

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: June 27, 2022
To: Derek Fada, City of Lynnwood
From: Mindy Fohn, Matt Fontaine, and Katie Wingrove,
Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Subject: City of Lynnwood—Watershed Prioritization

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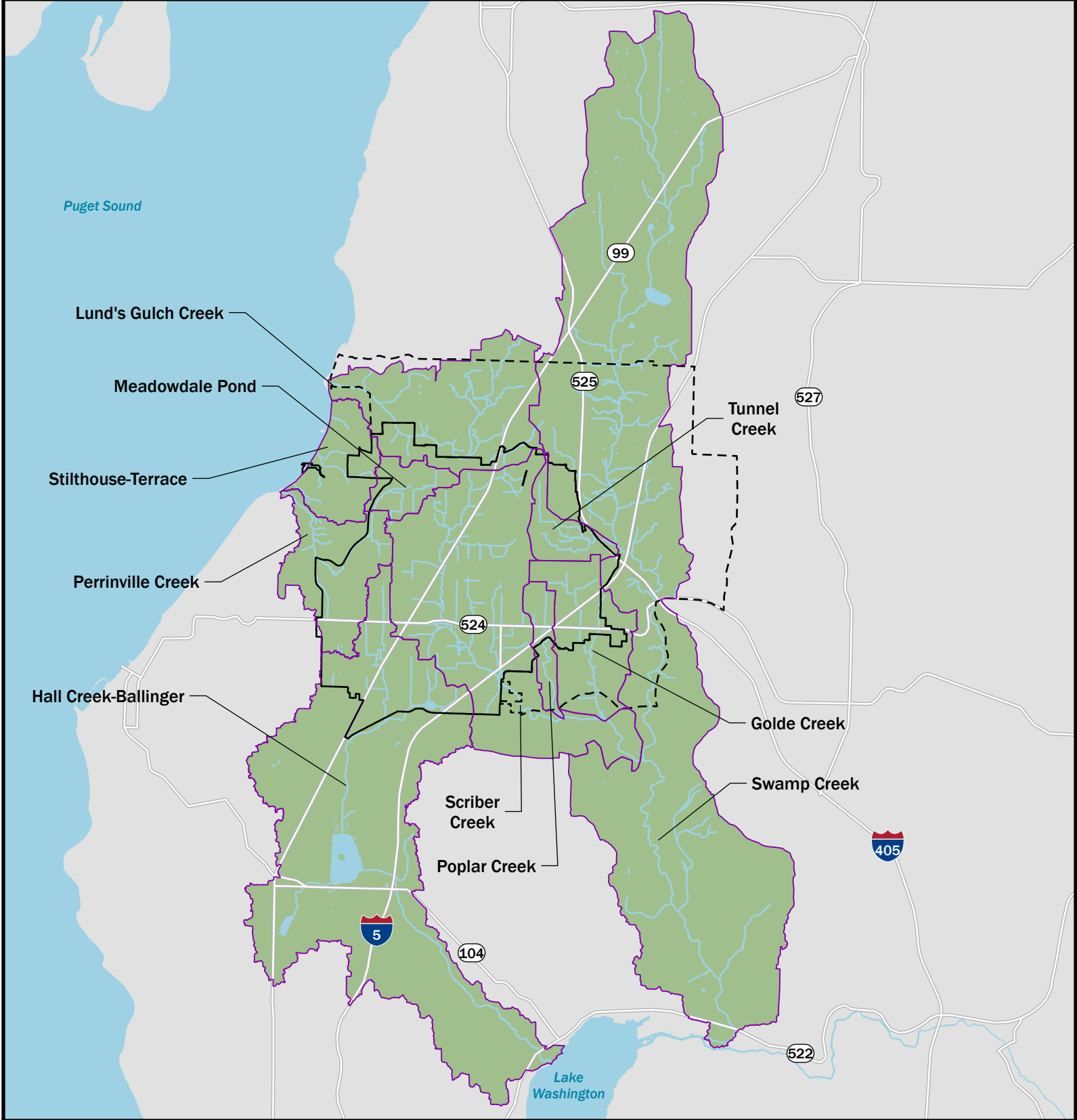
BACKGROUND

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to document the watershed prioritization process used for the City of Lynnwood (City) to meet the requirements of S5.C.1.d.ii of the Western Washington Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Stormwater Permit (permit). The approach taken to complete this prioritization process follows Ecology's Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP) Guidance (Ecology 2019) with modifications that reflect City priorities, stakeholder feedback and the landscape.

The City submitted their City of Lynnwood Watershed Inventory and Assessment to Ecology prior to the March 31, 2022, permit deadline. The submittal included existing information and data for conditions and stormwater influence in the City's ten watersheds (Herrera 2022). Figure 1 depicts the City boundaries, urban growth area (UGA) (areas eligible for annexation into the City) boundaries, watershed delineations and watershed names.

