



**KING COUNTY  
LAND CONSERVATION  
INITIATIVE**

We can protect the  
livability, health, and  
ecological integrity of our  
region—**for everyone**—  
if we act now.



**65,000**  
**ACRES**

**TO SUSTAIN US**  
**WE CAN STILL DECIDE**

**From Puget Sound to the crest  
of the Cascade Mountains,  
natural lands and green spaces  
close to home make King County  
a great place to live.**

VALUES

RISK

PLAN

CONSIDERATIONS

OPPORTUNITY



Source: Google maps

VALUES

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Clean air and water, mild temperatures, long walks, scenic vistas, every day beauty, and healthy food— all are made possible by the forests, parks, rivers, trails, and farms in and around the cities, towns and rural communities of King County.

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A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue jacket and black pants, is sitting on a large grey rock. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, there is a river with white water rapids, surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. The scene is outdoors and appears to be in a natural, wooded area.

Natural lands preserve the ecological integrity essential to support life.

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Contact with nature  
extends our lives.



Access to our region's natural, green, and open spaces  
boosts health, fitness, and relieves stress.

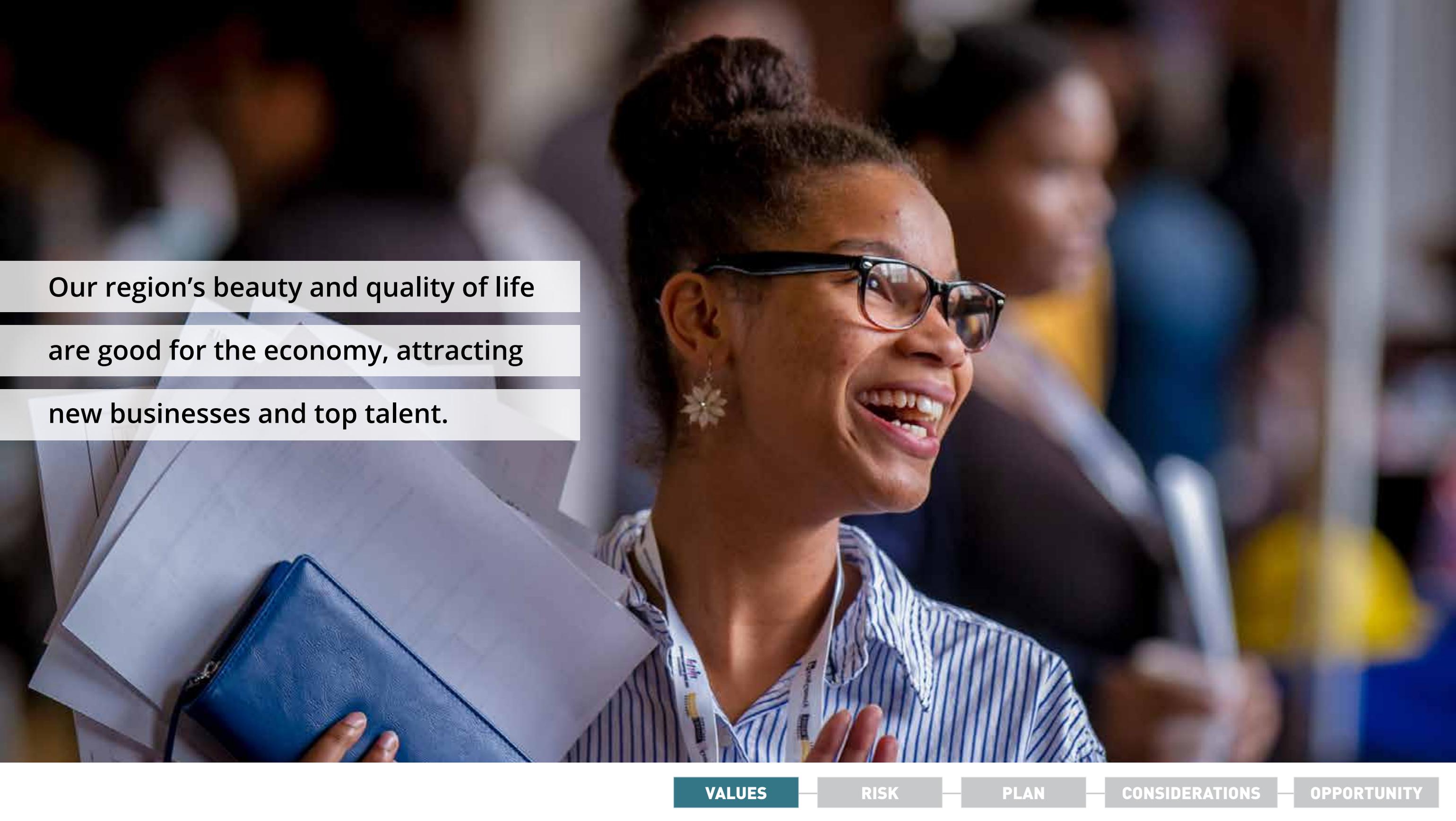
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A young woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing glasses and a blue and white striped shirt, is smiling broadly. She is holding a blue folder and a stack of papers. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a public event or conference.

Our region's beauty and quality of life  
are good for the economy, attracting  
new businesses and top talent.

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Everyone deserves access to  
natural lands and green, open spaces.



