Press Release

“What are your favorite and least favorite places along the fresh- and salt-water shorelines in Thurston County?”

County planners are holding a series of workshops to ask this question of citizens living in unincorporated Thurston County. The information gathered will aid in updating its Shoreline Master Program.

The Shoreline Master Program guides the development and use of the fresh- and salt-water shorelines within the unincorporated areas of the county. The purpose of this update is to bring the Shoreline Master Program in compliance with new management guidelines required by the State of Washington’s Shoreline Management Act. The county expects the planning process to take three years to complete.

The first series of workshops held by the county will focus on introducing citizens to the Shoreline Master Program and allowing them work with maps to identify their favorite and least favorite places along county shorelines. Already there have been workshops held for the Black Lake/Deschutes River and the southeastern areas of the county. Upcoming workshops include:

- For the Henderson Inlet/Nisqually Reach Area
  Lacey Timberland Library, 500 College Street SE
  Tuesday, April 29

- For Southwest Thurston County (Rochester Area)
  Rochester Community Center, 10140 Highway 12 SW
  Wednesday, May 21

- For the Totten, Eld, Budd Inlets Areas
  Griffen Fire Hall, 3707 Steamboat Loop NW
  Thursday, May 29

Citizens and county staff will use the information collected at these first workshops to develop goals for shoreline development and use during the second round of workshops that will happen in the fall of 2008.

For more information, check out the county’s project website at: http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/permitting/shoreline-master-program/index.htm