The intent of this prioritization is to select one watershed and catchment for future development of a SMAP Implementation Plan.

Prioritization was conducted in five steps. Figure 2 depicts the steps for the prioritization process and the number of City watersheds in each step.



Legend







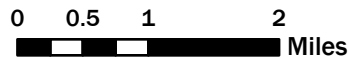
-  Watersheds/Basins
-  Lynnwood City Limits
-  Lynnwood UGA
-  Waterbodies
-  Streams
-  Roads

Figure 1. City of Lynnwood Watersheds for Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP).



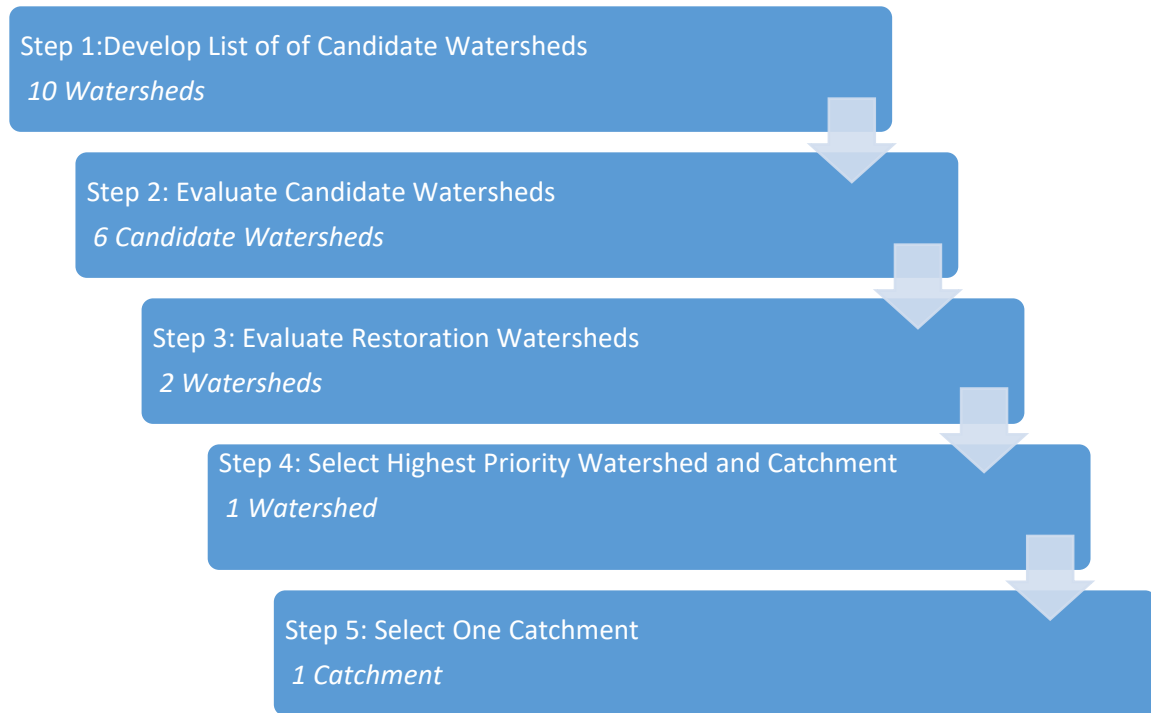


Figure 2. Watershed Prioritization Steps for the City of Lynnwood.

STEP 1: DEVELOP LIST OF CANDIDATE WATERSHEDS

The City of Lynnwood Watershed Inventory and Assessment (Herrera 2022) identified ten watersheds. In Step 1 the list of ten watersheds was reviewed for stormwater influence, amount of City control (i.e., the percentage of the watershed within the City), outlet to a stream or Puget Sound, and approximate size relative to the target SMAP planning size of 400 acres. Three watersheds were removed due to low or no stormwater influence or low watershed percentage within City jurisdiction control as described in the Receiving Water Conditions Assessment spreadsheet of the Inventory (Herrera 2022). These were:

- Meadowdale Pond Basin
- Puget Sound Basin
- Swamp Creek Basin

Next, watersheds were evaluated for appropriate size to move forward for prioritization. Watersheds with greater than 400 acres of watershed within City jurisdiction control were retained for prioritization. Poplar Creek Basin, 126 acres, was removed from this prioritization process.

Although Lund’s Gulch Creek and Tunnel Creek watersheds are currently sized less than 400 acres of City controlled lands, they are retained due to downstream impacts to larger stream systems or Puget Sound.

The original ten watersheds and remaining six watersheds are listed in Figure 3. The six watersheds were moved forward to SMAP prioritization (Step 2).

