

## ShoreScore Update

Nov. 2014



**Bellevue City Council will consider the SMP on Monday, Dec. 1st. (6pm, City Hall) PLEASE ATTEND!**

### **NEW Draft SMP Changes Requirements for Activities Within 50 Feet of the Shore**

WSSA Board members and our attorney have been meeting with City staff regarding proposed changes to the rules affecting all types of actions within 50 feet of the shoreline. The City Council had directed the Staff to make revisions to mitigation requirements that apply when homes or other impervious surfaces are expanded. The Staff went well beyond that direction and created an entirely new mitigation formula not used in any other jurisdiction. The changes would regulate not only home and patio expansions, but also mere landscaping modifications anywhere within 50 feet of the shoreline. We need your help to ensure that the City Council recognizes your concerns and makes needed corrections to these excessive Staff changes.

#### **The following points need to be made to the City Council:**

- The concerns raised by WSSA need to be addressed with reasonable changes.
- Regulating mere landscaping modifications is unacceptable; there is no basis or need for micromanaging of landscaping modifications.
- Existing lawn and vegetation already act as a water quality filter - so making landscaping modifications creates no new impact.
- Regulating landscaping modifications to 50' doubles the restrictive "No Touch" critical areas buffer.
- Property owners will strongly support a voluntary program for native vegetation planting.
- The Mitigation formula is complicated & untested, even if applied only to home/patio expansions.
- The Mitigation formula must be changed to make it acceptable & apply to home/patio expansions.
- Higher thresholds (i.e., amount of development) are needed before requiring costly mitigation.
- An exception is needed to allow removal of vegetation to eliminate rodent problems.
- Options other than just planting native vegetation or tall trees need to be included.
- Restrictions on significant tree removal and mitigation need to be better linked to any impacts.
- Mitigation for significant tree removal should be allowed anywhere within 200' of the shore.

**Want More Information?** Click on any of the following to be taken to our online resources:

- > *How did the City justify the last minute changes described above?* ([Click Here](#))
- > *Can you provide detailed examples of how mitigation would be determined?* ([Click Here](#))
- > *Show me the actual regulation changes and proposed code for residential uses.* ([Click Here](#))
- > *Read WSSA's position as written by our attorney and conveyed to the Council.* ([Click Here](#))

## CALL TO ACTION - HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. **Email** the City Council **THIS WEEKEND** ([Council@BellevueWA.Gov](mailto:Council@BellevueWA.Gov)) letting them know the radical changes that have been brought to them reflect an unacceptable, unjustified increase in restrictions. Make any of the above points in your own words. The City Council gets fewer emails than you think, and numbers matter. You can also deliver a letter to Council on Monday to City Hall at the Service First Desk in the main lobby.
2. **Attend** the meeting on Monday, December 1st, at City Hall. The meeting is set to begin at 6:00 p.m., but at this time there is no agenda so there may be a delayed start. Your attendance matters because the City Council can see the resolve in your numbers and the passion in your faces. Please **raise your hand** when you agree with statements made by Council or Staff, but please **refrain from audible responses** to statements you disagree with. There will not be an opportunity for public comment. That's why we prepared and submitted information this week.
3. **Send a tax deductible contribution to WSSA today at P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue, 98008.**

**Unfortunately, the Staff changes were so complicated that a substantial number of hours and multiple meetings were required by our attorney, Charlie Klinge, to dissect the harsh rules buried in the fine print. Plus, additional attorney time was required to prepare comments.**

[\(Click Here\)](#)

**We are seeking to protect your right to reasonably use your property without excessive and unnecessary government interference. We greatly appreciate past contributions and ask that all shoreline property owners assist us in defending those rights by acting right now by making a tax deductible contribution.**