

# SMP FACT SHEET #7

## Environmental Protection

### How Does the SMP Protect the Environment?

- All jurisdictions with shorelines in Washington State are required to prepare a Shoreline Master Program (SMP).
- There are many goals and policies in the State's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), including protection of environmental resources and promotion of public access and recreation opportunities. Priority is given to uses that require a shoreline location.
- Thurston County's SMP allows for development of the shoreline to occur while protecting shoreline ecological function.
- State law requires Shoreline Master Programs result in a *No Net Loss*.
  - Over time, the existing condition of shoreline ecological functions should remain the same throughout SMP implementation.
- The County's SMP protects shorelines, ensuring their ability to:
  - Remove sediment, nutrients and toxic compounds before they enter the water,
  - Provide habitat for fish and wildlife,
  - Reduce shoreline erosion, and
  - Maintain water temperatures vital to fish and other marine organisms' survival.

### How Does the County's SMP Meet No Net Loss Requirements?

- Thurston County's SMP:
  - Inventories all shorelines and applies Shoreline Environment Designations (SEDs) that reflect the sensitivity of each shoreline.
  - Establishes buffers to protect shoreline function against negative impacts from development.
  - Requires specific design standards for projects, ensuring reduced impact to the environment.
  - Prohibits uses that aren't water-oriented or "preferred" shoreline uses as outlined by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).
  - Avoids impacts where possible and requires mitigation for unavoidable impacts.
  - Promotes preservation and restoration of ecological areas.

[www.ThurstonPlanning.org](http://www.ThurstonPlanning.org)



THURSTON COUNTY  
WASHINGTON  
SINCE 1852

## Shoreline Master Program (SMP)

**\*NOT YET ADOPTED - OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.**

## ASK STAFF

Thurston County's SMP covers most shoreline building projects.

**Contact Us** about your site and which permits may still be required.

## READ THE CODE

**Title 19**

**TC Current Shoreline Codes**

## FIND IT ONLINE

**Shoreline Master Program Webpage**