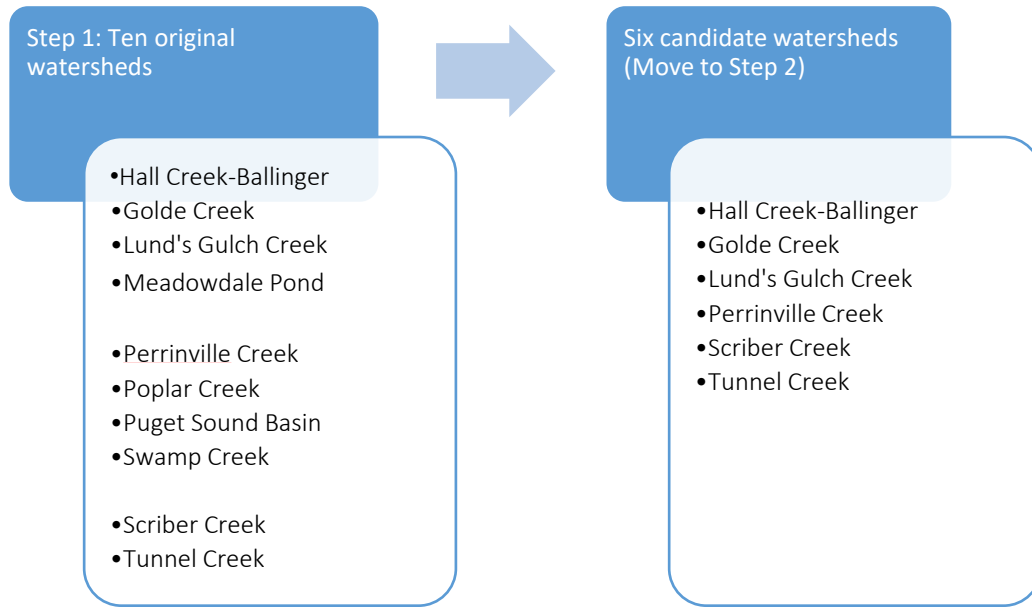


Figure 3. Original and Candidate Watersheds Identified During Step 1 of the Prioritization Process for the City of Lynnwood.

STEP 2: EVALUATE CANDIDATE WATERSHEDS

The six candidate watersheds were scored and ranked based on three evaluation categories:

- Water Use Importance
- Development and Future Growth
- Water Quality and Habitat Condition

Table 1 summarizes each prioritization category, purpose, and metrics for each evaluation category. Metrics were selected with input from City staff and review of Ecology guidance (Ecology 2019). Each of these evaluation categories and their associated metrics are described in additional detail in the following sections.

Category	Purpose	Criteria
Water Use Importance	Determine extent the receiving water supports use by aquatic species and the community. Higher scores denote greater diversity of species and community public recreation access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freshwater salmon and trout species presence ● Area of watershed within wellhead protection area ● Endangered Species Act listed salmon ● City parks near water bodies
Development and Future Growth	Determine extent of development and potential future development. Higher scores denote a higher level of development and future development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Impervious area ● Canopy cover in riparian buffer ● Commercial/industrial/multi-family zoned lands ● Population growth projections greater than 1.25% for 2021-2026
Water and Habitat Condition	Determine existing level of impairment of water quality and habitat conditions. Higher scores denote better conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) ● TMDL^a cleanup plan ● Water Flow Degradation (Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project) ● Metals Degradation (Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project) ● Stream accessible from mouth to first barrier

^a TMDL: total maximum daily load

Water Use Importance Evaluation

Water Use Importance was scored for number of salmonid and trout species, acres in wellhead protection areas, endangered species act listed salmon presence, and public recreation areas. The scoring method applied to assess water use importance is summarized in Table 2.

Metric	Method
Freshwater Salmon and Trout Species Presence	Watersheds were scored based upon Statewide Salmon Distribution Database and NOAA Critical Habitat Mapping representing presence of diversity of salmonid species. Score of 0: No species Score of 1: One to two species presence Score of 2: Three to four species presence Score of 3: Five or more species presence
Acres in Wellhead Protection Area	Watersheds were scored based upon the Washington Department of Health Wellhead Mapping representing area within 10-year time of travel. Score of 0: None Score of 1: 1-50 acres Score of 2: 51-100 acres Score of 3: Greater than 101 acres
ESA Listed Salmon Species	Watersheds were scored based upon presence of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed salmon representing critical habitat as determined by federal regulations. Score of 0: No Score of 2: Yes

Table 2 (continued). Scoring Method to Assess Water Use Importance.	
Metric	Method
Acres of City Public Recreation	Watersheds were score based upon the acres of park lands within the City adjacent to streams and lakes representing public recreation access and use. Score of 0: 0 acres of parks Score of 1: 1-10 acres of parks Score of 2: 11-20 acres of parks Score of 3: Greater than 20 acres of parks

The highest possible Water Use Importance score is 11. Scores for candidate watersheds ranged from 2 to 10 and are compiled in Table 3. Scriber Creek and Hall Creek–Ballinger and were the highest ranked watersheds for Water Use Importance with scores of 10 and 9, respectively.