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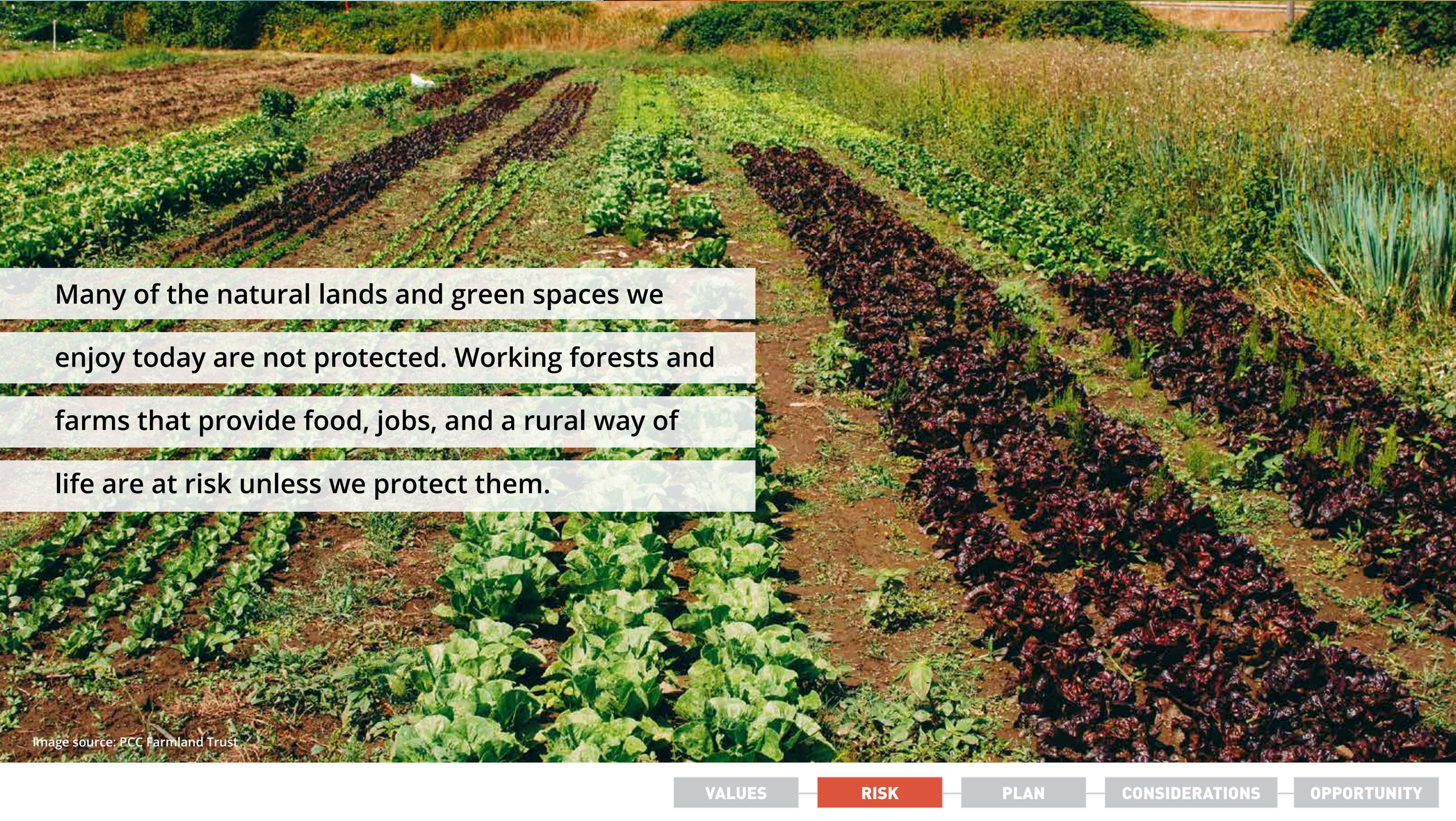
CONSIDERATIONS

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**As one of the fastest growing regions in the country, we risk losing the natural lands and green spaces that contribute to our high quality of life.**



Over the next ten years, King County expects to add another 180,000 people, that's **50 new residents every day.**



Many of the natural lands and green spaces we enjoy today are not protected. Working forests and farms that provide food, jobs, and a rural way of life are at risk unless we protect them.

Image source: PCC Farmland Trust

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Rivers providing important salmon habitat risk increased pollution, if we don't protect the lands that surround them.

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A gravel trail winds through a lush, green wooded area. In the foreground on the right, a yellow diamond-shaped sign with a black border and the words "DEAD END" in bold black letters is mounted on a wooden post. The trail leads into the distance, flanked by dense foliage and trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Popular trails can be lost forever if one privately owned segment is developed.

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Densely populated cities need more green and open spaces to maintain their clean air and livability.



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Many lower income neighborhoods already have less access and proximity to natural lands than do more affluent ones; we need to create new green and open spaces so everyone in our county enjoys the benefits.

**Community leaders have come together to map, price, and prioritize 65,000 acres of critical natural lands and green spaces in King County.**

**Larry Phillips**  
**De'Sean Quinn**

Co-chairs

**Jesús Aguirre**  
**Lylianna Allala**

**Patti Dill**  
**Gene Duvernoy**  
**Ken Hearing**  
**Jon Hoekstra**  
**Martha Kongsgaard**

**Mo McBroom**  
**James McNeal**  
**Louise Miller**  
**Michael Orbino**  
**Alanna Peterson**  
**Steve Shestag**  
**Vandana Slater**  
**Mike Stevens**  
**John Stokes**  
**Nate Veranth**  
**Steve Whitney**  
**Christopher Williams**

**King County Land Conservation Advisory Group**

**Marc Berejka**  
**Leda Chahim**  
**Richard Corff**  
**Tom Dean**  
**TJ DiCaprio**

**Leann Krainick**  
**Matt Larson**  
**Terry Lavender**  
**Hank Margeson**  
**Nelson Mathews**

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Staff conducted more than **60** meetings with



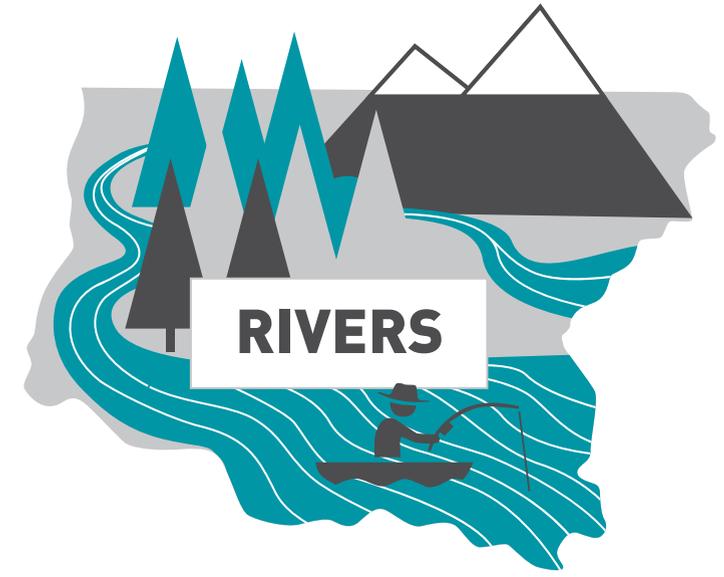
- community leaders
- civic leaders
- tribal members
- conservationists
- open space equity advocates
- residents
- ecologists
- landowners
- real estate experts
- building experts

