



Thurston County Government

Shoreline Master Program

Lake Lawrence (LLA-8) Proposed Shoreline Environment Designation

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Overview

- Follow up on Lake Lawrence Shoreline Environment Designation (SED) questions

Later on tonight...

- Continue review of Chapter 19.600





Lake Lawrence SED Background

- Have received questions from Lake Lawrence Community Club about proposed SED for LLA-8
 - Also received a separate written comment on this issue
- After consideration of the SED criteria, the PC may revise the proposed SED for public hearing





Lake Lawrence SED Issues Raised

- How much of island (Reach LLA-8) is subject to SMP
- What is an appropriate designation
- Activities planned for future: rebuilding bridges, fencing community-owned parcel, controlling invasive plants, recreation (hiking, boating, kayaking, berry picking)





Background on SEDs

- Local jurisdictions must inventory/characterize shorelines and designate SEDs
- WACs 173-26-191(1)(d) and 173-26-211 provide guidance
- County has designated SEDs for the update using five of six Ecology-recommended designations and consistent criteria
 - Shoreline Residential, Urban Conservancy, Rural Conservancy, Natural, Aquatic
- Previous briefings: June 7, July 19, Sept. 6, Dec. 6, 2017; June 5, 2019; Feb. 19 & June 3, 2020; Jan. 6 & 20, 2021





SED Report Methodology

- Thurston County SED report outlines criteria applied to county shorelines, and methodology
- Inventory & Characterization for each reach evaluated alongside SED criteria to propose SEDs for shoreline reaches
- Preliminary SEDs made to assure protection of shoreline ecological function with proposed development patterns





SED Report Methodology (cont.)

- Reaches designated **Natural** if they have high quality habitat features and/or minimal shoreline modification
- Reaches designated **Shoreline Residential** if platted and/or developed for relatively high density development and show signs of more intense use, incl. majority of lot area within shoreline jurisdiction
- All other shoreline upland of Ordinary High Water Mark given an **Urban or Rural Conservancy** designation





Natural Environment

Purpose

Designation Criteria

Relationship to 1990 SMP and/or WAC

<p>Natural</p>	<p>Protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence, and/or that include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions intolerant of human use. Only very low intensity uses are allowed in order to maintain the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecologically intact and therefore currently performing an important, irreplaceable function or ecosystem-wide process that would be damaged by human activity. • Considered to represent ecosystems and geologic types that are of particular scientific and educational interest • Unable to support new development or uses without significant adverse impacts to ecological functions or risk to human safety. • Includes largely undisturbed portions of shoreline areas such as wetlands, estuaries, unstable bluffs, coastal dunes, spits, and ecologically intact shoreline habitats. • Retain the majority of their natural shoreline functions, as evidenced by shoreline configuration and the presence of native vegetation. • Generally free of structural shoreline modifications, structures, and intensive human uses. 	<p>The "Natural" SED is updated from the 1990 SMP to be consistent with the WAC designation.</p>
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Rural Conservancy Environment

Purpose

Designation Criteria

Relationship to 1990 SMP and/or WAC

<p>Rural Conservancy</p>	<p>Provide for sustained resource use, public access, and recreational opportunities while protecting ecological functions, and conserving existing ecological, historical, and cultural resources,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside incorporated municipalities and outside urban growth areas, AND at least one of the following: • Currently supporting low-intensity resource-based uses such as agriculture, forestry, or recreation. • Currently accommodating residential uses • Supporting human uses but subject to environmental limitations, such as properties that include or are adjacent to steep banks, feeder bluffs, wetlands, flood plains or other flood prone areas • Can support low-intensity water-dependent uses without significant adverse impacts to shoreline functions or processes • Private and/or publically owned lands (upland areas landward of OHWM) of high recreational value or with valuable historic or cultural resources or potential for public access. • Does not meet the designation criteria for the Natural environment. 	<p>The "Rural Conservancy" SED is consistent with the WAC designation. It is most closely related to the 1990 SMP Conservancy Designation. The designation is newly labeled "rural conservancy" as it is intended for rural areas that have intact ecological functions.</p>
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Shoreline Residential Environment