Table 3. Water Use Importance Scoring and Ranking for Candidate Basins in the City of Lynnwood.

Watershed	Diversity of Salmonid and Trout Species Use		Acres in Wellhead Area		ESA Listed Salmonids		City Park Acres Adjacent to Water Bodies ^a		Total Score	Rank
	Species Presence	Score	Acres	Score	Yes/No	Score	Number of Areas	Score		
Scriber Creek	Coho, Fall Chinook, Resident Cutthroat	2	132	3	Yes	2	45	3	10	1
Hall Creek–Ballinger	Coho, Fall Chinook, Sockeye, Winter Steelhead, Resident Cutthroat	3	207	3	Yes	2	8	1	9	2
Lund’s Gulch Creek	Resident Cutthroat	1	0	0	No	0	34	3	4	3
Perrinville Creek	Resident Cutthroat	1	0	0	No	0	38	3	4	3
Tunnel Creek	None	0	235	3	No	0	0	0	3	5
Golde Creek	None	0	67	2	No	0	0	0	2	6

^a City Lands Near Receiving Waters for Public Access= Metric was developed after the Watershed Inventory (Herrera 2022) was published. It is a representation of City lands (acres) accessible for public access and represents the value of water bodies within the City for the public. The data source is a comprehensive regional parks layer from ParkServe by the Trust for Public Land, downloaded August 6, 2021. Mapped parks were selected for proximity to waterways, including connected park areas adjoining those immediately accessible to the waterway. An automated selection along mapped creek lines was used as the starting point for identifying these parks; additional park areas were added manually based on spatial proximity to the creeks, lakes, or Puget Sound (with assumed access).

Development and Future Growth Evaluation

Development and Future Growth was assessed using metrics for total watershed impervious surface, percent canopy cover in the riparian buffer, percent of city watershed area commercial and industrial land use, and expected population growth in the watershed. The scoring method applied to assess development and future growth is summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Scoring Method to Assess Development and Future Growth.	
Metric	Method
Percent Total Impervious Area	Watersheds were scored based upon total impervious area representing the degree of existing development contributing pollutants and flow. Score of 1: 30 to 40 percent Score of 2: 41 to 50 percent Score of 3: Greater than 51 percent
Percent canopy cover in riparian zone (200-foot buffer)	City watershed areas were scored based upon percent tree canopy cover representing development in stream buffer zones. Score of 0: Greater than 80 percent Score of 1: Between 50 and 79 percent Score of 2: Between 40 and 49 percent Score of 3: Less than 39 percent
Percent of Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family Land Use	City watershed areas were scored based upon the percent of commercial, industrial and multi-family lands based upon City zoning representing lands with higher pollution generating surfaces. Score of 0: Less than 10 percent Score of 1: Between 11 and 30 percent Score of 2: Between 31 and 50 percent Score of 3: Greater than 51 percent
Percent areas with higher projected population growth greater than 1.25% for 2021-2026	Watersheds were scored based upon expected population growth from 2021 to 2026. Score of 0: 0 to 25 percent Score of 1: 26 to 50 percent Score of 2: 51 to 75 percent Score of 3: 76 to 100 percent

The highest possible Development and Future Growth score is 12. Scores for candidate watersheds ranged from 4 to 11 and are compiled in Table 5. Golde Creek and Tunnel Creek are the highest ranked watersheds for Development and Future Growth with scores of 11 and 10, respectively.

Table 5. Development and Future Growth Scoring and Ranking for Candidate Basins in the City of Lynnwood.

Watershed	Percent Impervious Surface		Percent Canopy Cover in Riparian Buffer		Percent Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family Zoned Lands		Basin Area with Expected Population Growth Greater than 1.25 Percent		Results	
	% TIA ^a	Score	Percent	Score	Percent	Score	Percent Area with Growth	Score	Total Score	Rank
Golde Creek	61	3	47	2	80	3	80	3	11	1
Tunnel Creek	57	3	34	3	39	2	63	2	10	2
Hall Creek–Ballinger	50	3	37	3	33	2	17	0	8	3
Scriber Creek	55	3	48	2	27	1	37	1	7	4
Perrinville Creek	43	2	26	3	7	0	0	0	5	5
Lund’s Gulch Creek	38	1	79	1	8	0	62	2	4	6

^a TIA= total impervious area

Water Quality and Habitat Condition Evaluation

Water Quality and Habitat Condition was evaluated using metrics for Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI), 303(d) listings and TMDL cleanup plans, water flow degradation (from the Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project), metals degradation (from the Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project) and percent of stream accessible from the flow control exempt area to the first full barrier. Scoring for water quality and habitat conditions are summarized in Table 6.

