

Only those portions of Chapter 18J.15 that are proposed to be amended are shown.
Remainder of text, maps, tables and/or figures is unchanged.

Chapter 18J.15

COUNTYWIDE DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

18J.15.020 Site Clearing.

The primary purpose of this Section is to establish standards for site clearing and the retention of vegetation which preserve native vegetation, mature forests, and woodlands in order to minimize changes in natural hydrologic functions within designated riparian corridors and natural drainage areas. Limiting clearing and retaining existing native vegetation within these areas reduce the impacts of development on water resources and engineered storm drainage systems. These standards are also intended to maintain areas of existing native vegetation in order to preserve elements of the predeveloped aesthetic character of the community and to preserve areas which may provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

E. **Standards – Vegetation Retention.** Minimum native vegetation retention standards shall apply to all projects located partially or fully within areas designated and mapped as open space corridors pursuant to ~~Section~~ PCC 19A.30.170 of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan (Open Space) or an adopted community plan as follows, ~~except that shoreline vegetation retention shall be regulated pursuant to Chapter 18E.30 PCC:~~

1. A minimum percentage of the existing native vegetation shall be retained as set forth in Table 18J.15.020-1. The percentage shall be based on the gross acreage of the portion of the site located with an open space corridor.

18J.15.140 Low Impact Development (LID).

Low Impact Development (LID) techniques emphasize the use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered small scale hydrologic controls to promote groundwater recharge and protect the function and value of surface waters, aquifers, and fish and wildlife habitat from degradation by preserving the native vegetation and wooded character of watersheds while continuing to provide stormwater control necessary to protect downstream property owners.

A. **Applicability.** LID techniques as described in the Pierce County Stormwater Management and Site Development Manual, Volume VI, shall be utilized for development within the:

1. Rural Sensitive Resource (RSR) zone;
2. Urban Sensitive Resource Overlay (USRO); ~~and~~
3. Open space corridors of the Graham and Gig Harbor Community Plan areas.
4. Natural Shoreline Environment Designation. New land divisions and subsequent development.
5. Conservancy Shoreline Environment Designation. New land divisions and subsequent development when the project exceeds base density.

