



Date: July 28, 2021
To: Planning Commission
From: Ben Braudrick, *Associate Planner*
Subject: Synthesis of Planning Commission Performed Climate Resiliency SWOT Analysis of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan

Background:

On November 17, 2020 City Council directed staff to enter into a contract with Cascadia Consulting with a Scope of Work including four tasks:

- Task 1 – Kick-Off Meeting & Project Management
- Task 2 – Public Outreach & Participation Plan
- Task 3 – Community & Municipal Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Task 4 – Climate Resiliency Plan**

In preparation for the completion of the Task 4 - Climate Resiliency Plan objectives, City Staff has worked with Cascadia and the Port Angeles Planning Commission to evaluate the City's most recent adopted Comprehensive Plan using a Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis. A SWOT analysis identifies internal and external factors that could influence a goal or project. It can be used in planning processes, as a risk assessment tool, or an evaluation method. Typically, the "SW" applies to internal or current strategies and policies whereas the "OT" applies to external or future potential. The four evaluative methods asked the following questions of Planning Commissioners:

- Strengths Assets and Resources: Where are areas in the Comp Plan that highlight actions that can support Port Angeles' Climate Resiliency Plan?
- Weaknesses, Limitations, Restrictions, and Challenges: What are the ways that climate change and resiliency are missing in the Comp Plan?
- Opportunities: What are some opportunities to leverage and increase climate resiliency considerations in the Comp Plan?
- Threats: What could negatively impact the ability to integrate and make climate-informed decisions in the Comp Plan?

Using the above questions as a baseline, on February 10, 2021 the Planning Commission began their discussion of how to approach the SWOT analysis. Through consensus it was decided each Planning Commissioner would be assigned with 1-3 individual elements of the plan (splitting up the Land Use Element into its four distinct land use types) to evaluate. Commissioners would submit their SWOT to staff to be placed in the Planning Commission Packet and present their findings to the Planning Commission at the Public Meeting for feedback. The Plan Elements were split up and presented in the following way:

<u>Element</u>	<u>Reviewing Commissioner</u>	<u>Date Presented</u>
Growth Management	Richie Ahuja	05/12/21
Land Use – Residential	Ben Stanley	04/28/21
Land Use – Commercial	Ben Stanley	04/28/21
Land Use – Industrial.....	Steve Luxton Steven Switzer	07/14/21
Land Use – Open Space	Steve Luxton Steven Switzer	07/14/21
Transportation	Colin Young	04/14/21
Utilities and Public Services	Richie Ahuja	05/12/21
Housing	Marolee Smith	03/24/21
Conservation	Ben Stanley	02/24/21
Capital Facilities	Andrew Schwab	05/12/21
Economic Development.....	Andrew Schwab	05/12/21
Parks and Recreation.....	Colin Young	04/14/21

Overall Planning Commission SWOT Consensus:

As Planning Commissioners presented each Element’s SWOT analysis thematic similarities emerged throughout the Comprehensive Plan. By highlighting these themes, a more strategic update and review of the Comprehensive Plan can be performed using the guidance of the Climate Resiliency Plan. The following themes are in no specific order:

Strengths:

- Concurrent Development Practices: Concurrent development protects loss of open space and the costs involved in constructing and maintaining City infrastructure. A reduction in the need to maintain “leapfrog” infrastructure (where new development is disjointed from the existing) allows more funding towards resiliency-centric upgrades to already existing facilities.
- Walkability and Transportation Equity: The Plan promotes urban design and development encouraging walkability and equity in the community. The more diverse a transportation system is, the more resilient it is. Some features include grid patterned streets, neighborhood-centric development, and higher density.
- Affordable Housing: Housing affordability and accessibility are essential to community resiliency. Many of the Plan’s elements focus on integrating housing equity through affordability and accessibility, but do not provide requirements to ensure its creation and maintenance.
- Environmental Stewardship: The Plan places an emphasis throughout on the importance of environmental stewardship, but it may not provide enough standards or direction related to resiliency.
- Infill Development: Infill development protects open space, allows for resiliency-centric upgrades to existing facilities, fills in critical gaps to facilities, and if done correctly, creates neighborhood vibrancy.
- Preservation of Open Space: Open space is a critical element of climate resiliency. Due to the City’s location between the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountain Range, open space is an endangered land use within the City. The Plan consistently supports its protection and integration into development.
- Green Infrastructure: The plan actively promotes green infrastructure, which is essential to a modern resilient community.
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Weaknesses:

