

## 2. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT ELEMENT

### INTRODUCTION

The quality of life in the Pacific Northwest is often equated with the quality of the environment. Protecting and restoring air quality, water resources, soils, and plant, fish and animal habitats are important goals for the City of Medina.

This is particularly vital in light of federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of several salmonid species. Coho salmon and steelhead trout are listed as threatened by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Chinook salmon are listed as endangered. Bull trout are listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All of these species are found in Lake Washington.

Medina is committed to federal, state, and regional goals of endangered species recovery of listed salmon species by addressing salmon habitat needs within and adjacent to its boundaries within Lake Washington. However, protecting these resources is challenging for a fully developed community.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that comprehensive plans establish critical areas policies based on best available science as defined by WAC 365-195-905. In addition, "...cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries." King County countywide planning policies (CPP) provides that, "Local governments have a key role in shaping sustainable communities by integrating sustainable development and business practices with ecological, social, and economic concerns. Local governments also play a pivotal role in ensuring environmental justice by addressing environmental impacts on frontline communities and by pursuing fairness in the application of policies and regulations." The City defines critical area wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and geologically hazardous areas. These critical areas are regulated under the City's Critical Area Regulations (Medina Municipal Code Chapter 16.50). The City does not contain any critical aquifer recharge areas or frequently flooded areas.

This section establishes critical areas policies based on best available science to protect the environment and enhance the community's quality of life within the constraints of a fully developed community. The section also establishes policies intending to support environmental justice within the community and participate in the regional response to climate change. Major natural hazards associated with climate change such as sea-level rise and wildfire risk do not directly impact the City of Medina but more broadly impact neighboring jurisdictions and the region.

The GMA also mandates the conservation of natural resources, such as agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands. However, Medina has none of these areas so natural resource lands will not be addressed further.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Medina is located within the Lake Washington/Cedar River/Sammamish Watershed, also known as Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8.

**Commented [DJ1]:** PSRC, 07/18/2024, Page 5

PSRC requested the City consider identifying specific climate hazards based on the PSRC Puget Sound Hazards map. The map does not identify any direct climate hazards applicable to the City.

The 2014 Critical Areas Map identifies and describes known regulated critical areas and sensitive areas within Medina (see Figure 4). These critical areas include:

- Fairweather Park [Fairweather Nature Preserve];
- Medina Park and adjacent wetlands at Overlake Golf & Country Club;
- Portions of the Lake Washington shoreline, which are designated as erosion hazard areas;
- The Lake Washington shoreline in its entirety, which has moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility;
- A great blue heron priority habitat area in the northeast corner of Medina Park;
- A bald eagle nest buffer along the northern shoreline of Lake Washington;
- Medina Creek (a.k.a, Fairweather Bay Creek);
- An unnamed creek draining to the south from the Medina Park ponds;
- An unnamed creek originating in the south Clyde Hill area;
- An unnamed creek connected to the Fairweather Park wetland; and
- A potential unnamed creek originating near Evergreen Point Road, north of NE 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

These features and their vegetated buffers provide moderate habitat functions for small mammals, a variety of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates typically found in urban green spaces. In addition, all of these features are adjacent to or ultimately drain into Lake Washington, a waterbody which contains federal ESA-listed fish. However, none of these features, aside from the Lake Washington shoreline itself and the immediately accessible downstream reaches of the streams, contain federally listed fish. Therefore, from an ESA perspective, the most valuable function of these features to be preserved and enhanced is water quality treatment and storage, and groundwater recharge. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lists Coho salmon as a Priority Species, which have been observed in Medina Creek downstream (north) of SR 520. Recent improvements to culverts underneath SR 520 may allow Coho salmon to pass upstream into Medina. Therefore, in-stream fish habitat on Medina Creek could also be enhanced. Other possible functions include passive recreation and environmental education. Medina should seek opportunities to coordinate with neighboring communities to maintain or daylight culverts that cross jurisdictional boundaries, where a multi-jurisdictional joint approach to creek system and culvert management would improve fish passage and water flows through Medina and the Points communities.

## GOALS

- NE-G1 To achieve a well-balanced relationship between the built and natural environments utilizing guidance derived from best available science.
- NE-G2 To prioritize stormwater management, point and non-point pollutant discharge reduction, and erosion control methodologies to reduce short-term and long-term water quality impacts.
- NE-G3 To promote community-wide stewardship of the natural environment for future generations through protection, preservation/conservation, and enhancement of those natural environment features which are most sensitive to human activities and which are critical to fish and wildlife survival and proliferation.

## POLICIES

- NE-P1 The City should maintain and update critical areas regulations as required by the GMA utilizing the best available science. Approaches and standards for defining and

protecting critical areas should be coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions where such areas and impacts to critical areas cross jurisdictional boundaries.