Purpose

Designation Criteria

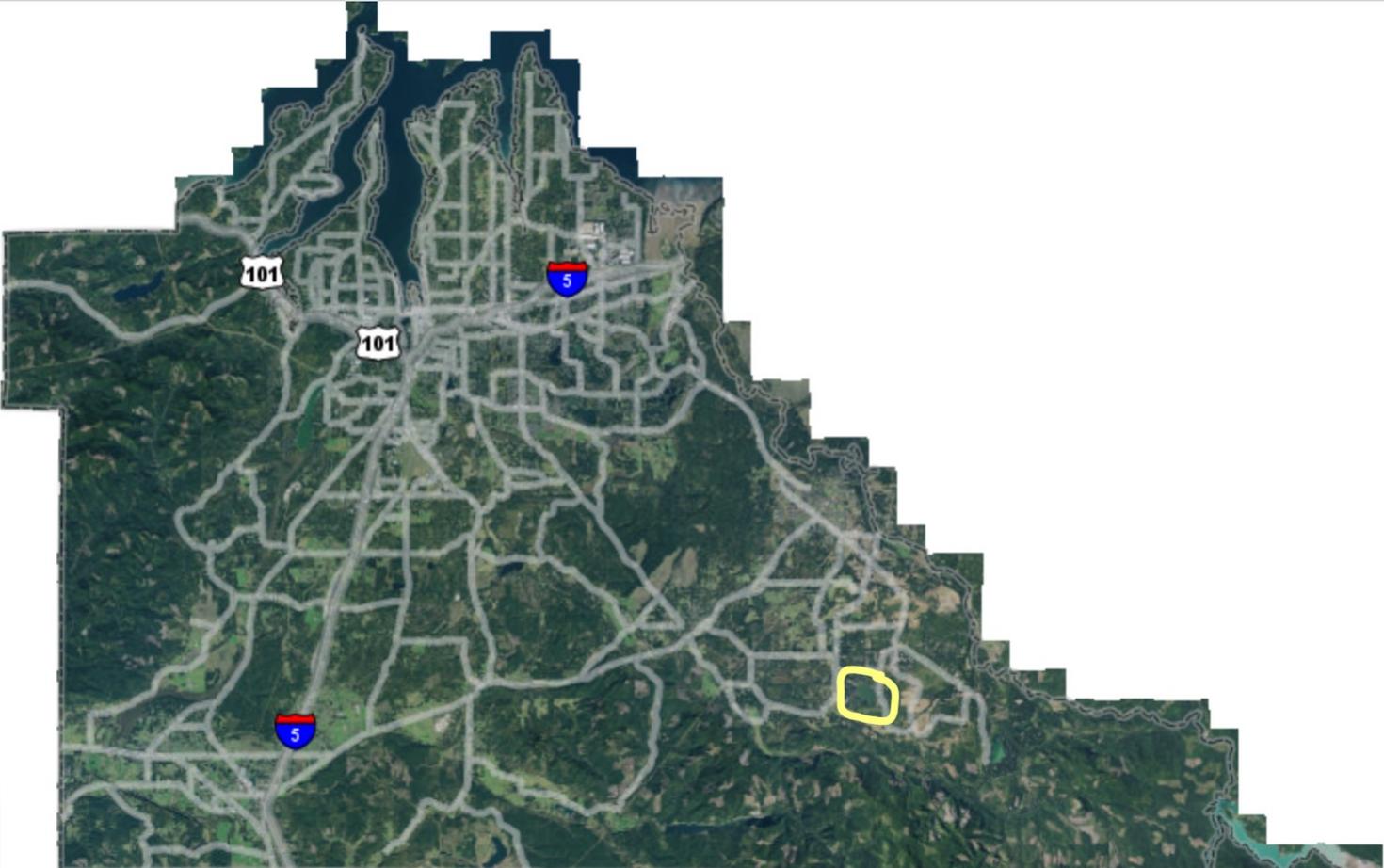
Relationship to 1990 SMP and/or WAC

<p>Shoreline Residential</p>	<p>To accommodate residential development and appurtenant structures and provide appropriate public access and recreational uses in areas where medium and high density residential developments and services exist or are planned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet the criteria for the Natural or Rural Conservancy Environments. • Predominantly single-family or multifamily residential development or are planned and platted for residential development. • Majority of the lot area is within the shoreline jurisdiction. • Ecological functions have been impacted by more intense modification and use. 	<p>This is a new SED intended for residential or planned residential areas that generally do not have intact ecological functions. The "Shoreline Residential" SED is consistent with the WAC designation. It is most related to the 1990 SMP Rural Designation.</p>
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Lake Lawrence





Lake Lawrence: LLA-8



Reach LLA-8 is proposed as Natural in the draft SMP.



