

Department of Community Development Newsletter

In This Issue:

A Message from the Deputy
Director **P.1**

Natural Resources **P.1**

Planning Division **P.2**

Building Division **P.2**

Code Enforcement **P.2**

Volunteer Opportunities **P.2**

Open to Public Meetings **P.2**

Quarterly Reporting **P.2**

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Our mission is to promote public safety, a healthy environment, and a strong local economy, and to provide courteous, timely, and efficient service to the public.

A Message from the Deputy Director

Welcome to the kickoff edition of our quarterly DCD Newsletter! I'd like to begin by introducing who we are and what we do. The Department of Community Development (DCD) is responsible for comprehensive planning, zoning, and processing of development and building permits. DCD consists of the Building Division, Planning Division, Natural Resources, and Code Enforcement. Currently, we are highly focused on updating the County's Comprehensive Plan as required by Washington's Growth Management Act, also known as the GMA.

The Comprehensive Plan is a 20-year plan, updated every 10 years, that provides a roadmap for future growth, character, and development within the county. The GMA requires us to maintain this plan and it must establish goals and policies in several specific areas, some of which are: Land Use, Housing, Rural Development, and, new for 2025, Climate Change and Resiliency. An important aspect of this planning process is public participation, so we've created a survey to gauge the community's perspectives on these issues. To stay up to date on this process, check out our webpage at:

www.clallamcountywa.gov/1842/Comprehensive-Plan-Update, where you can find updates, sign up for our mailing list, and even take the survey! Using this QR code will take you directly to the survey:



We look forward to providing additional information and updates on DCD's activities. Stay tuned to learn more!

Tim Havel
Chief Deputy Director



Natural Resources

Because natural ecosystems underpin our well-being, this team works to protect and restore natural resources and ecosystems through education, environmental monitoring, planning, restoration projects, and other collaborative efforts. We work to ensure that Clallam County's forests, water, and wildlife are sustained for current and future generations, and that the contributions of natural resources to human well-being are recognized, valued, and maintained.

Our Natural Resources team is comprised of two Habitat biologists and a Streamkeepers Coordinator. Their work includes many projects, such as the Dungeness Flood Plain Restoration and Elwha River Channel Migration Zone mapping. The Clallam Marine Resource Committee is also housed under Natural Resources.

Streamkeepers is a staff and volunteer-powered water quality monitoring program for 33 streams in Clallam County and has been monitoring County waters for 25 years. The data that is gathered is often used to inform program and planning decisions. In Q4, 2024, Streamkeepers nearly reached 300 volunteer hours. Thank you to all our hardworking volunteers!

The Clallam County Marine Resources Committee (Clallam MRC) was established by resolution in Clallam County as a result of the 1998 Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative. The MRC combines data-driven science with grassroots involvement in an effort to promote local solutions that protect and restore marine resources. The Clallam MRC is a balanced team of members comprised of residents representing conservation, environmental, recreation, and tourism interests as well as tribes, cities, academia, the development community and other local governmental agencies.

Planning Division

The Clallam County Planning Division is committed to promoting sustainable development while preserving the region's distinctive natural beauty and rural character. Our mission is to enhance public health and safety, protect the environment, foster a vibrant local economy, and provide timely, efficient, and courteous services to the public. The Planning Division oversees a broad spectrum of activities related to land use management and development, including Comprehensive Planning, Zoning and Land Use Regulations, Permit Review, Conservation Futures and Environmental Protection, all underpinned by public participation and collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders.

Clallam County is home to diverse ecosystems, and the Planning Division plays a crucial role in preserving these resources through the implementation of key policies, including the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Shoreline Master Program, and Critical Areas Code. Projects are assessed for compliance with these regulations to minimize environmental impacts and ensure sustainable development in areas near shorelines and critical habitats.

The Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board (CFPAB) oversees a property tax levy creating a special fund to acquire interests in real property. This fund aims to preserve open spaces for food, fiber, and forest crop production, and to ensure the enjoyment of natural resources and scenic beauty for the county's economic and social well-being.

