

GREENSPACES POLICY:

As a major component of the City's comprehensive open space system, greenspaces will help to create an interconnected system of open spaces throughout Seattle's neighborhoods. Greenspaces ~~shall be identified as~~ are important natural or ecological features that may be preserved through acquisition, donation or voluntary conservation efforts. Areas previously identified as greenbelts and natural areas are included in, and will be known as, greenspaces. Greenspaces are further defined as greenspaces I and II. Greenspaces I are visually prominent undeveloped lands that are generally heavily wooded and vegetated areas, with steep hillsides or ravines. Greenspaces II are lands that provide special environmental resources such as unique ~~geographic~~ topographic features, important animal habitat, ~~or~~ streams, ~~and~~ wetlands, or water quality enhancement areas for streams, lakes and wetlands. ~~Since~~ Because these two kinds of greenspaces serve different functions, the Greenspaces Policy includes separate criteria for each, although often a particular greenspace may include characteristics from both. ~~Both greenspaces I and II shall be considered part of the Greenspaces Open Space System.~~

The purpose of a greenspaces designation ~~shall be~~ is to establish priority areas for preservation to: 1) help preserve areas of natural landscape and habitat for wildlife, 2) provide natural buffers between land uses of different intensity or areas of distinct character or identity, 3) help mitigate the effects of noise and air pollution, and 4) help reduce the necessity for constructed storm water systems and 5) help preserve the quality of natural drainage systems and ~~thereby~~ enhance the stability of the land. Greenspaces, with their natural environmental character, will be used only for low impact activities, and will complement the City's parks and recreation system where open spaces may be used in a more active manner.