

# Shoreline Master Program Comprehensive Plan

## discussion

In conformance with the goals of the State Shoreline Management Act, the Seattle Shoreline Master Program accommodates a variety of functions and activities unique to the shoreline district~~((areas))~~, especially water-dependent businesses and shoreline recreation activities, and protects and enhances public access, natural areas, ecological functions and views of the water. Policies in this section guide management of Seattle's shorelines and describe the purposes of the shore line environments. Together with the Seattle Shoreline Master Program Regulations in the Land Use Code, Chapter 25.09 regulations for Environmental Critical Areas and Shoreline Restoration and Enhancement Plan, these policies constitute the Seattle Shoreline Master Program. ~~((Management of Seattle's shorelines is guided by the Area Objectives for Seattle's shorelines as established in these policies, and the purpose of the shoreline environments, the shoreline environment designations and the use regulations and development standards established in the Land Use Code. All these elements combined constitute the Seattle Shoreline Master Program.))~~

## shoreline use

**LUG39** Encourage~~((stablish))~~ shoreline uses that result in long-term over short-term benefit.

**LUG40** Define appropriate uses for specific ~~((Plan for and encourage the integration and location of compatible uses within))~~ segments of the shoreline.

**LUG41** Locate ~~((all non-))~~ uses that are not water dependent or water-related ~~((uses-))~~ on upland lots to optimize shoreline use and access.

~~((LUG42 Establish a management system that will anticipate, prioritize, and permit all reasonable and appropriate uses.))~~

**LUG42** Protect ecological function of those areas of shoreline that are biologically significant or that are geologically ~~((43))~~ ~~((dangerous or))~~ fragile ~~((, or biologically fragile))~~.

**LUG43** Restore and enhance ecological function through non-regulatory programs and policies.

~~((shoreline use policies))~~

**LU231** ~~((Permit))~~ Allow only those uses, developments, and shoreline modifications ~~((or conditions ))~~ that retain options for future generations, unless identified benefits clearly outweigh the physical, social, environmental and ~~((or))~~ economic loss ~~((to future generations; since competition between uses for shoreline does not generally occur over at one moment, but over a period of time.))~~ over a 20-year planning horizon. Use p ~~((P))~~ reference will be given in the following order:

1. On waterfront lots:

~~((4))~~ a. Uses that ~~((Protection and))~~ protect or restore and enhance ~~((ment of-))~~ natural areas ~~((or systems))~~ and ecological processes and functions, ~~((;))~~ particularly those areas or systems identified as containing or having unique geological, ecological or biological significance.

~~((2))~~b. Water-dependent uses~~((:))~~ - all uses that cannot exist in ~~((any other))~~a location other than waterfront and ~~((are dependent))~~require location on the water by reason of the intrinsic nature of their operations. However, because of their historic role and legal recognition by the City, existing floating homes as of January 2011 (moorage) are designated as a water dependent use.~~(( Such designation does not imply support for increase of floating home moorage.))~~ The intent of this policy is to recognize the existing floating home community in Lake Union and Portage Bay, while protecting natural areas, preserving public access to the shoreline, and preventing the displacement of water-dependent commercial and manufacturing uses by new floating homes. ~~((Areas with substantial concentrations of existing floating homes shall be given a designation that preserves residential uses.))~~

c. Water-related uses - those uses or portions of a use that are not intrinsically dependent on a waterfront location but whose economic viability is dependent upon a location in the Shoreline District because: (a) the use has a functional requirement for a waterfront location such as receiving shipments of materials by water, or the need for large quantities of water in the use or activity or (b) the use supports water-dependent uses or is more convenient to customers.

d. Water-enjoyment uses - those uses that facilitate public access to the shoreline as a primary characteristic of the use; or a use that provides for recreational use or aesthetic enjoyment of the shoreline for a substantial number of people as a general characteristic of the use and which, through location, design, and operation, ensures the public's ability to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline. In order to qualify as a water-enjoyment use, the use must be open to the general public, and the shoreline-oriented space within the project must be devoted to the specific aspects of the use that fosters shoreline enjoyment.

e. Uses that are not water-dependent with regulated public access or with ecological restoration and enhancement.

~~((3))~~~~((Non water dependent uses: those uses that do not need a waterfront location to operate.))~~ Uses that are not water-dependent, water-related or water-enjoyment as defined above, without regulated public access or ecological restoration and enhancement.

