

Camas Shoreline Master Program

Appendix C

Chapter 16.53 - WETLANDS

16.53.020 - Rating system

A. Designating Wetlands. Wetlands are those areas, designated in accordance with the approved federal wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements, that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. All areas within the City of Camas meeting the wetland designation criteria in the approved federal wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements, regardless of any formal identification, are hereby designated critical areas and are subject to the provisions of this title.

B. Wetland Rating System. Wetlands shall be rated according to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) wetland rating system found in Washington State Wetlands Rating System for Western Washington-2014 Update, (Revised, Ecology publication No. 14-06-029, October 2014) or most current edition. The rating system document contains the definitions and methods for determining if the criteria below are met:

1. Wetland Rating Categories.

a. Category I. Category I wetlands are those that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- i. Wetlands that are identified by scientists of the Washington Natural Heritage Program, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as wetlands with high conservation value;
- ii. Bogs;
- iii. Mature and old growth forested wetlands larger than one acre;
- iv. Wetlands that perform many functions well, as indicated by scoring twenty-three points or more in the rating system.

Category I wetlands represent a unique or rare wetland type, are more sensitive to disturbance than most wetlands, are relatively undisturbed and contain some ecological attributes that are impossible to replace within a human lifetime, or provide a very high level of functions.

b. Category II. Category II wetlands are those with a moderately high level of functions, as indicated by scoring between twenty and twenty-two points in the Ecology rating system.

Category II wetlands are difficult, though not impossible, to replace, and provide high levels of some functions. These wetlands occur more commonly than Category I wetlands, but they still need a relatively high level of protection.

c. Category III. Category III wetlands are those with a moderate level of functions, as indicated by scoring between sixteen and nineteen points in the Ecology rating system. Generally, wetlands in this category have been disturbed in some way and are often less diverse or more isolated from other natural resources in the landscape than Category II wetlands.

d. Category IV. Category IV wetlands have the lowest levels of functions and are often heavily disturbed. They are characterized by a score of fewer than

sixteen points in the rating system. These are wetlands that should be replaceable, and in some cases may be improved. However, experience has shown that replacement cannot be guaranteed in any specific case. These wetlands may provide some important functions, and should be protected to some degree.

2. Date of Wetland Rating. Wetland rating categories shall be applied as the wetland exists on the date of adoption of the rating system by the local government, as the wetland naturally changes thereafter, or as the wetland changes in accordance with permitted activities. Wetland rating categories shall not change due to illegal modifications.

16.53.030 - Critical area report—Additional requirements for wetlands

A. Prepared by a Qualified Professional. A critical areas report for wetlands shall be prepared by a qualified professional who is a wetland biologist with experience preparing wetland reports.

B. Area Addressed in Critical Area Report. In addition to the requirements of Appendix C - Chapter 16.51, the following areas shall be addressed in a critical area report for wetlands:

1. Within a subject parcel or parcels, the project area of the proposed activity;
2. All wetlands and recommended buffer zones within three hundred feet of the project area within the subject parcel or parcels;
3. All shoreline areas, water features, floodplains, and other critical areas, and related buffers within three hundred feet of the project area within the subject parcel or parcels;
4. The project design and the applicability of the buffers based on the proposed layout and the level of land use intensity; and
5. Written documentation from the qualified professional demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

C. Wetland Determination. In conjunction with the submittal of a development permit application, the responsible official shall determine the probable existence of a wetland on the subject parcel. If wetland or wetland buffers are found to be likely to exist on the parcel, wetland delineation is required.

D. Wetland Delineation

1. Methodology. Wetland Delineation shall be determined in accordance with the approved federal wetland delineation manual and applicable regional supplements.
2. Information Requirements. Wetland boundaries shall be staked and flagged in the field and a delineation report shall be submitted to the department. The report shall include the following information:
 - a. USGS quadrangle map with site clearly defined;
 - b. Topographic map of area;
 - c. National wetland inventory map showing site;
 - d. Soil conservation service soils map showing site;
 - e. Site map, at a scale no smaller than one inch equals one hundred feet (a scaling ratio of one is to one thousand two hundred), if practical, showing the following information:
 - i. Wetland boundaries,
 - ii. Sample sites and sample transects,
 - iii. Boundaries of forested areas,

- iv. Boundaries of wetland classes if multiple classes exist;
- f. Discussion of methods and results with special emphasis on technique used from the approved federal wetlands delineation manual and applicable regional supplements;
- g. Acreage of each wetland on the site based on the survey if the acreage will impact the buffer size determination or the project design;
- h. All completed field data sheets per the approved federal wetlands delineation manual and applicable regional supplements, numbered to correspond to each sample site.

E. Wetland Analysis. In addition to the minimum required contents of subsection D of this section, and in addition to Section 16.51.140, a critical area report for wetlands shall contain an analysis of the wetlands including the following site- and proposal-related information at a minimum:

1. A discussion of measures, including avoidance, minimization, and mitigation, proposed to preserve existing wetlands and restore any wetlands that were degraded prior to the current proposed land use activity.
2. Proposed mitigation, if needed, including a written assessment and accompanying maps of the mitigation area, including the following information at a minimum:
 - a. Existing and proposed wetland acreage;
 - b. Vegetative, faunal, and hydrologic conditions;
 - c. Relationship within watershed, and to existing water bodies;
 - d. Soil and substrate conditions, topographic elevations;
 - e. Existing and proposed adjacent site conditions;
 - f. Required wetland buffers; and
 - g. Property ownership.
3. A discussion of ongoing management practices that will protect wetlands after the project site has been developed; including proposed monitoring and maintenance programs.

When deemed appropriate, the director may also require the critical area report to include an evaluation by the Department of Ecology or an independent qualified expert regarding the applicant's analysis, and the effectiveness of any proposed mitigating measures or programs, and to include any recommendations as appropriate.