- No Mention of Climate Resiliency: Many of the Plan's Elements do not directly reference climate resiliency in either their goals or policies. Another method of climate resiliency recognition could be creation of a new "Climate Resiliency" Element in the Plan.
- Vague Policies and Unclear Direction: Many of the policies throughout the Plan use active terminology such as "encourage", "consider", and "promote". These terms do not provide minimum standards and bright lines related to resiliency. Using terminology such as "shall", "require", "reduce", and "do not" or "no" can enforce minimum development standards that support resiliency. Providing examples of specific aspects of a goal's climate resiliency creates clearer direction. Specific examples can be drawn from existing situations in Port Angeles, the North Olympic Peninsula, or Washington State and beyond. These examples will direct proper climate resilient efforts.
- No Connection or Only Indirect Reference to Municipal Code: Relating goals and policies back to the Port Angeles Municipal Code it directly influences or directs will strengthen a goal's relationship to the enforcement of climate resiliency.
- Confusing Language: For the Plan to be successful goals and policies must be succinct, approachable, and operational. Every goal and policy must direct action, and that action should relate in some way to furthering resiliency.
- Does Not Discourage Bad Design: Although the Plan encourages proper resilient design, it does not actively discourage or prohibit design that threatens resiliency.
- Does Not Recognize Risk: More emphasis must be made to demonstrate the consequence of our community failing to become more resilient.

Opportunities

- Prioritize Climate Resilience: The current vision for Port Angeles revolves around our community becoming more resilient. More can be done in each element to reinforce the importance of resiliency by realizing our 20-year vision.
- Focus on Density and Mixed Uses: As Port Angeles continues to grow, more emphasis on density and the mixing of uses and facilities will help continue to build resiliency.
- Mention Changes Already Made: Reevaluation must occur to celebrate what has already been done to achieve Port Angeles' vision of resiliency.
- Connecting Transportation to Land Use: Transportation and land use are strongly connected through a relationship of location and access. More can be done to reinforce their relationship and the importance of this relationship for climate resiliency.
- Partnerships: As a community with limited resources, the creation and maintenance of partnerships with other public agencies, not-for-profits, and local organizations will build vision, strength, and greater resiliency. As an isolated area, the North Olympic Peninsula also needs to partner together to protect our environmental, economic, and recreational assets regionally.
- Greater Land Use Specificity: More emphasis could be placed on certain aspects of the City's land uses in order to better understand their relationship to building resiliency.
- Raising Environmental Protection Standards: Although the plan mentions the importance of environmental protection, more can be done to actively enforce and require protection.
- Upgrading Existing Facilities: Focus on upgrading our existing facilities to become more efficient and inclusive is the most effective path forward in Port Angeles' climate resiliency efforts.

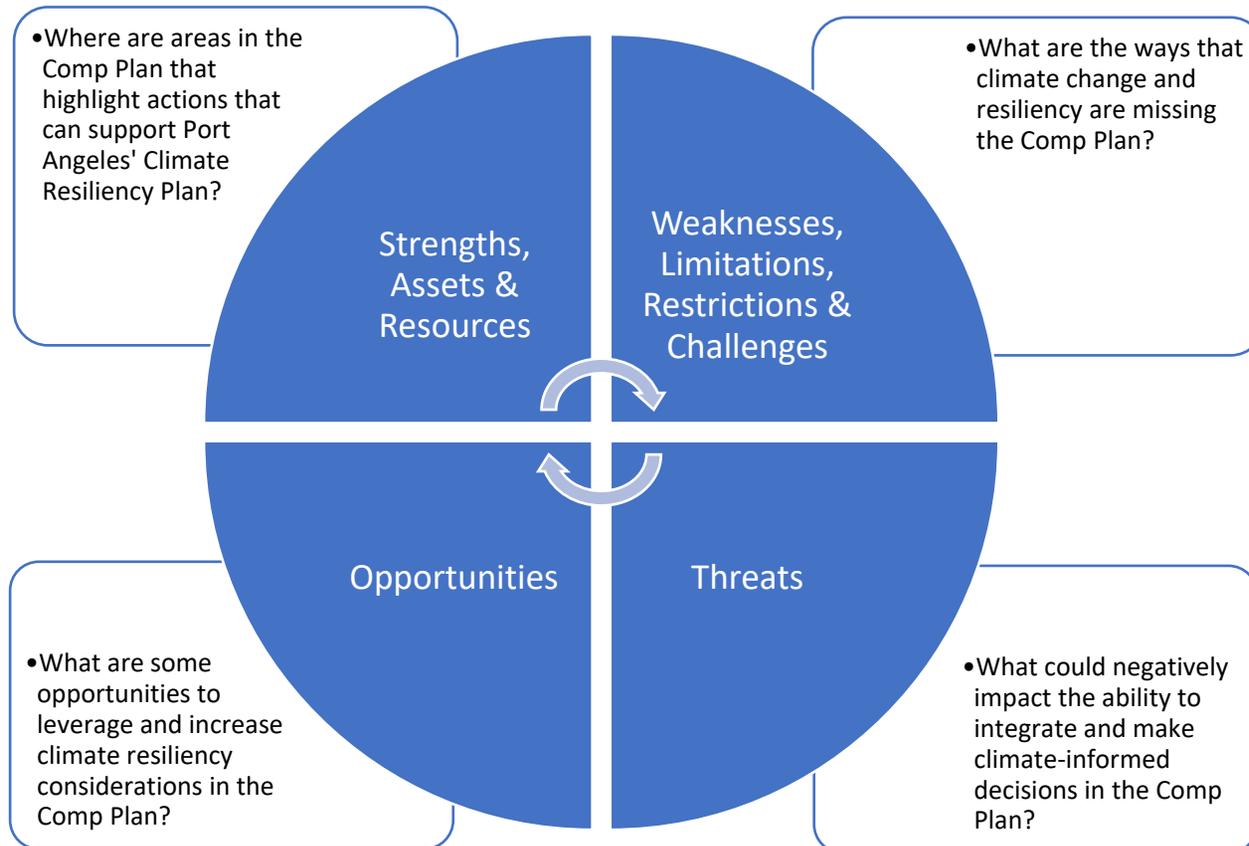
- Diversity: Diversity is resiliency. Each element requires a goal directing and supporting diversity and inclusion both culturally, and through land use and community development.
- Direct Connection Linking Regulation to Planning: In an effort to educate the community about climate resiliency, direct connections could be made to local, county, and state regulations that enforce or reinforce its importance. Relationships can be drawn between those regulations and our Plan's goals and policies.
- Connecting Environmental Standards and Climate Resiliency: Continuing to connect the dots between our community's relationship to environmental degradation and current efforts towards reconciliation and mitigation will help educate the community about the importance climate resiliency.