2. On upland lots: Preferred uses are those that complement uses on adjacent waterfront lots.

3. The preference for protection of the ecological conditions of the shoreline shall be accomplished by prohibiting uses that would negatively impact natural areas, by providing mitigation for negative impacts caused by the use and by providing restoration and enhancement of natural areas where they are degraded.

4. Preferred uses will vary according to the purpose of the shoreline environment.

a. Where the purpose of the environment is to encourage water-dependent and water-related uses, these uses shall be preferred by prohibiting and/or restricting the number of uses that are not water-dependent or water-related allowed on waterfront lots.

b. Where the purpose of the environment is to provide public access, these uses shall be preferred by preferred by allowing uses that provide public access.

c. Where the purpose of the environment is to protect ecological processes and functions, protection of ecological processes and functions shall be preferred by permitting uses that achieve this purpose.

**LU232** ~~((Define in-))~~In the Land Use Code, identify ~~((all-))~~appropriate shoreline uses and related standards, and provide site development ~~((performance-))~~standards and other appropriate criteria indicating minimal acceptable standards to be achieved. ~~((Uses shall be preferred in the following order:~~

~~1. On waterfront lots:~~

~~a. Protection and Enhancement. Uses that provide for protection and enhancement of natural areas or systems.~~

~~b. Water dependent uses. Uses that are dependent on the water by the intrinsic nature of their operation.~~

~~c. Water related uses. Uses that are not intrinsically dependent on a waterfront location but whose operation cannot occur economically without use of the water adjacent to the site.~~

~~d. Non water dependent uses with regulated public access. Uses that are neither water dependent nor water related because they do not use the water, although a waterfront location may increase their profitability. Such uses may provide a public benefit because they provide an opportunity for substantial numbers of the people to enjoy the shorelines of the City.~~

~~e. Non water dependent uses without regulated public access.~~

~~2. On upland lots: Preferred uses are those that complement uses on adjacent waterfront lots.~~

~~3. The preference for natural areas shall be accomplished by prohibiting uses that would disrupt natural areas or by providing enhancement of such areas where necessary.~~

~~4. Preferred uses will vary according to the purpose of the environment:~~

~~a. If the purpose of the environment is to encourage water dependent and water related uses, these uses shall be preferred by prohibiting and/or restricting non water dependent uses on waterfront lots.~~

~~b. If the purpose of the environment is to provide public access, providing public access shall be preferred by permitting non water dependent uses and requiring public access.~~

~~5. The determination that a shoreline area is suitable for a particular water dependent use shall be made by comparing the area's physical characteristics and existing land use patterns to the rezone requirements of water dependent uses.)~~

~~((LU233 Identify those areas of shorelines that are geologically or biologically dangerous or fragile and regulate development to prevent damage to property or organisms and the general public.))~~

LU235 Allow live-aboards on vessels in moorage areas and provide standards that mitigate the impacts of live-aboard uses on the shoreline environment.

LU236 ~~((Encourage the development of ((support ))industries and services on upland lots by a))~~ Allow((ing permitting)) a  
~~((234))~~ wider range of uses on upland lots((and more flexible development standards)) than on waterfront lots in order to support water-dependent and water-related uses on waterfront lots, ((and))while avoiding potential incompatibility with((-)) those uses.((water dependent uses on waterfront lots)).

## shoreline access ((goals))

LUG44 Maximize public access—both physical and visual—to the Seattle's shorelines, ((of Seattle((Provide for the optimum amount of public access—both physical and visual—to the shorelines of Seattle)).

LUG45 Preserve and enhance views of the shoreline and water from upland areas, where appropriate.

## ((shoreline access policies))

LU237 ~~((Increase-))~~ Enable opportunities for substantial numbers of people to enjoy the shorelines((,)) by requiring access to  
~~((235))~~ public property located on the water and by ((permitting non-)) allowing uses that are not water-dependent to locate on waterfront lots ((uses-))((that-))when those uses provide((ing)) additional public access to((-)) the shoreline and are located in waterfront areas less suited for water-dependent uses.((- and by requiring public access on public property)).

LU238 Promote public enjoyment of the shorelines through public access standards that require improvements to be safe, well  
~~((236))~~ designed, and ((offer-))with adequate access to the water.

**LU239** Encourage adopt-a-beach and other programs that promote voluntary maintenance of public access areas in the Shoreline District.

