

## What are Frequently Flooded Areas?

In contrast to other areas around Puget Sound, Island County does not have a major river system. Because of this, the County does not experience the magnitude or frequency of flooding as some communities do in neighboring counties. Frequently flooded areas are coastal areas subject to inundation by a depth, velocity, intensity and frequency of flood waters during major storm events that are of such a magnitude that they pose a significant risk to personal property. Development activities proposed within frequently flooded areas must mitigate for flood hazards and conform to the provisions of ICC 14.02A Flood Damage Prevention. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) are required by FEMA for certain development proposals within floodplains. Please use this [worksheet](#) to determine if your proposal requires flood permits and/or a HIA.

**Is your property located in a Frequently Flooded Area?** To find out, click on this link to view our online mapping system [IC Geo Map](#).

## What are Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas?

An aquifer is a permeable subsurface soil or rock layer that is capable of storing, transmitting and supplying a significant amount of ground water to wells or springs. Critical aquifer recharge areas are areas that have been identified as having a critical effect on aquifers used for potable water and as being highly susceptible to groundwater contamination. Island County is a *sole source aquifer*, meaning that potable water comes only from groundwater. The Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) is designed to preserve, protect, and conserve Island County's groundwater resources for a wide variety of current and future uses from contamination.

**Is your property located in a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area?** To find out, click on this link to view our online mapping system [IC Geo Map](#).

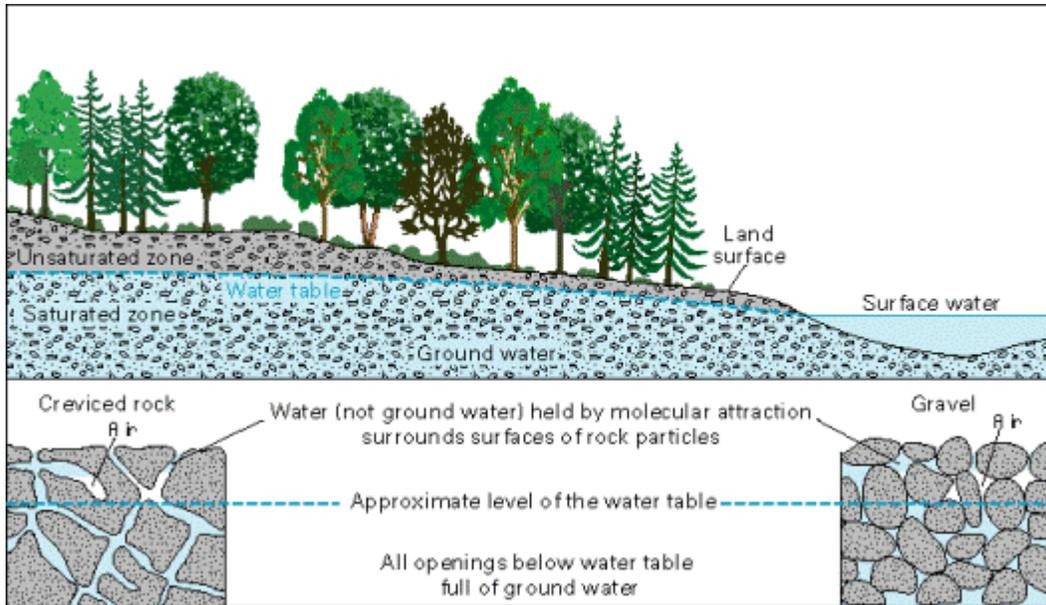


Diagram of an aquifer. (Source: [USGS](#))

## What are Geologically Hazardous Areas?

Geologically Hazardous Areas are areas that, due to their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, may expose development to risks that are inconsistent with the protection of public health and safety. These include landslide hazard and seismic hazards areas.

Landslide hazard areas are those areas throughout the County where there is potential for slope failure due to a combination of factors. These include any areas, especially bluffs and other areas along shorelines that are susceptible to landslides because of any combination of bedrock, soil, slope, slope aspect, structure, hydrology, or other physical factors.

Seismic hazard areas are areas that are subject to a severe risk of earthquake damage as a result of seismically induced ground shaking, differential settlement, or soil liquefaction. These include areas where there are surface deposits of man-made fill or partially decomposed organic materials at least 5-feet deep and other areas subject to liquefaction.

### [Geologically Hazardous Area Covenant Form](#)

Is your property located in a Geologically Hazardous Area? To find out, click on this link to view our online mapping system [IC Geo Map](#).