





BOOK 1: ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

The Environment book addresses the preservation, protection, and restoration of Arlington’s environmental assets and guides the development and implementation of environmental policies and regulations. The primary objective of the Environment book is to integrate the natural and urban environments in a sustainable manner. The goals and policies established in the Environment book are related to preservation, equitable distribution of environmental resources, eco-tourism, greenhouse gas emission reduction, climate change resilience, increased tree canopy, public education, and livability.

Goals and Policies:

E-1 Preserve and enhance open space, natural, and cultural resources and strive for equitable geographic and demographic distribution.

- E-1.1** Protect and enhance the natural environment while planning for and accommodating growth.
- E-1.2** Protect **critical areas** and other sensitive resources, such as archaeological and historical sites, as defined in the City’s critical areas regulations using best available science and give special consideration to anadromous fisheries.
- E-1.3** Protect and mitigate **geologically hazardous areas**, especially forested steep slopes, for both environmental and aesthetic purposes if appropriate.
- E-1.4** Protect groundwater resources, including the aquifer located under the airport which provides water to the City of Arlington.
- E-1.5** Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.
- E-1.6** Protect, enhance, and restore ecosystems in order to meet tribal treaty rights and conserve culturally important consumptive and non-consumptive resources including foods, medicinal plants, and materials that could be adversely impacted by climate change.
- E-1.7** Support implementation of and compliance with the Shoreline Master Program.



Critical areas consist of critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, geologically hazardous areas, frequently flooded areas, and wetlands.

See WAC 365-190-120 for more information on geologically hazardous areas.

E-2 Promote environmental justice by not creating or worsening environmental health disparities and ensuring equal access to environmental resources.



- E-2.1** Ensure that all residents, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.
- E-2.2** Reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by noise, air pollution, or other environmental impacts, including climate change.
- E-2.3** Reduce the use of toxic pesticides, fertilizers, and other products to the extent feasible and identify alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.
- E-2.4** Increase resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.
- E-2.5** Prioritize urban forestry planning resources and funding for frontline communities that are hurt first and worst by climate change.

E-3 Promote eco-tourism and/or agri-tourism.

- E-3.1** Promote new water-dependent, water-related, and water enjoyment economic development.
- E-3.2** Encourage local food production, distribution, and choice through the support of community gardens, farmers markets, and other small-scale initiatives.



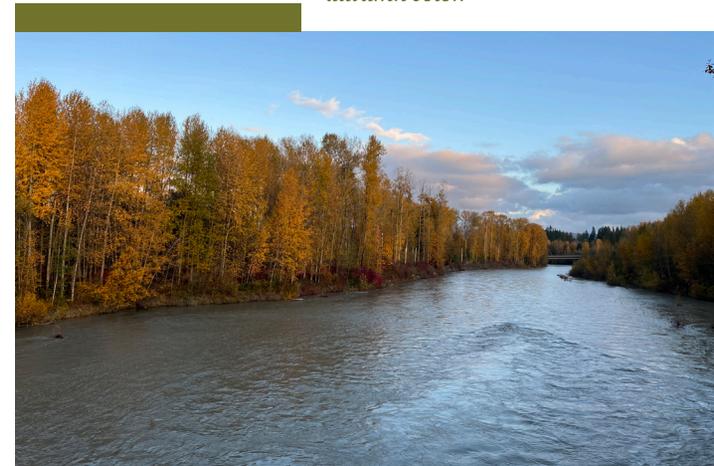
E-4 Mitigate climate impact by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for climate change impacts.

- E-4.1** Advance the adoption and implementation of actions that substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of state, regional, and local emissions reduction goals, including targets adopted by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.
- E-4.2** Advance local actions that support resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.
- E-4.3** Support implementation of the state’s climate change initiatives and work toward developing a common framework to analyze climate change impacts when conducting environmental review under SEPA.
- E-4.4** Pursue the development of energy management technology as part of meeting the city’s energy needs.
- E-4.5** Establish a greenhouse gas inventory development process.
- E-4.6** Develop a climate action plan specific to local conditions.
- E-4.7** Reduce energy use by buildings and advance green building design, including green and cool roofs.
- E-4.8** Integrate clean and local energy that comes from renewable sources such as solar and wind, into building designs.