In addition, staff had a total of **70** meetings with



all 39 cities in King County

# Six categories of land



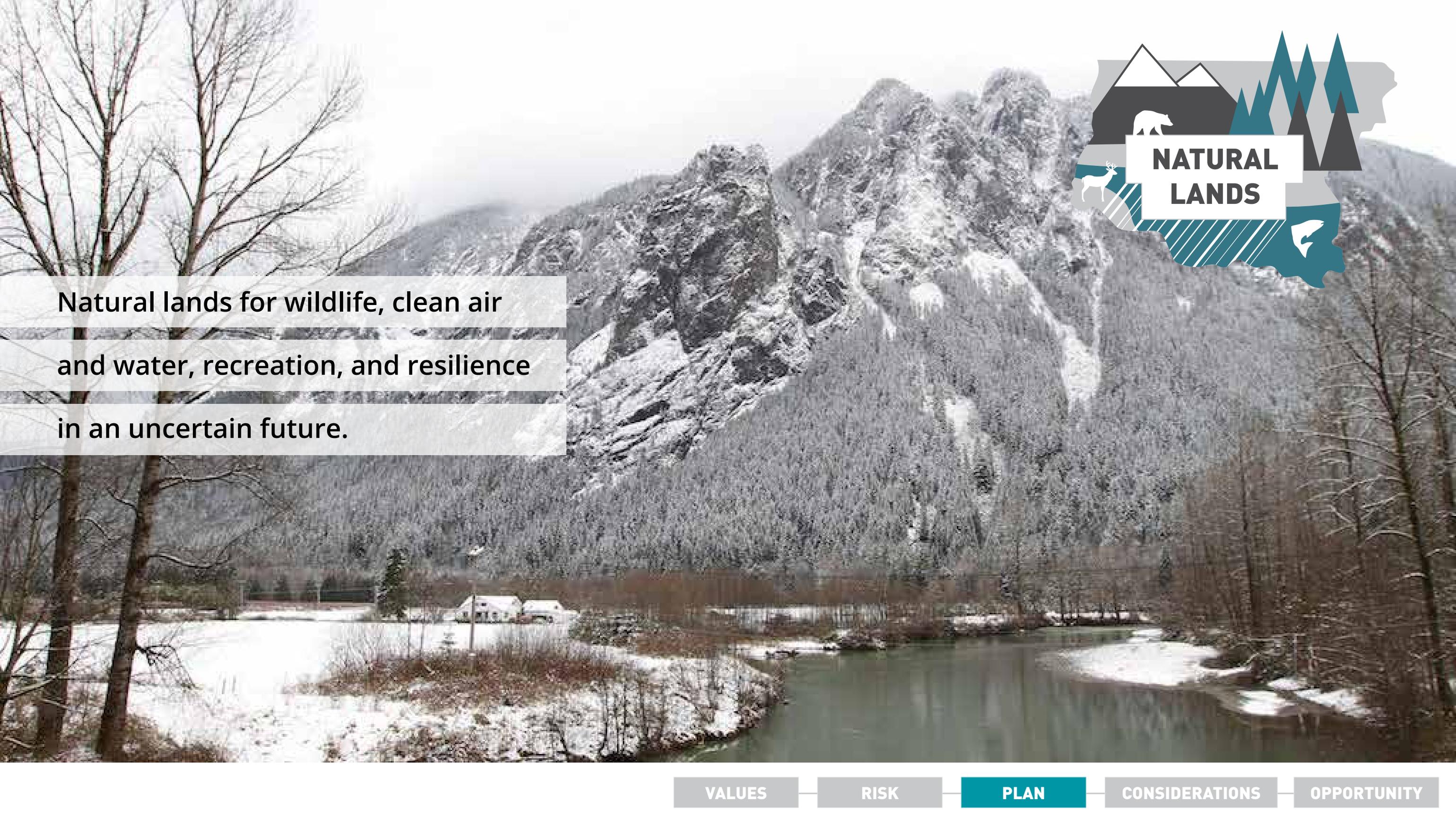
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Natural lands for wildlife, clean air  
and water, recreation, and resilience  
in an uncertain future.

