

Air Quality

- Green-Duwamish Watershed Boundary
- River Mile
- Parks and Open Space
- Lakes
- Wetlands
- Rivers & Streams
- Trail (Local)
- Trail (Regional)
- Highways

Air Quality Maintenance Areas

- Areas of wood burning
- Ozone impacted regions
- Diesel Particle Concentrations over 2 ug/m3
- High Industrial Source Density

The Green/Duwamish watershed suffers from high levels of air pollution that impacts air quality. People living near major roadways and in communities with significant wood burning for home heating are exposed to airborne toxics and fine particles. In particular, residents near major goods movement/transportation corridors or facilities are exposed to significantly higher levels of the more toxic diesel particles. Particles from wood and diesel combustion contain harmful pollutants like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that can also deposit on land surfaces and collect in rivers and water bodies. Additionally, the highest levels of summertime ozone (smog) in the four county region occur in the upper reaches of the watershed, downwind of the larger urban areas where smog levels are low. In addition to important human health impacts, ozone impacts ecosystems and sensitive plants. The watershed also contains areas where there is a high density of sources of industrial air pollution. Those sources are subject to legal standards and regulations on how much pollution they can emit.

Draft

Source: Data courtesy of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, US EPA, US Census Bureau, Puget Sound Regional Council, USGS, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and King County. Map produced for the Regional Open Space Strategy project, University of Washington College of Built Environments Green Futures Research and Design Lab, November 2015.

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