

Introduction

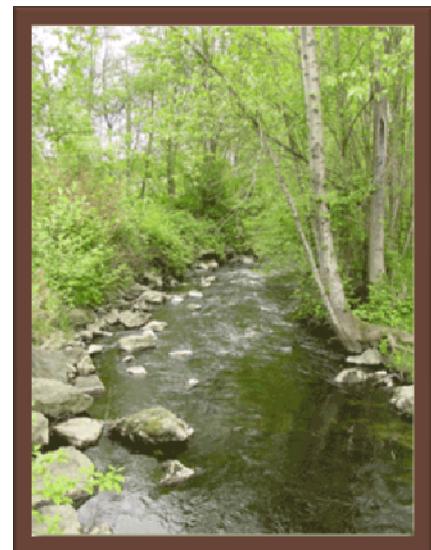
Washington State’s Shoreline Management Act (SMA) requires jurisdictions that contain “shorelines of the state” within their boundaries to periodically update their Shoreline Master Programs (SMP’s). The City of Snohomish must update it’s SMP by December 2011.

Snohomish’s updated SMP will set policy and regulation for the City’s shoreline areas, including adjacent upland areas within 200 feet of designated shorelines. Although shoreline ecological functions are currently protected under the City’s critical areas regulations, these regulations need to be incorporated into the SMP along with a comprehensive assessment of shoreline ecology, land use, and opportunities for improved public access and shoreline habitat restoration.

The three primary areas of focus of the SMP update are to: 1) accommodate reasonable and protective uses of the shoreline; 2) protect shoreline environmental resources; and 3) protect the public’s right to access and use the shorelines (RCW 90.58.020). These protections are designed to meet the overarching policy of the Shoreline Management Act which is to ensure that “the public’s opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally” (RCW 90.58.020). Since public use and enjoyment of the shorelines is a principal factor in developing the planning document, it is imperative that the public has opportunity to participate and provide input into the process. The following Public Participation Plan details how the City of Snohomish plans to involve the community and stakeholders in the project.

Goals of the Public Participation Plan

RCW 90.58.130 and WAC 173-26-090 and 100, require that local governments inform the people of the state about the planning process and invite and encourage participation by all who have an interest or responsibility related to shorelines. The goal of the Public Participation Plan is to provide a guide to proactively encourage public participation throughout the SMP update process. The City of Snohomish is committed to encouraging coordinated and effective public involvement.



Overview of City and Shorelines

The City of Snohomish is located in southwest Snohomish County and does not abut any other city. Approximately 9,145 people reside within approximately 3 square miles in the city limits. Another 2.3 square miles are located within the City's urban growth boundary.

Snohomish is situated between the Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains, within the Puget Sound lowlands. The terrain includes rolling hills, formed by glacial till, and flatlands near water bodies. The Snohomish River flows from east to west across the southern portion of the city, and the Pilchuck River flows north to south along the eastern portion of the city. In addition to these waterbodies, there is one lake that is also within the shoreline jurisdiction, Blackman Lake. These shorelines include land used for industrial, residential, commercial and recreational uses and are of great value to the residents of Snohomish.

Roles and Responsibilities

The City of Snohomish is responsible for all aspects of the SMP update. The City will be the shoreline program administrator, with Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) acting in a support and review capacity. Ecology is also required to approve some permits and must approve new or amended shoreline master programs.

The primary contact for Snohomish's SMP update is:

Corbitt Loch- The City of Snohomish
116 Union Avenue
Snohomish, WA 98290
360-282-3170
loch@ci.snohomish.wa.us

Key Parties

Local governments must consult with interested parties throughout the process of developing a SMP. Snohomish will involve representatives from the following:

- ❖ Residents of Snohomish
- ❖ Neighborhood Associations
- ❖ Property/Business owners located in the shoreline environment
- ❖ Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Snohomish City Council
- ❖ Snohomish Planning Commission
- ❖ Tulalip Tribes

- ❖ WRIA 7 Implementation Committee
- ❖ Audubon Society
- ❖ Futurewise
- ❖ Snohomish County
- ❖ Washington State Department of Ecology
- ❖ Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ❖ Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- ❖ Washington State Department of Commerce
- ❖ Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
- ❖ NOAA Fisheries
- ❖ US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ❖ US Army Corps of Engineers

Some of these parties will be involved on committees in a review capacity while others will be informed and invited to participate throughout the process.

Other stakeholders, not mentioned as key parties in the list above, may also be notified directly during the public involvement process. This may include homeowner associations, environmental, boating, and fishing groups or others. Notification to stakeholders may be accomplished via email or other means as the shoreline management planning process proceeds.

Public Participation Strategy

The City of Snohomish has developed a strategy to ensure there is effective public participation throughout the process. The primary methods to be employed are:

- Formation of a technical advisory committee (TAC) consisting of appropriate technical representatives of affected Tribes, state and federal agencies and other affected agencies to provide input and review of work products.
- Formation of a citizen advisory committee (CAC) including local residents, businesses, and stakeholders to provide input and review work products.
- Development of a public outreach program to inform community members and seek their input.
- Updating the City Council periodically.