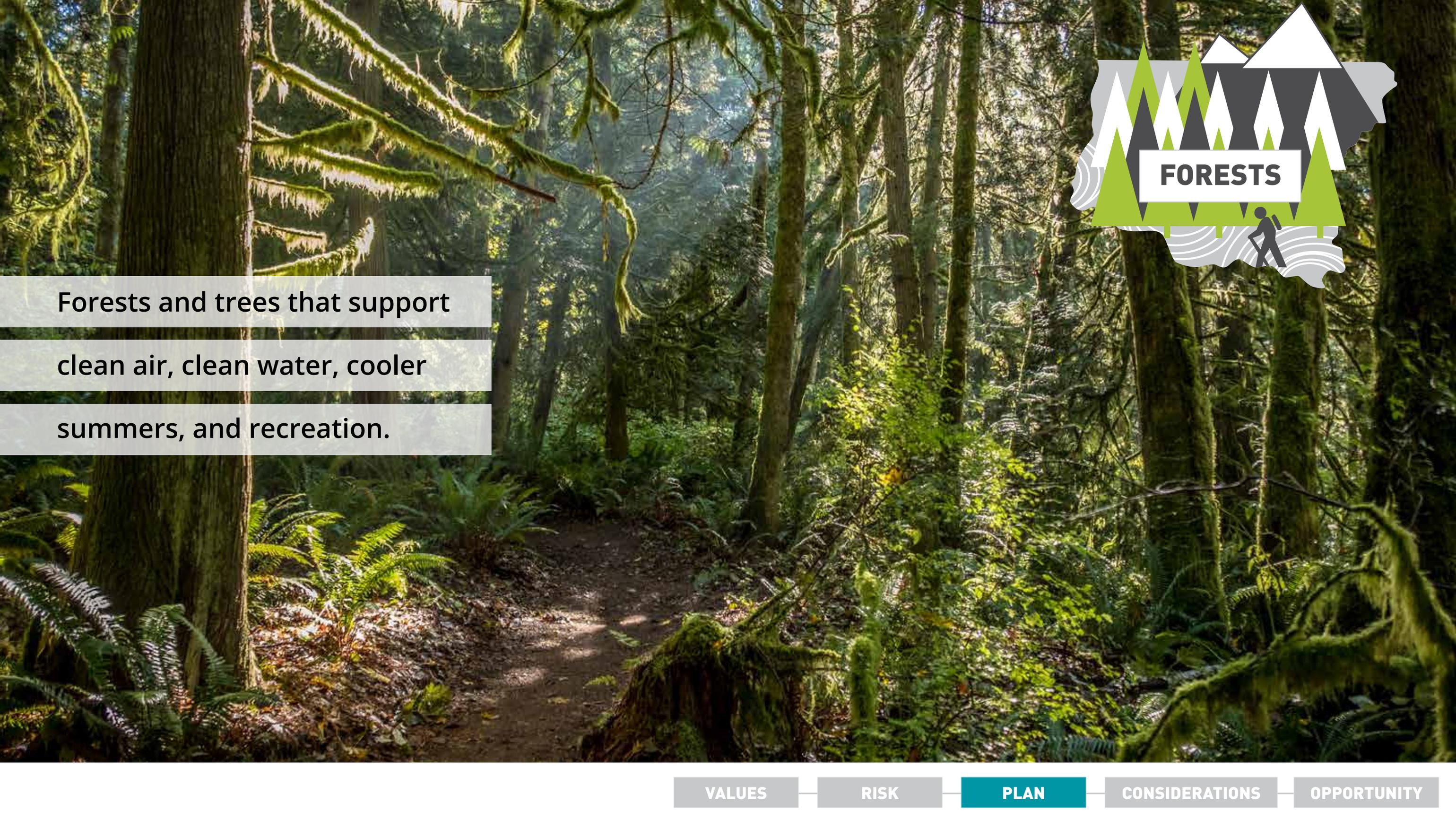
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Forests and trees that support clean air, clean water, cooler summers, and recreation.



Farmlands and community gardens  
for healthy local food and  
prosperous agricultural communities.

