

## **LWV OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY**

### **Position on**

### **LAND USE**

The LWVT-PC finds that land offering habitat for diverse native wildlife benefits the general public. It confers multiple ecosystem services to communities throughout Pierce County, including resilience to natural disasters. We support:

1. Adopting policies and regulations that preserve and restore areas of rich native biodiversity;
2. Managing population and economic growth in a way that retains wildlife corridors and prevents native habitat fragmentation;
3. Offering incentives to landowners who use responsible land stewardship;
4. Supporting non-governmental organizations' biodiversity missions;
5. Inserting the word "biodiversity" into regulatory language wherever appropriate;
6. Aligning county zoning with biodiversity conservation; and
7. Pursuing the work of the Pierce County Open Space Task Force.

The LWVT-PC finds that it makes more economic sense to protect resource areas than to rebuild and restore ecosystem services damaged by poor development decisions. We support:

1. Funding staff positions and/or staff time for biodiversity conservation efforts and for development and enforcement of land use regulation;
2. Educating citizens about the value of sustaining native biodiversity;
3. Educating public maintenance staff on the use and care of plants that benefit wildlife;
4. Acquiring and restoring land to provide wildlife corridors;
5. Providing incentives for land-use development that preserves native biodiversity.

The LWVT-PC finds that the work of retaining biodiversity is not reserved for rural areas and open spaces alone. We support residents in urban and suburban areas:

1. Educating themselves and their elected representatives on biodiversity conservation in land use; and
2. Providing native wildlife habitat in urban spaces.

The LWVT-PC finds that protecting endangered species, imposing pollution controls, managing storm water runoff, reducing the impact of construction, providing public open spaces, and conducting sustainability campaigns all help conserve native biodiversity. We support:

1. Protecting areas that provide significant ecosystem services through stewardship programs and incentives to refrain from development;
2. Designating buffer zones, greenbelts, or open spaces planted with native species where development has destroyed habitat.
3. Planting native species wherever possible when designing or redesigning public spaces.