LLA-8 – Current Designation (1990 SMP)



- Portion of property is mapped as Natural in the 1990 SMP
- Regardless of mapping, associated wetlands (and lake shorelands) are subject to the SMP
- Jurisdiction is determined at the site-level during land use review

LLA-8 vs. Natural Criteria



Protect those shoreline areas that are relatively free of human influence, and/or that include intact or minimally degraded shoreline functions intolerant of human use. Only very low intensity uses are allowed in order to maintain the ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.

- Ecologically intact and therefore currently performing an important, irreplaceable function or ecosystem-wide process that would be damaged by human activity.
- Considered to represent ecosystems and geologic types that are of particular scientific and educational interest
- Unable to support new development or uses without significant adverse impacts to ecological functions or risk to human safety.
- Includes largely undisturbed portions of shoreline areas such as wetlands, estuaries, unstable bluffs, coastal dunes, spits, and ecologically intact shoreline habitats.
- Retain the majority of their natural shoreline functions, as evidenced by shoreline configuration and the presence of native vegetation.
- Generally free of structural shoreline modifications, structures, and intensive human uses.



LLA-8 vs. Rural Conservancy Criteria



Provide for sustained resource use, public access, and recreational opportunities while protecting ecological functions, and conserving existing ecological, historical, and cultural resources,

- Outside incorporated municipalities and outside urban growth areas, AND at least one of the following:
- Currently supporting low-intensity resource-based uses such as agriculture, forestry, or recreation.
- Currently accommodating residential uses
- Supporting human uses but subject to environmental limitations, such as properties that include or are adjacent to steep banks, feeder bluffs, wetlands, flood plains or other flood prone areas
- Can support low-intensity water-dependent uses without significant adverse impacts to shoreline functions or processes
- Private and/or publically owned lands (upland areas landward of OHWM) of high recreational value or with valuable historic or cultural resources or potential for public access.
- Does not meet the designation criteria for the Natural environment.





LLA-8 vs. Shoreline Residential Criteria



To accommodate residential development and appurtenant structures and provide appropriate public access and recreational uses in areas where medium and high density residential developments and services exist or are planned.

- Does not meet the criteria for the Natural or Rural Conservancy Environments.
- Predominantly single-family or multifamily residential development or are planned and platted for residential development.
- Majority of the lot area is within the shoreline jurisdiction.
- Ecological functions have been impacted by more intense modification and use.





Information to consider

- Reaches may not fit neatly in one SED box; may meet criteria of more than one SED
- SMP jurisdiction includes associated wetlands and shorelands of lakes
- SMP jurisdiction is determined in the field

Reach	Current Designation	Proposed Designation
LLA-8	Natural (smaller area currently mapped)	Natural





'Ecologically intact'

- WAC 173-26-211(5)(a)(iii) includes this term in the designation criteria for the Natural SED
- A "natural" environment designation should be assigned to shoreline areas if any of the following characteristics apply:
 - (A) The shoreline is ecologically intact and therefore currently performing an important, irreplaceable function or ecosystem-wide process that would be damaged by human activity;
 - ...
 - (C) The shoreline is unable to support new development or uses without significant adverse impacts to ecological functions or risk to human safety.
- Such shoreline areas include largely undisturbed portions of shoreline...such as wetlands, estuaries, unstable bluffs, coastal dunes, spits, and ecologically intact shoreline habitats....
- Ecologically intact shorelines, as used here, means those shoreline areas that retain the majority of their natural shoreline functions, as evidenced by the shoreline configuration and the presence of native vegetation. Generally, but not necessarily, ecologically intact shorelines are free of structural shoreline modifications, structures, and intensive human uses. In forested areas, they generally include native vegetation with diverse plant communities, multiple canopy layers, and the presence of large woody debris available for recruitment to adjacent water bodies. Recognizing that there is a continuum of ecological conditions ranging from near natural conditions to totally degraded and contaminated sites, **this term is intended to delineate those shoreline areas that provide valuable functions for the larger aquatic and terrestrial environments which could be lost or significantly reduced by human development.** Whether or not a shoreline is ecologically intact is determined on a case-by-case basis.



Staff Findings

- LLA-8: Appears to meet some criteria of both **Natural** and **Rural Conservancy** SED. Either designation may be appropriate.
 - Generally free of structures, used for passive recreation, shoreline configuration has been altered in past, environmental limitations present.





Planning Commission Discussion



Continuing SMP Review: Proposed Chapter 19.600