16.53.040 - Standards

- A. Activities and uses shall be prohibited from wetlands and wetland buffers, except as provided for in this chapter.
- B. Wetland Buffers. Wetland buffer widths shall be determined by the responsible official in accordance with the standards below:
 1. All buffers shall be measured horizontally outward from the delineated wetland boundary or, in the case of a stream with no adjacent wetlands, the ordinary high water mark as determined in consultation with Ecology.
 2. Buffer widths are established by comparing the wetland rating category and the intensity of land uses proposed on development sites per Tables 16.53.040-1, 16.53.040-2, 16.53.040-3 and 16.53.040-4. For Category IV wetlands, the required water quality buffers, per Table 16.53.040-1, are adequate to protect habitat functions.

**Table 16.53.040-1
Buffers Required to Protect Water Quality Functions**

Wetland Rating	Low Intensity Use	Moderate Intensity Use	High Intensity Use
Category I	50 ft.	75 ft.	100 ft.
Category II	50 ft.	75 ft.	100 ft.
Category III	40 ft.	60 ft.	80 ft.
Category IV	25 ft.	40 ft.	50 ft.

**Table 16.53.040-2 Buffers
Required to Protect Habitat Functions in Category I and II Wetlands**

Habitat Score in the Rating Form	Low Intensity Use	Moderate Intensity Use	High Intensity Use
4 points or less	See Table 16.53.040-1	See Table 16.53.040-1	See Table 16.53.040-1
5	70	105	140
6	90	135	180
7	110	165	220
8	130	195	260
9 points or greater	150	225	300

Table 16.53.040-3 Buffers Required to Protect Habitat Functions in Category III Wetlands

Habitat Score in the Rating Form	Low Intensity Use	Moderate Intensity Use	High Intensity Use
4 points or less	See Table 16.53.040-1	See Table 16.53.040-1	See Table 16.53.040-1
5	60	90	120
6	65	100	135
7	75	110	150
8	130	195	260
9	150	225	300

Table 16.53.040-4 Land Use Intensity Matrix¹

	Parks and Recreation	Streets and Roads	Stormwater Facilities	Utilities	Commercial/Industrial	Residential ²
Low	Natural fields and grass areas, viewing areas, split rail fencing	NA	Outfalls, spreaders, constructed wetlands, bioswales, vegetated detention basins, overflows	Underground and overhead utility lines, manholes, power poles (without footings)	NA	Density at or lower than 1 unit per 5 acres
Moderate	Impervious trails, engineered fields, fairways	Residential driveways and access roads	Wet ponds	Maintenance access roads	NA	Density between 1 unit per acre and higher than 1 unit per 5 acres

	Parks and Recreation	Streets and Roads	Stormwater Facilities	Utilities	Commercial/Industrial	Residential²
High	Greens, tees, structures, parking, lighting, concrete or gravel pads, security fencing	Public and private streets, security fencing, retaining walls	Maintenance access roads, retaining walls, vaults, infiltration basins, sedimentation fore bays and structures, security fencing	Paved or concrete surfaces, structures, facilities, pump stations, towers, vaults, security fencing, etc.	All site development	Density higher than 1 unit per acre

1. The responsible official shall determine the intensity categories applicable to proposals should characteristics not be specifically listed in Table 16.53.060-4.
2. Measured as density averaged over a site, not individual lot sizes.

3. Where a residential plats and subdivisions is proposed within shoreline jurisdiction, wetlands and wetland buffers shall be placed within a non-buildable tract unless creation of a tract would result in violation of minimum lot depth standards.

4. Adjusted Buffer Width in shoreline jurisdiction.
 - a. Adjustments Authorized by Wetland Permits. Adjustments to the required buffer width are authorized by Section 16.53.050(D) of this section upon issuance of a wetland permit.
 - b. Functionally Isolated Buffer Areas. Areas which are functionally separated from a wetland and do not protect the wetland from adverse impacts shall be treated as follows:
 - i. Preexisting roads, structures, or vertical separation shall be excluded from buffers otherwise required by this chapter;
 - ii. Distinct portions of wetlands with reduced habitat functions that are components of wetlands with an overall habitat rating score greater than five points shall not be subject to the habitat function buffers designated in Tables 16.53.040-2 and 16.53.040-3 if all of the following criteria are met:
 - (A) The area of reduced habitat function is at least one acre in size,
 - (C) The area does not meet any WDFW priority habitat or species criteria, and
 - (D) The required habitat function buffer is provided for all portions of the wetland that do not have reduced habitat function.
 - (E) The buffer reduction afforded by this subsection shall not exceed 75% of the required buffer width of Category I and II wetlands.

C. Standard Requirements. Any action granting or approving a development permit application shall be conditioned on all the following:

1. Marking Buffer During Construction. The location of the outer extent of the wetland buffer shall be marked in the field and such markings shall be maintained throughout the duration of the permit.
2. Permanent Marking of Buffer Area. A permanent physical demarcation along the upland boundary of the wetland buffer area shall be installed and thereafter maintained.

Such demarcation may consist of logs, a tree or hedge row, fencing, or other prominent physical marking approved by the responsible official. In addition, small signs shall be posted at an interval of one per lot or every one hundred feet, whichever is less, and perpetually maintained at locations along the outer perimeter of the wetland buffer as approved by the responsible official, and worded substantially as follows:

Wetland and Buffer—Please retain in a natural state.

3. A conservation covenant shall be recorded in a form approved by the City as adequate to incorporate the other restrictions of this section and to give notice of the requirement to obtain a wetland permit prior to engaging in regulated activities within a wetland or its buffer.

4. In the case of plats, short plats, and recorded site plans, include on the face of such instrument the boundary of the wetland and its buffer, and a reference to the separately recorded conservation covenant provided for in subsection (C)(3) of this section.

D. Standard Requirements—Waivers. The responsible official shall waive the requirements of Section 16.53.030(D) and subsection B of this section in certain cases described below if the applicant designates development envelopes which are clearly outside of any wetland or buffer. The responsible official may require partial wetland delineation to the extent necessary to ensure eligibility for this waiver:

1. Residential building permits and home businesses;
2. Site plan reviews where the responsible official determines that all development is clearly separated from the wetlands and wetland buffers:
 - a. Development envelopes shall be required for a fully complete preliminary application,
 - b. Development envelopes shall be shown on the final site plan, and
 - c. A note referencing the development envelopes shall be placed on the final site plan.

