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## Shorelines Chapter Relationship to Vision

| Vision  | Shorelines Chapter Concepts   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>County Government.</b> County government that is accountable and accessible; encourages citizen participation; seeks to operate as efficiently as possible; and works with citizens, governmental entities and tribal governments to meet collective needs fairly while respecting individual and property rights.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports shoreline master program regulations that provide for reasonable use of shoreline property and citizen participation as appropriate in the shoreline permit process.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Natural Environment.</b> Natural ecosystems – including interconnected wetlands, streams, wildlife habitat, and water quality – that are rehabilitated, protected and enhanced and that allow for flexible and innovative development to meet environmental and growth goals. In developed areas, the growth pattern supports conservation of non-renewable energy and minimizes impacts on air quality and climate.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides for protection of shoreline resources and ecological function and applies natural shoreline use environment.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Housing.</b> Residential communities that are attractive, affordable, diverse, and livable supported by appropriate urban or rural services. A variety of housing choices are available, meeting a full range of resident income levels and preferences. Residents are able to walk between neighborhoods and to community destinations.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognizes distribution and location of residential uses.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Open Space.</b> An open space network – including greenbelts, wildlife habitat, forested areas, and active and passive parks – that is accessible, interconnected, provides opportunities for recreation and defines and distinguishes urban and rural areas.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports County open space plans.</li> <li>▪ Promotes public access to shorelines.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Urban Areas.</b> Healthy urban areas that are the region's centers for diverse employment and housing opportunities, all levels of education, and civic and cultural activities.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses urban shorelines</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Rural Areas.</b> Rural areas and communities where unique historical characters, appearances, functions, and pioneering spirits are retained and enhanced. Natural resource activities, such as forestry, agriculture, and mining continue to contribute to the rural character and economy. Rural recreation opportunities are enhanced, including equestrian facilities, trails, and others.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses rural and semi-rural shorelines</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Cultural Resources.</b> Historical and archaeological resources that are recognized and preserved for future generations.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes policies to recognize and protect history and culture in shoreline areas.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Economic Development.</b> A stable, prosperous, and diversified economy that provides living-wage jobs for residents, supported by adequate land for a range of employment uses and that encourages accomplishment of local economic development goals.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotes shoreline-dependent economic developments</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Public Services and Facilities.</b> Public services and facilities – including, but not limited to, parks and recreation, law enforcement, fire protection, emergency preparedness, water/sewer, roads, transit, non-motorized facilities, ferries, stormwater management, education, library services, health and human services, energy, telecommunications, etc. – are provided in an efficient, high-quality and timely manner by the County and its partner agencies. Public services and facilities are monitored, maintained and enhanced to meet quality service standards.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses water quality management and roads</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Transportation.</b> An efficient, flexible, and coordinated multi-modal transportation system – including roads, bridges and highways, ferries, transit, and non-motorized travel – that provides interconnectivity and mobility for county residents and supports our urban and rural land use pattern.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addresses transportation systems along shorelines that minimize effects on shoreline resources</li> </ul>  |



## Chapter 9. Shorelines

### 9.1. Introduction

The shorelines of Kitsap County are among the most valuable and fragile of this state's natural resources. With 228 miles of saltwater shorelines and 33 miles of freshwater lake frontage, Kitsap County's shorelines provide habitat for fish and wildlife, economic diversity, and recreational opportunities, which are utilized by residents of all ages. Shorelines play a large part in enhancing the quality of life for many of our county's citizens. In order to protect, preserve, enhance, and restore the natural systems and resources of our shorelines, while still allowing economic and recreational use of them, development practices must be conducted with sensitivity and minimal environmental impact.

This chapter works with other chapters in the Plan to protect and preserve saltwater and freshwater shorelines throughout the county by directing development suitable for this environment. This chapter is divided into the following sections:

- *Planning Context* discusses the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) regarding shorelines.
- *Shoreline Environments* provides a brief discussion of the designations applied to those areas that fall under the jurisdiction of the Kitsap County Shoreline Management Master Program (SMMP).
- *Shoreline Management Master Program Goals and Policies* is divided into the following areas:
  - A. Conservation and Resource Protection
  - B. Shoreline Use
  - C. Water Quality
  - D. Economic Development
  - E. Public Access
  - F. Recreation

- G. History and Culture
- H. Aesthetics
- I. Natural Systems
- J. Circulation

## 9.2. Planning Context

Pursuant to GMA, the goals and policies of the SMMP are considered an element of the Plan. The framework for this chapter is based on the goals and policies outlined in the SMMP.

While it is the intent of the SMMP to provide a management scheme that will govern the utilization, protection, restoration, and preservation of Kitsap County's shorelines, this chapter serves to provide a link between land use planning and the regulatory process outlined in the SMMP.