Metric	Method
B-IBI	Watersheds were scored based upon the most recent B-IBI scores. No data was available for Tunnel Creek; data from a watershed with similar watershed percent impervious surface was substituted. Score of 2: Poor/Very Poor Score of 3: Fair
TMDL Clean Up Plan	Watersheds were scored based upon presence or absence of a TMDL Clean Up Plan. Score of 0: TMDL Clean-up plan Score of 3: No TMDL
Water Flow Degradation (PSWC)	Watersheds were scored using the Ecology Puget Sound Watershed Characterization (PSWC) project results. Score of 0: High Score of 1: Moderate High Score of 2: Moderate Score of 3: Low
Metals Export Degradation (PSWC)	Watersheds were scored using the Ecology PSWC project results. Score of 0: High Score of 1: Moderate High Score of 2: Moderate Score of 3: Low
Percent stream accessible from flow control exempt area to first barrier	Watersheds were scored on accessibility on main stem stream within City. Score of 0: Full barrier at mouth (100% barrier, 0% accessible) Score of 1: 1 to 40% accessible upstream prior to first full barrier Score of 2: Greater than 40 % accessible upstream prior to first full barrier

The highest possible Water Quality and Habitat Condition score is 14. Scores for the candidate basins ranged from 3 to 12 and are compiled in Table 7. Lund’s Gulch Creek and Perrinville Creek watersheds scored highest for Water Quality and Habitat Conditions, at 12 and 8 respectively. Hall Creek-Ballinger, Golde Creek, Scriber Creek and Tunnel Creek scored low at 5, 4, 3 and 3 respectively indicating poorer Water Quality and Habitat Condition.

Table 7. Water Quality and Habitat Condition Scoring and Ranking for Candidate Basins in the City of Lynnwood.

Watershed	B-IBI		TMDL Clean Up Plan		Water Flow Degradation		Metals Export Degradation		Percent Stream Accessible from Mouth of First Barrier		Results	
	Rating	Score	Yes/No Parameter	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Rating	Score	Total Score	Rank
Lund’s Gulch Creek	poor	2	no	3	moderate	2	moderate	2	100%	3	12	1
Perrinville Creek	very poor	2	no	3	moderate high	1	moderate	2	barrier at mouth	0	8	2
Hall Creek–Ballinger	fair	3	yes phosphorus	0	high	0	high	0	48%	2	5	3
Golde Creek	very poor	2	yes fecal coliform	0	high	0	high	0	49%	2	4	4
Scriber Creek	poor	2	yes fecal coliform	0	high	0	high	0	37%	1	3	5
Tunnel Creek	poor	2	yes fecal coliform	0	moderate high	1	high	0	barrier at mouth	0	3	5

Watershed Management Goals and Retrofit Strategies

Evaluation results were used to apply a rating corresponding with the level of Water Use Importance (high, moderate, low), Development and Future Growth (high, moderate, low) and Water Quality and Habitat Conditions (good, fair, poor). Ratings were applied based upon the total score for each category. Results are summarized in Table 8 with watersheds listed in alphabetical order.

Table 8. Summary of Scoring and Ranking Results for the Candidate Basins in the City of Lynnwood.

Watershed	Water Use Importance		Development and Growth		Water Quality and Habitat Condition	
	Total Score	Rating	Total Score	Rating	Total Score	Rating
Hall Creek–Ballinger	9	high	8	moderate	5	poor
Lund’s Gulch Creek	4	low	4	low	12	good
Perrinville Creek	4	low	5	moderate	8	fair
Golde Creek	2	low	11	high	4	poor
Scriber Creek	10	high	7	moderate	3	poor
Tunnel Creek	3	low	10	high	3	poor

Water Use Importance=Max score 11. High=9-11, Moderate=5-8, Low≤4

Water Quality and Habitat Conditions=Max score 14. Good=11-14, Fair=6-10, Poor≤5

Development and Growth=Max score 12. High=9-12, Moderate=5-8, Low≤4

Watersheds were placed in one of four management categories based on watershed prioritization guidance provided by the Washington Department of Commerce (Commerce 2016) and Washington State Department of Ecology Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project (Ecology 2016) as shown in Figure 4.

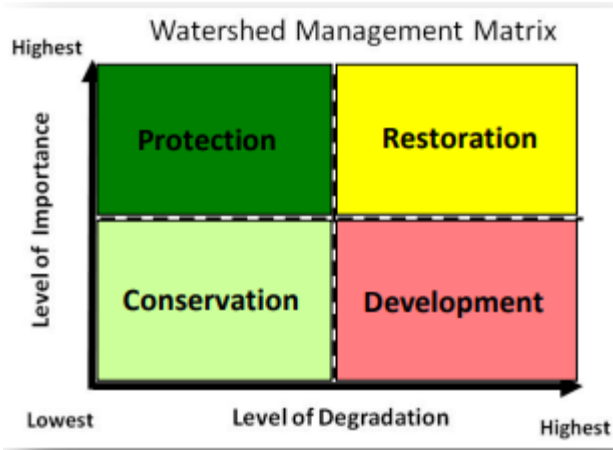


Figure 4. Watershed Management Goal Framework.

