3. GORST PLANNING & OUTREACH PROCESS

The opportunity to leverage assets and overcome challenges is not a chance that many communities are provided. Fortunately, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) awarded a Watershed Management Assistance Program Grant to the City of Bremerton for the purposes of improving the future of Gorst through an inter-agency planning effort. Bremerton is working in partnership with Kitsap County, the Suquamish Tribe, and many other agency partners and stakeholders to achieve the following:

- Make Gorst a place where people want to live, shop and recreate,
- Protect water quality, habitat and fish while fostering economic development,
- Identify areas for development, restoration and protection based on science,
- Adopt a land use plan for Gorst, and
- Implement a long-range capital improvement plan to provide for future utility services, public services and transportation needs.

Gorst watershed and subarea planning began in 2011 and continues through 2013 using the following steps:

1. Characterizing the Watershed (see Volume 1)
2. Developing Guiding Principles and Policies for Planning (see Volume 1 for the Watershed and this subarea plan Volume 3 for Gorst UGA)
3. Preparing Draft Plans for Land Use, Stormwater and Capital Facilities, focusing on the Gorst UGA (this Volume 3)
4. Evaluating Draft Plans and Alternatives in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (see Volume 2)
5. Developing a Preferred Plan and Final EIS (following a robust public comment opportunity)
6. Deliberating with legislative bodies at the City of Bremerton, Kitsap County, and Suquamish Tribe
7. Adopting the Plan

Public and agency engagement opportunities are provided at each step. This Gorst Subarea Plan (Step 3) was developed through coordinated efforts to engage the general public, public agencies and stakeholders, and elected and appointed officials. The Draft Plan was studied in a Draft EIS in Step 4, and refined into a Preferred Plan in Step 5 and has been the subject public meetings and hearings in fall 2013 consistent with Step 6. Action on the plan is anticipated by December 2013 as part of Step 7. See Figure 3-1 displaying the planning and outreach process. Major outreach efforts are described below.
Project Partners

Gorst Creek Watershed Characterization and planning has benefited from the knowledge and expertise of agencies, organizations and individuals partnering to steer the technical analysis associated with the project, including:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- City of Bremerton
- Kitsap County
- Port of Bremerton
- Sustainable Bremerton
- Suquamish Tribe
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- City of Port Orchard
- Kitsap County Health District
- West Sound Watershed Council
- Gorst property owners, Pat and Cheryl Lockhart

Project partners have met several times to discuss analysis methods and review technical documents such as the Watershed Characterization Study (see Volume 1).

Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from Bremerton Planning Commission, Bremerton City Council, Bremerton Mayor, Kitsap County Planning Commission, Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners, and Suquamish Tribal Council, represents the interests of their respective bodies
and convenes at key project milestones to address issues and concerns for Gorst Creek Watershed Plan. In January 2013, the Advisory Committee reviewed and provided direction on the range of Gorst UGA land use alternatives as well as overall watershed guiding principles. In June 2013, the Advisory Committee reviewed the Draft Plans and Draft EIS that evaluated the range of alternatives. In August 2013, the Advisory Committee provided direction on a preferred plan for the Gorst UGA and was briefed on public comments regarding this plan and related Gorst documents.

**General Public Outreach**

The City of Bremerton and partner Kitsap County have provided education and solicited citizen and agency input on the Gorst Creek Watershed Planning efforts. Each effort is described below.

**Website.** The City of Bremerton has established a project website [http://www.gorstwatershed.com/](http://www.gorstwatershed.com/). It includes information about the project, links to draft products, and a comment form.

**Scoping comment period and workshop.** Public, tribal, and agency comments were solicited by the City as lead agency in a 21-day written scoping period from October 15 to November 5, 2012. The City also held a public meeting on October 29, 2012 to ask about the vision for Gorst and about the EIS scope. Scoping notices and a meeting announcement were sent by mail to each property owner in the Gorst UGA, and to a list of federal, state, and local agencies and tribes. The City and County also sent these documents by email to lists of persons interested in planning issues in the city and county. The scoping notice was published in the Kitsap Sun on October 15, 2012 to notify any other persons having an interest in the project. About 37 persons participated in the scoping meeting and 14 persons or agencies submitted comments. A meeting exercise identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Below are some particular strengths and opportunities identified by citizens in Gorst:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central access, accessibility to highway, connected to rest of the County, Bremerton, Port Orchard</td>
<td>Businesses and Places: More inviting businesses, local-serving, places people stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views of the mountains and Sound</td>
<td>Transportation: Sidewalks, local trails and intra-county trails, bus to Bremerton ferry dock, frontage road (increase flow, spread of through traffic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New sewer</td>
<td>Parks, Open Space, and Recreation: Waterfront access/trail/park, beach/water access and signage, kayak launching point, more public land/park space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensive shoreline</td>
<td>Beautification: Tree preservation, litter cleanup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature, Habitat, and Wildlife: Wooded and forested, “green”; “blue” water, creek, inlet; wildlife, Eagles, deer, seals, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Preliminary alternatives workshop.** At a February 12, 2013 workshop, the City of Bremerton and Kitsap County asked public input about preliminary land use alternatives that should be evaluated in a draft subarea plan and EIS. A postcard meeting announcement was sent by mail to each property owner in the Gorst UGA. A flier was emailed to persons who had participated in prior Gorst scoping events in fall 2012, and also to persons indicating a general interest in county and city planning efforts. An article was published in the Kitsap Sun on February 7, 2013. The workshop focused on land use alternatives and
growth in the Gorst UGA.\(^1\) Around 35-40 persons attended and provided input on the range of alternatives under consideration for the Gorst UGA. As a result of input, the alternatives were refined for study in the EIS.

**Legislative meetings.** On February 19, 2013, the Bremerton Planning Commission and Kitsap County Planning Commission met separately at their regular meetings to review the preliminary alternatives. Additional Planning Commission, City Council, and Board of County Commissioner meetings are planned later in the process to help identify a preferred alternative, refine and deliberate on the framework and subarea plans, and consider a planned action ordinance.

**Draft Plan and Draft EIS Comment Period.** The City of Bremerton as lead agency established a public comment period during which time public comments were encouraged regarding the Draft Watershed Characterization & Framework Plan, Gorst EIS, and Gorst Subarea Plan. A 45-day comment period extended from June 10 to July 24, 2013. Five public meetings were held during the comment period including a meeting in Gorst and two City and County Planning Commission meetings.

- Plan & EIS Overview: Kitsap County Planning Commission, June 18, 9:00 am
- Plan & EIS Overview: City of Bremerton Planning Commission, June 18, 5:30 pm
- Preferred Alternative Community Workshop, Gorst, June 20, 5:00 pm, Family Worship Center at 3649 W. Frontage Road
- Preferred Alternative Input: Kitsap County Planning Commission July 16, 9:00 am
- Preferred Alternative Input: City of Bremerton Planning Commission July 16, 5:30 pm

Results of the public meetings and input into the Preferred Alternative are described in Chapter 5.

The City in consultation with Kitsap County is issuing a Final EIS in fall 2013, providing responses to comments and addressing a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative includes elements from one or more alternatives studied in the Draft Subarea Plan and Draft EIS.

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\(^1\) Apart from the UGA, land use and zoning are not anticipated to change in the overall watershed, through some low impact development and stormwater standards may be applied in both urban and rural areas.