## 9.3. Shoreline Environments

The SMMP establishes five shoreline environment designations: Natural, Conservancy, Rural, Semi-Rural and Urban. The shoreline environment designations are not a substitute for existing land use regulations, but rather must be considered in addition to those regulations. Specific designation criteria and management policies for each environment are described in the SMMP.

- **Natural Environment.** The goal of the natural environment is to preserve and restore natural systems, which are currently relatively free of human influence. To maintain the integrity of this environment, restrictions on the intensities and types of uses permitted in such areas are required.
- **Conservancy Environment.** The objective of the conservancy environment is to protect, conserve and manage existing natural resources and valuable historic and cultural areas. This designation ensures a continuous flow of recreational benefits to the public and achieves sustained resource utilization. It also protects fish and wildlife habitat and environmentally sensitive areas. A sub-environment has been designated for conservancy areas, which are publicly owned and dedicated for use and enjoyment as a park, recreational site or open space.
- **Rural Environment.** The purpose of the rural environment is to: a) protect agricultural land from urban expansion, b) restrict intensive development along undeveloped shorelines, c) function as a buffer between urban areas and d) maintain open spaces and opportunities for recreational uses compatible with agricultural and forestry uses.
- **Semi-Rural Environment.** The intent of the semi-rural environment is to promote a multiple-use shoreline area in which the scale of uses fall between that of the rural and urban



environments. Certain aspects of the natural environment will be retained in conjunction with permitted uses.

- **Urban Environment.** The goal of the urban environment is to ensure optimum use of shorelines within urbanized areas. Such areas require management for intensive use and development to enhance and maintain a multiplicity of urban uses on the shorelines.

## 9.4. Shoreline Management Master Program Goals and Policies

Kitsap County's shorelines should be planned and managed in a manner that is consistent with its shoreline designation. This chapter describes a series of goals and policies, which are directed to the protection of sensitive shorelines from the negative impacts of development, including risks to ecology, property and human health. The goals and policies of this chapter are the Master Goals outlined in the SMMP.

### 9.4.1. Conservation and Resource Protection

**Goal 1. Preserve natural shoreline resources wherever possible.**

**Goal 2. Promote shoreline conservation and resource protection.**

**Policy SH-1** Shoreline characteristics such as scenic vistas, estuarine areas, biological wetlands, beaches, and other unique biological functions, valuable natural systems and aesthetic features should be preserved and restored.

### 9.4.2. Shoreline Use

**Goal 3. Encourage shoreline diversity by recognizing the distribution and location requirements of housing, commerce, industry, transportation, public buildings, education, recreation and natural resources.**



**Policy SH-2** Encourage and support shoreline diversity through planned and coordinated development, which gives preference to water-dependent uses, traditional and historic use patterns, resource values, and environmental protection.

### 9.4.3. Water Quality

**Goal 4. Protect and enhance water quality in Puget Sound, Hood Canal and inland lakes while allowing for compatible growth and development.**

- Policy SH-3 Uses and activities along shorelines and in the waters of Kitsap County should not have a significant adverse affect on water quality.
- Policy SH-4 Kitsap County shall safeguard shoreline resources by only allowing development that is compatible with sensitive shoreline areas.
- Policy SH-5 Kitsap County shall encourage the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the use of herbicides and pesticides near surface waters and drainage conveyances.
- Policy SH-6 Minimize sedimentation and turbidity in fresh and marine waters of the state through measures that control stormwater runoff and reduce stream and shoreline erosion.

### 9.4.4. Economic Development

**Goal 5. Commercial uses and other economic developments, which require or depend on shoreline locations for their success, should be encouraged when the shoreline can accommodate such development.**

- Policy SH-7 Encourage and support water related and water dependent commercial uses that are environmentally compatible.
- Policy SH-8 Land use activities shall be sited and designed to minimize conflicts with and impacts on the shoreline environment.

### 9.4.5. Public Access

**Goal 6. Provide the public access to shorelines.**

- Policy SH-9 Promote and encourage safe, convenient and diversified access to public shorelines while respecting private property rights.



- Policy SH-10 Publicly owned, undeveloped road ends, tax title lands and right-of-ways, which abut shorelines should be evaluated for their use as public access points.

### 9.4.6. Recreation

**Goal 7. Provide a variety of water and shoreline related recreational opportunities for the public.**

- Policy SH-11 The County, in conjunction with other organizations, should work to maintain and enhance existing recreational opportunities for the public.
- Policy SH-12 The County, in conjunction with other jurisdictions, should work to develop new and diverse water and shoreline related recreational opportunities for the public.