**LU240** ~~((Except for single family residences, maintain))~~ Maintain standards and criteria for providing public access except for lots developed for single-family residences. ~~((; and private use of publicly owned or controlled shorelines))~~ to achieve the following:

1. linkages between shoreline public facilities via trails, paths, etc., that connect boating and other recreational facilities.
2. visible signage ~~((use of signs and graphics))~~ at all publicly owned or controlled shoreline and all required public access on private property.
3. development of bonuses or incentives for the ~~((provision))~~ development of public access on private property, if appropriate.
4. provision of public access opportunities by public agencies such as the City, Port of Seattle, ~~((and))~~ King County and the State ~~((provide public access opportunities))~~ at new shoreline facilities and encourage these agencies to provide similar opportunities in existing facilities.
5. ~~((standards and criteria for))~~ view and visual access from upland and waterfront lots.
6. encouragement of priority for operating requirements of water-dependent uses over preservation of views in those environments where water-dependent uses ~~((are encouraged))~~.
7. protection and enhancement of views ~~((are protected and enhanced))~~ by limiting view blockage caused by off-premise signs and ~~((regulating))~~ other signs.

**LU241** Waterways, which are public highway for watercraft providing access from land to water and from water to land platted ~~((238))~~ by the Washington State Harbor Line Commission for the convenience of commerce and navigation, in Lake Union and Portage Bay are for public navigation access and commerce, and ~~((;))~~ in general, the City shall not request that the designation be removed from waterways. ~~((The City may))~~ Request that waterways be vacated only when the ~~((e))~~ City reclaims the area as street right-of-way or for public park purposes. The City may request that the dry land portion of a waterway be redesignated for the additional purpose of providing permanent public access improvements.

**LU242** Shorelines street ends are a valuable resource for public use, ~~((and))~~ access and shoreline restoration. Design ~~((P))~~ public or private use or development of street ends ~~((shall be designed))~~ to enhance, rather than reduce, public access and to restore the ecological conditions of the shoreline.

### transportation in the shoreline ~~((transportation goals))~~

**LUG46** Provide a transportation network that supports and enhances use of ~~((;))~~ and access to ~~((;))~~ the shorelines.

**LUG47** Relocate or demolish transportation facilities that are functionally or aesthetically disruptive to the shoreline, such as the aerial portion of the Alaskan Way Viaduct on the Central Waterfront between King Street and Union Street.

~~((shoreline transportation policies))~~

~~LU243~~ Encourage the transport of materials and cargo in the Shoreline District via modes having the least environmental impact.  
~~((239))~~

~~LU244~~ Encourage large vessels (cruise ships and cargo container ships) to connect to dock side electrical facilities or use other energy alternatives while in port, to reduce engine idling and exhaust emissions.

~~LU245~~ Discourage and reduce overtime, vehicle parking on waterfront lots in the Shoreline.

~~LU246~~ Encourage the maintenance and future development of inter-modal commuter ferry services, to complement other public transportation systems, from both intra-city locations and elsewhere in the region.  
~~((240))~~

~~LU247~~ Provide public transportation convenient to the shoreline.  
~~((245))~~

~~LU248~~ 1. Locate ~~((S))~~ streets, highways, freeways and railroads ~~((should be located))~~ away from the shoreline in order to maximize the area of waterfront lots. Discourage ~~((S))~~ streets, highways, freeways and railroads not needed for access to shoreline lots ~~((shall be discouraged))~~ in the Shoreline District. A replacement for the State Route 99 Viaduct ~~((only for seawall reconstruction and either))~~ with a tunnel ~~((with a surface roadway))~~ and/or a surface roadway ~~((S))~~ may be located in the Shoreline District because it represents a critical link in the transportation network.  
~~((244))~~

2. To facilitate expeditious construction in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner, standards for major state and regional transportation projects should be considered that will allow flexibility in construction staging, utility relocation, and construction-related mitigation and uses, provided that the projects result in no net loss of ecological function.

3. Prohibit aerial transportation structures over 35 feet high, such as bridges and viaducts, on the Central Waterfront in the Shoreline Environments between King Street and Union Street, except for aerial pedestrian walkways associated with Colman Dock, in order to facilitate the revitalization of downtown's waterfront, provide opportunities for public access to the Central Waterfront shoreline, and preserve views of Elliott Bay and the land forms beyond.

