

## Central South

### LAND USE MANAGEMENT PRIORITY: RESTORATION

#### Watershed Characterization Results from the 2007 Pilot Study:

*This watershed's ability to help maintain / improve water quality:*

The Central South watershed has several low-gradient streams and extensive wetlands areas, which are effective at removing bacteria from septic systems, nitrogen, and other pollutants that would otherwise flow into Birch Bay.

*This watershed's ability to maintain / improve natural patterns of surface and groundwater flow:*

The watershed contains several large wetland areas that can store substantial amounts of water during periods of heavy or prolonged rain. In particular, the large wetland west of Blaine Road helps protect downstream properties and resources from potential flooding and erosion problems.

#### Important Wildlife Features:

The watershed is important for wildlife habitat because of its pattern, or mosaic, of diverse habitats (fields, stands of trees, and shrub-dominated areas). The watershed contains streams, wetlands, large forest patches, and fields that provide cover, foraging, and breeding areas for a variety of mammals, birds, and other fauna. Wildlife habitat quality is decreased in the areas of dense residential development in the watershed.

#### Anticipated Challenges:

According to the 2007 pilot study, the Central South watershed has a moderate-to-high potential for future development. Almost all of the land area in the watershed is zoned "Urban Residential," which allows four to six dwelling units per acre, and the watershed is located near the heart of Birch Bay Village. This potential increase in roads, houses, and other impervious surfaces in the area may increase the likelihood of erosion and water quality problems in the watershed. The 2007 pilot study recommends restoring the wetlands and streams in the watershed, due to their value as wildlife habitat and critical role in protecting the water quality of Birch Bay.

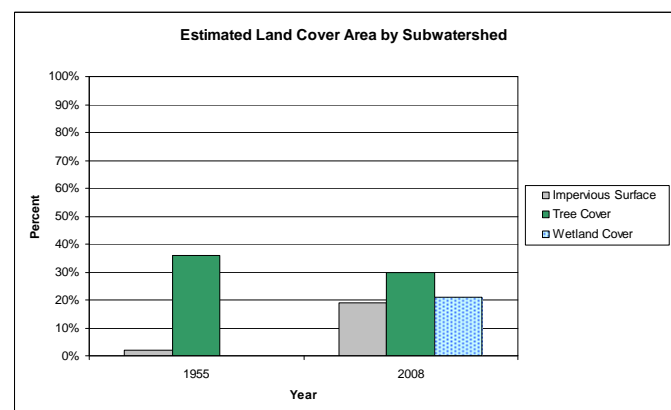
## What We Found: The Land Cover Analysis by the Numbers

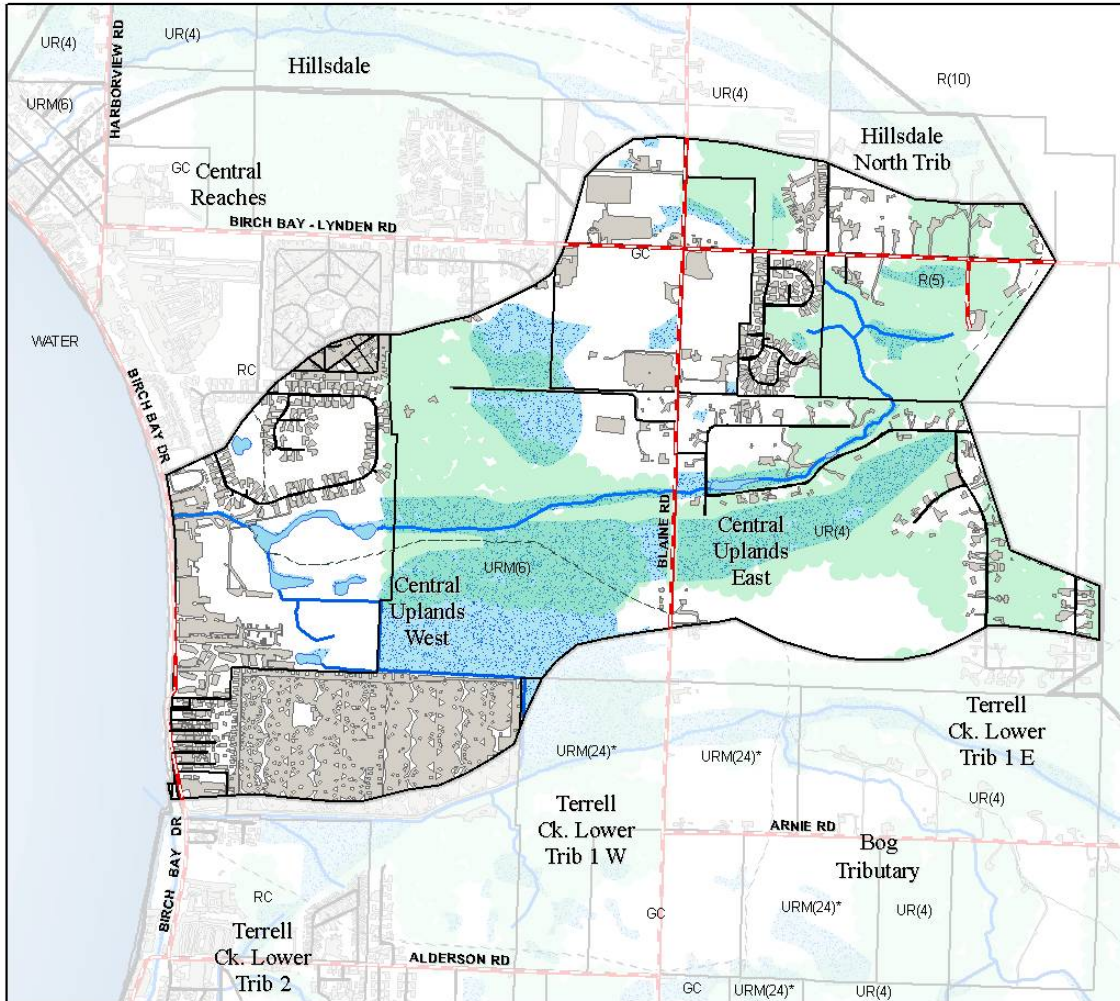
Feature	2008	1955
Impervious Surface	19 %*	2 %*
Tree Cover	30 %*	36 %*
Wetland cover	21 %*	
Stream miles	2.85 mi	
Subwatershed Area	730 Ac	

\*Percentage of Subwatershed

Note: Areas of tree cover and wetland cover may overlap

Note: Wetland data unavailable for 1955





Central South: Natural Infrastructure and Development

- Subwatershed Boundaries
- Tree Cover (2008)
- Zoning (Summer 2009)
- Mapped Wetlands
- Impervious Surfaces (2008)



Questions or comments? E-mail us at [pgill@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:pgill@co.whatcom.wa.us) or call 360-676-6907