- NE-P2 The City should preserve and enhance where possible the functions and values of Medina's critical areas and natural resources in a manner consistent with best available science, and preserve and restore its native vegetation, native biodiversity, and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function. Natural resources in Medina include forests, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy, all of which are valuable and should be protected.
- NE-P3 The City should coordinate with other cities, King County, federal and state agencies, tribes, the Puget Sound Partnership, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, and other stakeholders on regional environmental issues for the benefit of Puget Sound and its watersheds, including surface and groundwater quality and quantity improvements, natural drainage system improvements, erosion and sedimentation minimization, flood risk abatement, stormwater runoff rate moderation, and salmon conservation. By implementing this integrated and comprehensive approach to fish, wildlife, and habitat management, the City hopes to accelerate ecosystem recovery, focusing on enhancing the habitat of salmonids, orca, and other threatened and endangered species and species of local importance.
- NE-P4 No net loss of wetlands functions, values, and acreage should result from development.
- NE-P5 The City should work to protect, preserve and, where possible, enhance water quality in Lake Washington, Medina Creek, and other streams. The City should ensure that public and private projects incorporate locally appropriate, low-impact development approaches developed using a watershed planning framework for managing stormwater, protecting water quality, minimizing flooding and erosion, protecting habitat, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- NE-P6 The City should develop a mitigation incentives program that promotes improved water quality. Incentives should be monitored to determine effectiveness.
- NE-P7 The City should work to preserve stream corridors wide enough to maintain and enhance existing stream and habitat functions in all development proposals by designation of native growth protection areas or other appropriate mechanisms.
- NE-P8 The City should restore Medina Creek to provide salmon habitat by developing and implementing a salmon restoration/habitat recovery plan and by facilitating development review processes that ensure that new development is consistent with germane state regulations governing stream restoration.
- NE-P9 The City should prohibit the introduction of invasive plant species and encourage enhancement of native plant communities in natural areas, which include, but are not limited to, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and their buffers. The City should also encourage protection or enhancement of the urban tree canopy to provide wildlife habitat, support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, protect and improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity. This work should include prioritizing places where Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color communities; low-income populations; and other frontline community members live, work, and play.
- NE-P10 The City should encourage and educate residents on development and land use practices that minimize impacts on the natural environment, with emphasis on

anadromous fisheries.

- NE-P11 The City should ensure all residents, regardless of race, social, or economic status have a clean and healthy environment. The City should work to identify, mitigate, and correct for unavoidable negative impacts of public actions that disproportionately affect those frontline communities impacted by existing and historical racial, social, environmental, and economic inequities, and who have limited resources or capacity to adapt to a changing environment. The City should prevent, mitigate, and remediate harmful environmental pollutants and hazards, including light, air, noise, soil, and structural hazards, where they have contributed to racialized health or environmental disparities, and increase environmental resiliency in frontline communities.
- NE-P12 The City should adopt and implement policies and programs to achieve a target of reducing countywide sources of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to a 2007 baseline, by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040, and 95%, including net-zero emissions through carbon sequestration and other strategies, by 2050. The City should evaluate and update these targets over time in consideration of the latest international climate science and statewide targets aiming to limit the most severe impacts of climate change and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- NE-P13 The City should plan for development patterns that minimize air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, including:
- a) Facilitating modes of travel other than single-occupancy vehicles including transit, walking, bicycling, and carpooling;
  - b) Incorporating energy-saving strategies in infrastructure planning and design;
  - c) Encouraging interjurisdictional planning to ensure efficient use of transportation infrastructure and modes of travel;
  - d) Encouraging new development to use low emission construction practices, low or zero net lifetime energy requirements, and green building techniques; and
  - e) Reducing building energy use through green building methods in the retrofit of existing buildings.
- NE-P14 This City should promote energy efficiency, conservation methods, sustainable energy sources, electrifying the transportation system, and limiting vehicle miles traveled to reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and consumption of fossil fuels to support state, regional, and local climate change goals.

## **2.1 SHORELINE MANAGEMENT SUB-ELEMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Washington State Legislature passed into law the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) in 1971 with the paramount objectives to protect and restore the valuable natural resources that shorelines represent and to plan for and foster all "reasonable and appropriate uses" that are dependent upon a waterfront location or which will offer the opportunities for the public to enjoy the state's shorelines. The goals and policies of the SMA constitute one of the goals of the Growth Management Act as set forth in RCW 36.70A.020.

Administration of the SMA is a cooperative effort balancing local and state-wide interests in the management and development of shoreline areas. The City manages the shoreline areas through implementation of its shoreline master program. The goals and policies set forth in this sub-element are combined with the regulations set forth in Subtitle 20.6 of the Medina Municipal Code and together constitute the Medina Shoreline Master Program. This master program represents the City's participation in a coordinated planning effort to protect the public interest associated with the shorelines of the state, at the same time, recognizing and protecting private property rights consistent with the public interest.

The City of Medina is a low-density residential community that encompasses approximately 109 acres of shoreline jurisdiction and 4.5 miles of waterfront (23,760 feet). Except for about 780 feet of publicly and state owned property, all of the City's shoreline is privately owned and zoned for residential. Medina originally adopted a Shoreline Management Master Program in 1974. The Program was updated in 2014 to comply with the 2003 Department of Ecology Guidelines found in WAC 173-26.

### **VISION FOR THE SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM**

The residential nature of the City's shoreline makes preservation of this character, while encouraging good stewardship and enjoyment of the shoreline, including protecting and preserving shoreline ecological functions, the primary vision of the shoreline master program.

### **GOALS AND POLICIES**

The City's Shoreline Master Program provides goals and policies involving the protection of, and appropriate uses for, the shoreline.

The goals and policies are grouped into the following categories:

- A. Shorelines of Statewide Significance
- B. Shoreline Environments;
- C. Shoreline Use and Activities;
- D. Public Access;
- E. Recreation;
- F. Circulation;
- G. Utilities;
- H. Environment;
- I. Archaeological, Historic and Cultural

- J. Resources; and
- K. Shoreline Restoration and Ecological Enhancements.