~~LU249~~ The primary purpose of waterways in Lake Union and Portage Bay is to facilitate navigation and commerce by providing ~~((navigational))~~ water-borne access to adjacent properties, access to the land for the loading and unloading of watercraft, and temporary moorage. ~~((The importance of w))~~ Waterways are also important for ~~((in))~~ providing public access from dry land to the water ~~((is also recognized))~~.  
~~((242))~~

~~LU250~~ Public access shall be the preferred use for ~~((recaptured))~~ vacated rights-of-way. Public rights-of-way may be used or developed for uses other than public access, provided that such uses are determined by the City to be in the public interest, and that public access of substantial quality and at least comparable to that available in the right-of-way is provided.  
~~((243))~~

~~((LU244 Shorelines street ends are a valuable resource for public use and access. Public or private use or development of street ends shall be designed to enhance rather than reduce public access.))~~

~~((conservation goals))~~ shoreline protection and restoration

LUG48 Require that no net loss of ecological functions occur as a result of uses, development, shoreline modifications, maintenance activities or expansion of existing uses, development or shoreline modifications.

~~((LUG49 Insure that all future uses will preserve and protect environmental systems, including wild and aquatic life.~~

LUG49 Identify those areas of shorelines that are geologically or biologically unstable, fragile or significant and regulate development to prevent damage to property, general public, aquatic and terrestrial species, and shoreline ecological functions.

~~((LUG50 Insure continuing scientific study of Seattle shoreline ecosystems.))~~

LUG50 Preserve, protect and restore areas ~~((such as those))~~ necessary for the support of ~~((wild))~~ terrestrial and aquatic life or ~~((48))~~ those identified as having geological or biological significance.

LUG51 Use scientific information to guide shoreline protection, enhancement and restoration activities.

LUG52 Address and minimize the impacts of sea level rise on the shoreline environment with strategies that also meet the three main goals of the SMP; to protect shoreline ecological functions, allow water-dependent uses and provide public access.

LUG53 Encourage the establishment of marine protected areas, where appropriate.

LUG55 Restore lower Duwamish watershed habitat and marine ecology while sustaining a healthy and diverse working waterfront in this urban industrial environment.

LUG56 Strengthen the vitality of a functioning ecosystem within Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 8 and 9 by integrating development projects into their surrounding environments, by supporting a diversity of habitats, and by strengthening connections between habitats throughout each watershed.

~~((conservation policies))~~

LU251 Use mitigation sequencing (the steps taken in the order listed, to avoid, rectify, minimize and/or compensate for the loss to ecological functions) to meet no net loss of ecological functions.

LU252 Protect the natural environment of the shoreline through ~~((use and-))~~ development ~~((standards-))~~ regulations ~~((governing shoreline activities))~~ that include ~~((ing))~~ a requirement to use best management practices to control impacts from construction and development activities.

LU253 Regulate development on ~~((Identify-))~~ those areas of shorelines that are biologically significant or geologically ~~((or biologically dangerous or))~~ fragile ~~((and regulate development-))~~ to prevent ~~((damage-))~~ harm to property, ~~((or))~~ organisms ~~((and-))~~ or the general public.

LU254 Develop methods to measure both the impacts of development in the Shoreline District and the effects of mitigation so that no net loss of ecological function occurs through development projects.

LU255 Monitor the benefits of mitigation techniques to determine which are best suited to meet the goal of no net loss of ecological function.