Image source: PCC Farmland Trust

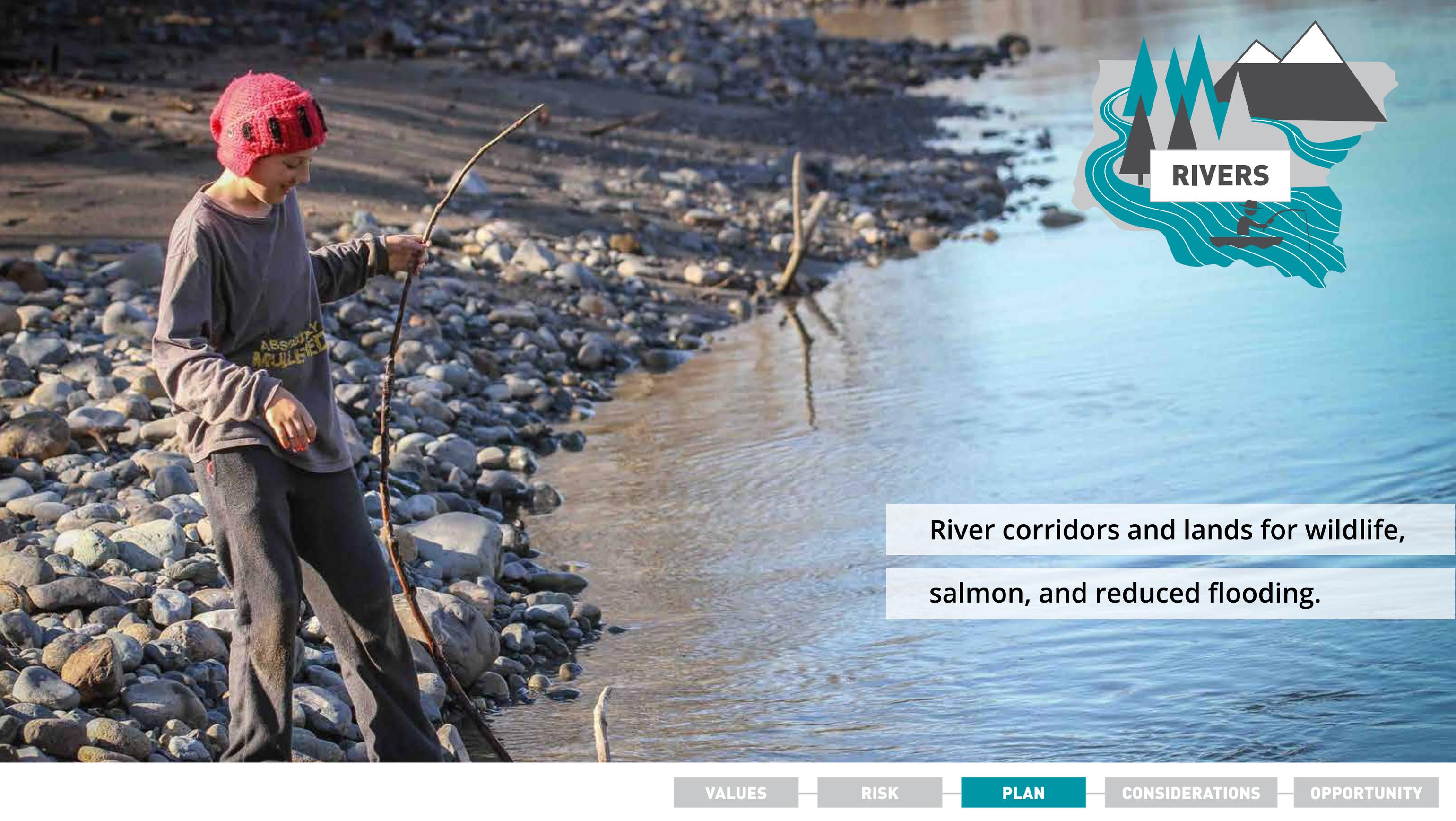
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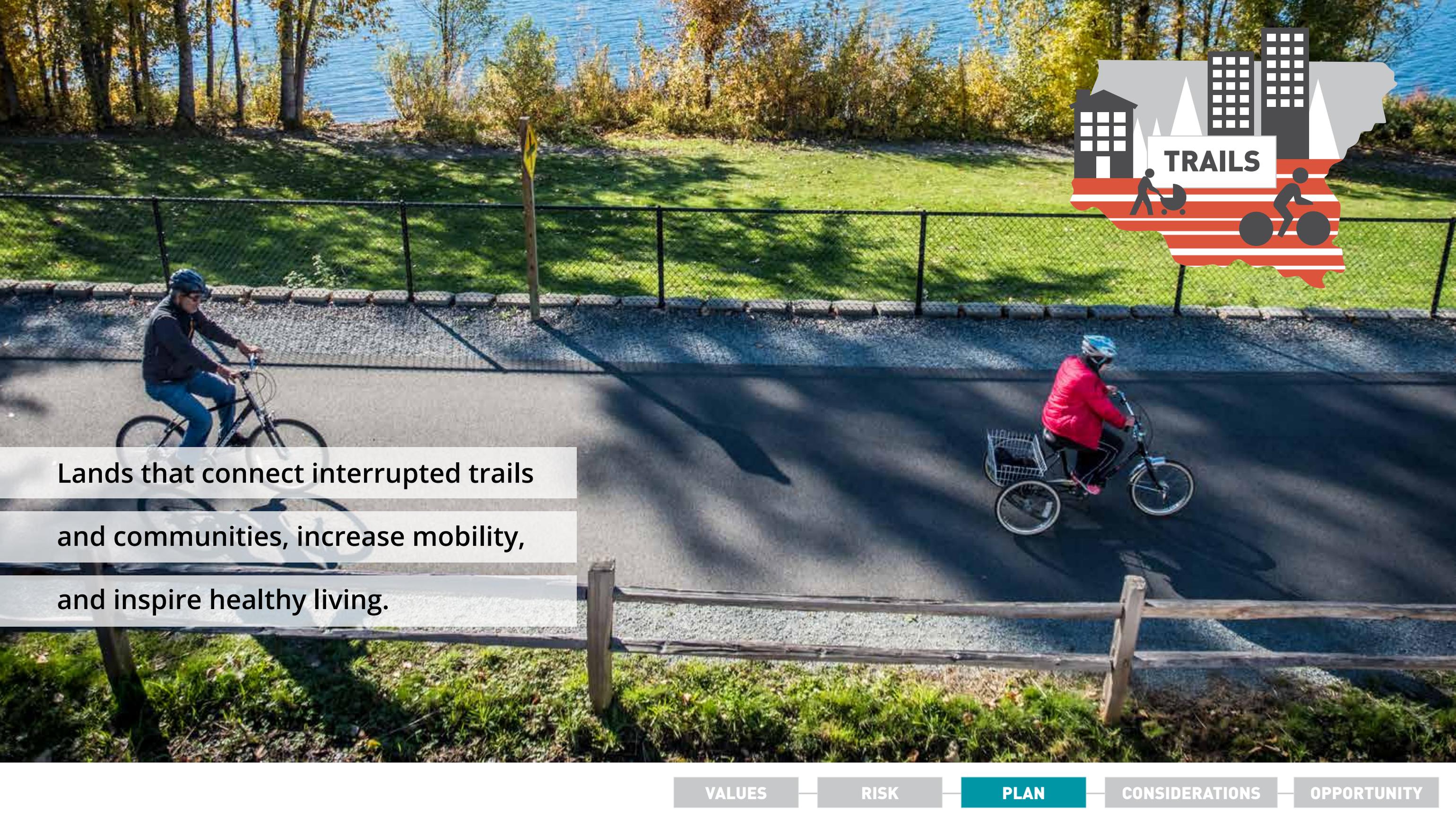
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River corridors and lands for wildlife, salmon, and reduced flooding.



Lands that connect interrupted trails and communities, increase mobility, and inspire healthy living.

