

# Shorelines Chapter

*This Shorelines Chapter is divided into the following sections:*

**The Introduction** describes the intent of the Shorelines Chapter and its relationship to Kitsap County's vision of the future and other Comprehensive Plan chapters.

**The Planning Context** discusses the requirements of the Growth Management Act regarding shorelines.

**The Shoreline Environments** provides a brief discussion of the designations applied to those areas which fall under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Master Program.

**The Master Goals and Policies** are 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

## Planning Context

ment Master Program are considered an element of the county's Comprehensive Plan. The framework for this Shorelines Chapter is based on the goals and policies outlined in the Master Program.

H. Aesthetics

I. Natural Systems

J. Circulation

## 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 Shorelines Chapter works with other chapters in the Comprehensive Plan to protect and preserve saltwater and freshwater shorelines throughout the county by directing development suitable for this environment.

Pursuant to the Growth Management Act, the goals and policies of the Shoreline Manage

While it is the intent of the Master Program to provide a management scheme which 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 Shoreline Management Master Program.

# Shoreline Environments

**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, severe 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 will also protect 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

The Master Program 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 Shoreline Master Program; these criteria are not outlined in this chapter. with permitted uses.

**Urban Environment:** The goal of the urban environment is to ensure optimum utilization 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.

## Goals and Policies

Kitsap County's shorelines must be developed in a manner that is consistent with its shoreline designation. This chapter provides a series of goals and policies which protect sensitive shorelines from the negative impacts of development, including risks to ecology, property and human health. The goals and policies of this chapter are based on the Master Goals outlined in the Shoreline Management Master Program.

### A. Conservation and Resource Protection

#### Goals

1. Preserve natural shoreline resources wherever possible.
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.

**B. 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.

**C. Water Quality****Goal**

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

**Policies**

**SH-3** Uses and activities along shorelines and in the waters of Kitsap County should not have a significant adverse affect on water quality.

**SH-4** Kitsap County shall safeguard

shoreline resources by only allowing development that is compatible with sensitive shoreline areas.

**SH-5** Kitsap County shall encourage the use of Best Management Practices in the use of herbicides and pesticides near surface waters and drainage conveyances.

**SH-6** Minimize sedimentation and turbidity in fresh and marine waters of the state through measures which control stormwater runoff and reduce stream and shoreline erosion.

**D. 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.

**Policies**

**SH-7** Encourage and support water related and water dependent commercial uses which are environmentally compatible.

**SH-8** Land use activities shall be sited and designed to minimize conflicts with and impacts on the shoreline environment.

**E. Public Access****Goal**

6. Provide the public access to shorelines.

**Policies**

**SH-9** Promote and encourage safe, convenient

and diversified access to public shorelines while respecting private property rights.

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

## F. Recreation

### Goal

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

### Policies

**SH-11** The County, in conjunction with other organizations, should work to maintain and enhance existing recreational opportunities for the public.

**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.

## G. History and Culture

### Goal

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

### Policies

**SH-13** Historical, cultural, educational or scientific areas should be identified, preserved and/or restored and shoreline development within them should be minimized.

**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.

**SH-15** Public awareness of the historical, cultural and environmental influences of Kitsap County's shorelines should be increased through educational and interpretive projects.

## H. Aesthetics

### Goal

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

### Policies

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

**SH-17** Shoreline development shall not significantly block the view of upland residents.

## I. Natural Systems

### Goals

10. Minimize human interference of natural systems occurring along shorelines.
11. Preserve the biological diversity of Kitsap County and Puget Sound.
12. Develop a critical areas ordinance and development regulations which protect habitat conservation areas and

important habitat elements.

13. Protect, enhance and restore aquatic habitat areas, such as streams, wetlands, lakes, shell fish beds, herring and smelt spawning areas and kelp and eelgrass beds.
14. Encourage voluntary protection of species and habitat.

### **Policies**

**SH-18** Kitsap County shall work with appropriate state agencies and community organizations to conduct a thorough, countywide inventory of habitat types and areas along Kitsap County shorelines. Based upon this inventory, a habitat protection plan should be developed that recommends areas most in need of protection or restoration,

**SH-19** 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.

**SH-20** The County shall work with other government jurisdictions to protect habitat areas which cross jurisdictional boundaries.

**SH-21** The County should work to minimize habitat fragmentation and protect open space and connective corridors.

**SH-22** The County shall consider the impacts to shoreline habitat, conservation areas, and fish and wildlife populations in designating land use and zoning classifications.

**SH-23** The County's Open Space Plan should be amended to include the

**findings of a future habitat inventory and habitat protection plan for shorelines.**

**SH-24** Trail systems through habitat conservation areas should be carefully sited to minimize impact to fish and wildlife species.

**SH-25** To protect fish and wildlife habitat, the 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.

**SH-26** Buffer enhancement or restoration shall be required where buffers have been degraded or removed during new development.

**SH-27** The County shall review building permit applications located within identified shoreline habitat conservation areas. Applications should be forward to the Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Department of Natural Resources to determine those which may pose a potential adverse impact.

**SH-28** 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.

**SH-29** Encourage cluster development to protect fish and wildlife habitat and where possible plan cooperatively with adjacent property owners to provide maximum habitat potential.

**SH-30** During the review of conversion option harvest plans, the county shall consider long-term impacts to habitat conservation areas and important habitat elements.

**SH-31** 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 plans.

**SH-32** The County should work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and local tribes to inventory blockages of fish passageways and prioritize blockage removal and stream corridor restoration.

**SH-33** Minimize sedimentation and turbidity in fresh and marine waters of the state through measures which control stormwater runoff and reduce stream and shoreline erosion.

**SH-34** The County should provide information about existing government and private programs pertaining to voluntary habitat protection, enhancement and restoration.

**SH-35** The County should encourage private-public partnerships to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat along shorelines.

## **Policy**

**SH-36** Transportation systems along shorelines should be designed to be safe, economical, 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.

## **J. Circulation**

### **Goal**

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