The framework is based upon a y-axis from lowest to highest for “Level of Importance” and an x-axis from lowest to highest for “Level of Degradation.” For this analysis, the “Level of Importance” is derived from the Water Use Importance evaluation. “Level of Degradation” is derived from the level of watershed Development and Future Growth evaluation. The framework does not incorporate Water Quality and Habitat Conditions; however, the results developed in this analysis are included to better understand receiving water conditions.

Both *Protection* and *Restoration* watersheds are characterized by high receiving Water Use Importance. Watersheds identified with a management goal of *Protection* are those that are less developed while those with a goal of *Restoration* are more developed.

Conservation and *Development* watersheds are characterized by low Water Use Importance, but varying levels of development. Watersheds identified with a management goal of *Development* are currently more developed than *Conservation* watersheds. Receiving waters are in better condition in *Conservation* watersheds compared to *Development* watersheds.

Retrofit strategies are applied to watersheds with watershed management goals of *Restoration* or *Development*. *Restoration* watersheds are candidates for a proactive approach to stormwater retrofits and additional stormwater management actions because investments in these watersheds are anticipated to result in the highest environmental benefits relative to the cost. *Development* watersheds are candidates for an opportunistic approach to stormwater retrofits and additional stormwater management actions because investments in these watersheds are anticipated to result in some environmental benefits, but not as much as investments in *Restoration* watersheds.

The results from assessment of the three evaluation categories, watershed management goal, and retrofit strategy for the candidate watersheds are summarized in Table 9.

Table 9. Watershed Management Goals and Retrofit Strategy Results for the Candidate Basins in the City of Lynnwood.

Watershed	Water Use Importance	Water Quality and Habitat Conditions	Development and Growth	Watershed Management Goal	Retrofit Strategy
Hall Creek–Ballinger	high	poor	moderate	restoration	proactive
Scriber Creek	high	poor	moderate	restoration	proactive
Perrinville Creek	low	fair	moderate	development	opportunity
Golde Creek	low	poor	high	development	opportunity
Tunnel Creek	low	poor	high	development	opportunity
Lund’s Gulch Creek	low	good	low	conservation	not determined

Note: Color indicates the watershed management matrix as shown in Figure 4

The two *Restoration* watersheds listed in Figure 5 were moved forward to Step 3.

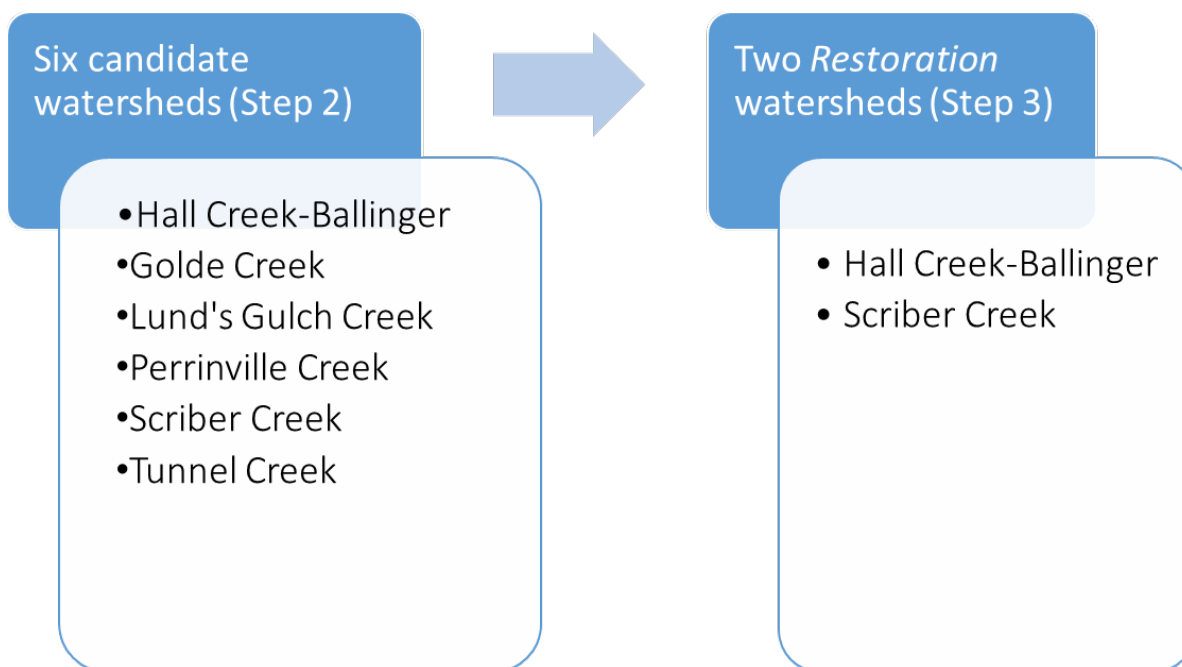


Figure 5. Restoration Watersheds Identified During Step 2 of the Prioritization Process for the City of Lynnwood.