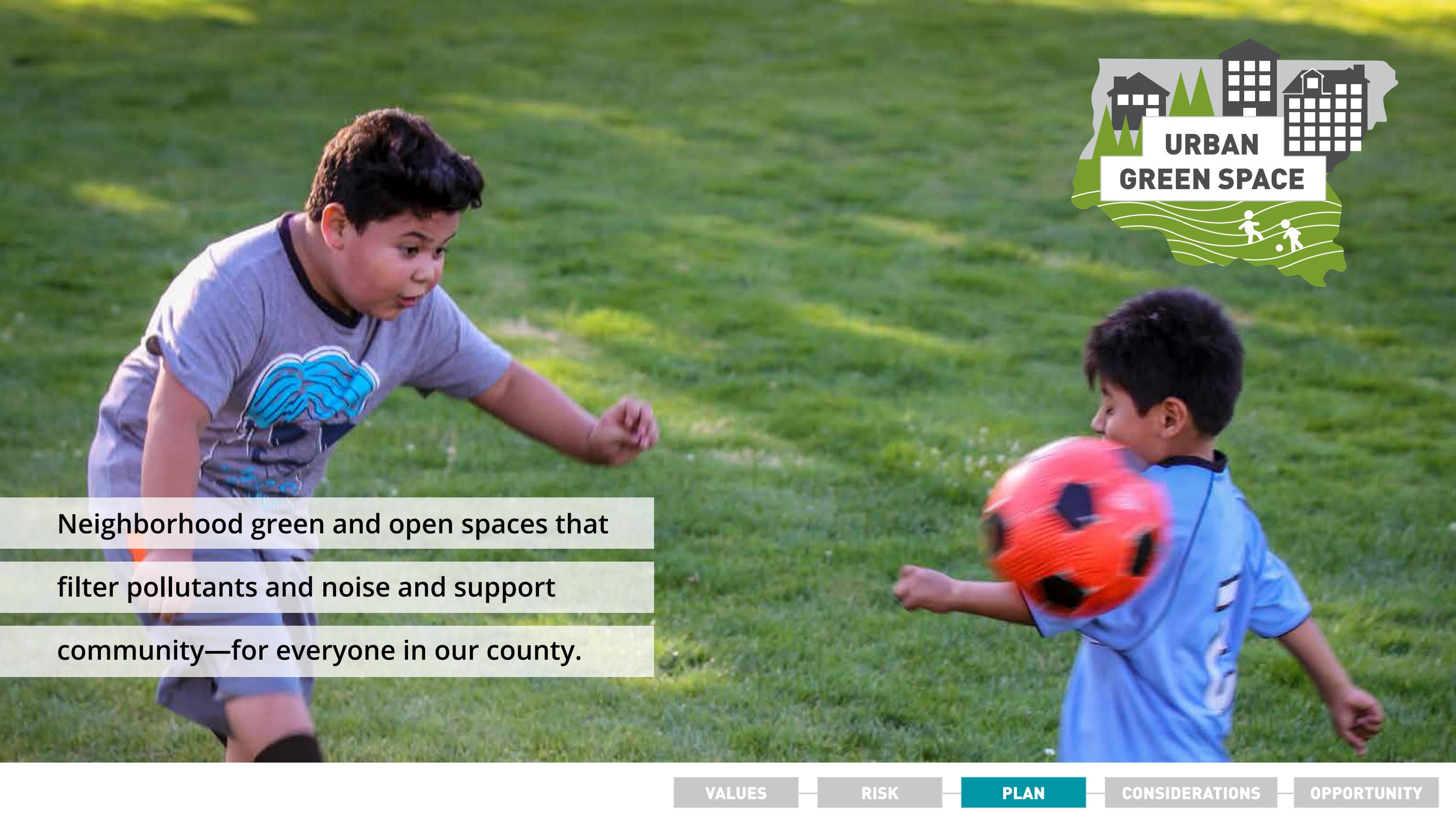
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Neighborhood green and open spaces that filter pollutants and noise and support community—for everyone in our county.

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King County began proactively conserving lands

