

## **City of Edmonds Shoreline Master Program:**

### **Periodic Review Public Participation Plan**

#### **Introduction**

The Washington State Shoreline Management Act of 1971 (SMA) was enacted for the purpose of comprehensively managing and protecting the state's shorelines. The SMA (RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26) emphasizes accommodation of appropriate uses that require a shoreline location, protection of shoreline environmental resources and protection of the public's right to access and use the shorelines.

Under the SMA, each city and county with "shorelines of the state" must prepare and adopt a Shoreline Master Program (SMP) that is based on state laws and rules but tailored to the specific geographic, economic and environmental needs of the community. The SMP is essentially a combined comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and development permit system for shoreline specific uses.

The shoreline areas within the City of Edmonds jurisdiction include Puget Sound, Lake Ballinger, and the tidally influenced portions of the Edmonds Marsh. Shoreline Jurisdiction also applies to upland areas within 200 feet of the shoreline edge (ordinary high water mark) and associated wetlands.

The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. Ecology is the regulatory body in charge of overseeing the City's SMP update and will also provide technical support and partial funding to prepare SMP periodic reviews. The City of Edmonds periodic review is to be completed by June 30, 2019. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City of Edmonds plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

The City of Edmonds just completed a comprehensive update of its SMP in June 2017. This comprehensive update took many years to complete and some recent amendments to the SMA and shoreline guidelines did not get incorporated in the City's SMP. Most of the updates identified in the SMP Periodic Review Checklist are minor in nature and will not substantially modify the SMP adopted in 2017. Potentially more substantive updates to the SMP may result from a site specific study of the Edmonds Marsh which could suggest modifications to the development regulations associated with the Urban Mixed Use IV shoreline jurisdiction.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that Edmonds will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as City contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Chapter 20.06 Edmonds Community Development Code (ECDC). This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

#### **Public Participation Goals**

The overall goal of the City of Edmonds' Public Participation Plan is to make the planning process accessible, inclusive, and engaging to stakeholders and all members of the public. Specific goals are to:

- Make reasonable effort to invite, inform, and involve all interested persons, private entities, tribal nations, and agencies of the federal government having interests and responsibilities relating to shorelines of the state and Edmonds' SMP.
- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Shoreline Management Act establishes a balance of authority and partnership between local and state government. While the City of Edmonds is the primary regulator for its shorelines, Washington State Department of Ecology provides support, technical assistance and conducts final review for approval and adoption into the state program to meet federal requirements for a Coastal Zone Management Program. The City of Edmonds is responsible for updating its shoreline master program in compliance with Washington State rules and guidelines. This responsibility includes inviting public comment and coordinating with adjacent jurisdictions, affected tribes and state agencies. The primary contact for the City of Edmonds Shoreline Master Program periodic update is:

Kernen Lien, Environmental Programs Manager  
 City of Edmonds Planning Division  
 121 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
 Edmonds, WA 98020  
[kernen.lien@edmondswa.gov](mailto:kernen.lien@edmondswa.gov)  
 425-771-0220

The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) is responsible for providing technical assistance to the City and must approve the City's updated Shoreline Master Program. The primary contact person at DOE for Edmonds' periodic update is:

David Pater, Shoreline Planner  
 Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program  
 Washington State Department of Ecology  
 913 Squalicum Way Unit 101  
 Bellingham, WA 98225  
[david.pater@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:david.pater@ecy.wa.gov)  
 360-255-4375

## List of stakeholders

Many different users and interest groups have a stake in the City of Edmonds shorelines. The following are key stakeholders in the City of Edmonds periodic Shoreline Master Program update:

### Residents and Public

Shoreline Property Owners  
 Interested Citizens

## Environmental Organizations

### Business

Waterfront Business Owners  
BNSF Railroad  
Master Builders

### Local Government

Port of Edmonds  
Snohomish County  
City of Lynwood  
Town of Woodway

### City of Edmonds

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department  
Public Works Department  
Development Services Department

### State

Department of Ecology  
Department of Natural Resources  
Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Puget Sound Partnership

### Tribal

Tulalip Tribes

## Public Participation Opportunities

The City of Edmonds is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the process. The City of Edmonds will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage their participation, including the following:

### Website

The City of Edmonds website will include a Periodic Review webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, and other project information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

### Open House

Given the Edmonds' comprehensive Shoreline Master Program was recently completed in June 2017, no open house is scheduled for this periodic update. However, the City of Edmonds may hold an open house on findings of the Edmonds Marsh study as it relates to the SMP periodic update as findings become available.

### Notice mailing list

An email list of interested parties will be created and maintained by the City of Edmonds. The list will be used to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties will be added to the list by contacting the Planning Department.

### Comment

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to Edmonds by letter, email or at public meetings and hearings. All comments will be provided to the Planning Board and City Council. The Periodic Review webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review at City of Edmonds Planning Division, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

### Planning Board Public Work Sessions and Hearings

The Planning Board will conduct public work sessions to gather public comment on the draft Shoreline Master Program before scheduling a public hearing to develop recommendations that will be forwarded to the City Council. Notice of the public hearing will be published in the Everett Herald and on the City's website at least 14 days prior to the hearing. In addition to the required noticing procedures, notice may also be provided through such means as a press release, posting on the City's website and email to the interested party list.

### City Council Public Work Sessions and Hearings

The City Council will conduct public work sessions that may include input on the draft Shoreline Master Program before scheduling a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing will be published in the Everett Herald and on the City's website at least 14 days prior to the hearing. In addition to the required noticing procedures, notice may also be provided through such means as a press release, posting on the City's website and email to the interested party list.

### News media

The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

## Schedule

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. The City of Edmonds will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage.

- May 8 & 15, 2018      Introduce the Periodic Shoreline Master Program update to the City Council
- July – November 2018      Planning Board holds work sessions and a public hearing
- January 2018 – June 2019      City Council holds work sessions and a public hearing
- April – June 2019      Department of Ecology public comment process (if City chooses to not use the joint review process)