**Climate Adaption
and Resiliency**

The Stillaguamish River in full autumn color.



E-5 Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster resiliency to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe passage and species migration.



**Climate Adaption
and Resiliency**

- E-5.1** Designate and protect fish and wildlife habitat corridors and restrict the fragmentation of large natural plant communities that provide essential and significant wildlife habitat.
- E-5.2** Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to reduce impacts of climate change and ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants.
- E-5.3** Manage open space lands comprised of critical areas as native growth areas and kept in a natural state to maintain existing habitat value. In the case of degraded or impacted lands, these areas may be enhanced to provide a higher value.
- E-5.4** Preserve existing and native vegetation as much as possible to support wildlife systems, increase groundwater infiltration, and prevent stormwater runoff.
- E-5.5** Protect salmonid streams, drainage ways, wetlands, and their buffers from adverse impacts of land development that might decrease low flows or increase high peak flows, reduce recharge areas for streams, increase bank or bed erosion, or increase turbidity of the water.
- E-5.6** Obtain stream corridor dedications where reasonable.
- E-5.7** Coordinate regionwide environmental strategies with adjacent jurisdictions, tribes, and the County.
- E-5.8** Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment.

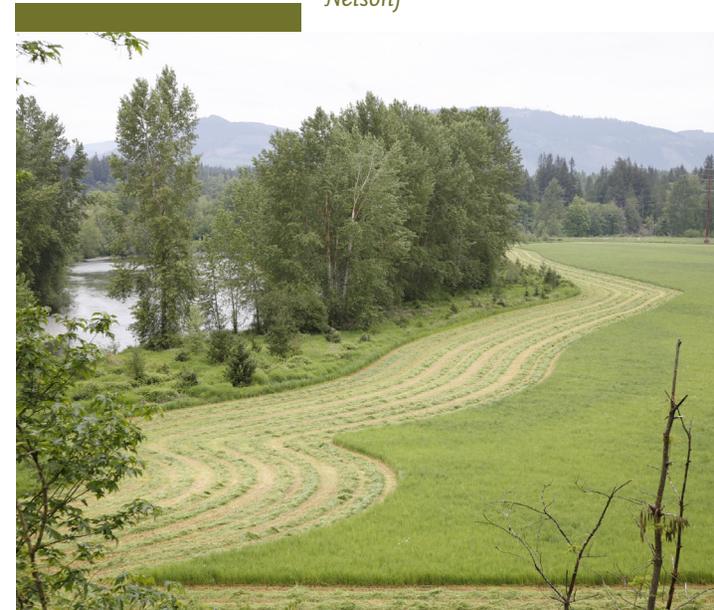
- E-5.9** Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards.
- E-5.10** Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services, including protection of watersheds, groundwater quantity, and wellhead areas that are sources of the region’s drinking water supplies.
- E-5.11** Support the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan by working with adjacent jurisdictions to identify, preserve, and enhance significant open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries.
- E-5.12** Preserve and enhance habitat to support healthy wildlife and accelerate the recovery of threatened and endangered species and species of local importance.
- E-5.13** Reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low impact development.
- E-5.14** Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as forests, farmland, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy.
- E-5.15** Support programs that manage and work to reduce the spread of invasive species that are harmful to natural ecological function and habitat throughout the city.
- E-5.16** Protect and restore wetlands and corridors between wetlands to provide biological and hydrological connectivity that fosters resilience to climate impacts.

Pioneer Pond (PC: Deborah Nelson)



- E-5.17** Increase the climate resilience of native species by reducing the threat of invasive species (e.g., fish, plants, insects, etc.)
- E-5.18** Protect and restore watershed-scale processes to maximize the ecological benefits and climate resilience of riparian ecosystems.
- E-5.19** Restore the structure, function, and water quality of streams, floodplains, and other local ecosystems to increase habitat climate resilience for cold-water fish and recover the health of Puget Sound
- E-5.20** Take inventory of and protect climate refugia and habitat connectivity needs for species under stress from climate change.
- E-5.21** Ensure no net loss of ecosystem composition, structure, and functions, especially in Priority Habitats and Critical Areas, and strive for net ecological gain to enhance climate resilience.
- E-5.22** Coordinate all programs that can affect fish and wildlife habitat to optimize the ability of local policies, rules, and management activities to protect habitats, and look for gaps or inefficient practices that could impede climate resilience.
- E-5.23** Support natural resource management plans that address existing stressors, consider climate change impacts, emphasize taking a precautionary approach to reduce risk of environmental harm, and guide adaptive management.