Threats

- Continued Single Occupancy Vehicle-Centric Development: Promoting transportation equity and diversity is not the same as discouraging or continuing harmful land use patterns that contribute to the proliferation and necessity of the single-occupancy-vehicle. More must be done to diminish the focus on single occupancy vehicles and the immense land use they require to operate.
- Clarity: Without a more defined climate resiliency-related vision, goals, and objectives, the Plan will fail to achieve its efforts towards improvements and efficiencies.
- Weak Direction: The plan must define an active strategic baseline for future community development.
- Lack of Vision and Scenarios: The plan lacks the understanding that the future is full of uncertainty due to climate change. As climate change drives increasing event severity and outcome uncertainty, more must be done to prepare. Designing select scenarios will help community leaders better understand the mitigation efforts required to change critical decision paths moving forward.

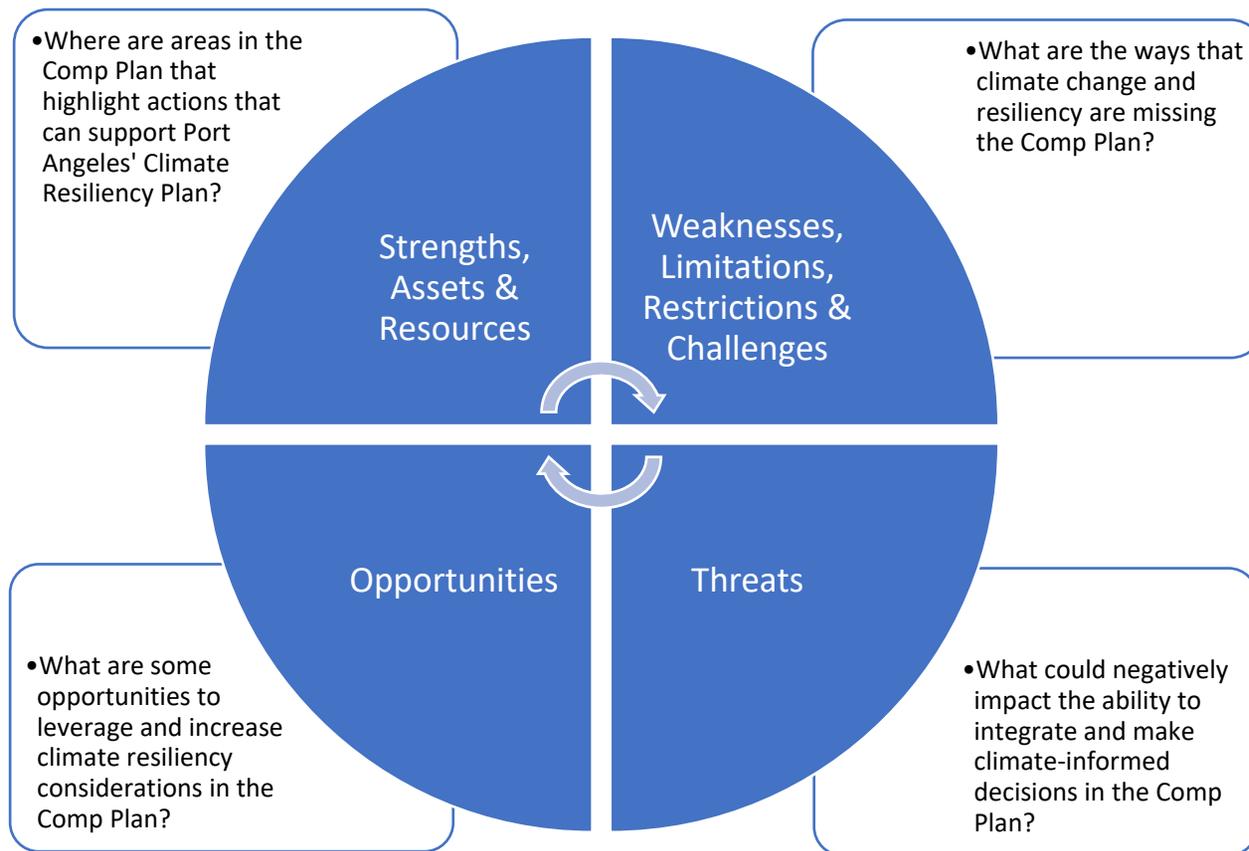
SWOT Analysis

A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis identifies internal and external factors that could influence a goal or project. It can be used in planning processes, as a risk assessment tool, or an evaluation method. Typically, the “SW” applies to internal or current strategies and policies whereas the “OT” applies to external or future potential. The following is an example SWOT analysis template for the Port Angeles [Comprehensive Plan](#).



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Growth Management Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Growth Management chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open language from GMA that can be interpreted to support integration of climate and DEIJ into planning activities (P-2A-01) • sets minimum standards for services (eg energy, transport, waste management, storm water management, etc (P-2A.09 – 11) and for provision of community facilities • Requires demonstration of financial capability for continuous operations for any new facility • Seeks to integrate and maintain consistency of services between City, PAUGA, County. • limits annexation of land outside the PAUGA, and constrains land use within PAUGA (P-2B.01-03) • Requires that standards be maintained for for services such as waste, storm water management, energy delivery, etc in case there is additional land annexed from within the PAUGA boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter does not explicitly take cognizance of climate resilience and climate risks. This can have repercussions on how the guidance in the plan is written and interpreted by the various stakeholders that rely on the document.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add explicit language prioritizing climate resilience and management of climate risks while meeting the state compliance requirements under GMA. This could be added as Goal 2B. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence of specific guidance around climate risk and resilience could lead to continuation of business as usual and promulgation of new policies and investments detrimental to long term social, economic, and environmental stability of the city and the region.

