

News Release



Snohomish County

Planning & Development Services Department

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Updating Snohomish County's Shoreline Management Program

Citizens Invited to Learn About Shoreline Management Program

Citizens are invited to attend Open Houses on May 17 and 18 to learn about the County's Shoreline Management Program (SMP) and find out how the County will be updating the existing program to meet new state guidelines.

Property owners with land located along a river, lake or marine shoreline are particularly encouraged to attend one of these Open Houses, since changes proposed to the current SMP policies, designations and regulations could affect the use of these properties.

The Open Houses will be held in two convenient locations:

Everett – Tuesday, May 17, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Snohomish County East Administration Building, Conference Room
3000 Rockefeller Avenue

Arlington – Wednesday, May 18, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Arlington High School Commons
18821 Crown Ridge Blvd.

The meetings will be informal. Citizens may arrive any time between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. and learn about the SMP, which is the County's 'comprehensive plan' for shorelines, and talk with members of the Shoreline Advisory Committee and shoreline planners.

The Shoreline Master Program is a cooperative program of shoreline management between local government and the state. The program has three goals: to protect water quality and the natural environment; to preserve water-dependent uses that cannot exist in any other location; and to preserve and enhance public access and recreational opportunities along shorelines.

The state has recently updated its guidelines for preparing local shoreline plans. The County is required to incorporate new information, inventory changed conditions and assess current community values and priorities in an update of its Shoreline Management Program.

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The Open House is the County's second step in obtaining information on community values and priorities. In April, the County sent out a questionnaire to 4,000 shoreline property owners to obtain their feedback on the current regulations. Results of the questionnaire will be presented at the Open Houses through an informational display.

A revised SMP approved by the Snohomish County Council must be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology by the end of 2005. The state will be evaluating the County's efforts and holding a 30-day public comment period of their own, before sending the County a letter approving, denying or accepting the County's revised program. The revised SMP will become effective after it has met with state approval.

For more information on the Shoreline Management Program Update, please contact Karen Stewart, Project Manager, at (425) 388-3311 extension 2420.

For more information on the Open Houses, including arranging reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, please contact Mary Hurner at (425) 388-6430. (TTY: 425-388-3700)

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