### **A. Shorelines of Statewide Significance**

#### **GOALS**

- SM-G1 Implement the policies of the Shoreline Management Act as enunciated in RCW 90.58.020.

#### **POLICIES**

- SM-P1.1 This Shoreline Master Program shall be developed using the following guidelines in order of preference:
  - a. Recognize and protect the state-wide interest over local interest.
  - b. Preserve the natural character of the shoreline.
  - c. Support actions that result in long-term benefits over short-term benefits.
  - d. Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline.
  - e. Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines.
  - f. Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline.

### **B. Environment Designations**

The intent of a shoreline environment designation is to preserve and enhance shoreline ecological functions and to encourage development that will enhance the present or desired future character of the shoreline. To accomplish this, shoreline segments are given an environment designation based on existing and planned development patterns, biological capabilities and limitations, and the aspirations of the local citizenry.

#### **GOALS**

- SM-G2 Provide a comprehensive shoreline environment designation system to categorize Medina's shorelines into similar shoreline areas to guide the use and management of these areas.

#### **POLICIES**

- SM-P2.1 Designate properties residential to accommodate detached single-family development.

*Designation criteria: Assign residential environment designation to shoreline areas predominantly single-family residential development or are planned and platted for residential development.*

Areas designated as Residential are predominantly single-family residential development and comprise approximately 98 percent of the City's shoreline jurisdiction. The following management policies should guide development within these areas:

- a. Residential activities are preferred over other land and resource consumptive development or uses. Limited non-residential uses, such as parks, day cares, home businesses may be allowed, provided they are consistent with the residential character and the City's land use regulations.
- b. Development should be located, sited, designed and maintained to protect, enhance and be compatible with the shoreline environment.
- c. Development regulations should require the preservation of ecological functions, taking into account the environmental limitations and sensitivity of the shoreline area, the level of infrastructure and services available, and other comprehensive planning considerations.

SM-P2.2 Designate properties Urban Conservancy to protect and restore ecological functions of open space, flood plain and other sensitive lands, while allowing a variety of compatible uses.

*Designation criteria: Assign Urban Conservancy environment designation to shoreline areas appropriate and planned for development that is compatible with maintaining or restoring of the ecological functions of the area, that are not generally suitable for water-dependent uses and that lie in incorporated municipalities, urban growth areas, or commercial or industrial "rural areas of more intense development" if any of the following characteristics apply:*

- i. *They are suitable for water-related or water-enjoyment uses;*
- ii. *They are open space, flood plain or other sensitive areas that should not be more intensively developed;*
- iii. *They have potential for ecological restoration;*
- iv. *They retain important ecological functions, even though partially developed;*  
*or*
- v. *They have the potential for development that is compatible with ecological restoration*

Areas designated as Urban Conservancy include Medina Beach Park, Lake Lane Dock, View Point Park/ 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E. Dock, and privately owned joint-use recreational lots. The following management policies should guide development within these areas:

- a. Primary uses should be those that preserve the natural character of the area or promote preservation of open space or sensitive lands either directly or over the long term. Uses that result in restoration of ecological functions should be allowed if the use is otherwise compatible with the purpose of the environment and the setting.
- b. Water dependent recreation uses, such as public access piers, recreational floats, and swim beaches, shall be the highest priority, provided they can be located, designed, constructed, operated, and mitigated in a manner that ensures no net loss of ecological function.
- c. Water oriented recreation uses, such as viewing trails, benches and shelters, should be emphasized and non-water oriented uses should be minimized and allowed only as an accessory use; for example picnic areas, forest trails and

small playground areas would be acceptable, but tennis courts and developed sports fields would not.

- d. Standards should be established for shoreline stabilization, vegetation conservation, water quality, and shoreline modifications to ensure that new development does not result in a net loss of shoreline ecological functions or further degrade other shoreline values.
- e. Facilities should be designed for neighborhood and non-motorized use, unless vehicle access and parking can be provided and impacts on the environment and surrounding property owners can be mitigated.

SM-P2.3 Designate properties Aquatic to protect, restore, and manage the unique characteristics and resources of the areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.

*Designation Criteria: Assign Aquatic environment designation to areas waterward of the ordinary high water mark.*

Areas designated as Aquatic are those waterward of the ordinary high water mark. The following management policies should guide development within these areas:

- a. Allow new over-water structures only for water-dependent uses, public access, or ecological restoration.
- b. The size of new over-water structures should be limited to the minimum necessary to support the structure's intended use.
- c. To reduce the impacts of shoreline development and increase effective use of water resources, multiple-use of over-water facilities should be encouraged.
- d. All developments and uses on waters or their beds should be located and designed to minimize interference with surface navigation, to consider impacts to public views, and to allow for the safe, unobstructed passage of fish and wildlife, particularly those species dependent on migration.
- e. Uses that adversely impact the ecological functions of critical freshwater habitats should not be allowed except where necessary to achieve the objectives of RCW 90.58.020, and then only when their impacts are mitigated according to the sequence described in WAC 173-26-201(2)(e) as necessary to assure no net loss of ecological functions.
- f. Shoreline uses and modifications should be designed and managed to prevent degradation of water quality and alteration of natural hydrological conditions.

SM-P2.4 Designate properties Transportation to accommodate the SR 520 highway, which is an essential public facility.

*Designation Criterion: Assign Transportation environment designation to areas of high-intensity uses related to transportation.*

Areas designated as Transportation include lands controlled by the Washington State Department of Transportation and designated as state highway right-of-way. The following management policies should guide development within these areas:

- a. Noise associated with construction activity and ongoing operations should be mitigated to the maximum extent practicable.