16.53.050 - Wetland permits

A. General.

1. A wetland permit is required for any development activity that is not exempt pursuant to Section 16.53.010(C) within wetlands and wetland buffers.
2. Standards for wetland permits are provided in subsections B, C and D of this section.
3. All wetland permits require approval of a preliminary and final enhancement/mitigation plan in accordance with the provisions of subsection E of this section unless the preliminary enhancement/mitigation plan requirement is waived under the provisions of subsection (E)(2) of this section.
4. Wetland permit application, processing, preliminary approval, and final approval procedures are set out in subsections F through I of this section.
5. Provisions for programmatic permits are provided by subsection K of this section.
6. Provisions for emergency wetland permits are provided by subsection L of this section.

B. Standards—General. Wetland permit applications shall be based upon a mitigation plan and shall satisfy the following general requirements:

1. The proposed activity shall not cause significant degradation of wetland functions;

2. The proposed activity shall comply with all state, local, and federal laws, including those related to sediment control, pollution control, floodplain restrictions, stormwater management, and on-site wastewater disposal.

C. Buffer Standards and Authorized Activities. The following additional standards apply for regulated activities in a wetland buffer to ensure no net loss of ecological functions and values:

1. Buffer Reduction Incentives. Standard buffer widths may be reduced under the following conditions, provided that functions of the post-project wetland are equal to or greater after use of these incentives.

a. Lower Impact Land Uses. The buffer widths recommended for proposed land uses with high-intensity impacts to wetlands can be reduced to those recommended for moderate-intensity impacts if both of the following criteria are met:

i. A relatively undisturbed, vegetated corridor at least one hundred feet wide is protected between the wetland and any other priority habitats that are present as defined by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife*; and

ii. Measures to minimize the impacts of the land use adjacent to the wetlands are applied, such as infiltration of stormwater, retention of as much native vegetation and soils as possible, direction of noise and light away from the wetland, and other measures that may be suggested by a qualified wetland professional.

b. Restoration. Buffer widths may be reduced up to twenty-five percent if the buffer is restored or enhanced from a pre-project condition that is disturbed (e.g., dominated by invasive species), so that functions of the post-project wetland and buffer are equal or greater. To the extent possible, restoration should provide a vegetated corridor of a minimum one hundred feet wide between the wetland and any other priority habitat areas as defined by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The habitat corridor must be protected for the entire distance between the wetland and the priority habitat area by some type of permanent legal protection such as a covenant or easement. The restoration plan must meet requirements in subsection D of this section for a mitigation plan, and this section for a critical area report.

c. Combined Reductions. Buffer width reductions allowed under subsections (C)(1)(a) and (C)(1)(b) of this section may be added provided that minimum buffer widths shall never be less than seventy-five percent of required buffer width for all Categories I and II, or less than fifty feet for Category III wetlands, and twenty-five feet for all Category IV wetlands.

2. Buffer Averaging. Averaging buffers is allowed in conjunction with any of the other provisions for reductions in buffer width (listed in subsection (C)(1) of this section) provided that minimum buffer widths listed in subsection (C)(1)(c) of this section are adhered to. The community development department shall have the authority to average buffer widths on a case-by-case basis, where a qualified wetlands professional demonstrates, as part of a critical area report, that all of the following criteria are met:

- a. The total area contained in the buffer after averaging is no less than that contained within the buffer prior to averaging;
 - b. Decreases in width are generally located where wetland functions may be less sensitive to adjacent land uses, and increases are generally located where wetland functions may be more sensitive to adjacent land uses, to achieve no net loss or a net gain in functions;
 - c. The averaged buffer, at its narrowest point, shall not result in a width less than seventy-five percent of the required width, provided that minimum buffer widths shall never be less than fifty feet for all Category I, Category II, and Category III wetlands, and twenty-five feet for all Category IV wetlands; and
 - d. Effect of Mitigation. If wetland mitigation occurs such that the rating of the wetland changes, the requirements for the category of the wetland after mitigation shall apply.
3. Stormwater Facilities. Stormwater facilities are only allowed in buffers of wetlands with low habitat function (less than four points on the habitat section of the rating system form); provided, the facilities shall be built on the outer edge of the buffer and not degrade the existing buffer function, and are designed to blend with the natural landscape. Unless determined otherwise by the responsible official, the following activities shall be considered to degrade a wetland buffer when they are associated with the construction of a stormwater facility:
- a. Removal of trees greater than four inches diameter at four and one-half feet above the ground or greater than twenty feet in height;
 - b. Disturbance of plant species that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the City, county, or any state or federal management agency;
 - c. The construction of concrete structures, other than manholes, inlets, and outlets that are exposed above the normal water surface elevation of the facility;
 - d. The construction of maintenance and access roads;
 - e. Slope grading steeper than four to one horizontal to vertical above the normal water surface elevation of the stormwater facility;
 - f. The construction of pre-treatment facilities such as fore bays, sediment traps, and pollution control manholes;
 - g. The construction of trench drain collection and conveyance facilities;
 - h. The placement of fencing; and
 - i. The placement of rock and/or riprap, except for the construction of flow spreaders, or the protection of pipe outfalls and overflow spillways; provided, that buffer functions for areas covered in rock and/or riprap are replaced.
4. Road and Utility Crossings. Crossing buffers with new roads and utilities is allowed provided all the following conditions are met:
- a. Buffer functions, as they pertain to protection of the adjacent wetland and its functions, are replaced; and
 - b. Impacts to the buffer and wetland are minimized.
5. Other Activities in a Buffer. Regulated activities not involving stormwater management, road and utility crossings, or a buffer reduction via enhancement are allowed in the buffer if all the following conditions are met:
- a. The activity is temporary and will cease or be completed within three months of the date the activity begins;

- b. The activity will not result in a permanent structure in or under the buffer;
- c. The activity will not result in a reduction of buffer acreage or function;
- d. The activity will not result in a reduction of wetland acreage or function.

