



Covington Shoreline Master Program:

Periodic Review Public Participation Plan

Introduction

The City of Covington is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act¹. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other Covington plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data.

This Public Participation Plan describes:

- How Covington will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the review process
- Opportunities for public engagement and public comment
- Contact information for staff and web addresses

This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to provide for the greatest and broadest public participation.

Project Goals

This is a periodic, not comprehensive, update of the City's 2011 SMP and therefore will focus on:

- Making legislative updates as outlined in Ecology's SMP Checklist.
- Consistency with the recently adopted regulations for critical areas and flood hazard

¹ RCW 90.58.080(4)

areas – the City’s preference is to reference these codified sections in the SMP.

- Improving the functionality of the SMP by codifying the shoreline regulations and potentially moving the SMP policies into the City’s Comprehensive Plan.
- Adding informational graphics to the SMP regulations and/or create informational brochures to illustrate regulations where it would be most informative to applicants.
- Making definitions consistent, specifically those within Title 18.
- Ensuring that shoreline mapping is up to date – the City may have information related to floodplain boundary and critical areas which may affect mapping of shoreline jurisdiction.

COVINGTON SMP GOALS

The following are Covington’s SMP goals as stated in the Comprehensive Plan Shoreline Element (2016).

- **Goal S–I.** Ensure that any economic activity taking place along the shoreline does not harm the quality of the site’s environment or adjacent shorelands, and that new non-residential development provides public access to the shoreline for water enjoyment activities.
- **Goal S–II.** Increase the amount and diversity of public access to the shoreline and preserve and enhance views of the shoreline consistent with the natural shoreline character, private rights, and public safety.
- **Goal S–III.** Encourage diverse, water-oriented recreational opportunities in those shoreline areas that can reasonably tolerate such uses without destroying the integrity and character of the shoreline.
- **Goal S–IV.** Maintain safe, reasonable and adequate vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation systems to shorelines and ensure that these routes will have the least possible adverse effect on unique or fragile shoreline features and existing ecological systems, while contributing to the functional and visual enhancement of the shoreline.
- **Goal S–V.** Preserve, protect, and restore to the greatest extent feasible the natural resources of the shoreline, including but not limited to scenic vistas, aesthetics, and vital riparian areas for wildlife protection.
- **Goal S–VI.** Ensure that the land use patterns within shoreline areas are compatible with shoreline environment designations and will be sensitive to and not degrade habitat and

ecological systems and other shoreline resources.

- **Goal S–VII.** Identify, protect, preserve, and restore important archaeological, historical and cultural sites located in shoreline jurisdiction of Covington for their educational and scientific value as well as for the recreational enjoyment of the general public.
- **Goal S–VIII.** Protect the City of Covington from losses and damage created by flooding.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners and stakeholders about their concerns, questions and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to informally review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process and provide those comments to decision makers.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal, and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

Public Participation Opportunities

Covington is committed to providing opportunities for public participation throughout the process, using a variety of tools, including the following:

WEBSITE

Covington’s website will include a unique SMP webpage to host files and post public notifications. It can be found at: www.covingtonwa.gov/SMP. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section. Interested parties can access draft documents, official notices, and other project information.

NOTICING

The City will initially reach out to property owners within shoreline jurisdiction via post card and newspaper advertisements. The City will also maintain an email or contact list to notify interested parties regarding Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities. Interested parties can be added to the list by contacting Ann Mueller, Senior Planner, at 253–480–2444, amueller@covingtonwa.gov, or Krista Bates, Assistant Planner, at 253–480–2449, kbates@covingtonwa.gov in the Community Development Department.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the Covington City Council. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission meetings and deliberations.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

The City may utilize various methods for in-person engagement. Opportunities may include open house meetings or information tables at community events.

COMMENT

All documents under consideration will be available on the project webpage and available for review at the Covington Planning Department. Documents may be provided for the cost of their copying. Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to Covington by letter or email. All comments will be forwarded to the Covington Planning Commission.

Stakeholders

Covington will engage the following stakeholders:

- Covington residents and businesses, particularly those along the shoreline areas of Big Soos Creek, Jenkins Creek and Pipe Lake
- Environmental groups, such as Friends of Soos Creek, Green River Coalition, Rainier Audubon Society
- Adjacent jurisdictions: King County, City of Kent, City of Maple Valley
- State and Federal Agencies and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Timeline

| Spring 2018 | Summer 2018 | Fall 2018 |
|---|---|--|
| Project Kick-off Establish a Public Participation Plan | Staff Analysis and Review of SMP Begin Outreach and Notification | Draft of Proposed Changes Environmental Review (SEPA)* Public Open House* Planning Commission Review* City Council Review* |

This is a general timeline for the SMP periodic review. Opportunities for comment are shown with an asterisk *. During the Planning Commission review, the City will conduct a public comment period and hold at least one public hearing to solicit input on the proposed changes to the SMP. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process.