- b. Best management practices and mitigation for impacts should be implemented to ensure no net loss of ecological function.
- c. Where not in conflict with public safety and security of the SR 520 facility, public access should be made a priority.
- d. Vegetation and habitat should be restored and enhanced upon completion of the SR 520 replacement project using native species.
- e. The SR 520 facility, and any associated maintenance facilities occurring within the shoreline management area, particularly where visible from the water, should be fully screened from adjoining residential properties to the extent practicable with vegetation and fencing as needed.

SM-P2.5 Areas not designated shall automatically be assigned an Urban Conservancy designation.

### **C. Shoreline Uses and Activities**

Uses and activities are given preference to those uses that are consistent with the control of pollution and prevention of damage to the natural environment, or are unique to, or dependent upon uses of the shorelines. Preference is first to water-dependent uses, then to water-related uses and then water-enjoyment uses. The purpose is to ensure development of property is done in a manner that protects the public's health, safety and welfare, as well as the land and its vegetation and wildlife, and to protect property rights while implementing the policies of the SMA.

### **GOALS**

- SM-G3 Locate, design and manage shoreline uses to prevent and, where possible, restore significant adverse impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife habitats, the environment, and other uses.
- SM-G4 Preserve Medina's shoreline for single family residential use, in a manner that also protects and preserves the natural features along the shoreline and the quality of Lake Washington.
- SM-G5 Maintain the City Hall building and grounds in a manner consistent with the protection and enhancement of the shoreline environment.
- SM-G6 Limit parking within the shoreline jurisdiction.
- SM-G7 Manage public and community boating facilities to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
- SM-G8 Manage shoreline modifications to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts.
- SM-G9 Minimize impacts to the natural environment and neighboring uses from new or renovated piers and docks and their associated components, such as boatlifts and canopies.
- SM-G10 Manage signs so that they do not visually or aesthetically impair the shoreline environment.
- SM-G11 Limit the visual and environmental impacts of trams in the shoreline area.

## **POLICIES**

### **GENERAL**

- SM-P3.1 Establish development regulations that avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to the ecological functions associated with the shoreline area.
- SM-P3.2 Encourage low-impact development practices, where feasible, to reduce the amount of impervious surface within the shoreline area.
- SM-P3.3 Ensure that private property rights are respected consistent with the public interest expressed in the Shoreline Management Act.

### **RESIDENTIAL**

- SM-P 4.1 Provide adequate setbacks and natural buffers from the water and ample open space among structures to protect natural features, ecological functions, preserve views, and minimize use conflicts.
- SM-P4.2 Require new development to preserve existing shoreline vegetation, control erosion and protect water quality using best management practices.
- SM-P4.3 Provide development incentives, including reduced shoreline setbacks, to encourage the protection, enhancement and restoration of high functioning vegetative buffers and natural or semi-natural shorelines.
- SM-P4.4 At a minimum, development should achieve no net loss of ecological functions, even for exempt development.

### **CITY GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

- SM-P5.1 Medina's City Hall and uses accessory to the City Hall should minimize impacts to shoreline character and features, visual access to the shoreline, and not interfere with the public's ability to access or enjoy the shoreline.
- SM-P5.2 Any expansion of Medina's City Hall should result in no net loss of ecological function within the shoreline jurisdiction.

### **PARKING**

- SM-P6.1 Limit parking facilities to those supporting an authorized principal use and allowing such facilities only if the following criteria are met:
  - a. Parking is designed and located to minimize adverse impacts including those related to surface water runoff, water quality, visual qualities, public access, and vegetation and habitat maintenance;
  - b. No loss of ecological functions shall result from construction and operation of the parking facility;
  - c. The parking does not restrict access to the site by public safety vehicles, utility vehicles, or other vehicles requiring access to shoreline properties; and
  - d. Preference shall be given to permeable surface materials where feasible.

### **BOATING FACILITIES**

- SM-P7.1 Locate and design boating facilities to ensure no net loss of ecological functions and to avoid significant adverse impacts.

- SM-P7.2 Where feasible, boating facilities should include measures that enhance degraded and/ or scarce shoreline features.
- SM-P7.3 Boating facilities should not unduly obstruct navigable waters and should avoid causing adverse effects to recreational opportunities such as fishing, pleasure boating, swimming, beach walking, picnicking and shoreline viewing.
- SM-P7.4 Preference should be given to boating facilities that minimize the amount of shoreline modification, in-water structure, and overwater coverage.
- SM-P7.5 Accessory uses at boating facilities should be limited to water-oriented uses, or uses that provide physical and/or visual shoreline access for substantial numbers of the general public. Non-water-dependent accessory uses should be located outside of shoreline jurisdiction or outside of the shoreline setback whenever possible.
- SM-P7.6 Boating facilities should be located, designed, constructed and operated so that other appropriate water-dependent uses are not adversely affected and to avoid adverse proximity impacts such as noise, light and glare; aesthetic impacts to adjacent land uses; and impacts to public visual access to the shoreline.

#### SHORELINE MODIFICATIONS

- SM-P8.1 The adverse effects of shoreline modifications should be reduced, as much as possible, and shoreline modifications should be limited in number and extent.
- SM-P8.2 The city should take steps to assure that shoreline modifications individually and cumulatively do not result in a net loss of ecological function. This is to be achieved by preventing unnecessary shoreline modifications, by giving preference to those types of shoreline modifications that have a lesser impact on ecological functions, and by requiring mitigation of identified impacts resulting from shoreline modifications.