D. Standards—Wetland Activities. The following additional standards apply to the approval of all activities permitted within wetlands under this section:

1. Sequencing. Applicants shall demonstrate that a range of project alternatives have been given substantive consideration with the intent to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands. Documentation must demonstrate that the following hierarchy of avoidance and minimization has been pursued:

- a. Avoid impacts to wetlands unless the responsible official finds that:
 - i. For Categories I and II wetlands, avoiding all impact is not in the public interest or will deny all reasonable economic use of the site;
 - ii. For Categories III and IV wetlands, avoiding all impact will result in a project that is either:
 - (A) Inconsistent with the City of Camas comprehensive plan,
 - (B) Inconsistent with critical area conservation goals, or
 - (C) Not feasible to construct.

b. Minimize impacts to wetlands if complete avoidance is infeasible. The responsible official must find that the applicant has limited the degree or magnitude of impact to wetlands by using appropriate technology and by taking affirmative steps to reduce impact through efforts such as:

- i. Seeking easements or agreements with adjacent land owners or project proponents where appropriate;
- ii. Seeking reasonable relief that may be provided through application of other City zoning and design standards;
- iii. Site design; and
- iv. Construction techniques and timing.

c. Compensate for wetland impacts that will occur, after efforts to minimize have been exhausted. The responsible official must find that:

- i. The affected wetlands are restored to the conditions existing at the time of the initiation of the project;
- ii. Unavoidable impacts are mitigated in accordance with this subsection; and
- iii. The required mitigation is monitored and remedial action is taken when necessary to ensure the success of mitigation activities.

2. Location of Wetland Mitigation. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts shall be located using the following prioritization:

- a. On-Site. Locate mitigation according to the following priority:
 - i. Within or adjacent to the same wetland as the impact,
 - ii. Within or adjacent to a different wetland on the same site;

b. Off-Site. Locate mitigation within the same watershed or use an established wetland mitigation bank; the service area determined by the mitigation bank review team and identified in the executed mitigation bank instrument;

c. In-Kind. Locate or create wetlands with similar landscape position and the same hydro-geomorphic (HGM) classification based on a reference to a naturally occurring wetland system; and

- d. Out-of-Kind. Mitigate in a different landscape position and/or HGM classification based on a reference to a naturally occurring wetland system.
 3. Types of Wetland Mitigation. The various types of wetland mitigation allowed are listed below in the general order of preference.
 - a. Restoration. The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former or degraded wetland. For the purpose of tracking net gains in wetland acres, restoration is divided into:
 - i. Re-Establishment. The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a former wetland. Re-establishment results in a gain in wetland acres (and functions). Activities could include removing fill material, plugging ditches, or breaking drain tiles.
 - ii. Rehabilitation. The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural or historic functions to a degraded wetland. Re-establishment results in a gain in wetland function, but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. Activities could involve breaching a dike to reconnect wetlands to a floodplain or return tidal influence to a wetland.
 - b. Creation (Establishment). The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of developing a wetland on an upland or deepwater site where a wetland did not previously exist. Establishment results in a gain in wetland acres. Activities typically involve excavation of upland soils to elevations that will produce a wetland hydroperiod, create hydric soils, and support the growth of hydrophytic plant species.
 - c. Enhancement. The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a wetland site to heighten, intensify, or improve the specific function(s), or to change the growth stage or composition of the vegetation present. Enhancement is undertaken for specified purposes such as water quality improvement, floodwater retention, or wildlife habitat. Enhancement results in a change in some wetland functions and can lead to a decline in other wetland functions, but does not result in a gain in wetland acres. Activities typically consist of planting vegetation, controlling non-native or invasive species, modifying site elevations, or the proportion of open water to influence hydroperiods, or some combination of these activities.
 - d. Protection/Maintenance (Preservation). Removing a threat to, or preventing the decline of, wetland conditions by an action in or near a wetland. This includes the purchase of land or easements, repairing water control structures or fences, or structural protection such as repairing a barrier island. This term also includes activities commonly associated with the term preservation.

Preservation does not result in a gain of wetland acres, but may result in improved wetland functions.
4. Wetland Mitigation Ratios.
 - a. Standard Wetland Mitigation Ratios. The following mitigation ratios for each of the mitigation types described in subsections (D)(3)(a) through (D)(3)(c) of this section apply:

Table 16.53.050-1. Standard Wetland Mitigation Ratios (In Area)

Wetland to be Replaced	Reestablishment or Creation	Rehabilitation	Reestablishment or Creation and Rehabilitation	Reestablishment or Creation and Enhancement	Enhancement
Category IV	1.5:1	3:1	1:1 R/C and 1:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 2:1 E	6:1
Category III	2:1	4:1	1:1 R/C and 2:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 4:1 E	8:1
Category II	3:1	6:1	1:1 R/C and 4:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 8:1 E	12:1
Category I, Forested	6:1	12:1	1:1 R/C and 10:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 20:1 E	24:1
Category I, Based on Score for Functions	4:1	8:1	1:1 R/C and 6:1 RH	1:1 R/C and 12:1 E	16:1
Category I, Natural Heritage Site	Not considered possible	6:1 rehabilitate a natural heritage site	N/A	N/A	Case-by-case

b. Preservation. The responsible official has the authority to approve preservation of existing wetlands as wetland mitigation under the following conditions:

- i. The wetland area being preserved is a Category I or II wetland, or is within a WDFW priority habitat or species area;
- ii. The preservation area is at least one acre in size;
- iii. The preservation area is protected in perpetuity by a covenant or easement that gives the City clear regulatory and enforcement authority to protect existing wetland and wetland buffer functions with standards that exceed the protection standards of this chapter;
- iv. The preservation area is not an existing or proposed wetland mitigation site; and
- v. The following preservation/mitigation ratios apply:

