When Is A Critical Area Review Permit (CARP) needed?
A CARP is required for any development that may impact critical areas and associated buffers or for critical area evaluations, as outlined in the Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance, Title 24.

How To Apply
Submit a completed application package to the Permit Assistance Center with the applicable fee. Complete package requirements are outlined in the application.

Review Process and Timing
CARP applications are reviewed under the Type I or II procedure depending upon the underlying permit or application.

This means that staff is the review authority and the review time can be up to 128 days depending on application type. Review times may be longer if a request for additional information is required. Workload may also affect the timeline.

Appeals
All decisions may be appealed. An appeal form and associated appeal fee must be submitted within 14 days from the date of the decision. Administrative decisions are appealed to the Hearing Examiner for Thurston County. Hearing Examiner decisions may be appealed to the Board of County Commissioners. All appeal forms are submitted to the Permit Assistance Center.

Expiration
The CARP will expire if a building permit has not been issued, or if construction activity or operation has not commenced within three years from the date of final approval or upon expiration of the underlying permit, whichever is longer. The CARP will also expire when the underlying project is vacated for a period of three years.

I Still Have Questions…
The information in this bulletin is a general guideline of the procedures and rules. You should not rely on the bulletin to identify the specific requirements for your project. For additional information, speak with a staff member at the Permit Assistance Center. Contact information is listed below. You may also review all Thurston County Codes online on the County website referenced at the bottom of this page.