Land Use - Residential Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the - Land Use - Residential - chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low impact development cited as framework for all land use (P-3A.02) • P-3B.05 – Encouragement of grid-planned urban design is congruent with resilience efforts promoting walkable, diverse urban environments • P-3B.06 – Encouragement of site specific design is congruent with climate change resiliency and could be expanded upon • Goal 3C, emphasizing neighborhood-centric development, is congruent with sustainable urban development best practices • P-3C.05 – Encouragement of high density affordable housing in CBD is fully in line with sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 3B needs to define “environment” more explicitly to reference climate change and sustainability (and needs to insert comma after environment) • P-3B.01 – reference to “urban services” in land use element is not relevant; reference to Capital Facilities element is unnecessary • P-3B.02 – reference to “reasonable shape” of single family lots is vague. Emphasis on shape of lots is restrictive of alternative residential uses and the flexibility required to address sustainable housing. Plan should explicitly allow irregular shaped and smaller lot development • P-3B.03 – Confusing language – should be edited down to reflect general acceptance and promotion of higher densities • P-3B.04 – The goal of promoting fire safety needs to be balanced with goals of promoting walkable urban environments. Compromise is necessary between suburban width roads previously seen as best practices for fire safety and with urban design goals promoting density (which aids climate change efforts by concentrating building in middle of existing urban area) • P-3B.05 – Cul-de-sacs and other auto-centric urban street designs should be actively discouraged, not supported conditionally • P-3C.02 – Specific focus on street sizes and auto access to higher density housing, under notion of traffic management, should be eliminated and replaced with understanding that higher density housing does not need to be paired with auto infrastructure. Apartment housing should be equally or predominantly paired with pedestrian infrastructure. Also the connection between larger streets and less traffic has been proven false (induced travel demand from larger streets has been proven true). Any

	<p>auto-dominant infrastructure paired with housing requirements should specify bare minimum standards (simple auto access, no parking or street width requirements)</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P-3C.04 – Pairing manufactured home and other home construction standards with zoning regulations – this can be rephrased and reworked to allow tremendous flexibility in higher density residential construction in the city rather than used as a restriction • There is a larger opportunity in this section to completely disconnect desired housing types and densities from automobile and street considerations and replace them with a connection between housing and pedestrian/bike/transit connections • There is an opportunity to build much deeper housing flexibility into this section, in conjunction with zoning code changes. For example, explicit allowance of micro lot platting and development; allowance of incremental housing and modular housing; etc. • The city’s full approval of duplex development without conditional review should be inserted into this section to show the larger priority behind that code change • There is an opportunity to insert language encouraging the City to take steps to encourage higher density housing development (such as purchasing and assembling vacant lots for development; creating a fund for subsidizing new housing construction; etc.) • There is an opportunity to explicitly support “green” housing development features such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, onsite water and food production, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is the threat of continued automobile dominant housing and neighborhoods due to the embedded language throughout this section. • There is a threat that this chapter will be incongruent or not matched sufficiently with the building and zoning codes that determine possible densities and green building improvements

