

# City of Renton

## Shoreline Master Program Update



### What is the Shoreline Management Act?

Washington's Shoreline Management Act, adopted in 1972, is intended to "prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines," and has four broad purposes:

- Encourage water-dependent uses: "Uses shall be preferred which are consistent with control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or are unique to or dependent upon use of the states' shorelines..."
- Protect shoreline natural resources, including "...the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and the water of the state and their aquatic life..."
- Promote public access: "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."
- Provide for the restoration of shoreline ecological functions that have been impaired by past human activities



### Why are we doing this?

In the 1990's the Growth Management Act called for consistency between the local Shoreline Master Program and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Both the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act provide for the update of the program every seven years. A specific target of December 1, 2009 was established for King county and certain cities within King county;

In 2003 the state Department of Ecology adopted new shoreline master program guidelines as part of a negotiated settlement that specifies a comprehensive program for Shoreline Master Program updates.

### How can I get involved?

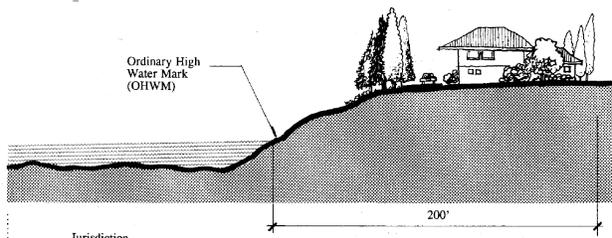
- There will be opportunities for the public to be involved throughout the update process.
- Visit our website <http://shoreline.rentonwa.gov>
- Fill out the Survey on page 4
- Sign up for the mailing list (see back page)
- Attend the Public Meeting on April 30, 2008 from 6-8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Renton City Hall



## What property is affected by the Shoreline Management Act?

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) applies to the following areas in Renton:

- Lakes and reservoirs greater than 20 acres in area
  - Lake Washington
  - Lake Desire (in Renton's Potential Annexation Area)
- Streams with greater than 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow.
  - Cedar River
  - May Creek
  - Black River/Springbrook Creek
- Upland areas called "shorelands" that extend 200 feet landward from the edge of these waters as indicated in the figure below.



- The following areas, where they are associated with one of the above:
  - Biological wetlands and river deltas; and
  - Some or all of the 100-year floodplain, including all wetlands within the 100 year floodplain.



## What is the Process for Update of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP)?

The New Shoreline Management Guidelines (WAC 173-26) provide a process for updating the SMP that includes the following:

- Public involvement opportunities will be provided for citizens to provide input at every stage of the process, as well as provide opportunities for input from agencies with an interest in the resources, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service that manage fish and wildlife.  
*This will take place throughout the process.*
- An Inventory/Characterization will be prepared to provide the information base for the SMP update. Steps in the effort include:
  - Gathering relevant existing information, and
  - Synthesizing this information into a map portfolio and Shoreline Characterization Report that describes both ecological functions and human use of the shoreline.  
*This will be completed in mid 2008.*
- Developing options for consideration of the public, the Planning Commission and City Council and interested agencies to consider the appropriate method for Renton to meet the requirements of the SMA while meeting local needs and goals.  
*This will take place from September through December 2008.*
- Providing Draft revisions to Shoreline Policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan and Draft Regulations in the Land Use Code.  
*This will be completed in early to mid 2009.*
- Review, revision and adoption of the revised Shoreline Master Program.  
*This will be in mid to late 2009.*

For additional information, contact Erika Conkling, Senior Planner, tel: 425-430-6578  
email: [shoreline@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:shoreline@ci.renton.wa.us)



# Survey – Renton Shoreline Master Program Update

Please bring to the April 30 Public Meeting, or Mail to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development

## A. Please Tell Us About Yourself

1 What is your primary interest in the Shoreline Master Program (check any that apply):

- Shoreline Property Owner  Interested Citizen  Business Interest  Interested in Environmental Quality  Recreational Boater  Interested in Public Access and Parks  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 What is the best way to keep you informed?

- Mailings  email  Public Meetings  Newspapers and other Media  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## B. Please Share your Concerns with Us

1. Protection of ecological functions is a goal of the Shoreline Management Act. How important is this to you?

- Very Important  Moderately Important  Not Important  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Providing public access to the water and enhancing recreation is a goal of the Shoreline Management Act. How important is this to you?

- Very Important  Moderately Important  Not Important  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

3. If public access is important to you, what kind of additional facilities would you like? (check any number)

- Shoreline parks  Trails  Boat launches  Public Swimming Areas  Public Docks  Undeveloped open space  Urban commercial areas with uses such as restaurants and shoreline access  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think there should be more or less multi-family development on the shoreline?

- More  Current Amount  Less  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you think there should be more or less commercial development on the shoreline?

- More  Current Amount  Less  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Large docks have been identified as a possible contributor to declines in salmon due to harboring predators that prey on juvenile salmon. Do you think docks should be restricted?

- Yes – Regulations should aim at fewer docks  Yes – Replacement docks should be smaller or have other design features that accommodate salmon and other aquatic species  No – Docks are important to shoreline property owners and should be retained.  Need more information  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Native vegetation on the shoreline has a number of benefits for aquatic life, such as providing habitat and providing a variety of food sources. Lawn and ornamental vegetation generally does not provide these benefits, and can also degrade water quality through fertilizers and herbicides. Do you think lawns and ornamental vegetation should be restricted on the shoreline and more native vegetation provided? (Please choose one response.)

- Yes – Regulations should prohibit lawn and ornamental vegetation at the shoreline.  Yes – but requirements should apply only to new development or substantial remodel of existing development.  Yes – but vegetation requirements should recognize existing residential use and provide some area for lawn and not restrict views of the shoreline  No – Shoreline property owners should be able to have whatever kind of vegetation they wish.  Need more information  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



## Survey – Continued

8. Bulkheads and other hard armoring of the shoreline have been shown to have a variety of negative impacts on natural processes including increased erosion of other properties, reduced vegetation and aquatic habitat, introduction of habitat for predator species, and less aesthetically pleasing. Other options such as soft solutions involving native vegetation, logs and beach re-establishment have been shown to be effective in protecting property and providing ecological functions. Do you think additional restrictions on bulkheads and hard armoring should be implemented. (Please choose one response.)

Yes – Regulations should require replacement of harmful bulkheads and armoring, over time.  Yes – but requirements should apply only to new development or substantial remodel of existing development.  Yes, – but requirements should recognize existing uses and only be implemented if adequate protection can be provided.  No – Shoreline property owners should be able to have the type of shoreline they think appropriate for their needs.  Need more information  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Many very large residences have been constructed on shorelines in Renton. In some cases, existing lots are very small, resulting in a substantial change in the character and aesthetics of the shoreline. Do you think there should be restrictions on very large residential buildings on the shoreline? (Please choose one response.)

Yes – Regulations should relate the size of buildings to the size of the lot and require larger buildings to be set back farther from the shoreline.  Yes – But restrictions should apply only to very small lots and should not unduly restrict the opportunities of shoreline property owners to make full use of their property.  No – Shoreline property owners should be able to build under existing regulations.  Need more information  No Opinion

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Please share other concerns with us: \_\_\_\_\_

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## C. Contact Information

If you would like us to keep you informed during the update of the SMA, please provide:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