Building

The primary function of the Building Division is to enforce building codes and regulations, ensuring the safety and well-being of occupants and the community. This includes reviewing construction plans, issuing permits, conducting inspections, and enforcing compliance with building standards.

The Division consists of a differentiated team of professionals, including two building inspectors, a residential plans examiner, a commercial plans examiner/fire marshal, two customer service specialists, an Enterprise Permit & Licensing Officer, and a Building Official. Our customer service specialists are available to assist homeowners, potential home buyers, real

estate agents, and others seeking information on parcel records.

For context, the Clallam County Building Division was established in July 1974 with a rudimentary note card system for processing building permit applications. Since then, the department has experienced significant growth and development. Recently, the county upgraded its paper permit filing system to an online permitting software. This cloud-based platform enhances efficiency, collaboration, and communication between departments and with the public, streamlining every aspect of planning, permitting, inspections, and code enforcement.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement exists to promote safety, community health, quality of life, neighborhood vibrancy, and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas for the benefit of Clallam County. As part of the County's dedication to its residents, Code Enforcement ensures that zoning, building, nuisance, and environmental codes are followed to create a well-functioning, harmonious community.

Operating as a complaint-based organization, Code Enforcement Officers investigate reported concerns within unincorporated Clallam County to confirm or invalidate the complaint. Code Enforcement's approach is centered on impartial public service, offering support and resources that empower landowners to achieve and maintain compliance. Code Enforcement Field Officers work closely with property owners potentially in violation of code to explain the codes and provide guidance, which assists property owners to make the necessary corrections.

While penalties may be issued when necessary, the focus is always on education, prevention, and voluntary compliance. By prioritizing communication and cooperation, Code Enforcement promotes a safe, sustainable, and protected environment for the entire community.

Without Code Enforcement's oversight, unregulated activities could lead to unsafe living conditions, environmental damage, and disruption of economic growth. Code Enforcement is here to support the County's present and future population, ensuring that adherence to regulations is achieved to protect everyone's quality of life.

Volunteer Opportunities

MRC planting event at Ediz Hook March 6th, 2025

Register at:
<https://clallamcd.org/volunteerevents>

Streamkeepers is always looking for additional volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Streamkeepers Coordinator Joel Green at joel.green@clallamcounty.wa.gov or 360-417-2281.

Public Meetings:

Planning Commission

First and Third Wednesday of Every Month

Marine resources Committee

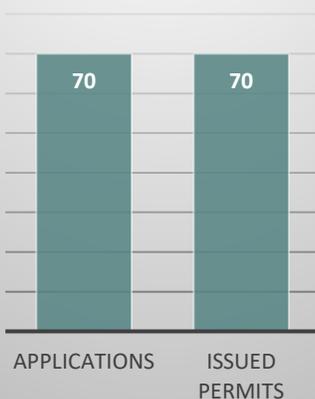
3rd Monday of Every Month

Conservation Futures

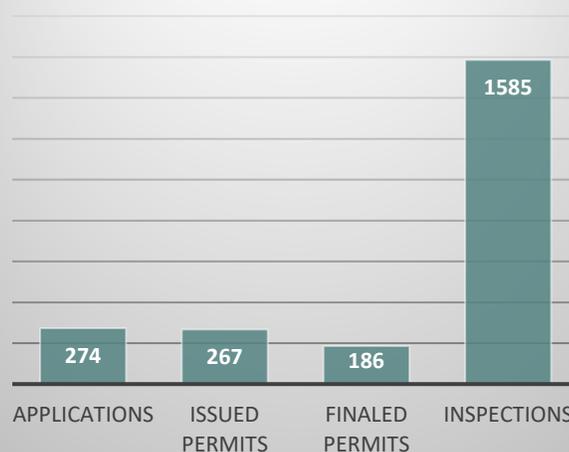
2nd Wednesday of Every Month

Quarterly Reporting

Planning Department



Building Division



Code Enforcement