#### SHORELINE STABILIZATION

- SM-P8.3 Shoreline stabilization should be located, designed, and maintained to protect and maintain shoreline ecological functions, ongoing shoreline processes, and the integrity of shoreline features. Ongoing stream or lake processes and the probable effects of proposed shoreline stabilization on other properties and shoreline features should be considered.
- SM-P8.4 Structures should be located and designed to avoid the need for future shoreline stabilization where feasible.
- SM-P8.5 Structural shoreline stabilization measures should only be used when a need has been demonstrated and more natural, flexible, non-structural methods have been determined infeasible. Alternatives for shoreline stabilization should be based on the following hierarchy of preference:
  - a. No action (allow the shoreline to retreat naturally), increase buffers, and relocate structures.
  - b. Flexible defense works constructed of natural materials including soft shore protection, bioengineering, including beach nourishment, protective berms, or vegetative stabilization.

c. Rigid works constructed of artificial materials such as riprap or concrete.

- SM-P8.6 New or expanded structural shoreline stabilization should only be permitted where demonstrated to be necessary to protect an existing primary structure, including single-family dwelling, which is in danger of loss or substantial damage, and where mitigation of impacts would not cause a net loss of shoreline ecological functions and processes.
- SM-P8.7 New or expanded structural shoreline stabilization for enhancement, restoration, or hazardous substance remediation projects should only be allowed when non-structural measures, vegetation planting, or on-site drainage improvements would be insufficient to achieve enhancement, restoration or remediation objectives.
- SM-P8.8 Encourage alternative methods for shoreline stabilization including non-regulatory methods. Non-regulatory methods may include public facility and resource planning, technical assistance, education, voluntary enhancement and restoration projects, or other incentive programs.
- SM-P8.9 New development that would require shoreline stabilization which causes significant impacts to adjacent properties should not be allowed.

#### DREDGING

- SM-P8.10 Dredging operations should be planned and conducted to protect and maintain existing aquatic habitat and other shoreline uses, properties, and values. Proposals that include dredging should provide mitigation to achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological functions.
- SM-P8.11 Dredging and dredge material disposal should be done in a manner which avoids or minimizes significant ecological impacts.
- SM-P8.12 Dredging waterward of the ordinary high water mark for the primary purpose of obtaining fill should not be allowed, except as part of a restoration or environmental cleanup project.

#### FILL

- SM-P8.13 Fills should be allowed only when tied to a specific development proposal that is permitted by the master program, and that is located, designed and constructed to protect shoreline ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.
- SM-P8.14 Fill coverage should be the minimum necessary to provide for the proposed use.
- SM-P8.15 Factors such as current and potential public use of the shoreline and water surface area, water flow and drainage, water quality and habitat should be considered and protected to the maximum extent feasible.
- SM-P8.16 Fills waterward of the ordinary high water mark should be restricted to supporting water-dependent uses, public access, cleanup and disposal of contaminated sediments as part of an interagency clean-up plan, disposal of dredged sediments in accordance with Department of Natural Resources rules, expansion or alteration of transportation facilities of statewide significance when no other alternatives are feasible, and for mitigation actions, environmental restoration and enhancement

projects, and only when other solutions would result in greater environmental impact.

- SM-P8.17 Fills should be designed and located so that there will be no significant damage to existing ecological systems or result in hazard to adjacent life, property, or natural resource systems.

#### LAND SURFACE MODIFICATIONS

- SM-P8.18 Limit land surface modification activities in the shoreline area. Impacts from land surface modifications activities can be avoided through proper site planning, construction timing practices, and use of erosion and drainage control methods. Generally these activities should be limited to the maximum extent necessary to accommodate the proposed use, and should be designed and located to protect shoreline ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes.

#### BREAKWATERS, JETTIES, GROINS

- SM-P8.19 Breakwaters, jetties and groins should only be permitted where necessary to support water-dependent uses, public access, shoreline stabilization, or other specific public purpose.
- SM-P8.20 Breakwaters, jetties and groins should be located and designed to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

#### MOORAGE FACILITIES (PIERS AND DOCKS)

- SM-P9.1 Locate and design piers and docks to avoid adversely impacting shoreline ecological functions or processes, and where unavoidable impacts to ecological functions might occur, mitigation should be provided.
- SM-P9.2 Moorage should be spaced and oriented in a manner that minimizes hazards and obstructions to public navigation rights and corollary rights thereto such as, but not limited to, fishing, swimming and pleasure boating.
- SM-P9.3 Piers and docks should be restricted to the minimum size necessary to meet the needs of the proposed use.
- SM-P9.4 Moorage facilities should be constructed of materials that will not adversely affect water quality or aquatic plants and animals in the long term, and have been approved by applicable state agencies.
- SM-P9.5 Establish development regulations that encourage property owners to make renovations to their existing piers and docks outside of normal maintenance and repairs that improve the environmental friendliness of their structure.
- SM-P9.6 Encourage joint-use or shared piers and docks where practical.

#### SIGNS

- SM-P10.1 Signs should be designed and placed so that they are compatible with the aesthetic quality of the existing shoreline and adjacent land and water uses.
- SM-P10.2 Signs should not block or otherwise interfere with visual access to the water or shorelines.

SM-P10.3 Outdoor advertising and billboards are not an appropriate use of the shoreline areas within shoreline jurisdiction.