important to our health and ecology **50 YEARS AGO.**

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park

Burke Gilman Trail

Middle Fork Snoqualmie

Bellevue Downtown Park

Green River Gorge

Snoqualmie Forest

Cedar River Trail

Marymoor Park

Duthie Hill Park

Tiger Mountain

Olympic Sculpture Park

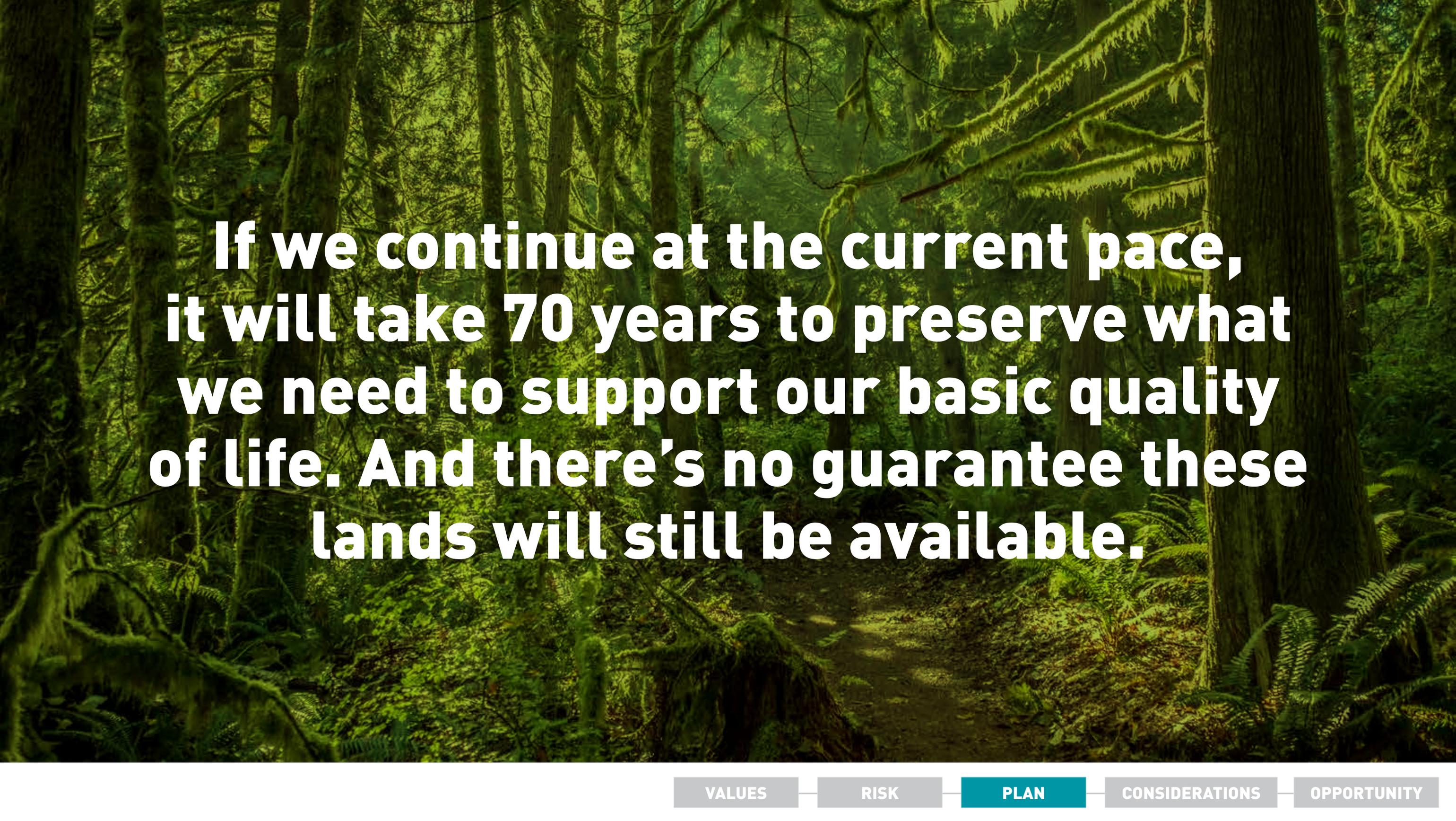
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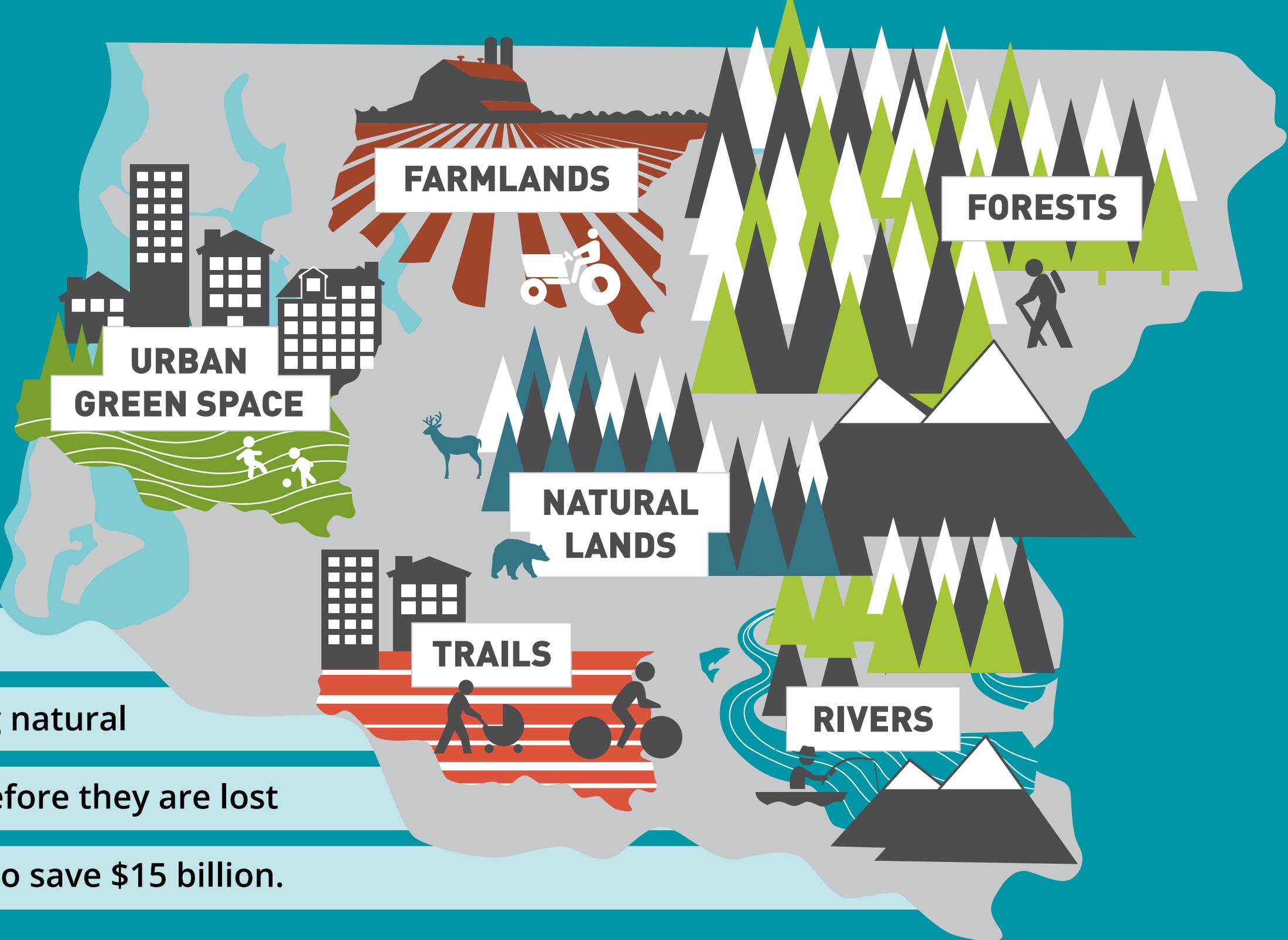
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A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a path leading through the woods. The scene is overlaid with a large, bold, white text message.

**If we continue at the current pace, it will take 70 years to preserve what we need to support our basic quality of life. And there's no guarantee these lands will still be available.**

# King County



We set a 30-year horizon to preserve our remaining natural lands and green spaces before they are lost and accelerate the effort to save \$15 billion.

# The Advisory Group's final recommendations address: housing + cost + equity



**We limit the reduction of available buildable lands to less than 3%.**

**We keep the cost to \$10/year for the average household**





**500,000 PEOPLE**

live without access to green, open spaces.

We create a path to equity for low-income

neighborhoods that have zero access or

proximity to natural lands and their benefits.