STEP 3: EVALUATE RESTORATION WATERSHEDS

The two *Restoration* watersheds were evaluated for the following:

- Jurisdiction control
- Social equity
- Supports existing plans or projects
- Public input

Jurisdiction Control

Stormwater management actions have a higher probability of successful implementation when the City has a higher level of jurisdiction control. Current percentage of watershed under City control is presented, Municipal Urban Growth Area (MUGA), which may be annexed into the City, and the total percentage of both City and MUGA is shown.

Watershed	Percentage in City	Percentage in UGA	Percentage Total City and MUGA
Hall Creek–Ballinger	15.5	0.0	15.5
Scriber Creek	75.4	3.7	79.1

The City has greater jurisdiction control in the Scriber Creek watershed at 75.4 percent compared to Hall Creek-Ballinger at 15.5 percent. Potential annexations will have a minimal effect on watershed jurisdiction control.

Social Equity

Characteristics of populations within the City were evaluated to identify potential benefits of addressing stormwater water issues within overburdened communities. Equity metrics were calculated using data from the [Washington Environmental Health Disparities](#) map and database. Rankings for sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors identify vulnerability of populations, whereas rankings for environmental effects and environmental exposures identify threat to populations. A higher combined score indicates a greater burden to that community. Table 11 provides summary information for these metrics. Results are rankings from 0 (no effects) to 10 (greatest effect). Both watersheds show similar vulnerability and threat rankings, as well as the combined disparity rank. In general, vulnerable populations in both watersheds would benefit from a SMAP Plan.

Table 11. Equity Score and Rankings.					
Watershed	Sensitive Populations	Socioeconomic Factors	Environmental Effects	Environmental Exposures	Combined Health Disparities Rank
Hall Creek–Ballinger	3.9	8.5	3.4	6.1	5.7
Scriber Creek	5.7	7.1	2.5	5.7	6.2

Supports Existing Plans and Projects

Projects were identified from the City of Lynnwood Surface Water Management 2020 Comprehensive Plan (Herrera, 2020), City Capital projects list, and studies identifying potential retrofit projects at the conceptual stage. City staff were consulted about project timing, status, probability of implementation and applicability to improve receiving water condition. Leveraging recent and future projects within a watershed may provide additive environmental benefits.

Hall Creek–Lake Ballinger

Street Edge Runoff Treatment Retrofits in the Hall Lake Basin
Hall Creek Enhancement Study-2024

Scriber Creek

2016 Scriber Creek Corridor Management Plan:

- Small Berm Installment, Upper Creek
- North of 188th Street Southwest Off-channel Storage
- 188th Street Southwest Flood Wall
- 189th Street Southwest Culvert Replacement
- 190th Street Southwest Culvert Replacement
- 191st Street Southwest Culvert Replacement
- Parkview Plaza Culvert Replacement
- Scriber Creek Culvert Replacement at Casa Del Rey
- Raising Old 196th Street Southwest
- Scriber Lake Inlet Improvements

- Scriber Lake Management Plan
- 180th Street Southwest Bioretention Swale

Public Input

Public outreach was conducted during development of the watershed inventory and the preliminary prioritization method. The City posted a [StoryMap](#) on the project web page and held one virtual public workshop June 2, 2022. Public input was collected from the StoryMap survey and the public workshop. Public input is summarized for both the workshops and survey. Public support may be important for funding and implementation of SMAP projects.

Eleven community members attended the public workshop and 12 survey responses were received. Seventy five percent of community members supported Scriber Creek watershed as the top priority.

From a citizen attending the workshop and subsequent survey wrote, "Scriber Creek has a high importance for both people and fish. It also includes a major portion of the city. There are also some great parks and green spaces along the creek to help find potential synergy between different city projects."

