

## **Air**

Air quality in the City is similar to that of the surrounding Puget Sound region. However, since the City is within an urban setting near Interstate-5, air quality may not be as good as in remote areas of the region.

There are no significant industrial sources of air pollution in the community. Automobile emissions from Interstate-5 contribute to the decline of air quality in the City.

## **Climate**

Climate should be considered in land use planning. For example, the condition of roadways, public transit, and pedestrian/bicycle pathways is affected by climate. Temperature variations are significant factors in the level of energy usage, and annual precipitation provides a source of water. The climate also influences economic activity. The climate in Mountlake Terrace and southwest Snohomish County is determined largely by the geographic relationship of Puget Sound, the Olympic Peninsula, and the Cascade Mountain range. Marine air from the Pacific Ocean is a moderating influence on temperatures in the area and is responsible for the high moisture content and generally mild winters and summers. While rain is quite common in the area, seasonal changes do occur. The dry season occurs from May through September and the rainy season from October to April. About 75 percent of average annual precipitation occurs during the latter season. The prevailing winds are from the south and southwest during the winter and from the north and northwest in late spring and summer. Mountlake Terrace is in a convergence zone and may receive more precipitation than areas to the north and south.

A summary of climatic conditions in the Mountlake Terrace area is given in the table below:

Table EN-1  
MOUNTLAKE TERRACE CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Period	Mean Temperature		Mean Precipitation
	Minimum	Maximum	
January	32.9	44.8	4.56
April	40.4	57.8	2.69
July	53.5	72.8	1.22
October	42.6	59.7	3.44
Annual	42.6	58.9	36.95

Source: Western Regional Climate Center, Desert Research Institute, 2002