VALUES

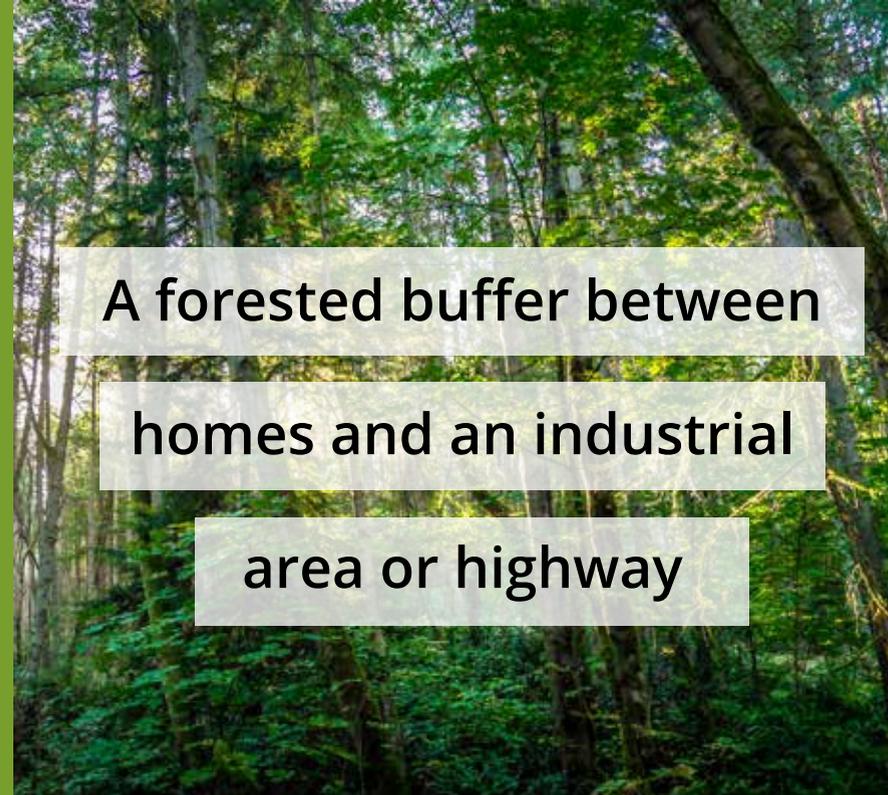
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**Communities will determine the kinds of open spaces that would best meet their needs. These might be:**



A forested buffer between homes and an industrial area or highway



A community garden



A river walk



An open space for community gatherings

**We have a smart path to protect the forests and farms, rivers and trails, open space and urban green spaces that make King County so special, if we act now.**

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The opportunity to protect precious natural lands still exists, but it won't last forever.

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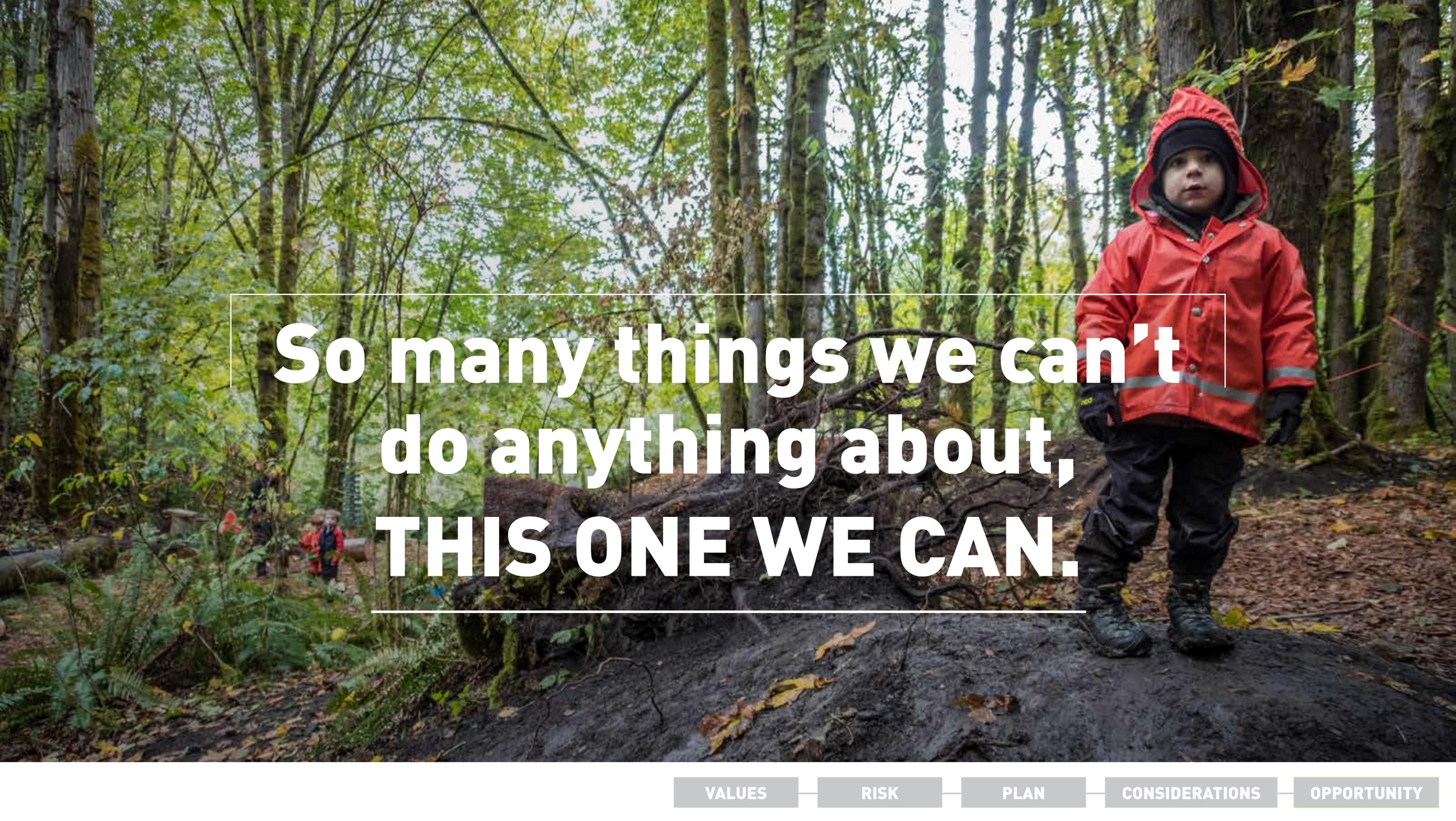
CONSIDERATIONS

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Land is already expensive in King County,  
and prices are likely to continue to rise.

**If we embrace these challenges and work together, we can protect natural lands close to home for people today and for generations to come.**

A young child wearing a bright red hooded raincoat and dark pants stands on a forest path. The path is covered with fallen leaves and a large, mossy log lies across it. In the background, other children in similar raincoats are visible among the trees. The scene is set in a lush, green forest with tall, thin trees.

**So many things we can't  
do anything about,  
THIS ONE WE CAN.**

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