Table 16.53.050-2. Wetland Preservation Ratios for Categories I and II Wetlands (In Area)

Habitat Function of Wetland to be Replaced	In Addition to Standard Mitigation		As the Only Means of Mitigation	
	Full and Functioning Buffer	Reduced and/or Degraded Buffer	Full and Functioning Buffer	Reduced and/or Degraded Buffer
Low (3-4 points)	10:1	14:1	20:1	30:1
Moderate (5-7 points)	13:1	17:1	30:1	40:1
High (8-9 points)	16:1	20:1	40:1	50:1

- c. The responsible official has the authority to reduce wetland mitigation ratios under any of the following circumstances:
 - i. Documentation by a qualified wetland specialist demonstrates that the proposed mitigation actions have a very high likelihood of success based on prior experience;
 - ii. Documentation by a qualified wetland specialist demonstrates that the proposed actions for compensation will provide functions and values that are significantly greater than the wetland being affected;
 - iii. The proposed actions for compensation are conducted in advance of the impact and are shown to be successful;
 - iv. In wetlands where several HGM classifications are found within one delineated wetland boundary, the areas of the wetlands within each HGM classification can be scored and rated separately and the mitigation ratios adjusted accordingly, if all the following apply:
 - (A) The wetland does not meet any of the criteria for wetlands with "Special Characteristics," as defined in the rating system,
 - (B) The rating and score for the entire wetland is provided, as well as the scores and ratings for each area with a different HGM classification,
 - (C) Impacts to the wetland are all within an area that has a different HGM classification from the one used to establish the initial category, and
 - (D) The proponents provide adequate hydrologic and geomorphic data to establish that the boundary between HGM classifications lies at least fifty feet outside of the footprint of the impacts.

5. Alternate Wetland Mitigation.

a. Wetland Mitigation Banks.

- i. Credits from a wetland mitigation bank may be approved for use as compensation for unavoidable impacts to wetlands when:
 - (A) The bank is certified under state rules;
 - (B) The Administrator determines that the wetland mitigation bank provides appropriate compensation for the authorized impacts; and
 - (C) The proposed use of credits is consistent with the terms and conditions of the certified bank instrument.
- ii. Replacement ratios for projects using bank credits shall be consistent with replacement ratios specified in the certified bank instrument.
- iii. Credits from a certified wetland mitigation bank may be used to compensate for impacts located within the service area specified in the certified bank instrument. In some cases, the service area of the bank may include portions of more than one adjacent drainage basin for specific wetland functions.

b. In-Lieu Fee. To aid in the implementation of off-site mitigation, the City may develop an in-lieu fee program. This program shall be developed and approved through a public process and be consistent with federal rules, state policy on in-lieu fee mitigation, and state water quality regulations. An approved in-lieu-fee program sells compensatory mitigation credits to permittees whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the in-lieu

program sponsor, a governmental or non-profit natural resource management entity. Credits from an approved in-lieu-fee program may be used when paragraphs 1-6 below apply:

- i. The approval authority determines that it would provide environmentally appropriate compensation for the proposed impacts.
 - ii. The mitigation will occur on a site identified using the site selection and prioritization process in the approved in-lieu-fee program instrument.
 - iii. The proposed use of credits is consistent with the terms and conditions of the approved in-lieu-fee program instrument.
 - iv. Land acquisition and initial physical and biological improvements of the mitigation site must be completed within three years of the credit sale.
 - v. Projects using in-lieu-fee credits shall have debits associated with the proposed impacts calculated by the applicant's qualified wetland scientist using the method consistent with the credit assessment method specified in the approved instrument for the in-lieu-fee program.
 - vi. Credits from an approved in-lieu-fee program may be used to compensate for impacts located within the service area specified in the approved in-lieu-fee instrument.
- c. Compensatory mitigation credits may be issued for unavoidable impacts in the following cases:

- i. Residential building permits where on-site enhancement and/or preservation is not adequate to meet the requirements of subsection (D)(4) of this section;
- ii. Approved reasonable use exceptions where sufficient on-site wetland and wetland buffer mitigation is not practical;
- iii. Small impacts affecting less than 0.10 acre of wetland where on-site enhancement and/or preservation is not adequate to meet the requirements of subsection (D)(4) of this section; or
- iv. As an additional mitigation measure when all other mitigation options have been applied to the greatest extent practicable.

6. Stormwater Facilities in shoreline jurisdiction. Stormwater facilities shall follow the specific criteria in this Program, Chapter 6 at Section 6.3.15 Utilities Uses.

7. Utility Crossings. Crossing wetlands by utilities is allowed, provided the activity is not prohibited by subsection (D)(1) of this section, and provided all the following conditions are met:

- a. The activity does not result in a decrease in wetland acreage or classification;
- b. The activity results in no more than a short-term six month decrease in wetland functions; and
- c. Impacts to the wetland are minimized.

8. Other Activities allowed in a Wetland. Activities not involving stormwater management, utility crossings, or wetland mitigation are allowed in a wetland, provided the activity is not prohibited by subsection (D)(1) of this section and if it is not subject to a shoreline permit as listed in Chapter 2 of this Program, and provided all the following conditions are met:

- a. The activity shall not result in a reduction of wetland acreage or function; and
- b. The activity is temporary and shall cease or be completed within three months of the date the activity begins.

E. Mitigation Plans.

1. General. Mitigation plans are required for activities in a buffer or wetland. Content requirements which are inappropriate and inapplicable to a project may be waived by the responsible official upon request of the applicant at or subsequent to the pre-application consultation provided for in subsection (F)(1) of this section.