Land Use - Commercial- Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the - Land Use - Commercial- chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G-3E – Goal specifically mentions environmental goals alongside safety and compatibility when discussing commercial shopping • Goal 3F, emphasizing traditional downtown environment, is congruent with sustainable urban development – and could be expanded with specifics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P-3E.02 – Notion of separating pedestrian, bike, and vehicle traffic needs to be clarified to avoid the 20th century focus on separation of uses. Mixed use environments should be encouraged and pedestrian/bike areas need to be considered equal to traffic concerns • P-3E.03 – Pairing of shopping center location and traffic concerns should be eliminated. Traffic and roads do not need to be cited alongside commercial districts, especially because the possible locations of commercial development are already specified by the land use map
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on environmental goals alongside public safety and land use planning when discussing commercial shopping could be greatly clarified and expanded to reflect explicit climate change resiliency goals • Explicit mention of bicycle infrastructure, such as bike racks, could be paired with commercial development to improve multi-modal access • Much more specific mention of how higher density, diverse, multi-modal urban commercial environments are directly related to climate change resiliency (decreased transport/building emissions, decreased development of undeveloped natural areas, increased social cohesion and efficiencies) could be inserted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main threat is that commercial land use regulations will continue to follow the suburban-inspired status quo from the 20th century

Land Use - Industrial- Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the - Land Use - Industrial- chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal G-3H prioritizes the minimal impacts on the natural environment and effective use of the community’s natural resources • P-3H.03 mitigates nuisances and hazardous characteristics such as noise, air, water, odor, pollution • P-3H.04 does not permit petroleum, liquefied natural gas, and non-clean energy facilities outside heavy industrial use area • P-3H.07 considers the climate change impacts of new industrial activity or expansion before any approval • G-3I facilitates reuse of large vacant or isolated industrial areas no longer in operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G-3H vague at defining “minimal impact on the natural environment” -no mention of impervious surfaces, waste collection, effects of increased energy use etc. • G-3I lacks additional policies on assessing levels of contamination and no standards on evaluating cleanup options on sites • G-3I no implementation plan/guidelines for ensuring successful reuse of vacant sites. • Overall no delineation between Industrial Land Usages
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with Washington State’s Department of Ecology’s Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) to facilitate industrial site cleanups • Define subgroups of Industrial uses (Industrial-Light, Industrial-Heavy, and Industrial-Transit) • Prioritize the public availability of environmental impacts of local industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial development can impede/promote community’s future fiscal viability and job growth • Anthropogenic land use presents rivalling challenges to biodiversity than climate change alone • Market realities threaten the availability of usable industrial land

Land Use – Open Space- Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the - Land Use – Open Space - chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G-3J retains natural landscapes, preserves fish and wildlife habitats, and provides natural corridors connecting wildlife habitats • P-3J.01 Preserve unique or major physical features such as marine shorelines, bluffs, ravines, streams, wetlands, wildlife habitat and other environmentally sensitive areas • P-3J.02 Promotes the preservation of wildlife habitat • P-3J.03 Regulates access to natural areas open spaces so as to avoid degrading areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G-3K no clear guidelines for successful open space development/ usage (e.g., only using indigenous plants/restricting invasive plant use in landscaping) • G-3J Without clear direction creating open space in the urban landscape can promote more non-places across the city hindering public use and health under the guise of a green landscape
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement stormwater gardens in place of existing water management so water can be filtered naturally back into the ground • Activating and beautifying underutilized alleys (particularly downtown) to increase usable public space • Support/ Promote urban orchards in conjunction P-3J.04 to allow public access to fresh fruits and promote stewardship • Extend free wifi to applicable open spaces/ city parks as an incentive to promote the value and prevent the underutilization of urban nature areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource protection, damage to sensitive areas are constant threats to the quality of open spaces • Stewardship of areas can decline without lasting partnerships and continued public education • Planning for climate change (more heat, stronger storms, droughts, etc.) will increase and threaten parks • Burden property owners/ city on maintaining upkeep of open spaces

Transportation Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Transportation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Transportation chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a policy that specifically mentions development of low carbon impact transportation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P-4A.04 • Policy P-4B.14 explicitly mentions climate change. • Even when climate change isn't mentioned, there are many climate-relevant or adjacent vocabulary that suggests that climate resiliency is prioritized in this chapter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P-4A.01 ○ P-4A.02 ○ P-4A.03 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the goals have explicit mention of climate change or climate resiliency.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to promote alternate modes of transportation that directly affect climate change. • Identify ways to make pedestrian and bike travel safer, easier, and more pleasurable through routes that users want to take. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect pedestrian and bike paths from west side of town to east side of town and downtown. ○ Create paths away from traffic over Valley Creek and Tumwater Creek to connect Lincoln Park to waterfront. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If “climate change” or other similar vocabulary isn't explicitly included, there is the risk that climate change and resiliency will be overlooked in the implementation of the Comp Plan. • Policy P-4B.09 is not consistent with the rest of the chapter because it describes requiring off street parking. This encourages driving by ensuring excess parking infrastructure increases vehicle use and traffic. Multi-modal transportation reduces need for parking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Remove this policy.

