

What is a Shoreline Master Program?

A Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a set of written local land-use policies and regulations that guide the use of shorelines. The SMP applies to both public and private uses of shorelines. The main purposes of the SMP are to protect natural resources for future generations, provide for public access to public waters and shores, and plan for water-dependent uses.



In the City of Olympia the SMP applies to Lake Louise, Capitol Lake, Ward Lake, Ken Lake, Chambers Lake, Percival Creek, Black Lake Ditch, and the marine shoreline areas.

What is the “periodic review” of the SMP?

Every eight years, counties and cities must review the SMP to ensure it remains consistent with changes in state law, the adopted Comprehensive Plan, and any changes in local circumstance. The periodic review is not as involved as the “comprehensive update” that Olympia completed in 2015. The comprehensive update was a major rewrite of the SMP that took several years to complete. This review is expected to be complete by June 2021. Ecology provides grant funds to help cover costs associated with conducting the review. The City received a grant for \$28,000 to conduct the review and adopt revisions.

Gap Analysis

The City used the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) checklist to identify and evaluate any needed revisions. The report was posted online and the public was invited to submit comments. Primary areas to be addressed during these updates include revisions to reflect changes in Ecology rules; updating wetland buffer widths to align with the newest Ecology guidance; integrating the City’s Sea Level Rise Response plan; adding references to shoreline restoration assessment reports; and addressing issues identified by staff and stakeholders as needing clarification or improvement. The gap analysis is available on the project webpage.

Where can I learn more about the proposed changes?

Information about the project, its timeline, and draft changes are available on the project webpage at olympiawa.gov/smp.

How can I stay informed?

The three primary ways to keep up to date on progress along the way is to request to be a “Party of Record” for this proposal. Parties of Record will receive updates and will receive a notice prior to the public hearing. To become a Party of Record please email Joyce Phillips at jphillip@ci.olympia.wa.us.

The City has several E-News distribution lists and you can subscribe to any that interest you. For this project, E-News announcements will be sent to the Planning & Development group. You can sign up at olympiawa.gov/subscribe.

The project webpage will be updated as new information, draft documents, or meeting announcements are made. Check back at your convenience at olympiawa.gov/smp.



Shoreline Master Program - Periodic Review

How can I share comments or concerns?

Written comments can be sent to Joyce Phillips, Senior Planner, at jphillip@ci.olympia.wa.us. You can call Joyce at 360.570.3722. Written comments will be shared with the Olympia Planning Commission during its review process, including conducting a public hearing.

Planning Commission meetings offer an opportunity for members of the community to comment at the beginning of the meeting. Planning Commission meeting dates and agenda topics can be found on the City's webpage by clicking on the [Agendas and Minutes](#) link. Additionally, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed changes before it makes a recommendation to City Council.

Does the City make the final decision on the SMP?

The SMP and any revisions to it must be approved by the City Council and the Department of Ecology.