Country Charm Park and the Stillaguamish River (PC: Deborah Nelson)



E-6 Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns.

- E-6.1** Promote soil stability and the use of the natural drainage systems by retaining existing native vegetation in critical areas.
- E-6.2** Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region's hydrological systems.
- E-6.3** Address effects of climate change by siting and planning for relocation of hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain.
- E-6.4** Implement and encourage measures to reduce sedimentation in streams resulting from wildfire damage and the associated impacts of landslides and flooding.



**Climate Adaptation
and Resiliency**

*iStillaguamish River at Haller Park
(PC: Deborah Nelson)*

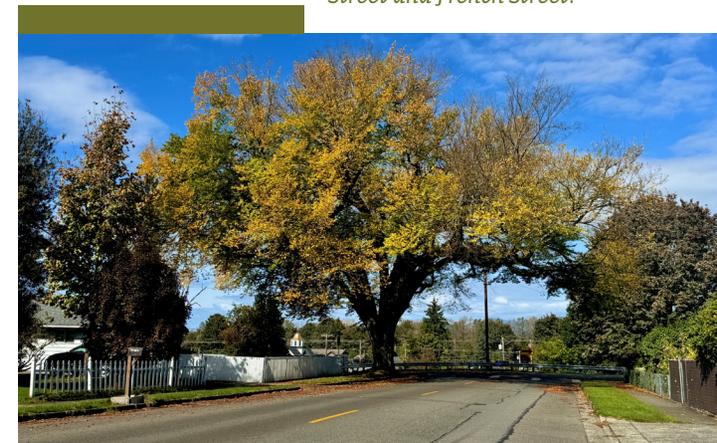




E-7 Remain a Tree City and encourage an increased tree canopy.

- E-7.1** Preserve significant trees to the extent feasible.
- E-7.2** Maintain at minimum those requirements necessary for qualifying to be a Tree City under the National Arbor Day Foundation, including:
- a) Maintain a tree board or department.
 - b) Maintain tree protection rules, regulating the removal of trees and requiring appropriate replacement.
 - c) Maintain a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita.
 - d) Annually hold an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.
- E-7.3** Enhance urban tree canopy to support ecological function, community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.
- E-7.4** Ensure that tree species selection and planting guidance are updated to be resilient to climate change.
- E-7.5** Seek funding to support the assessment and mapping of the urban tree canopy throughout the city and to prepare an citywide forestry management plan.

An American Elm Heritage Tree located at the corner of Division Street and French Street.



E-8 Provide opportunities/resources to educate the public on the importance of preserving natural resources and reducing individual carbon impacts.

- E-8.1** Protect, maintain, and enhance elements of the environment including clean water, shoreline areas, open space, natural and scenic resources, and natural vegetation through adopted development regulations and a variety of educational, voluntary, and incentive programs.
- E-8.2** Encourage water conservation, reclamation, and reuse among residents through education and by providing water conservation kits.

E-9 Strengthen neighborhood identity by preserving and enhancing unique environmental features on both private and public lands.

- E-9.1** Maintain a green belt along residential portions of the perimeter of the Airport property, subject to Part 77 restrictions and the possible requirement for low-growing vegetation.
- E-9.2** Encourage participation in Washington’s small forest landowner assistance cost-share and stewardship programs.

E-10 Work towards and maintain an aesthetically pleasing environment that enhances livability for residents.

- E-10.1** Incorporate and preserve street trees in the streetscape where they don’t adversely affect roadway capacity, safety, or structural integrity.
- E-10.2** Use landscape buffers or vegetated low impact development facilities to serve as a visual screen between rights-of-way and industrial uses, filter suspended particulates, absorb air pollutants, and reduce noise.