Utilities and Public Services Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Utilities and Public Services chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals may be interpreted to include climate mitigation and adaptation. Goals and policies support DEIJ considerations (eg P5A-01/04/05) Transportation, energy, and energy efficiency are three areas where significant opportunities exist for climate mitigation while delivering economic (reduced energy and transport costs) and other environmental benefits (eg reduction in other criteria pollutants) to the citizens . All three are promoted under Goal G-5D. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no explicit mention climate risk and resilience to guide actions. weak language (eg. G5D-05 uses “promote”) around climate friendly interventions
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the chapter would benefit from some language the encourages development of “Climate Smart” infrastructure. (example – amend P5D.09 to reflect “climate smart” infrastructure; explicit language and guidance to account for climate risk and resilience opens the door to reorienting current and future investments and support for various programs – for example P5B-02 city’s financial support could then be contingent upon also including climate considerations in the feasibility studies and investment plans. use stronger language for including climate considerations in decision making- Where no regrets actions are clear (eg. energy efficiency, public transport, etc) use strong language in the document to prioritize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chapter would benefit from some language the encourages development of “Climate Smart” infrastructure. (example – amend P5D.09 to reflect “climate smart” infrastructure; Explicit language and guidance to account for climate risk and resilience opens the door to reorienting current and future investments and support for various programs – for example P5B-02 city’s financial support could then be contingent upon also including climate considerations in the feasibility studies and investment plans. Use stronger language for including climate considerations in decision making- Where no regrets actions are clear (eg. energy efficiency, public transport, etc) use strong language in the document to prioritize

Housing Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Housing chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City has a housing fund that could be used for grants to pay for developer fees for desirable projects. The comprehensive plan should address the city’s dedicated “affordable housing finances” even though there is money set aside for these purposes. Tree canopy cover tied to individual city lots – could promote tree and landscape requirements, to encourage (and/or reward) more trees in our community. Trees are necessary because of their ecological benefits, and the quality of life and desirability of a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P-6A.01 Weakness in Definition: what is a “housing opportunity”. Tents and RVs are opportunities if one is underhoused or unhoused and there are no other choices. So, does housing opportunity include temporary, makeshift, low-barrier entry. P-6A.03 Encourage retention and development of safe and attractive mobile home parks. Weakness: the size requirements (several acres) of the existing mobile home requirements leaves very little space in city where a new park can occur. P-6A.05 “promote acceptance” is vague, and nonsense.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P-6A.03 The city could make a distinction between mobile homes and “tiny homes” (stick built, not on trailers) to allow for regular city lots to accommodate such a development (with adequate parking, and not overload sewer/water/power). A city lot could have several tiny homes. P-6A.03 The city could allow for several attractive tiny homes on trailers to create a mini-mobile home park with hookups, and landscape requirements. “target household limits” could address definitions for: low, medium, or high income and tie to AMI area median income. City could address Elder housing, as that will be the largest growing segment of our city population – to make better decisions regarding housing stock and needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language is not clear. P-6A.02 Residential in all non-industrial zones “in situations where a limited work/live environment is found to be compatible” does not address the Port’s use of a warehouse for high-density homeless Covid housing. In that instance, was not subordinate to the industrial use element, and intent of industrial was not maintained. This needs clarification. P-6A.07 “consider the effect of impact fees” Fees are the greatest impact on development. City must find ways to partner with developers, not gouge them for fees. P-6A.12 ‘green building’ while desirable, also raises costs to build. Just as the G-5D Goal says “utility services in an efficient and cost-effective manner” is vague and prohibitive. Whose viewpoint is considered?

Aspirational Analysis of Chapter:

- I am looking at the comprehensive plan Housing with the goals and policies supporting climate.

