agencies” with sufficient citations to allow access to the relevant material.

Thank you for your consideration

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