

CITY OF KIRKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**Updating the Shoreline Master Program**

**OPEN HOUSE**

Monday, June 9th, 2008, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**SUMMARY**  
**OF KEY THEMES, ISSUES AND CITIZENS' SUGGESTIONS**

**GOALS**

These were the primary goals of the Open House sponsored by Kirkland's Department of Planning and Community Development:

- 1) Provide broad notice to property owners and other interested citizens of the City's Shoreline Master Program and opportunities available to engage in the process;
- 2) For participants to advise the City on what issues are of greatest interest and concern to them and, therefore, should be included in the update;
- 3) Identify the future vision of the waterfront in 25 years; and
- 4) For participants to prioritize key tools that the City should use in implementing the updated Shoreline Master Program.

**WHO ATTENDED THE OPEN HOUSE?**

In total 31 participants attended the Open House. Most participants identified themselves as waterfront property owners. Other attendees included former City Councilmember Nona Ganz, Planning Commission members, and representatives from the local Audubon Society, a local waterfront construction contractor, and Washington Department of Natural Resources. Mayor Jim Lauinger opened the meeting.

**THE AGENDA**

To understand the process used at the open house, please see the agenda that is attached at the back of this document.

**ISSUES TO ADDRESS IN THE SMP UPDATE**

- 1. WHAT DO STAKEHOLDERS LIKE BEST ABOUT THE WATERFRONT NOW?**

The participants who attended the open house said that they most value these qualities and characteristics of Kirkland's Lake Washington waterfront (there was no effort made to achieve consensus on these):

1. Natural areas
  - a. Juanita and Yarrow Bays
  - b. Vegetation & wildlife
  - c. A natural "getaway" in an otherwise urban environment
2. Abundant public access points
3. Educational and other programs at Juanita Bay Park
4. Swimming
5. Water quality
6. Marina & Marina Park – gateway drawing people from around the lake
7. Mixed-use
8. Walkability (public walkways along waterways)
9. Property rights protection
10. Use and planning of Juanita Beach Park, diversity of people using park

## **2. WHAT CONCERNS DO STAKEHOLDERS HAVE ABOUT KIRKLAND'S WATERFRONT NOW?**

The participants who attended the Open House said that they have the most concerns about the following characteristics or management of Kirkland's Lake Washington waterfront (there was no effort made to achieve consensus on these):

1. Water quality
2. Salmon habitat viability
3. Funding
  - a. Tax for Juanita Beach Park improvements
  - b. Desire for user fees (for non-residents who use Kirkland's parks)
  - c. Use money for land acquisition, not just programs or facilities
4. Naturalize waterfront
  - a. Remove bulkheads
  - b. Establish gravel waterfront w/ vegetation
5. Public access (acquiring new City-owned waterfront access points and preserving existing ones)
6. Need for clear definition of private property rights
7. Increasing city-owned property along the waterfront
8. Non-native and invasive plant and wildlife species
9. Distance of motorcraft from shore (need no wake zones)
10. Increasing public information about distinction between parks and open space natural areas to prevent misunderstanding that Juanita Bay might be an active park
11. Wetland, stream and stormwater runoff water quality (draining to Lake Washington)

## **3. WHAT DO STAKEHOLDERS ENVISION THE SHORELINE TO BE IN 25 YEARS, IF THE CITY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN MANAGING KIRKLAND'S SHORELINES?**

The participants who attended the Open House said in their future, the Kirkland shoreline has the following qualities and characteristics (there was no effort made to achieve consensus on these):

1. Wildlife conditions improved
  - a. Bird, aquatic life, and other wildlife diversity increased
  - b. Resilient elodea
2. Milfoil controlled

3. More trees, in particular replacement of those lost to storms
4. Juanita Beach Park improved
5. Better access
6. Safer/healthier waterfront conditions
  - a. Safe to swim
  - b. Safe to eat fish
  - c. Marine patrol to monitor boat speed
7. Pollution controlled
  - a. Trash from boaters and/or waterfront property owners decreased
  - b. Polluted stormwater runoff decreased
8. More City-owned waterfront parks
9. More handicapped accessibility
10. "Lid" (cover) on the Marina Park parking lot, with additional public amenities on the lid
11. Enhanced security at City parks (decreased vandalism, esp. along public access)
12. Overall improved water quality
13. Moorage for public at Marina Park
14. In Juanita Bay in particular, improved water quality, reduced garbage, and prohibition on jetskis/boats which disturb area wildlife with noise
15. Better signage (boats required to stay "x" ft. from shoreline, speed limits)
16. Balance between property owner benefits and public benefits
17. Sewer hook-ups (for properties draining to Lake Washington)
18. Ferry service
19. More green space

**4. WHAT TOOLS SHOULD THE CITY USE TO HELP APPROPRIATELY MANAGE EXISTING AND FUTURE SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT?**

Participants were provided three (3) stickers and asked to place one at each of the management tools they feel the City should focus its attention. This exercise provided a prioritization of the tools, which are listed below.

1. Installing capital improvements on City-owned property such as retrofitting bulkheads at city parks (19 stickers)
2. Providing incentives to property owners who enhance shoreline areas such as expedited permit review and reduced fees (15)
3. Allowing flexibility in development standards such as reduced setbacks (14)
4. Acquiring City-owned property along the shoreline (12)
5. Adopting regulations such as requiring vegetation management for new home or pier construction (7)
6. Providing more information on shoreline protection (N/A - not listed as option)

Citizens also identified these additional ideas:

- Protecting property rights rather than eroding them (12 stickers)
- Giving environmental protection priority over recreation or property ownership (1)
- Keeping a tough standard on setbacks, not allowing flexibility (1)

**WHAT OTHER ISSUES WERE IDENTIFIED OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THE FACILITATED DISCUSSION?**

Issues that participants expressed during the facilitated discussion that were not within the scope of the conversation were recorded and listed below:

- Storm water runoff reduction from streets and properties uphill from lake
- Pedestrian safety/traffic congestion reduction along Lake Washington Boulevard
- Increased marine patrol (police patrol boat(s))
- Noise issues (specifically regarding personal watercraft operating in Juanita Bay) - noise carries up hill and can be heard a distance from the lakefront.
- Septic issue: wanting septic systems to be shut down and convert/tie in to wastewater system; especially concerning the contamination of Juanita Creek from upstream properties on septic
- User fees for non-Kirkland residents to use city parks



# SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE



## Community Open House Monday, June 9th

### Agenda

#### **6:30 – 7:30 PM – OPEN HOUSE**

Please sign-in, review background information and display boards, ask questions of available staff, meet other attendees, complete a survey, and enjoy a refreshment or snack.

#### **I. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS – 6:45 PM**

Mayor Lauinger

#### **II. OVERVIEW MEETING FORMAT AND GOALS – 7:00 PM**

Marie Stake, Communications Manager

#### **7:30 – 8:30 PM – VISIONING EXERCISE**

Marie Stake, Communications Manager

III. What do you like best about the waterfront now?

IV. Imagine that it is the year 2033 (25 years from now). How will we know if we've been successful in managing Kirkland's shorelines?

V. What concerns you most about Kirkland's waterfront now?

VI. What tools should the City use to help appropriately manage existing and future shoreline development?

VII. Summarize key themes from tonight's meeting.

#### **8:30 PM – ADJOURN**

Thank you for participating! Please continue to stay involved.