**Climate Adaption
and Resiliency**



**Neighborhoods
and Connectivity**



**Healthy Active
Lifestyles**

ARLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Critical Areas

Legend

-  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  Floodway
-  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
-  National Wetland Inventory
-  City Mapped Wetlands
-  Severe Slopes
-  Moderate Slopes
-  City Limits
-  UGA
-  City Parks
-  Trails
-  Buildings
-  Railroad
-  State Highway
-  State Route
-  Airport Road
-  Arterial
-  Collector
-  Street



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Miles

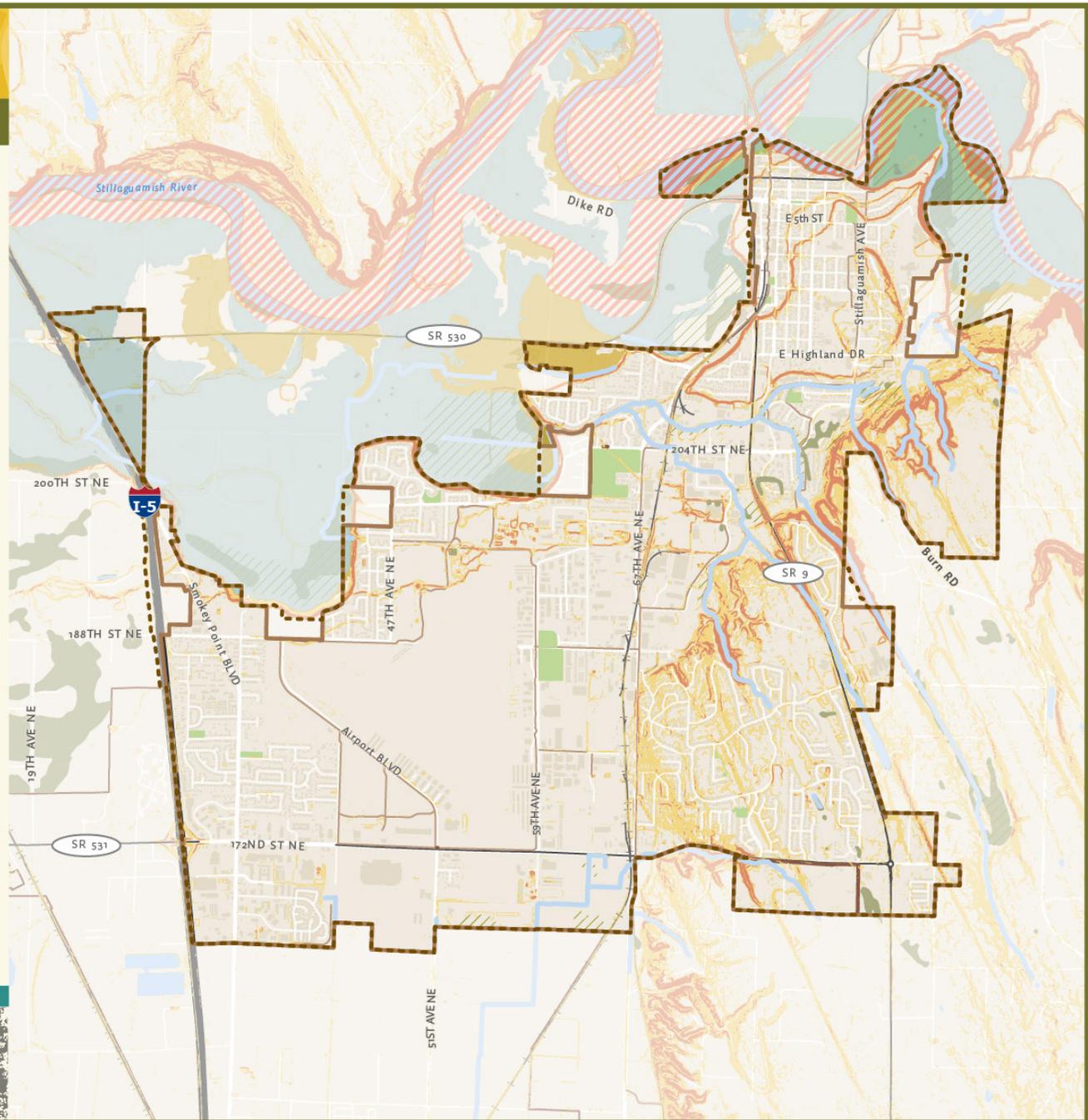


Figure E-01.
Critical Areas

ARLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and City Wells

Legend

- City Wells
- Low Aquifer Sensitivity
- Medium Aquifer Sensitivity
- High Aquifer Sensitivity
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- City Parks
- Trails
- Buildings
- Railroad
- State Highway
- State Route
- Airport Road
- Arterial
- Collector
- Street

