



Date: August 22, 2008

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Camron Parker, Senior Planner
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Invitation - Boat Tour Focusing on Shoreline Management Issues
(Please RSVP)

The City of Bellevue is required by state law to maintain a Shorelines Master Program. This document acts as a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance that applies to all land within 200 feet of Lake Washington, Lake Sammamish, Phantom Lake and Lower Kelsey Creek. The City's Development Services Department in preparing an update to the existing plan. Parks & Community Services has a general interest in how this plan affects Bellevue's environmental attributes such as water quality and habitat preservation. There is also a more direct interest considering that Parks & Community Services is a significant property owner and land manager of shoreline property and this plan regulates the department's ability to develop public access to the waterfront.

As part of the planning process, a boat tour of the Lake Washington shoreline has been scheduled to provide more information on this initiative for the City Council, Boards and Commissions, and others. More specific information is provided below along with instructions on how to RSVP. If you do RSVP, please also let Nancy Harvey know so that we are aware of which Board members will be attending.

If you have further questions about the Shoreline Master Program, please contact Camron Parker, Senior Planner, Parks & Community Services at (425) 452-2032 or cparker@bellevuewa.gov

Boat tour to focus on shoreline management issues

In an effort to gain first-hand knowledge of the issues confronting Bellevue as it updates its shoreline management regulations, the city's Planning Commission will host an informational cruise of Bellevue's Lake Washington waterfront in September.

Guided by the Watershed Company, an environmental consulting firm, the tour will help Commission members understand existing conditions and the specific requirements of the update.

The boat will sail promptly from Newport Shores Yacht Club (81 Skagit Key) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20,

with boarding beginning at 12:30. Members of the Bellevue City Council, city boards and commissions and staff from permitting agencies and local Indian tribes are also expected to attend.

The three-hour tour is open to the public, but space is limited. (To inquire about the tour or to RSVP, please call 425-452-4392 or e-mail sltaylor@bellevuewa.gov.)

Bellevue's Shoreline Management Program and Overlay District, essentially a planning and zoning ordinance that governs shoreline development, was approved in 1974, following passage of the Shoreline Management Act at the state level.

Intended to prevent the "inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the state's shorelines," the law's broad policies include encouraging water-dependent uses, protecting shoreline natural resources and promoting public access. Cities like Bellevue are responsible for local regulation, but the state Department of Ecology reviews local programs and permit decisions.

In 2003 the state revised its shoreline management guidelines to emphasize ecologically appropriate development and to reinforce the other goals of the Act. As a consequence, Bellevue has to update its shoreline regulations by 2010.

The city's web page offers more details about this project: <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/shoreline-master-plan.htm>