**TRAMS**

SM-P11.1 Joint use trams are encouraged where they can be placed on the property line.

SM-P11.2 The visual impacts of trams should be minimized.

**D. Public Access**

Public access includes the ability of the general public to reach, touch, and enjoy the water's edge, to travel on the waters of the state, and to view the water and the shoreline from adjacent locations. The purpose is to plan for an integrated shoreline area public access system that identifies specific public needs and opportunities to provide public access.

**GOALS**

SM-G12 Ensure the public's ability to physically and visually enjoy the shoreline environment.

**POLICIES**

SM-P12.1 Views of Lake Washington from public parks should be preserved and enhanced. Enhancement of views shall not be construed to mean excessive removal of vegetation.

SM-P12.2 Public access should be designed to provide for public safety and to minimize potential impacts to private property and individual privacy. Public access to shoreline areas does not include the right to enter upon or cross private property, except for dedicated easements.

SM-P12.3 Public access should be required for all new shoreline development and uses where feasible, except for single-family residential development containing less than five dwelling units.

SM-P12.4 Preservation and enhancement of the public's visual access to all shoreline areas should be encouraged through the establishment of setbacks and height limits that ensure view corridors.

SM-P12.5 Ensure that development upland, as well as in-water and near-shore areas are located and designed in ways that result in no net loss of ecological functions.

SM-P12.6 Regulate the design, construction, and operation of permitted uses in the shoreline jurisdiction to minimize, insofar as practical, interference with the public's use of the water.

SM-P12.7 Access should provide for a range of users including pedestrians, bicyclists, boaters and people with disabilities to the greatest extent feasible.

SM-P12.8 Integrate shoreline public access with existing and planned trails or routes, such as the Points Loop Trail, and the City's parks and pedestrian pathway system, where feasible, to improve non-motorized access and community connections.

- SM-P12.9 The shoreline area between Medina Beach Park and the tip of Evergreen Point should be a priority for establishing new public access.
- SM-P12.10 The City should work with Washington State Department of Transportation in providing public access within any remnant property that may result from the SR 520 replacement project. In particular public access should provide public entry to Lake Washington where feasible and should be connected to Fairweather Nature Preserve.
- SM-P12.11 When appropriate, Medina should consider joining with other governmental bodies in a cooperative effort to expand public access to the shoreline through programs of acquisition and development.
- SM-P12.12 Continue use of opened waterfront street ends for public access.

**E. Recreation**

Recreational uses include passive activities, such as walking, viewing and fishing. Recreational development also includes facilities for active uses, such as swimming, boating, and other outdoor recreation uses. This includes both public and non-commercial recreational opportunities.

**GOALS**

- SM-G13 Recreation activities that are dependent on access to the water should be available to citizens of Medina.

**POLICIES**

- SM-P13.1 Water-dependent recreational activities such as boating, fishing, and swimming should have priority over other types of recreation on Medina's public shoreline.
- SM-P13.2 Coordination with local, state and federal recreation planning should be encouraged. Shoreline recreational development should be consistent with the City's park and recreation plans.
- SM-P13.3 Open space and the opportunity for passive forms of recreation should be encouraged on public shoreline. Recreational plans should promote the conservation of the shoreline's natural character, ecological functions, and processes while expanding the public's ability to enjoy the shoreline.
- SM-P13.4 The City should encourage retention and development of the shoreline for joint use private recreational activities, such as moorage, decks, beach clubs, etc.
- SM-P13.5 Links between existing and future shoreline parks, recreation areas and public access points should be created via a non-motorized network using existing rights-of-way or through acquisition of easements and/ or land, where feasible.
- SM-P13.6 Recreational activities should be designed to avoid conflict with private property rights, and to minimize and mitigate negative impacts on adjoining properties.

## **F. Circulation**

Circulation includes transportation facilities, which are those structures and developments that aid in land, air, and water surface movement of people, goods, and services. They include roads and highways, bridges, bikeways, trails, heliports, and other related facilities.

### **GOALS**

SM-G14 The present transportation system within the shoreline jurisdiction shall be maintained, but any expansion or modification to accommodate growth shall be designed in a manner which causes minimal impacts using the best technology and science available. New road construction in the shoreline jurisdiction should be minimized.

### **POLICIES**

- SM-P14.1 New transportation facilities or the expansion of existing facilities must be designed to minimize air, noise and water pollution, adverse impacts on aquatic habitat and wildlife habitat, and the adverse impacts of excessive light, glare and community separation.
- SM-P14.2 Expansion of existing roadways should be allowed only if such facilities are found to be in the public interest and impacts can be mitigated to meet no net loss.
- SM-P14.3 New road and bridge construction and the expansion of existing transportation facilities should include improved non-motorized facilities and enhanced visual and physical public access if feasible.
- SM-P14.4 Joint use of transportation corridors within the shoreline jurisdiction for roads, utilities, and motorized and non-motorized forms of transportation should be encouraged to the maximum extent feasible.

## **G. Utilities**

Utilities are services and facilities that produce, transmit, store, process or dispose of electric power, gas, water, sewage, and communications.

### **GOALS**

SM-G15 Manage public and private utilities within the shoreline area to provide for safe and healthy water, and sanitary sewer services, while protecting and enhancing the water quality and habitat value of the shoreline.

### **POLICIES**

- SM-P15.1 New utilities should be located outside of the shoreline jurisdiction unless no other feasible option exists. Where permitted, they should be installed to protect the shoreline and water from contamination and degradation.