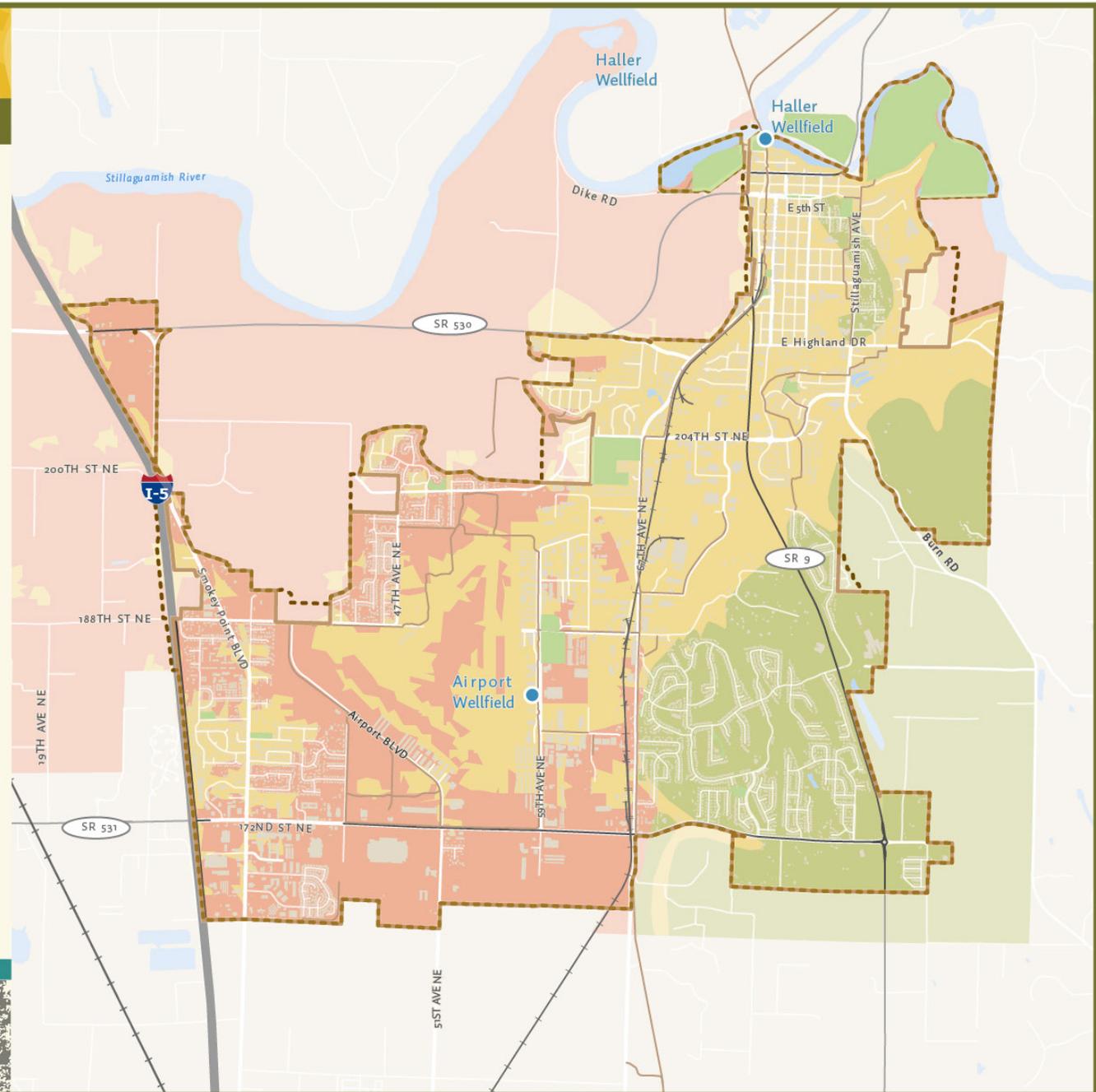


Figure E-02
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas and City Wells

ARLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Geologic Hazards

Legend

Liquefaction Susceptibility

- High
- Low to Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- Very Low to Low

- City Limits
- Urban Growth Area
- Trails
- Buildings
- Railroad
- State Highway
- State Route
- Airport Road
- Arterial
- Collector
- Street

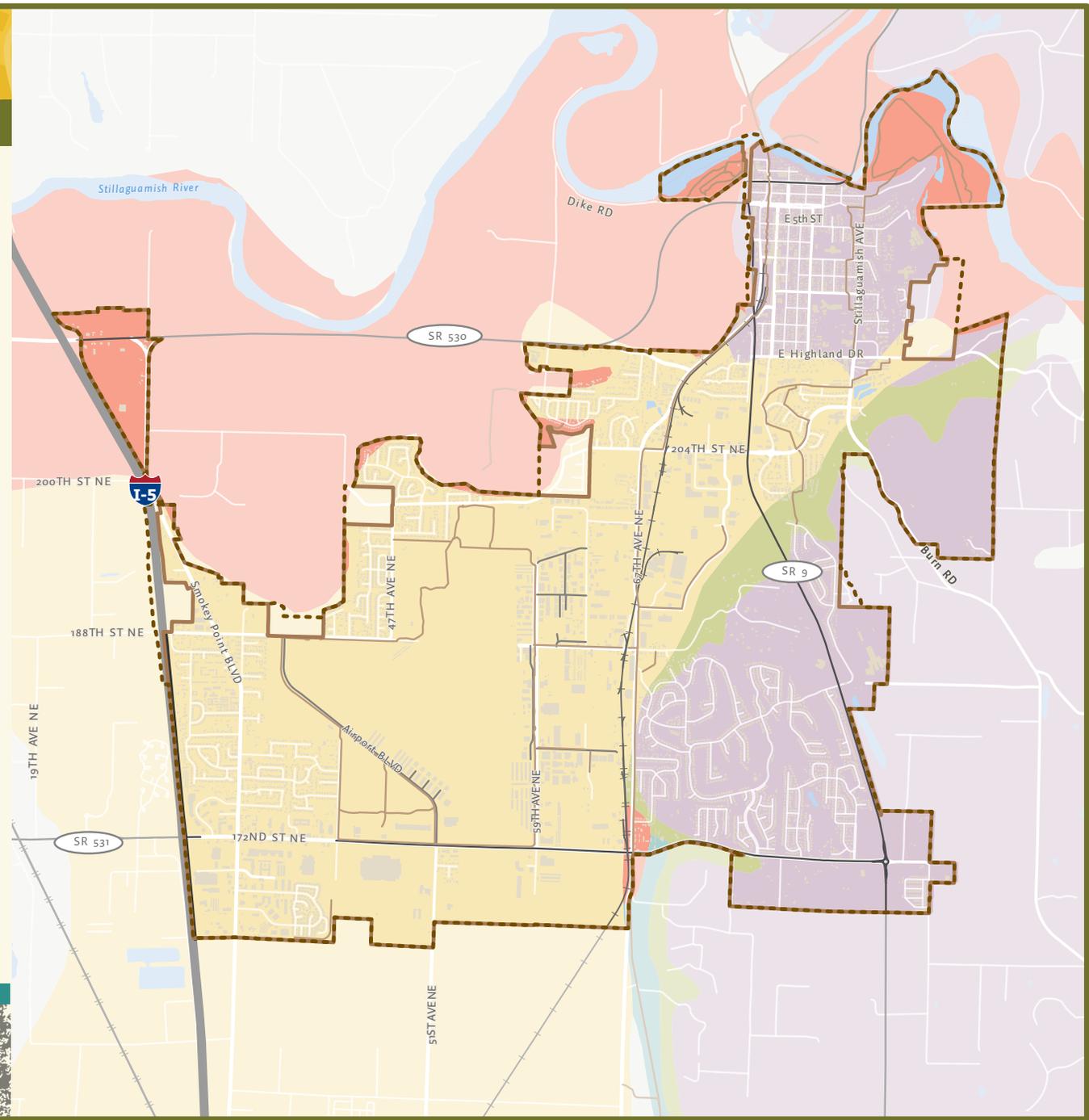


Figure E-03.
Geologic Hazards