STEP 4: SELECT HIGHEST PRIORITY WATERSHED

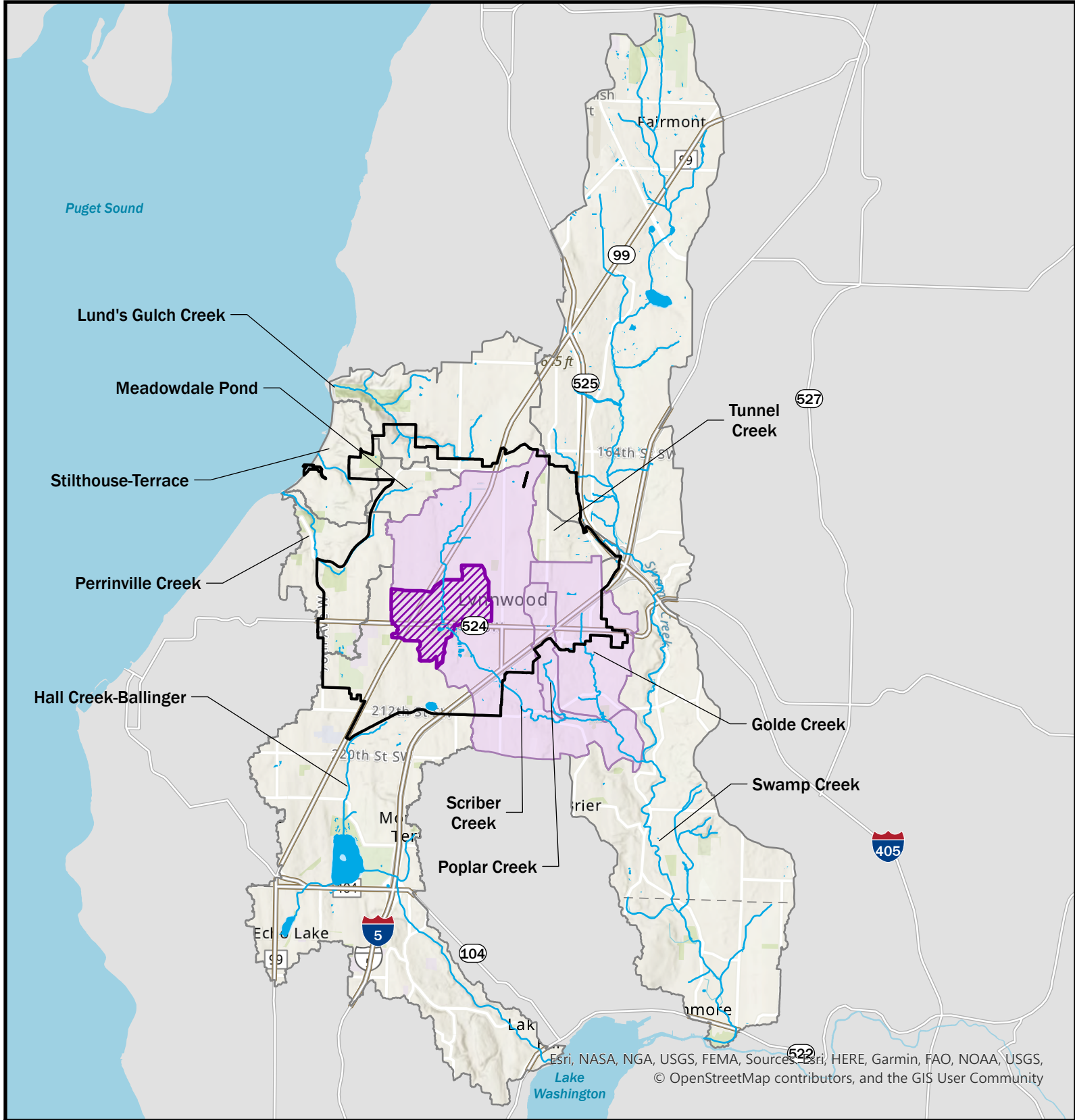
Scriber Creek watershed was selected as the City of Lynnwood SMAP Highest Priority Watershed based on the following characteristics:

- High Water Use Importance rating
- Moderate Level of Development and Future Growth rating
- Poor water and habitat conditions
- High jurisdiction control
- Supports City overburdened communities
- Supports other plans and projects
- Support from the Public

STEP 5: SELECT CATCHMENT FOR SMAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Four catchments were delineated. In consultation with the City, the 454 acre catchment shown in Figure 6 was selected based on the following characteristics:

- Future capital projects in design that are water quality or flow control focused
- Significant commercial lands and roadways that can be the focus of non-structural stormwater actions
- Potential property acquisition opportunities to consider floodplain reconnection projects
- Contains significant park lands and Scriber Lake which are of community interest and value



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Legend






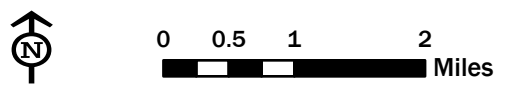
-  Lynnwood City Limits
-  SMAP Watersheds/Basins
-  Scriber Creek Watershed
-  Scriber Creek SMAP Catchment
-  Waterbodies
-  Streams
-  Major Roads

Figure 6. City of Lynnwood Scriber Creek Catchment for SMAP Implementation Plan Development.



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