



Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts

Watersheds Review

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What are the Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts?

Water Resource Protection Overlay Districts, which include the Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish watersheds, are intended to provide additional controls to preserve and protect unique and important water resources.

How do I know if my parcel is located in an overlay district?

Bring your 12-digit tax identification number (parcel number) to the Planning and Development Services permit counter and a Watersheds Planner will help you find out.

What does it mean if my parcel is in a Water Resource Protection Overlay District?

Additional controls in these areas include prohibited uses, open space requirements, impervious surface limitations, subdivision clustering requirements, and alternative surfacing options. Impervious surface limitations are intended to reduce stormwater runoff. Runoff can cause erosion and flooding in downstream systems and transport pollutants to streams and lakes. This is especially harmful when streams and lakes are used as a primary source of drinking water.

What is an impervious surface?

An impervious surface is a hard surface area such as concrete driveways, roofs, etc., that prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground. Installation or construction of impervious surfaces results in increased levels of stormwater runoff from developed areas.

What are alternative surfaces?

Alternative surfaces include pervious paving systems, pervious concrete, bark or wood mulch, turf block, and porous asphalt.

Fees

Please refer to the current Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

Information

Due to the administrative complexity of these regulations, it is usually best to visit with a Watersheds Planner to answer any additional questions.

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