



## FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Shoreline Master Program?

Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs) are both planning and regulatory documents. SMPs carry out the policies of the Shoreline Management Act on local shorelines. An SMP consists of a comprehensive use plan, use regulations, maps, diagrams or other descriptive material, statement of desired goals, and standards for shorelines of the state [RCW 90.58.030(3)(b)]. SMPs are based on state laws and rules and tailored to local geographic and environmental conditions and existing development patterns.

### What is the Shoreline Management Act?

The Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58, provides a statewide framework for managing, accessing, and protecting shorelines. The SMA was passed by the Washington Legislature in 1971 and adopted by voters in 1972, making it almost 50 years old. The SMA reflects the strong interest of the public in our shorelines and waterways for recreation, protection of natural areas, aesthetics, and commerce. The SMA maintains 3 core principles:

- » Shoreline uses - What type of uses will be allowed along local shoreline areas and how will they develop?
- » Shoreline environmental protection - How will the critical functions of the shoreline environment be protected, preserved, and restored?
- » Shoreline public access - How will the public be provided the opportunity to see, touch, feel and experience the shoreline areas?

### Where does the SMA and the City's SMP apply?

The SMA applies to major water bodies and their adjacent shorelands throughout Washington State. The over 28,000 miles of shorelines in the State include:

- » Marine waters
- » Streams over 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow
- » Water areas and reservoirs 20 acres and greater
- » Upland areas called shorelands that are 200 feet landward of the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM)
- » All associated wetlands

Within the City of Puyallup, the SMP applies to land within 200' of the Puyallup River, Clarks Creek, and their associated wetlands. Other streams and water bodies are regulated by the city's critical areas ordinance only. All properties must comply with the city's zoning and comprehensive plan, and properties subject to the SMP must comply with critical areas as well.

# City of Puyallup

## Shoreline Master Program (SMP)



### **What is the periodic review of the City's SMP?**

The SMA requires a periodic review of comprehensively updated SMPs. Local governments must review amendments to the SMA and Ecology rules that have occurred since the master program was last amended and determine if local amendments are needed to maintain compliance. Local governments must also review changes to the comprehensive plan and development regulations to determine if the SMP policies and regulations remain consistent with them. Local governments should consider during their periodic review whether to incorporate any amendments needed to reflect changed circumstances, new information, or improved data. The Legislature has established a schedule for every community to complete these reviews. The first round of periodic reviews was originally due by June 30, 2019 for Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties and their cities and towns. The City of Puyallup and other local jurisdictions were given an extension to complete the update due to unforeseen circumstances.

### **What laws or rules have been changed since the City's SMP was last amended?**

Ecology has prepared a checklist of all laws and rules adopted, organized by year. The checklist is accompanied by a guidance document that explains each item. The City will review its SMP and determine if gaps exist between its regulations and newly adopted laws or guidance. Amendments will be prepared that bring the SMP into conformance with these rules and laws.

### **When was the last time the City's SMP was adopted?**

The City's SMP was originally adopted in 1972 and was subsequently updated and adopted in 1988. Under new shoreline master program guidelines adopted by Ecology in 2004, cities within Pierce County were required to conduct a comprehensive update to their local shoreline master programs. The current SMP was adopted in January 2016. The City is now required to conduct a Periodic Review and adopt any necessary amendments to the SMP.

### **Is the public permitted to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the City's SMP?**

Yes, in fact the SMA requires public participation for all amendments. Ecology rules call for a public participation plan that should include broad dissemination of informative materials, proposals and alternatives, opportunities for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provisions for open discussion, and consideration of and responses to public comments. The plan will ensure the public knows when to comment on the scope of the review and proposed changes, and when the City Council is expected to take formal action. Comments will be accepted through March 4, 2022. One community open house is scheduled to provide the public with an opportunity to speak with City staff and have their voices heard as decisions are made regarding amendments to the SMP. The public will have an opportunity to comment at a public hearing before the Planning Commission, as well as City Council when the proposed amendments to the SMP will be considered.