2. Preliminary Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the preliminary plan is to determine the feasibility of the project before extensive resources are devoted to the project. The responsible official may waive the requirement for a preliminary mitigation plan when a wetland permit is not associated with a development permit application (listed in Section 16.53.010(B)). The preliminary mitigation plan consists of two parts: baseline information for the site and a conceptual plan. If off-site wetland mitigation is proposed, baseline information for both the project site and mitigation site is required.

a. Baseline information shall include:

- i. Wetland delineation report as described in Section 16.53.030(D)(2);
- ii. Copies of relevant wetland jurisdiction determination letters, if available, such as determinations of prior converted crop lands, correspondence from state and federal agencies regarding prior wetland delineations, etc.;
- iii. Description and maps of vegetative conditions at the site;
- iv. Description and maps of hydrological conditions at the site;
- v. Description of soil conditions at the site based on a preliminary on-site analysis;
- vi. A topographic map of the site; and
- vii. A functional assessment of the existing wetland and buffer.

(A) Application of the rating system in Section 16.53.020(B) will generally be considered sufficient for functional assessment,

(B) The responsible official may accept or request an alternate functional assessment methodology when the applicant's proposal requires detailed consideration of specific wetland functions,

(C) Alternate functional assessment methodologies used shall be scientifically valid and reliable.

b. The contents of the conceptual mitigation plan shall include:

- i. Goals and objectives of the proposed project;
- ii. A wetland buffer width reduction plan, if width reductions are proposed, that includes:

(A) The land use intensity, per Table 16.53.040-4, of the various elements of the development adjacent to the wetlands,

(B) The wetland buffer width(s) required by Tables 16.53.040-1, 16.53.040-2 and 16.53.040-3,

(C) The proposed buffer width reductions, including documentation that proposed buffer width reductions fully protect the functions of the wetland in compliance with subsection C of this section;

- iii. A wetland mitigation plan that includes:

- (A) A sequencing analysis for all wetland impacts,
- (B) A description of all wetland impacts that require mitigation under this chapter, and
- (C) Proposed mitigation measures and mitigation ratios;
 - iv. Map showing proposed wetland and buffer. This map should include the existing and proposed buffers and all proposed wetland impacts regulated under this chapter;
 - v. Site plan;
 - vi. Discussion and map of plant material to be planted and planting densities;
 - vii. Preliminary drainage plan identifying location of proposed drainage facilities including detention structures and water quality features (e.g., swales);
 - viii. Discussion of water sources for all wetlands on the site;
 - ix. Project schedule;
 - x. Discussion of how the completed project will be managed and monitored; and
 - xi. A discussion of contingency plans in case the project does not meet the goals initially set for the project.

3. Final Mitigation Plan. The contents of the final mitigation plan shall include:

- a. The approved preliminary mitigation plan and all conditions imposed on that plan. If the preliminary mitigation plan requirement is waived, the final plan shall include the content normally required for the preliminary plan listed in this section.
- b. Performance Standards. Specific criteria shall be provided for evaluating whether or not the goals and objectives of the mitigation project are being met. Such criteria may include water quality standards, survival rates of planted vegetation, species abundance and diversity targets, habitat diversity indices, or other ecological, geological, or hydrological criteria.
- c. Detailed Construction Plans. Written specifications for the mitigation project shall be provided. The specifications shall include: the proposed construction sequence, grading and excavation details, water and nutrient requirements for planting, specification of substrate stockpiling techniques, and planting instructions, as appropriate. These written specifications shall be accompanied by detailed site diagrams, scaled cross-sectional drawings, topographic maps showing slope percentage and final grade elevations, and any other drawings appropriate to show construction techniques or anticipated final outcome.
- d. Monitoring Program. The mitigation plan shall include a description of a detailed program for monitoring the success of the mitigation project.
 - i. The mitigation project shall be monitored for a period necessary to establish that the mitigation is successful, but not for a period of less than five years. Creation of forested wetland mitigation projects shall be monitored for a period of at least ten years;

ii. Monitoring shall be designed to measure the performance standards outlined in the mitigation plan and may include but not be limited to:

(A) Establishing vegetation plots to track changes in plant species composition and density over time,

(B) Using photo stations to evaluate vegetation community response,

(C) Sampling surface and subsurface waters to determine pollutant loading, and changes from the natural variability of background conditions (pH, nutrients, heavy metals),

(D) Measuring base flow rates and stormwater runoff to model and evaluate water quality predictions, if appropriate,

(E) Measuring sedimentation rates, if applicable, and

(F) Sampling fish and wildlife populations to determine habitat utilization, species abundance and diversity;

iii. A monitoring protocol shall be included outlining how the monitoring data will be evaluated by agencies that are tracking the progress of the project;

iv. Monitoring reports shall be submitted annually, or on a pre-arranged alternate schedule, for the duration of monitoring period;

v. Monitoring reports shall analyze the results of monitoring, documenting milestones, successes, problems, and recommendations for corrective and/or contingency actions to ensure success of the mitigation project.

e. Associated Plans and Other Permits. To ensure consistency with the final mitigation plan, associated plans and permits shall be submitted, including, but not limited to:

i. Engineering construction plans;

ii. Final site plan or proposed plat;

iii. Final landscaping plan;

iv. Habitat permit;

v. WDFW HPA;

vi. USACE Section 404 permit; and

vii. WDOE Administrative Order or Section 401 certification.

f. Evidence of Financial and Scientific Proficiency. A description of how the mitigation project will be managed during construction and the scientific capability of the designer to successfully implement the proposed project. In addition, a demonstration of the financial capability of the applicant to successfully complete the project and ensure it functions properly at the end of the specific monitoring period.

g. Contingency Plan. Identification of potential courses of action, and any corrective measures to be taken when monitoring or evaluation indicates project performance standards are not being met.

F. Wetland Permit—Application.

1. Pre-Permit Consultation. Any person intending to apply for a shoreline permit in combination with a wetland permit is encouraged, but not required, to

meet with the department during the earliest possible stages of project planning in order to discuss wetland impact avoidance, minimization, compensatory mitigation, and the required contents of a mitigation plan before significant commitments have been made to a particular project design. Effort put into pre-permit consultations and planning will help applicants create projects which will be more quickly and easily processed.

