



Chapter 17. Community and Neighborhood Plans

17.1. Illahee Community

Illahee is a historic waterfront village located on the western coast of Port Orchard Bay across from Bainbridge Island and near Illahee State Park. This community primarily consists of existing single-family residences, open space and parks, and limited commercial establishments located along State Highway 303. The community includes extensive parks and open space including the Illahee State Park, Illahee Creek, the Illahee Preserve, three miles of salt water waterfront, two major community docks, and much more.

In 2006, members of the Illahee Community Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) began pursuing a community plan for Illahee (Figure 17-1). Since that time, the community has made significant efforts to generate community awareness of the planning process and to solicit ideas and opinions for the plan's components. The development of an Illahee Community Plan is in progress and anticipated to continue into 2007. The vision statement below originated from the latest update of their draft plan dated July 5, 2006.

17.2. Vision

The Illahee community encourages planning that reflects the civic pride and community involvement that has existed for over the past 120 plus years. Current projects and happenings in the community, including salmon restoration projects, the establishment of the Illahee Preserve, additional Illahee Creek watershed improvement projects and new culverts have brought the community a sense of accomplishment and have motivated the citizens to continue to be materially involved in the future planning processes to further enhance the atmosphere and character of the area



Illahee envisions their community as centered around and amongst the abundance of natural resources in the area. The residents strive to maintain the community charm and quaintness that Illahee currently offers. Residents wish to maintain the high quality of the natural environment,

including protection of parklands, wetlands, streams and wildlife habitat along with the need to maintain connectedness and accommodate reasonable growth in the area. These visions and dreams may be accomplished by permitting growth in those areas where infrastructure enhancement already exists and environmental protections are ensured. The community also envisions that open space and park designations are provided for natural resources that need protection and especially those already specified as a park or nature preserve.

It is this mix of land use that makes the Illahee area a unique blend of natural resources and open spaces surrounded by historically residential areas and limited commercial businesses along major transportation routes. Illahee is an area that has been blessed with a diversity of resources, natural and man-made, and the community desires a community plan that blends both of these features together in a place where the residents can live with both nature and their fellow citizens.

Illahee future business expansion are proposed to be limited to small businesses and services serving the community, consistent with historical usage located near the community core with enhanced business opportunities along the major transportation corridors. Zoning changes are desired in the community to re-establish certain zoning that has been lost under the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and to establish appropriate zoning where it does not now exist consistent with historical public services. The community encourages historical development patterns, including lot sizes, within the limits of Growth Management Act (GMA) requirements. Accommodation of the community's desire to reinforce these patterns while remaining consistent with the 13 goals of the GMA are presently being incorporated in the community plan.

Illahee encourages the improvement of existing transportation infrastructure and services to make it easier and safer to get around the community, make the community more pedestrian friendly, and improve parking for visitors. Additional improvements may be necessary to improve public infrastructure and facilities. The community would like to retain a flexible community park system, attractive as gathering and recreational centers for both children and adults.

Illahee strives to preserve and enhance the small-town atmosphere and visual character of the area for the community as well as visitors, where one can enjoy a safe and pleasurable walk, enjoy the spectacular marine and mountain views, and have easy access to a community center that acts as a social center with community marine access and services providing for basic needs.

17.3. Goals and Policies

The Illahee CAG will continue to develop a community plan for the area that includes goals and policies addressing such issues as community character, environmental protection and wildlife corridors, height restrictions, lot aggregation, transportation and stormwater.

Figure 17-1. Illahee Community Boundary

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