By utilizing all of these methods, the City shall exceed the mandates of Washington State to involve all interested parties in the update of the SMP.

Further details regarding these primary methods are as follows:

Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC will consist of technical representatives of affected Tribes and other agencies such as the Departments of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife, Snohomish County, neighboring jurisdictions, etc. These representatives will be asked to provide comments and suggestions on work products developed for each task.

Citizen Advisory Committee

The CAC will include representatives the Planning Commission from groups such as neighborhood Associations, the Chamber of Commerce, businesses, environmental groups, etc. It will be important that the CAC represent a cross-section of interest groups and public values. Meetings would provide a forum to review the technical work, discuss issues and suggest solutions.

Public Outreach Program

The City of Snohomish will also conduct a public outreach program to ensure that the residents of the City are informed and provided multiple opportunities to be involved. Some key elements of this program include:

- **Website:** Adding a page to the City’s current website where community members can access draft documents and maps, view the schedule, check for meeting notices, obtain contact information and submit comments. This will create one central location where the latest information can be obtained. The City’s “events and meetings” page could also contain dates of upcoming meetings.
- **Open houses:** Hosting open houses, at convenient locations, will allow for the broad dissemination of information (i.e. maps, draft work products, etc.) and opportunity for comment. Project staff and City personnel will be on-hand to answer questions from community members, address any concerns and incorporate valuable local knowledge from citizens. Three open houses will be scheduled to coincide with the drafting of key deliverables.
- **Planning Commission and City Council meetings:** Providing additional opportunities through these forums that will allow for public input and participation.
- **Mailing list:** Maintaining a list of interested parties (and shoreline property owners) would provide the City with another avenue to keep the public informed throughout the update process. Notices of comment periods and open houses could be sent to parties on the mailing list.
- **Comments:** Establishing multiple means for submitting comments will allow for interested people to choose their preferred way to provide input. Methods can include on-line comment forms, written comment forms at the open houses, and a direct email address for comments. The City will consider all comments received and will respond in aggregate or individually.
- **Public notices:** Notice of the open houses will be placed on the City’s website, posted at City Hall and local library branches and published in at least one local newspaper.

Updates to City Council and Planning Commission

In order to meet the overall objective of adopting an updated SMP by December 2011, it is important to keep interested parties at all levels adequately informed from the beginning of the process. Through including planning commission members on the CAC, concerns can be addressed as they surface. The CAC meetings will be public and therefore also provide another opportunity for other interested parties to obtain information on the process. For the final task of adopting the SMP, workshops will be scheduled to allow for thorough discussion of the details from the SMP.

Schedule

The City of Snohomish is aware that developing and maintaining a schedule will contribute to the successful adoption of the SMP. By publicizing this tentative schedule at the start of the process, the public will be able to understand key dates where input is especially critical. If there are modifications to these dates, the schedule on the City’s website will be updated.

The following table highlights key public involvement opportunities in relation to key deliverables in tasks 2 and 3 of the SMP update:

City of Snohomish’s Public Participation Schedule	
1/29/2010	Draft public participation plan to Ecology
2/8/2010	Invitations to TAC and CAC members
2/26/2010	Preliminary draft shoreline inventory and analysis to City/TAC
3/12/2010	City/TAC comments on shoreline inventory and analysis due
3/10/2010	Convene CAC and brief on objectives of SMP update and discuss Vision
3/17/2010	Public Meeting - SMP Overview and Vision
3/31/2010	1st draft shoreline environment designations (SEDs) to CAC; Refine Vision statement
4/20/2010	Revised draft shoreline inventory and analysis, map portfolio; Finalize Vision statement; 2 nd draft SED map; review by City/TAC/CAC
4/28/2010	Draft Strategy for shoreline uses, protection, and restoration
5/4/2010	City/TAC/CAC comments on shoreline inventory and analysis, map portfolio, and Vision
6/30/2010	Draft shoreline inventory and analysis, map portfolio, and Vision to Ecology
7/15/2010	Public meeting - Shoreline environments, uses and protection
8/30/2010	Strategy for shoreline uses, protection, and restoration to City/TAC
8/31/2010	1 st Preliminary Draft SMP goals and policies to City/TAC
9/15/2010	Public Meeting – restoration and public access planning
10/13/2010	Draft Public Access Plan
10/15/2010	2 nd Preliminary Draft SMP goals and policies and 1 st Preliminary Draft of regulations to City
10/29/2010	1 st Draft SMP goals and policies to CAC - 1 st meeting
11/30/2010	2 nd Preliminary Draft of regulations to City/TAC
12/15/2010	1 st Draft SMP regulations to CAC
1/14/2011	2 nd Draft SMP goals and policies to CAC
1/28/2011	2 nd Draft SMP regulations to CAC
4/1/2011	Draft SMP package to City/TAC

Open House –
Public input
Date: TBD

Open House –
Public input
Date: TBD

Open House –
Public input
Date: TBD