2. Applications. Applications for wetland permits shall be made to the department on forms furnished by the department and in conformance with Section 16.53.030

3. Fees. At the time of application, the applicant shall pay a filing fee in accordance with the most current fee schedule adopted by the City.

G. Wetland Permit—Processing.

1. Procedures. Wetland permit applications within shoreline jurisdiction shall be processed using the application procedures in this Program, Appendix B – Administration and Enforcement, unless specifically modified herein:

a. Type I Wetland Permit. The following wetland permits shall be reviewed under the Type I review process in accordance with CMC Chapter 18.55

- i. Buffer modification only;
- ii. Wetland permits associated with single-family building permits, regardless of impact;
- iv. Re-authorization of approved wetland permits;
- iv. Programmatic wetland permits that are SEPA exempt.
- v. Programmatic wetland permits that are exempt from a shoreline substantial development permit.

2. Consolidation. The department shall, to the extent practicable and feasible, consolidate the processing of wetland permits with other City regulatory programs which affect activities in wetlands, such as SEPA review, subdivision, grading, and site plan approval, so as to provide a timely and coordinated permit process. Where no other City permit or approval is required for the wetland activity, the wetland permit shall be processed in accordance with a Type II process under CMC Chapter 18.55 Administration.

3. Notification. In addition to notices otherwise required, notice of application shall be given to federal and state agencies that have jurisdiction over, or an interest in, the affected wetlands. This notice may be incorporated into a SEPA comment period.

H. Wetland Permit—Preliminary Approval.

1. Decision Maker. A wetland permit application which has been consolidated with another permit or approval request which requires a public hearing (e.g., preliminary plat) shall be heard and decided in accordance with the procedures applicable to such other request. Any other wetland permit application shall be acted on by the responsible official within the timeline specified in Appendix B or CMC Chapter 18.55 for the required permit type.

2. Findings. A decision preliminarily approving or denying a wetland permit shall be supported by findings of fact relating to the standards and requirements of this chapter.

3. Conditions. A decision preliminarily approving a wetland permit shall incorporate at least the following as conditions:
 - a. The approved preliminary mitigation plan;
 - b. Applicable conditions provided for in subsection (E)(3) of this section;
 - c. Posting of a performance assurance pursuant to subsection J of this section; and
 - d. Posting of a maintenance assurance pursuant to subsection J of this section.

4. Duration. Wetland permit preliminary approval shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of issuance or termination of administrative appeals or court challenges, whichever occurs later, unless:
 - a. A longer period is specified in the permit; or
 - b. The applicant demonstrates good cause to the responsible official's satisfaction for an extension not to exceed an additional one year.

I. Wetland Permit—Final Approval.

1. Issuance. The responsible official shall issue final approval of the wetland permit authorizing commencement of the activity permitted thereby upon:
 - a. Submittal and approval of a final mitigation plan pursuant to subsection (E)(3) of this section;
 - b. Installation and approval of field markings as required by Section 16.53.040(C)(2);
 - c. The recording of a conservation covenant as required by Section 16.53.040(C)(3) and included on the plat, short plat, or site plan as required by Section 16.53.040(C)(4);
 - d. The posting of a performance assurance as required by subsection (H)(3) of this section.

2. Duration.

- a. Wetland or Wetland Buffer Impacts. Final approval shall be valid for the period specified in the final wetland permit, or the associated development approval. Extension of the permit shall only be granted in conjunction with extension of an associated permit.
- b. Compensatory Mitigation. The compensatory mitigation requirements of the permit shall remain in effect for the duration of the monitoring and maintenance period specified in the approval.

J. Wetland Permit Financial Assurances.

1. Types of Financial Assurances. The responsible official shall accept the following forms of financial assurances:
 - a. An escrow account secured with an agreement approved by the responsible official;
 - b. A bond provided by a surety for estimates that exceed five thousand dollars;
 - c. A deposit account with a financial institution secured with an agreement approved by the responsible official;
 - d. A letter of commitment from a public agency; and

- e. Other forms of financial assurance determined to be acceptable by the responsible official.
 2. Financial Assurance Estimates. The applicant shall submit itemized cost estimates for the required financial assurances. The responsible official may adjust the estimates to ensure that adequate funds will be available to complete the specified compensatory mitigation upon forfeiture. In addition the cost estimates must include a contingency as follows:
 - a. Estimates for bonds shall be multiplied by one hundred fifty percent;
 - b. All other estimates shall be multiplied by one hundred ten percent.
 3. Waiver of Financial Assurances. For Type I wetland permits, the responsible official may waive the requirement for one or both financial assurances if the applicant can demonstrate to the responsible official's satisfaction that posting the required financial assurances will constitute a significant hardship.
 4. Acceptance of Work and Release of Financial Assurances.
 - a. Release of Performance Assurance. Upon request, the responsible official shall release the performance assurance when the following conditions are met:
 - i. Completion of construction and planting specified in the approved compensatory mitigation plan;
 - ii. Submittal of an as-built report documenting changes to the compensatory mitigation plan that occurred during construction;
 - iii. Field inspection of the completed site(s); and
 - iv. Provision of the required maintenance assurance.
 - b. Release of Maintenance Assurance. Upon request, the responsible official shall release the maintenance assurance when the following conditions are met:
 - i. Completion of the specified monitoring and maintenance program;
 - ii. Submittal of a final monitoring report demonstrating that the goals and objectives of the compensatory mitigation plan have been met as demonstrated through:
 - (A) Compliance with the specific performance standards established in the wetland permit, or
 - (B) Functional assessment of the mitigation site(s), and
 - (C) Field inspection of the mitigation site(s).
 - c. Incremental Release of Financial Assurances. The responsible official may release financial assurances incrementally only if specific milestones and associated costs are specified in the compensatory mitigation plan and the document legally establishing the financial assurance.
 5. Transfer of Financial Assurances. The responsible official may release financial assurances at any time if equivalent assurances are provided by the original or a new permit holder.
 6. Forfeiture. If the permit holder fails to perform or maintain compensatory mitigation in accordance with the approved wetland permit, the responsible

official may declare the corresponding financial assurance forfeit pursuant to the following process:

- a. The responsible official shall, by registered mail, notify the wetland permit holder/agent that is signatory to the financial assurance, and the financial assurance holder of nonperformance with the terms of the approved wetlands permit;
- b. The written notification shall cite a reasonable time for the permit holder, or legal successor, to comply with provisions of the permit and state the City's intent to forfeit the financial assurance should the required work not be completed in a timely manner;
- c. Should the required work not be completed timely, the City shall declare the assurance forfeit;
- d. Upon forfeiture of a financial assurance, the proceeds thereof shall be utilized either to correct the deficiencies which resulted in forfeiture or, if such correction is deemed by the responsible official to be impractical or ineffective, to enhance other wetlands in the same watershed or contribute to an established cumulative effects fund for watershed scale habitat and wetland conservation.