### 9.4.7. History and Culture

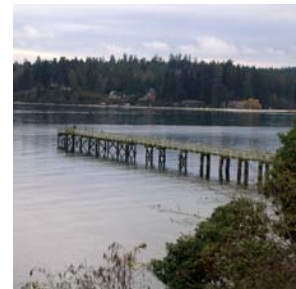
**Goal 8. Increase public awareness of the historical, cultural and environmental influences of Kitsap County's shorelines.**

- Policy SH-13 Historical, cultural, educational or scientific areas should be identified, preserved and/or restored and shoreline development within them should be minimized.
- Policy SH-14 Waterfront historical districts (those identified now and in the future), cultural resource areas and specific historic sites and structures should be integrated into zoning and planning maps.
- Policy SH-15 Public awareness of the historical, cultural and environmental influences of Kitsap County's shorelines should be increased through educational and interpretive projects.

### 9.4.8. Aesthetics

**Goal 9. Retain the high aesthetic value of shorelines in Kitsap County.**

- Policy SH-16 Shoreline development shall be encouraged to be designed in a manner that will maintain or enhance predominant scenic view corridors for the traveling public.



### 9.4.9. Natural Systems

- Goal 10. Minimize human interference of natural systems occurring along shorelines.
- Goal 11. Preserve the biological diversity of Kitsap County and Puget Sound.
- Goal 12. Develop a critical areas ordinance (CAO) and development regulations that protect habitat conservation areas and important habitat elements.
- Goal 13. Protect, enhance and restore aquatic habitat areas, such as streams, wetlands, lakes, shellfish beds, herring and smelt spawning areas; and kelp and eelgrass beds.
- Goal 14. Encourage voluntary protection of species and habitat.

Policy SH-17 Kitsap County shall continue working with appropriate state agencies and community organizations to utilize inventory information of habitat types and areas along Kitsap County shorelines. Based upon this information, a habitat protection plan should be incorporated into permitting processes to provide for areas most in need of protection or restoration.

Policy SH-18 Kitsap County shall maintain and update a countywide inventory of existing plant, fish and wildlife habitat and shall make appropriate information available to the public.

Policy SH-19 The County shall work with other government jurisdictions to protect habitat areas that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

Policy SH-20 The County should work to minimize habitat fragmentation and protect open space and connective corridors.

Policy SH-21 The County shall consider the impacts to shoreline habitat, conservation areas, and fish and wildlife populations in designating land use and zoning classifications.

Policy SH-22 The County's Open Space Plan should be amended to include the findings of a future habitat inventory and habitat protection plan for shorelines.



- Policy SH-23 Trail systems through habitat conservation areas should be carefully sited to minimize impact to fish and wildlife species.
- Policy SH-24 To protect fish and wildlife habitat, Kitsap County should require vegetative buffers along lakes and marine shorelines. Larger or enhanced buffer areas may be required to adequately protect priority fish and wildlife species.
- Policy SH-25 Buffer enhancement or restoration shall be required where buffers have been degraded or removed during new development.
- Policy SH-26 The County shall review building permit applications located within identified shoreline habitat conservation areas. Applications should be forwarded to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine those that may pose a potential adverse impact.
- Policy SH-27 The County shall encourage developers to protect continuous corridors of native vegetation wherever possible, to disturb as little natural vegetation as feasible, and to enhance or restore wildlife habitat by transplanting or planting native vegetation in the disturbed landscape.
- Policy SH-28 Encourage cluster development to protect fish and wildlife habitat and where possible plan cooperatively with adjacent property owners to provide maximum habitat potential.
- Policy SH-29 During the review of conversion option harvest plans, Kitsap County shall consider long-term impacts to habitat conservation areas and important habitat elements.
- Policy SH-30 The County shall work with other jurisdictions, agencies and private landowners to reduce non-point source pollution and implement the recommendations of approved watershed management Kitsap County Comprehensive Plans.
- Policy SH-31 The County should work with the WDFW and local Tribes to inventory blockages of fish passageways and prioritize blockage removal and stream corridor restoration.
- Policy SH-32 Minimize sedimentation and turbidity in fresh and marine waters of the state through measures that control stormwater runoff and reduce stream and shoreline erosion.
- Policy SH-33 The County should provide information about existing government and private programs pertaining to voluntary habitat protection, enhancement and restoration.
- Policy SH-34 The County should encourage private-public partnerships to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat along shorelines.

## 9.4.10. Transportation

**Goal 15. Create transportation systems that protect and enhance shoreline features and habitat.**

Policy SH-35 Transportation systems along shorelines should be designed to be safe, economical, and adequate and have the least possible adverse effects on unique or fragile shoreline features and existing ecological systems, while adding to the functional and aesthetic enhancement of the shoreline.