- SM-P15.2 Utilities should avoid locating in environmentally sensitive areas unless no feasible alternatives exist.
- SM-P15.3 Wherever utility facilities and corridors must be placed in a shoreline area, they should be located so as to protect scenic views. Whenever possible, such facilities should be placed underground or designed to minimize impacts on the aesthetic qualities of the shoreline area.
- SM-P15.4 Utilities should be designed and located in a manner which preserves the natural landscape and shoreline ecology, and minimizes conflicts with present and planned land uses.
- SM-P15.5 Joint use of rights-of-way and existing utility corridors should be encouraged.

**H. Natural Environment**

Medina is enriched with valued natural features that enhance the quality of life for the community. Natural systems serve many essential functions that can provide significant benefits to fish and wildlife, public and private property, and enjoyment of the shoreline area.

**GOALS**

- SM-G16 Preserve, protect, and restore shoreline environment.
- SM-G17 Protect, conserve and establish vegetation along the shoreline edge.
- SM-G18 Conserve and protect critical areas, including wildlife habitat areas, within the shoreline areas from loss or degradation.
- SM-G19 Manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.

**POLICIES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

- SM-P16.1 Protect shoreline process and ecological functions through regulatory and non-regulatory means that may include regulation of development within the shoreline jurisdiction, incentives to encourage ecologically sound design, conservation easements, and acquisition of key properties. .
- SM-P16.2 Preserve the scenic aesthetic quality of shoreline areas and vistas to the greatest extent feasible.
- SM-P16.3 Adverse impacts on the natural environment should be minimized during all phases of development (e.g. design, construction, operation, and management).
- SM-P16.4 Shoreline developments that propose to enhance environmentally sensitive areas, other natural characteristics, resources of the shoreline, and provide public access and recreational opportunities to the shoreline are consistent with the fundamental goals of this Master Program, and should be encouraged.

## VEGETATION CONSERVATION

- SM-P17.1 Where new developments and/or uses or redevelopments are proposed, native shoreline vegetation should be conserved to maintain shoreline ecological functions and/or processes. Vegetation conservation and restoration should be used to mitigate the direct, indirect and/or cumulative impacts of shoreline development, wherever feasible. Important functions of shoreline vegetation include, but are not limited to:
- a. Providing shade necessary to maintain water temperatures required by salmonids and other organisms that require cool water for all or a portion of their life cycles.
  - b. Regulating microclimate in riparian and near-shore areas.
  - c. Providing organic inputs necessary for aquatic life, including providing food in the form of various insects and other benthic macro-invertebrates.
  - d. Stabilizing banks, minimizing erosion and sedimentation, and reducing the occurrence/severity of landslides.
  - e. Reducing fine sediment input into the aquatic environment by minimizing erosion, aiding infiltration, and retaining runoff.
  - f. Improving water quality through filtration and vegetative uptake of nutrients and pollutants.
  - g. Providing a source of large woody debris to moderate flows, create hydraulic roughness, form pools, and increase structural diversity for salmonids and other species.
  - h. Providing habitat elements for riparian-associated species, including downed wood, snags, migratory corridors, food, and cover.
- SM-P17.2 Noxious and invasive weeds. Encourage management and control of noxious and invasive weeds. Control of such species should be done in a manner that retains onsite native vegetation, provides for erosion control, and protects water quality. Use of non-toxic or natural controls is preferred.
- SM-P17.3 Provide incentives for the retention and planting of native vegetation, and discourage extensive lawns due to their limited erosion control value, limited water retention capacity, and associated chemical and fertilizer applications particularly in areas recommended for designation as Shoreline Residential. Incentives could include additional flexibility with building setbacks from Lake Washington, a simplified permit process with recommended planting plans, reduced or waiver of permit fees, and/or city participation in a pilot-project that promotes shoreline restoration.

## CRITICAL AREAS

- SM-P18.1 In addressing issues related to critical areas, use scientific and technical information, as described in WAC 173-26-201(2)(a).
- SM-P18.2 In protecting and restoring critical areas within shoreline areas, integrate the full spectrum of planning and regulatory measures, including the comprehensive plan, watershed plans, local development regulations, and state, tribal, and federal programs.

SM-P18.3 Critical areas within the shoreline area should be managed and protected to ensure no net loss of ecological functions. When feasible, degraded ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes should be restored.

**WATER QUALITY, STORMWATER, AND NON-POINT POLLUTION**

SM-P19.1 All shoreline uses and activities should be located, designed, constructed and maintained to mitigate adverse impacts to water quality, water quantity, or hydrology.

SM-P19.2 The City should require reasonable setbacks, buffers, and storm water storage basins and encourage low-impact development techniques and materials to achieve the objective of minimizing impervious surfaces and lessening negative impacts on water quality.

SM-P19.3 Stormwater impacts should be addressed through the application of the most recent edition of the Adopted Surface Water Design Manual and all applicable City stormwater regulations.

SM-P19.4 The City should provide general information to the public about the impacts of land and human activities on water quality, and encourage homeowners and property managers to use non-chemical weed and pest control solutions and natural fertilizers.

**I. Archaeological, Historic and Cultural Resources**

Archaeological, historic and cultural resources are those that are either recorded at the state historic preservation office or have been inadvertently uncovered.

**GOALS**

SM-G20 Historically, culturally or archaeologically significant areas or architecturally or culturally significant facilities should be protected and maintained in the public interest.

