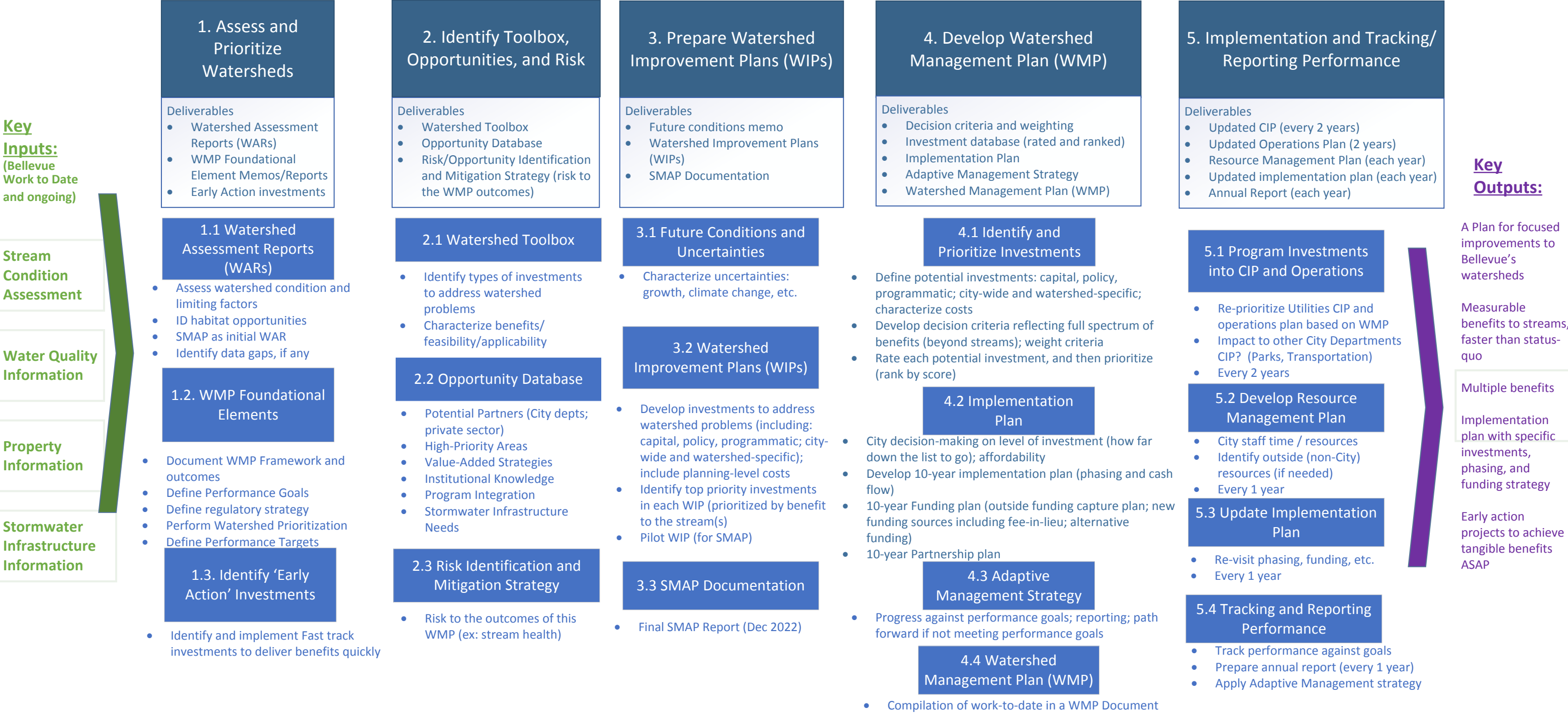


# City of Bellevue Watershed Management Plan - Framework

Last revised: 7/29/19

**Watershed Management Plan Goal Statement:** The goal of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is to direct improvements to the health of Bellevue’s streams using a toolbox of holistic storm and surface water management practices. The WMP will direct rehabilitation efforts to high priority watersheds providing measurable environmental benefits to stream health within shorter time frames compared to the status quo. The WMP will also help prevent further degradation in non-priority watersheds. The WMP will include an implementation plan with recommended projects, policies and operational plans to meet performance goals for Bellevue’s streams, and to provide multiple benefits that help advance City objectives across departments and programs.

## Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Planning Elements:



## 6. Engagement, Outreach, Communications, and Endorsement

Activities occur during each WMP Planning Element: Input from, decisions by, coordination with, and/or communications to: The public, regulators, City leadership, other City Departments

**Deliverables:** WMP Engagement, Outreach, and Communications Plan and Schedule, Public Meetings/Communications, Coordination with Regulators, activities with City Leadership (including City Council)

## DEFINITIONS

**INVESTMENTS** – term used to characterize all the types of things you might do, including capital projects, additional maintenance, operations changes, or programmatic efforts (like education); anything that takes resources

**PERFORMANCE GOALS** – the specific objectives for stream health in the watershed; for example: bring back Chinook Salmon, Improve BIBI, Reduce peak flows (*Might have the same performance goals for all watersheds, with different numerical performance targets (see definition below) based on the priority of the watershed (ex: restore, protect, or status quo)*)

**PERFORMANCE TARGETS** – the numerical targets for each of the performance goals; for example: bring back 200 chinook salmon; improve BIBI from Poor to Good; each watershed will have its own numerical performance targets

**DECISION CRITERIA** – a set of criteria reflecting stream objectives and multiple other benefits (regulatory requirements, public preferences, open space creation, social justice); Use these decision criteria to rate and rank investments for the implementation plan

### WAR – Watershed Assessment Report

- **Purpose:** assess existing condition of the watershed (ex: presence/absence of LWD, land use, hydrology, water quality)
- identify data gaps, if any (what additional data is needed to assess condition?)
- characterize limiting factors (what is *keeping this watershed from being healthy?*) (ex: *not enough LWD or erosive peak flows*)
- Identify restoration sites/opportunities

### WMPPrs – Watershed Management Policy Papers

- **Purpose:** prioritize watersheds; develop the performance goals and targets (aka LOS) from which to develop the WIP and WMP; ‘plate up’ these goals and targets for City decision-making about affordability and willingness to pay; develop regulatory strategy
- Document the process to identify sub-set of priority watersheds (transparent, objective process vetted by stakeholders)
- Identify regulatory requirements (current and potential future); SMAP guidance/requirements
- Develop watershed performance goals and performance targets for each watershed – city-wide performance goals? (ex: restore X watershed; maintain Y watershed; if restore, then want to improve BIBI from Fair to Good in X watershed)
- Review of draft watershed performance goals and targets by City leadership; decision made (iterative process)

### WIP – Watershed Improvement Plan

- **Purpose:** identify what investments the watershed needs (for ecological function), regardless of other considerations/benefits
- characterize future conditions (growth, climate change, etc.)
- Obtain additional data/information needed to be able to define investments (ex: Modeling or monitoring) (key: be clear about what data is needed and why ahead of collecting)
- Develop specific investments to meet the performance targets (focused on watershed needs, independent from other ancillary benefits or needs) (include planning-level estimate of costs)
- one WIP for each priority basin
- Will want to include community desires/preferences at this stage
- Enough detail to develop costs
- Outline approx 3 levels of implementation (low, medium, high), with relative costs; use to inform City decision-making during implementation plan development

### Watershed Management Plan

- **Purpose:** develop implementation plan to mesh watershed (ecological) needs with regulatory requirements and other benefits/needs (one implementation plan includes all investments across the City), including phasing and funding strategy; level of investment based on willingness to pay / affordability; specify adaptive management strategy (how will we know if we are successful and what to do if we aren’t); document work to date
- Develop prioritization criteria that reflect multiple benefits – ecological (watershed) benefit, regulatory requirements, nexus with other efforts – City Transportation, Parks, etc.), environmental and social justice, etc.; develop weighting of these criteria
- Rate each potential investment identified in WIPs (or WARs) against weighted criteria (result: A long list of potential investments ranked by benefit provided)
- City leadership decision – how far down the list do you go in Year 1, Year 2, or 6 year CIP?
- Develop implementation plan (for first X years – first 6 years? For 20 years?) with phasing, priorities, cash flow
- Identify financing and partnering options – traditional, alternative delivery, green municipal bonds (DC Water example for funding GSI), P3s, business community partnerships (ex: Amazon, REI), ERC
- Develop adaptive management strategy (re-sorting of the list (yearly?); what to do differently if this approach isn’t working? If surprise grant funding, what do you do first? Develop performance metrics and monitoring plan to understand if this WMP is working)
- *Questions to the City for this scoping effort: duration of first implementation plan? 5 years?*