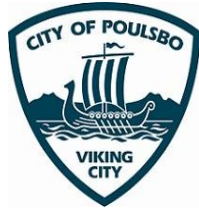


City of Poulsbo Planning Department



Shoreline Master Program Update



In July 2009, the City of Poulsbo will begin an update of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), in compliance with Washington's Shoreline Management Act. The following information is provided to help you understand the purpose of the update and the process the City will follow.

What is the Shoreline Management Act?

Washington's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58, was adopted in 1972. The purpose of the SMA is to "prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines." It has three broad policies:

- Encourage water-dependent uses on the shoreline;
- Protect shoreline natural resources;
- Promote public access.

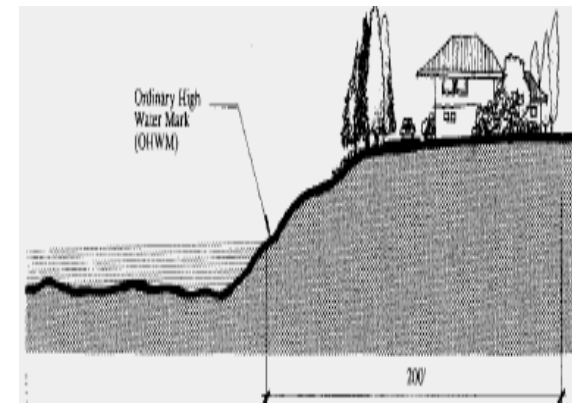
Why is the City updating its SMP?

The City's SMP was adopted in 1976, and has not been significantly amended since then. In the 1990s, the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) called for consistency between the local SMP and other elements of local comprehensive plans. The GMA and SMA provide for update of the local SMP every seven years. A target completion date of 2012 has been set by the state Department of Ecology for Kitsap County and its cities, including Poulsbo.

What property is affected by the SMA?

The SMA applies to the following areas in the City and its unincorporated urban growth area (UGA):

- Liberty Bay
- Upland areas called "shorelands" that extend 200 ft landward from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) from Liberty Bay (see figure below)
- Dogfish Creek estuary and associated tidal wetlands



What will the update process involve?

In August 2009, the City will hold a "kickoff" informational open house for the SMP update. Shoreline property owners and the general public will be notified, and all interested parties are invited to attend.

The steps of shoreline inventory and analysis, and development of regulations and recommended actions, will then begin. During this time, the City will maintain an SMP update page on its web site (www.cityofpoulsbo.com) and will also provide updates at City Council meetings.

Another open house will be held when the draft SMP is released, and public comment will be invited. Notice for environmental determinations and public hearings will also be provided.

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SMP Update

How do I get more information, or get involved in the update process?

- Visit the City's SMP website : www.cityofpoulsbo.com/planning_shoreline.htm
 - Sign up for the SMP mailing list
 - Take our SMP Update Survey
 - Check for updates and new information
 - Links to the SMA, state laws, and other agencies
- Attend the SMP Kickoff Open House.
- Send your comments and concerns about the SMP process to the Planning Department.
- For more information, contact the Poulsbo Planning Department by phone, e-mail, or in person.

State Guidelines

WAC 173-26 provides the 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 for input from agencies with an interest in the City's shoreline resources.
- An Inventory/Characterization will be prepared to provide the information based for the update. Steps in this effort include:
 - Gathering relevant existing information;
 - Synthesizing this information into a map portfolio and shoreline characterization report that describes ecological functions and human use of the shoreline and shorelands.
- Develop options for consideration by the public, the Planning Commission and City Council and interested agencies, regarding the appropriate methods for the City to meet the requirements of the SMA while meeting local needs and goals.
- Prepare draft policies and regulations for review.
- Review, revision and adoption of the revised SMP at the local and state level.

RCW 90.58.020 and .100 provide goal and policy direction for the SMP, including:

- Protect the natural character and the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- Increase public access and recreational opportunities;



- Mitigate and restore for habitat impacts to ensure no net loss of habitat function;
- Maintain the public right of navigation;
- Prioritize water-dependent and single-family residential uses and development;
- Coordinate shoreline management with other relevant local, state and federal regulations;
- Prevent and minimize flood damage;
- Protect private property rights;
- Protect and restore sites with historic, cultural or educational value.

This public information brochure is funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology.



For additional information, you may also contact the Department of Ecology, Shoreline Management, at (425) 649-7145, or view their web page at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sma/index.html