**POLICIES**

SM-P20.1 Medina should preserve or allow preservation of shoreline buildings and sites with historic or architectural value, such as the old ferry ticket office (City Hall), and certain boathouses.

SM-P20.2 Prevent the destruction of or damage to any site having historic, cultural, scientific, or educational value as identified by the appropriate authorities, including affected Indian tribes, and the office of archaeology and historic preservation.

SM-P20.3 Ensure that new development is compatible with existing historic structures and cultural areas.

## **J. Shoreline Restoration and Ecological Enhancement**

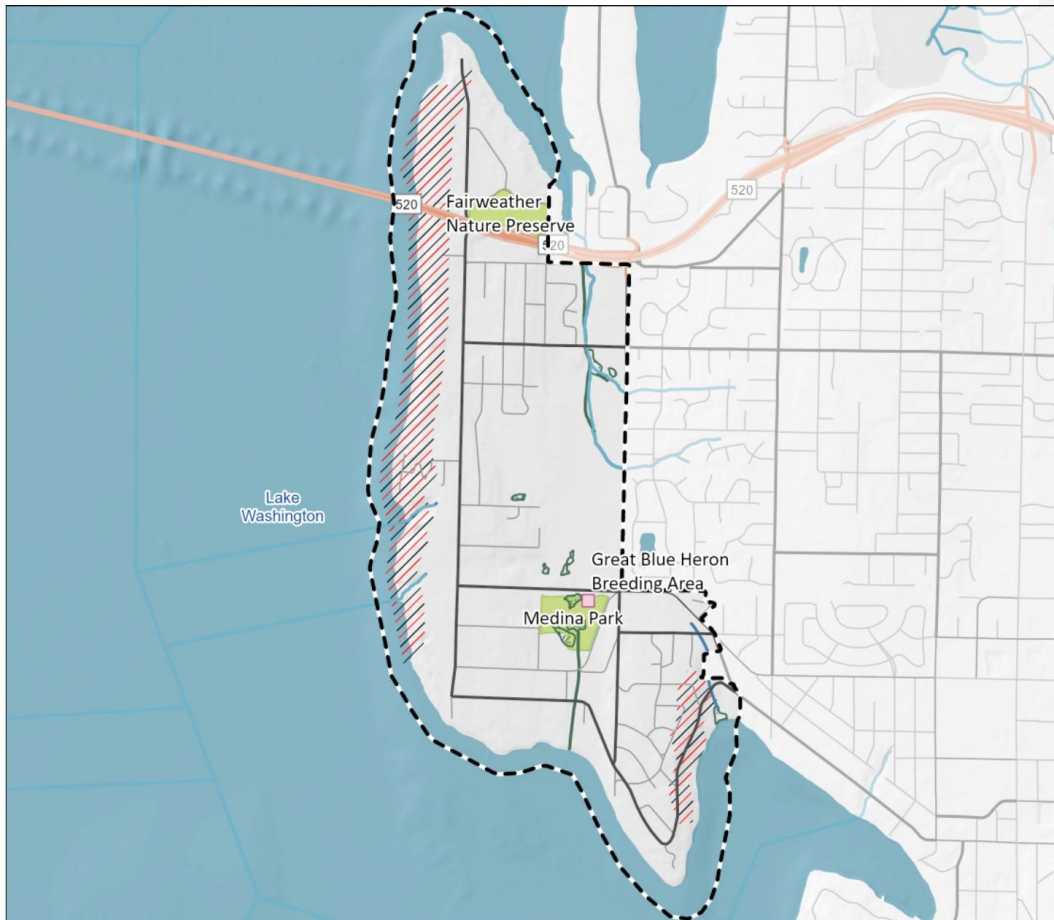
Shoreline habitat and natural systems enhancement and restoration projects include those activities proposed and conducted specifically for the purpose of establishing, restoring, or enhancing habitat for priority species in shorelines.

### **GOALS**







SM-G21 Implement the projects, programs and plans established within the Restoration Plan as funding and staffing resources permit.

### **POLICIES**

- SM-P21.1 Restoration and enhancement of shorelines should be designed using principles of landscape and conservation ecology and should restore or enhance chemical, physical, and biological watershed processes that create and sustain shoreline habitat structures and functions.
- SM-P21.2 Restoration and enhancement actions should improve shoreline ecological functions and processes and should target meeting the needs of sensitive plant, fish and wildlife species as identified by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- SM-P21.3 The City should, and private entities are encouraged to, seek funding from State, Federal, private and other sources to implement restoration, enhancement, and acquisition projects, particularly those that are identified in the Restoration Plan of this SMP or the Final WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan and related documents.
- SM-P21.4 The City should develop processing guidelines that will streamline the review of restoration-only projects.
- SM-P21.5 Allow for the use of tax incentive programs, mitigation banking, grants, land swaps, or other programs, as they are developed, to encourage restoration and enhancement of shoreline ecological functions and to protect habitat for fish, wildlife and plants.



**Legend**

-  City Boundary
-  Sensitive Areas
-  Priority Habitat Area
-  Erosion Hazard
-  NWI Wetland
-  Surface Stream

**Critical Areas Map**

Date Updated: 5/17/2024  
 Miles 0 1/4 1/2 3/4  
 Kilometers 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1



**LDC** | Surveying  
Engineering  
Planning

Base Map Service layers:  
 King County, WA State Parks GIS, Esri, TomTom, Garmin,  
 SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS,  
 Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census  
 Bureau, USDA, USFWS, King County

Figure 4 - Critical Areas Map

DRAFT

DRAFT