- One thing I would like to point out that is in May 2011 there was a tree canopy assessment done for the city by Davey Resource Group. At the time, they found that we had 27.3% canopy cover our city, but mostly in private (not public) areas, and oddly enough the RS7 had only 17.8% canopy, which was lower than RHD at 18.9%. High density housing had better tree canopy, than our most common residential lots.
- Since 2011 we have lost a LOT MORE canopy... besides our city cutting trees (Peabody, the big Sequoia dubbed "hope", the trees at Lincoln Park, 2016 removing all 38 downtown trees, etc) we have lost a great number of trees from private city lots, and with development projects that never had any standards on what kind of canopy cover should exist. We even lost the famous Madrona because of sidewalk and road changes which disrupted the root systems.
- I don't even know if current redesign goals for arterials include trees. (But I know that from improper pruning we have had great tree loss on the greenbelts). In 2018, we developed a "tree board" to try and get an Arbor Day classification for TreeCityUSA, something I have heard nothing about over the last four years. In 2019, it was reported in the PDN that the tree board was disbanded.
- We have a lip-service ordinance that is mostly for electric service street tree pruning.
- Our tree ordinance, is MOSTLY about city owned trees, however I have NOT seen the reality of "13.010(2) When street tree(s) are removed, trees greater than six inches in diameter at breast height shall be replaced at a ratio of two new trees per removed tree, all trees less than six inches in diameter shall be replaced at a ratio of one new tree per removed tree."
- And, for things like the tree fund at Lincoln Park, all funds were diverted to Civic Field (loudspeaker system) and, I do not know where the "Community Forester Fund" exists. Our ordinance also makes note of a "community forrester" to be appointed by city manager but, does this exist?
- We have lost too many trees...
- At 2011 levels our canopy cover is comparable to current Seattle (28%) canopy but THEY have a goal of increasing their canopy to 30% by 2037.
- We have no such goal anywhere in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Through the natural process of photosynthesis, trees absorb CO2 and other pollutant particulates, then store the carbon and emit pure oxygen. It is a simple concept that could go far to not only make our community more attractive, but, also, fight climate change. Trees also increase a neighborhood's "desirability" but offer other tangible benefits.
- The 2011 Davey Resource Group conclusion recommended increasing our tree canopy to 47.9%.
- Taking into consideration that the City of Port Angeles includes 2,453 surface acres of open water, mostly in the harbor, the assessment found an overall average tree canopy cover of 27.3% over land areas. Rough estimates of potential planting areas suggest that Port Angeles may be able to support an overall tree canopy cover of 47.9%. Establishing policies now that conserve and increase the overall net canopy and the benefit stream from this important resource will ensure that it is preserved for current residents and wildlife as well as for future generations.
- They identified goals that were recommended to the City of Port Angeles a decade ago. These goals, still desirable today, were:

- Preserve and expand overall net canopy. Considering that Port Angeles' current overall canopy cover is 27.3% (excluding areas of surface water) and the general recommendation for communities in the Pacific Northwest is 40% (American Forests), preserving the current overall net canopy cover is important.
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- Protect existing trees where possible, maximize the stocking level for street trees, and increase canopy in parks and open spaces. Set canopy goals. Canopy goals can be broad based, or specific to land use. When determining canopy goals, consider the importance of trees and forests to meeting the environmental and quality of life goals of the community. Ideally, tree canopy goals should be adopted as a component of the Urban Forest Master Plan along with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Promote trees and tree canopy as an efficient solution to stormwater management. Integrate current and evolving design standards that reduce stormwater runoff and support urban tree growth, including pervious pavement, suspended pavement, linear tree pits, and forested bioswales.
- Augment tree canopy cover to maximize the capture and reuse of stormwater management areas, thereby reducing runoff and pollution into surface waters and the Strait.
- Promote community outreach. Develop materials, presentations, and press releases that promote the importance and value of trees and canopy to the community, especially for reducing wind velocity and stormwater management.
- Consider providing an annual report to detail the state of the urban forest, including canopy loss and/or gain. Identify areas for new tree planting. Identify locations where forestlands compliment community design and scenic views.
- Increase new tree planting to replace canopy lost to development or redesign.
- Encourage and facilitate partnerships and collaborations. Work with developers and homeowner associations to identify and preserve conservation areas and potential forest tracts. Promote clustered developments, preservation of existing trees and tree planting projects that compliment views, while reducing wind velocity and providing opportunities for passive recreation. Collaborate with volunteer groups to assist with Tree planting projects.
- Tree ordinances are just starting to show up across the country. A tree ordinance establishes authorization and standards for addressing a wide range of issues regarding trees. They should be developed and implemented as part of a broader effort to identify and address a community's tree-related goals.
- full Davey report: ftp://ftp.austintexas.gov/GIS-Data/Community_Forestry/Alan_Halter/H/Accuracy_Assessment_Canopy2010/References/Port%20Angeles%20accuracy%20assessment.pdf
- USFS report about importance of tree canopy: https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2018/nrs_2018_nowak_005.pdf
- Guidelines for developing tree ordinances: https://conservationtools.org/library_items/597
- There are also resources on how to develop a community tree inventory.

