

GREEN RIVER

A FRAGILE RESOURCE THAT
NEEDS OUR HELP!

Here at the City of Auburn, we all care about our environment. We live, work and play within a fragile ecosystem. Throughout our community, we have a number of areas that have been identified as environmentally sensitive, or "critical areas".

You happen to live near one of those areas, the Green River. A critical area performs a variety of valuable and beneficial biological and physical functions that benefit the environment, the City and its residents. Alteration of critical areas, and the areas that are in close proximity to these sensitive features, can threaten public safety or the environment if not done with the right approach and proper care. Therefore, the City works hard to regulate and protect these natural resources, but we need your help.



Your Mayor and City Council are working hard to protect and improve our environment. Thank you for being a partner in protection.



Community Development & Public Works
25 W Main St
Auburn, WA 98001
www.auburnwa.gov



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WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Before starting any projects or activities that involve ground disturbance or the removal of vegetation on your property, check with the City. City staff members are an excellent resource and can assist you with determining whether a critical area is located on or near your property, and if so, can provide information on how you can protect this area. We want to work together to accomplish your goals while preserving this precious natural resource.

Contact Auburn's Environmental Services Team for a technical assistance site visit to be sure the activity is authorized and safe for the environment. While it may limit what can be done near the river, this review will ensure you maintain compliance and avoid potentially expensive, civil penalties and any corrective actions required to restore unauthorized work. We will work together to come up with alternatives or options that can be approved.

This is also an important step in maintaining your safety and your property investment. Rivers and streams are dynamic systems. Any alteration or change of condition could affect you or your neighbor's property and increase the risk of flooding or channel migration. Channel migration is a change in how and where a river flows and can cause a different type of flooding. These changes may be sudden or gradual and your actions today could have serious long term implications.

One way the city protects critical areas such as the Green River is by establishing a protective distance or "buffer" area around the river; certain activities are not allowed within this area. The size of the buffer depends on several factors and can vary from one part of the river to the next. City staff can help you determine what the buffer requirements are for your property and answer any questions you may have about activities in the buffer.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Our rivers and streams are a critical part of:

- Maintaining an adequate water supply
- Providing fish and wildlife habitat
- Providing water quality treatment
- Providing for floodwater storage
- Providing open space and an environment that is aesthetically pleasing
- Providing outdoor recreation

It is important to know that these areas are protected for a reason. They can be very easily damaged and very hard to replace!

Remember, littering, dumping, or otherwise placing garbage or debris in rivers, streams, and other water bodies in Auburn is prohibited under Chapter 8.16 of the Auburn City Code.

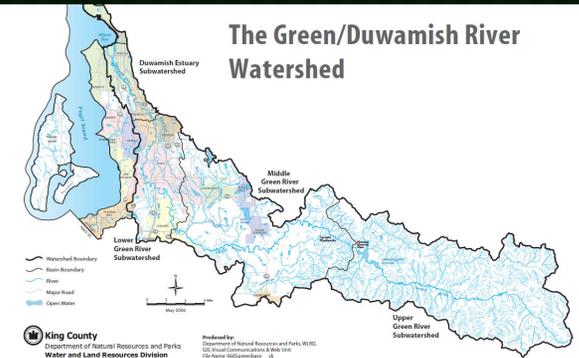
If you observe activity along the river that you are concerned about, please contact Auburn Code Compliance at 253-931-3020, and select option 4. Our Code Compliance Officers can investigate the concern and work to address the situation. It is important that you provide the address in question, the specific activity or potential violation, and your contact info so that we can discuss concerns or obtain additional information. In most cases your report and information can be confidential.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit our website: www.auburnwa.gov/environment
For project specific technical assistance, visit our Customer Service Center located at 1 East Main Street, 2nd floor.

You may also contact the City of Auburn Environmental Services Division at 253-288-4318 or via email at environmentalservices@auburnwa.gov

DID YOU KNOW...



THE GREEN RIVER is 65 miles long. It starts in the Cascades, stretching westward toward Seattle. There it turns into the Duwamish Waterway and finally discharges into Elliott Bay. The Howard Hanson Dam, operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, regulates the Green River for flood protection purposes.



FEDERALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES such as Chinook Salmon call the Green River their home. Areas along the shore of the river are vital habitat for these animals. Vegetation along the river banks provide shade for salmon and other species. Foliage also attracts insects, which provide a food source for fish in the Green River.



ALTERING NATURAL FEATURES can increase the likelihood of excessive river bank erosion and flooding. To help prevent these events it is critical that we work together to maintain the health of the Green River ecosystem.