

ShoreScore Update

Nov. 5, 2011



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**NOTICE – The Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Nov. 9th
has been postponed until Nov. 16th**

SMP – Planning Commission

The City Planning Commission has been deliberating the 350+ page draft shoreline regulations. After attempting to digest them on a line-by-line basis, they've altered course and are taking an issue oriented approach. At their last meeting a motion was approved to eliminate the proposed additional 25 ft. of vegetation conservation area. As you'll recall, this 25 ft. buffer was added in 2006 under the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO), increasing the required total setback to 50 ft. The majority of the commission felt the standard in place from 1973 until 2006 was the basis under which much of the shoreline has developed and should remain at that level.

The next topic of discussion (for Nov. 16th) will be the setback itself – Should it remain at 25 ft.? What will you be able to do? Can you rebuild your house? Will your patio or boat ramp be declared non-conforming? Residents on all 3 City lakes should be concerned about the answers to these questions.

WSSA will make recommendations on your behalf, but we encourage your attendance or support to do so. To review last meeting's recommendations, [click here](#).

Phantom Lake –

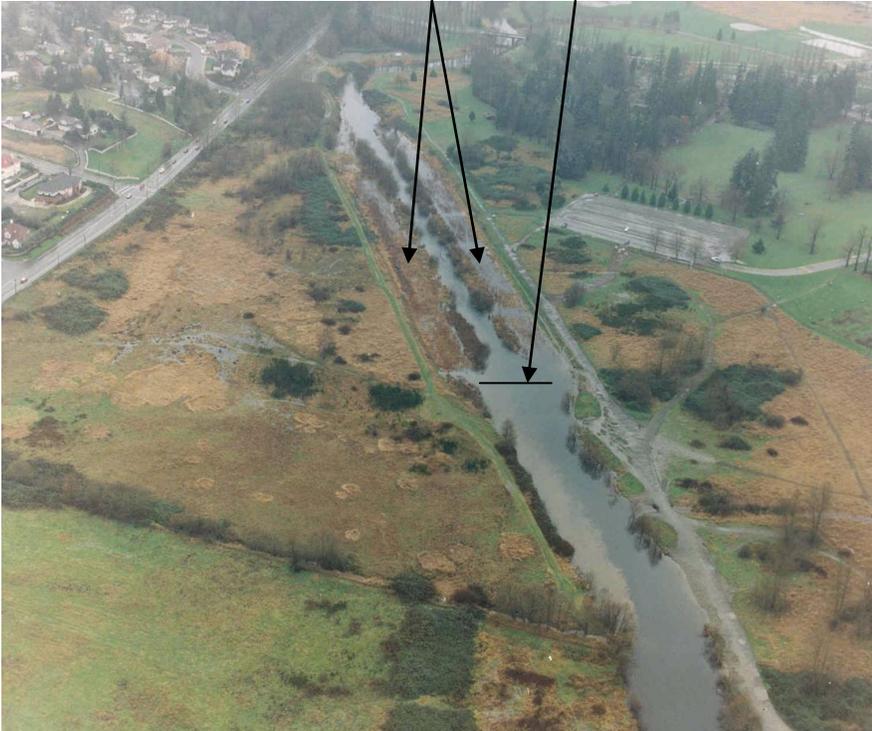
Phantom Lake Homeowners Association president, Brian Parks, reports that, "Despite having paid for management of streams and lakes in their Utilities' storm drainage charges, residents are still in jeopardy. The City stance is that Phantom Lake and the outlet running through private property are the responsibility of the residents."

PLHO continues to point out that as downstream residents they suffer from City actions/inactions from as far away as Eastgate; yet they have no control of the resulting drainage volumes or its polluting effects. While the City carried out this summer's cleaning of the outlet channel and the upstream detention pond, the City position remains that a drainage improvement (taxation) district must be formed to do so in the future. "Combine these drainage issues with the City's intent to declare most lakeshore properties as Critical Areas and you see why we're in double jeopardy," Brian noted, adding, "The Planning Commission can effectively resolve this dilemma through proper SMP policies and ordinances."

Lake Sammamish – Marymoor Weir

In late September, King County completed a first phase clearing of the river channel just below the weir in Marymoor Park. This consisted of trimming native plants which had been allowed to grow in the center channel, and cutting the tall grasses blocking the two outside channels. As you'll recall, these outside channels are intended to carry higher flows and are critical to maintaining lake water levels. Debris from the cuttings over the last decade was allowed to accumulate (i.e., were not removed) so that flow was impaired to the extent that the original project's flow levels can no longer occur. The County plans *to study* how and when this blockage can be removed.

Sammamish River Channels & Weir in Flood Season



WSSA members, as well as residents around the lake, have continued to monitor this situation. This has been important; since the County's clearing efforts uncovered a hidden problem. You'll find more on this and some interesting information and pictures in the report found at our website – [Weir Report](#).

As we did in the last issue of ShoreScore, we urge you to heed the rising water levels on our lakes and take the necessary actions to keep debris and objects from becoming a hazard.

Mystery Foam

What's that foam along many of our shorelines? We were curious too. Is this from pollution? Is it from folks washing their cars and the detergents flowing into the lakes?



WSSA board member Marty Nizlek recently took a sample from Lake Sammamish and had it tested at a local lab. The results indicated the foam was **not** from soap detergent. More expensive tests were not undertaken, but, in lay terms, here is what the lab speculates as the most likely cause.

The foam occurs at this time of year for two reasons. First, the warm weather has increased the number of organisms living in the lake. As cooler weather descends on us, many of these little creatures (bacteria, etc.) die off. Their dead cells produce substances (technically called

surfactants) which act like detergents. Add increasing fall wind patterns and the combination results in the foam that we've seen repeatedly this season.

Does this mean there's no pollution? Absolutely not! As you've been hearing lately in the news, storm water runoff is being recognized as a major culprit. A host of toxins are swept into the lake from runoff with each storm and the heavier the rain, the more detrimental effect to the lakes. Among the chemicals dumped in are nitrates and phosphates which stimulate the growth of the creatures mentioned above. At its extreme, these creatures will suck up all the available oxygen in the top layer of water. Fertilizers are heavy in nitrates and phosphates. While shoreline property owners are directed not to use such fertilizers, the key is getting upland property owners to join in, but more important is the prevention of runoff untreated into the lakes.

[Click Here](#) to review more information about foam online, or [click here](#) to read about chemical effects.

We Need Your Support –

Our efforts to represent you have not stopped. Indeed, we're at a critical phase of the process of assuring the regulations, as proposed by staff, are modified to protect property rights while meeting state regulations. Using the expertise of our attorney, we're continually pointing out to the Planning Commission where Planning and Dept. of Ecology staff would have them believe that what they've written in the draft SMP is truly required by the Shoreline Management Act. As one example, the state mandates that developments of over 4 units or more require public access to lake shores. However, Bellevue staff has not advised the Planning Commission that "Public Access" can be provided merely by provision of a view of the lake. This is but one example where your support has made a difference.

Please consider contributing to help us keep our efforts going. Send your contribution to -

WSSA, P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue WA 98008

or use PayPal at our home page - <http://sensibleshorelines.org/>

We Urge You to Vote –

WSSA urges you to vote AND that you consider your rights as property owners when you do!