Conservation Chapter

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Conservation chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place-based development in harmony with local environment is important for resilience (7A.01, 7A.02, 7A.03) Reference to climate change in numerous plan elements (7A.10, etc.) Focus on conservation of wetlands, riparian areas, and other natural areas, along with explicit support for tree cover, is in line with climate change mitigation Reference to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (7B.18, 7B.19) Explicit focus on community education surrounding environmental resources is a direct endorsement of community organizing for climate change mitigation (7C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vague statements are hard to implement with concrete policy measures (7A.04 – “natural constraints” is not defined) Policies that have already been implemented should be removed or revised to reflect future goals (7A.05 – minimum development standards; 7A.06) The overall number of policies should be reduced through combination or elimination to make future goals and policies more clear and simple for policymakers – there are many redundancies (ex – 7B.01 and 7B.03) Reference to regulations impacting policies should include links to exact sections of municipal code, for reference and review (ex – 7B.07 has been enacted through stormwater investments – these should be linked so that progress in area is known; 7D – should link to Shoreline Master Plan and should avoid redundancy) References to climate change are often indirect and not clear about the distinct causes and effects of climate change (ex – 7B.06)
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an opportunity to streamline the number of goals and policies to make the entire document most easily understandable without sacrificing the content of policies suggested Explicit mention of both climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation could be included to link together the importance of different policies (such as policies suggesting riparian conservation and policies suggesting shoreline conservation) in a larger climate framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too many goals/policies, including many which are redundant, threaten to confuse policymakers and citizens when trying to apply the plan Unclear definitions of key terms, and vague reference to “climate change”, threatens a lack of coordination among community members in addressing issues More explicit mention of development goals than climate change goals could lead to prioritization of development over conservation.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an opportunity to make the linkages between the plan’s goals/policies and the underlying laws/legal standards that impact them (municipal code, state law, federal law, etc.) much more clear and easily accessible, creating a single resource to be used by policymakers and citizens where all relevant information is included in one place alongside recommended policies and actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of envisioning possible futures – such as drastic sea level rise, drought and water scarcity, climate migration amid housing shortage – in explicit terms in the plan threatens to leave the city unprepared for the larger variety of future possibilities under a changing climate.
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Capital Facilities - Chapter 8

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Conservation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Capital Facilities chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Policies directly and indirectly relate to climate resiliency. The chapter references several other Plans, Programs, Documents, Policies, and Acts that directly and indirectly relate to climate resiliency. (County-Wide Planning Policy, State Growth Management Act, Capital Facilities Plan, Parks and Recreation Plan, Urban Forestry Program) The chapter directly states a goal of "consider[ing] projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies to determine whether adequate services can be provided into the future, prior to approving any development." P-8A.22 The chapter directly references developing Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development P-8D.02 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple policies could easily have a climate resiliency component, but it's not mentioned. Goal G-8B is focused on streets and utilities. With the exception of one policy referencing stormwater run-off, nothing is related to climate resiliency.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a reference to climate resiliency where applicable to current goals and policies when not already directly referenced. Example: P-8D.02 The City should invest in Green Infrastructure, Low Impact Development (LID), and similar technologies to maintain and enhance environmental quality and climate resiliency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several goals and policies referencing working and cooperating with other agencies (School district, the State, the County, and others). However, the other agencies may have different or nonexistent climate change and resiliency plans making it more difficult to cooperate. No matter how inclusive or thorough climate resiliency objectives are integrated into the Comp Plan, it's up to the City Council to implement them. Different Council members have different focuses.

Goals and Policies Supporting Climate Resiliency:

- P-8A.11 Adopt a Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Growth Management Act as an Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

- P-8A.12 Require should use permeable materials where feasible.
- P-8A.13 Develop and implement an Urban Forestry Program.
- P-8A.15 Consider climatic change impacts and adaptation strategies in planning and designing capital facilities.
- P-8A.17 Deny any development that will not be served at or greater than a citywide level of service standard of 10 acres of parks per 1,000 population within six years from the time of development.
- P-8B.09 Develop a Capital Facilities Plan list, with public input, for prioritizing pedestrian walkway needs.
- G-8D To reduce the amount of impervious surface created by new developments and thereby reduce stormwater management costs and environmental impacts to the City and its natural resources, reduce development costs to private property owners, and provide safe and more attractive streets through traffic calming, safe pedestrian amenities, and improved street edge landscaping.
- P-8D.02 The City should invest in Green Infrastructure, Low Impact Development (LID), and similar technologies to maintain and enhance environmental quality.

Parks and Recreation – Chapter 10

Key Objectives: Evaluate the Parks and Recreation chapter on how well it integrates climate change and resiliency. Identify additional opportunities and risks of integrating climate change in future iterations of the Parks and Recreation chapter.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Recreation promotes outdoor engagement. More outdoor use heightens people’s sensitivity to climate change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promoting walking and biking has potential to reduce vehicle use. • One policy reflects climate change goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ P-10D.01 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no explicit wording related to climate change in this chapter. • No examples of resiliency
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are opportunities to increase park use and enjoyment as climate changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase sheltering like overhangs and trees if precipitation increases. ○ Increase sheltering like overhangs and trees if precipitation decreases. ○ Re-enforce shoreline to protect against rising sea levels • Allow rain gardens where appropriate land exists. Streets create huge amounts of run off. City could use its assets to its advantage. Parks are not typically in use when it is raining anyway. Bring in more birds to parks. Small depressions on edges of parks can provide more attractive features with native vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Recreation is concerned with the interaction of individuals with the outdoor environment. Climate change directly impacts this. • If “climate change” or other similar vocabulary isn’t explicitly included, there is the risk that climate change and resiliency will be overlooked in the implementation of the Comp Plan.