K. Programmatic Permits for Routine Maintenance and Operations of Utilities and Public Facilities. The responsible official may issue programmatic wetland permits for routine maintenance and operations of utilities and public facilities within wetlands and wetland buffers, and for wetland enhancement programs. It is not the intent of the programmatic permit process to deny or unreasonably restrict a public agency or utility's ability to provide services to the public. Programmatic permits only authorize activities specifically identified in and limited to the permit approval and conditions.

1. Application Submittal Requirements. Unless waived by the responsible official with specific findings in the approval document in accordance with subsection (K)(2) of this section, applications for programmatic wetland permits shall include a programmatic permit plan that includes the following:
 - a. A discussion of the purpose and need for the permit;
 - b. A description of the scope of activities in wetlands and wetland buffers;
 - c. Identification of the geographical area to be covered by the permit;
 - d. The range of functions and values of wetlands potentially affected by the permit;
 - e. Specific measures and performance standards to be taken to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on wetland functions and values including:
 - i. Procedures for identification of wetlands and wetland buffers,
 - ii. Maintenance practices proposed to be used,
 - iii. Restoration measures,
 - iv. Mitigation measures and assurances,
 - v. Annual reporting to the responsible official that documents compliance with permit conditions and proposes any additional measures or adjustments to the approved programmatic permit plan,

- vi. Reporting to the responsible official any specific wetland or wetland buffer degradations resulting from maintenance activities when the degradation occurs or within a timely manner,
- vii. Responding to any department requests for information about specific work or projects,
- viii. Procedures for reporting and/or addressing activities outside the scope of the approved permit, and
- ix. Training all employees, contractors and individuals under the supervision of the applicant who are involved in permitted work.

2. Findings. A decision preliminarily approving or denying a programmatic wetland permit shall be supported by findings of fact relating to the standards and requirements of this chapter.

3. Approval Conditions. Approval of a programmatic wetland permit shall incorporate at least the following as conditions:

- a. The approved programmatic permit plan;
- b. Annual reporting requirements; and
- c. A provision stating the duration of the permit.

4. Duration and Re-authorization.

- a. The duration of a programmatic permit is for five years, unless:
 - i. An annual performance based re-authorization program is approved within the permit; or
 - ii. A shorter duration is supported by findings.

b. Requests for re-authorization of a programmatic permit must be received prior to the expiration of the original permit.

i. Re-authorization is reviewed and approved through the process described in subsection (K)(1) of this section.

ii. Permit conditions and performance standards may be modified through the re-authorization process.

iii. The responsible official may temporarily extend the original permit if the review of the re-authorization request extends beyond the expiration date.

L. Wetland Permit—Emergency.

1. Authorization. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter or any other laws to the contrary, the responsible official may issue prospectively or, in the case of imminent threats, retroactively a temporary emergency wetlands permit if:

- a. The responsible official determines that an unacceptable threat to life or loss of property will occur if an emergency permit is not granted; and
- b. The anticipated threat or loss may occur before a permit can be issued or modified under the procedures otherwise required by this act and other applicable laws.

2. Conditions. Any emergency permit granted shall incorporate, to the greatest extent practicable and feasible, but not inconsistent with the emergency situation, the standards and criteria required for nonemergency activities under this act and shall:

- a. Be limited in duration to the time required to complete the authorized emergency activity, not to exceed ninety days; and

b. Require, within this ninety-day period, the restoration of any wetland altered as a result of the emergency activity, except that if more than the ninety days from the issuance of the emergency permit is required to complete restoration, the emergency permit may be extended to complete this restoration.

3. Notice. Notice of issuance of an emergency permit shall be mailed to Ecology and published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Camas not later than ten days after issuance of such permit.

4. Termination. The emergency permit may be terminated at any time without process upon a determination by the responsible official that the action was not or is no longer necessary to protect human health or the environment.

M. Revocation. In addition to other remedies provided for elsewhere in this chapter, the responsible official may suspend or revoke wetland permit(s) issued in accordance with this chapter and associated development permits, pursuant to the provisions of Appendix B – Administration and Enforcement, if the applicant or permittee has not complied with any or all of the conditions or limitations set forth in the permit, has exceeded the scope of work set forth in the permit, or has failed to undertake the project in the manner set forth in the permit.

N. Enforcement. At such time as a violation of this chapter has been determined, enforcement action shall be commenced in accordance with the enforcement provisions of Appendix B – Administration and Enforcement, and may also include the following:

1. Applications for City land use permits on sites that have been cited or issued an administrative notice of correction or order under Title 18, or have been otherwise documented by the City for activities in violation of this chapter, shall not be processed for a period of six years provided:

a. The City has the authority to apply the permit moratorium to the property;

b. The City records the permit moratorium; and

c. The responsible official may reduce or wave the permit moratorium duration upon approval of a wetland permit under this section.

2. Compensatory mitigation requirements under subsections C and D of this section may be increased by the responsible official as follows:

a. All or some portion of the wetland or wetland buffer impact cannot be permitted or restored in place; and

b. Compensatory mitigation for the impact is delayed more than one year from the time of the original citation or documentation of the violation.