

SHORELINE RESTORATION

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), working its way through the City Planning Commission, will have both a regulatory portion and a non-regulatory portion. Think of the first as the laws that will apply to residents. Think of the second, the non-regulatory part, as those programs and projects that might be performed by others, such as the City.



(Example of Shoreline Restoration on a Residential Parcel)

Since the last issue of ShoreScore, WSSA has provided input to City planning staff on items for inclusion in the Restoration Program portion of the SMP. Here are several recommendations –

Lake WA –

City Recommendation for Lk WA Parks	WSSA Request
Restore large sections of shoreline (in most shoreline parks) by removing riprap, restabilizing shoreline using bioengineered solutions (soft shoreline treatment), and planting native vegetation.	All armoring actions along lake shore must be engineered to assure stability and protection for existing conditions, such as wave action. Access for the public to enjoy the shoreline proper should be provided both physically and visually.
Meydenbauer Bay Park – replace 800 ft. of armored shoreline with bio-engineered design, reduce over-water coverage by 35%, revegetate 4,000 sq ft.	All restoration of Meydenbauer Bay Park/Marina shall be subject to the Council adopted Master Plan and Implementation Principles.

Phantom Lake –

City Recommendation for Phantom Lake	WSSA Request
Phantom Lake Inlet – restore to natural conditions including Large Wood Debris, removal of shoreline armoring, and replanting native vegetation.	Remove this project. It is incompatible with resolving documented water balance and pollution problems. This channel is man-made and not subject to restoration.
Acquire lakefront property as it becomes available and set up a conservation easement along the shoreline.	Remove this project. Such a nebulous, unfunded program will lead to depressed land values and may subject the City to unnecessary lawsuits.

Lake Sammamish –

City Recommendation for Lake Sammamish	WSSA Request
Work with landowners with creek outfalls, whether piped or not, to enhance juvenile salmon rearing habitat.	Restrict effort to only those locations where it can be documented that endangered salmon have habituated AND list these locations explicitly for property owner awareness.
Restore Vasa Park’s shoreline to native conditions	Remove this project. Vasa Park is privately owned.

You can review the entire document with WSSA’s recommended changes and edits at [WSSA Restoration Plan](#).

PHANTOM LAKE “WeirGate”

Phantom Lake is unique within the SMP. It is the only lake under consideration wholly within City limits. It also is not home to endangered salmon. These conditions do not simplify how it should be managed, whether within the SMP or with respect to storm water management. A long history of studies and “management” actions and inactions precedes the current efforts to plan for its future. Fortunately, members of PLHO’s Board have taken the time to understand and document this history.

At its June 13th meeting, the Planning Commission was provided both a slide show and an extensive report by PLHO president, Brian Parks.



The key recommendations included for the Commission –

- Improved Operation & Maintenance of the Weir and Outlet Channel (by the City)
- Management of the Lake Water Level to Maintain a Limit of 260.7 ft (NAVD)
- NO! To Creation of a Lake Maintenance District (LMD) (as it would be unjust, placing the burden solely on PL residents)
- YES! To Regulating PL Under the SMP and Not the Critical Areas Ordinance

The complete report submitted to the City by Brian Parks can be found at [Phantom’s WeirGate](#).

SMP PROGRESS REPORT

A revised SMP is being prepared. City planning staff was directed by the Commission to incorporate a variety of changes to the draft reviewed by the public a year ago. WSSA has been advised that the revisions will be presented to the Commission later this month. At that time, the commissioners will need to decide how closely it reflects their intentions and how much time they will spend reviewing it. Most likely another public hearing will be held, and then the Commission’s final recommendations will be sent to the City Council. WSSA anticipates this will not occur until early fall.

As at last year’s public hearing, your input will be needed again!

YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to those who responded to our recent request for support.

Contributions can be sent to: WSSA, P.O. Box 6773, Bellevue 98008