- LU256** Conserve existing shoreline vegetation and encourage new shoreline plantings with native plants, to protect habitat and other ecological functions, reduce the need for shoreline stabilization structures, and improve visual and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline.
- LU257** Avoid development in ~~((A))~~ areas identified as special wildlife or priority saltwater or fresh water ~~((fisheries))~~ habitat ~~((should be developed only if ))~~ unless no feasible ~~((reasonable))~~ alternative locations exist and ~~((then only if the project))~~ the new development is designed to ~~((minimize and))~~ mitigate impacts ~~((habitat damage))~~.
- LU258** Protect environmentally critical areas as set out in the policies for environmentally critical areas and modified to reflect the special circumstances of such areas in the Shoreline District.
- LU259** Require that all commercial, industrial or other high intensity ~~((activity))~~ uses provide means for treating natural or artificial urban run-off to acceptable standards. Developments with industrial ~~or((and))~~ commercial uses that use or process substances potentially harmful to public health and/or aquatic life shall provide means to prevent ~~((to the extent possible,))~~ point and non-point discharge of those ~~((harmful))~~ substances.
- LU260** Consider the Lower Duwamish Watershed Habitat Restoration Plan (Weiner, K.S and Clark, J.A. 1996); the Port of Seattle Lower Duwamish River Habitat Restoration Plan and the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan and implementation documents and WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan and implementation documents when conducting planning, permitting, mitigation and restoration activities within the Duwamish/Green River and Cedar River watersheds.
- LU261** ~~((Dredging and disposal of dredge materials shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes short and long term environmental damage.))~~ Allow dredging in the minimum amount necessary for water-dependent uses, environmental mitigation or enhancement, clean-up of contaminated materials, and installation of utilities and bridges.
- LU262** Allow fill on submerged land that does not create dry land only where necessary and in a manner that minimize short and long term environmental damage for the operation of a water-dependent or water-related use, transportation projects of state-wide significance, installation of a bridge or utility line, disposal of dredged material in accordance with the Dredged Material Management Program, beach nourishment or environmental mitigation or restoration and enhancement. Design projects to ensure no net loss of ecological function through mitigation sequencing.
- LU263** Permit landfill that creates dry land only where necessary for ~~((the operation of a of a water dependent or water related use, for the replacement of the State Route 99 Viaduct (only for seawall reconstruction and either a tunnel with a surface roadway or a surface roadway))~~ transportation projects of statewide significance, repair of pocket erosion for water dependent and water related uses, beach nourishment, or for environmental ~~((wildlife habitat))~~ mitigation or restoration and enhancement. Construct fill projects in a manner that minimizes short and long-term environmental damage and design projects to ensure no net loss of ecological function through mitigation sequencing. ~~((Large amounts of dry land may be created in Lake Union only if specifically approved by the Council for a public park purpose.))~~
- LU264** Work with other government agencies and shoreline users to reduce the input of pollutants, restore contaminated areas, control disposal of dredge spoils, and to determine the appropriate mitigation for project impacts.
- LU265** Use a Restoration and Enhancement Plan to ~~((I))~~ identify ~~((those))~~ areas that have potential for shoreline habitat restoration. Prioritize the restoration opportunities that will best achieve ecological improvement, ~~((to “natural” conditions, develop standards))~~ describe the appropriate restoration activities for the conditions in those areas, and provide incentives for achieving restoration of the shorelines. ~~((such standards.))~~
- LU266** Support programs that inform the public about shoreline conservation practices ~~((;))~~ and identify methods by which public and private shoreline owners or community groups may encourage ~~((wild,))~~ aquatic and ~~((botanical))~~ terrestrial life, ~~((and))~~ require such methods when appropriate, and provide incentives for such projects.



**LU267** Support the scientific study of the shoreline ecosystems that will provide information to help~~((a continuously))~~  
~~((253))~~ update~~((4))~~ baseline condition information; to monitor ~~((against which to judge))~~ the impact of any action; and to  
guide protection, restoration and enhancement activities to meet the no net loss requirements and implement the  
restoration plan.

**LU268** Where applicable, new or expanded development and maintenance shall include environmental cleanup and restoration  
of the shoreline to comply with any relevant state and federal law.

## shoreline economic development ~~((goals))~~

**LUG57** Encourage economic activity and development ~~((of water dependent uses))~~ by supporting the retention and expansion  
~~((54))~~ of existing water-dependent and water-related businesses on waterfront lots. ~~((and planning for the creation of new~~  
~~developments in areas now dedicated to such use.))~~

## ~~((economic development policies))~~

**LU269** ~~((Concentrate industrial and commercial shoreline uses by s))~~ Support~~((ing))~~ the retention and expansion of existing  
~~((254))~~ conforming water-dependent and water-related businesses, and~~((planning for))~~ anticipate the creation of new water-  
dependent and water-related development~~((s))~~ in areas now dedicated to such use.

**LU270** Identify and designate appropriate land adjacent to deep water for industrial and commercial uses that require such  
~~((255))~~ condition~~((, such as industry or commerce)).~~

**LU271** Provide regulatory and non-regulatory incentives for property owners to include public amenities and ecological  
~~((256))~~ enhancement on private property.

**LU272** ~~((Citywide:))~~ Identify and designate appropriate land for water-dependent business and industrial uses as follows:  
~~((257))~~ ~~((objectives for different types of water dependent businesses and industries:))~~

### **1. Cargo Handling Facilities:**

- a. Reserve space in deep water areas with adequate vessel maneuvering areas~~((backup space))~~ to permit the Port of Seattle and other marine industries to remain competitive with other ports.
- b. Work with the Port of Seattle to develop a long-range port~~((harbor))~~ plan in order to provide predictability for property owners and private industry in the Duwamish and in Elliott Bay.

**2. Tug & Barge Facilities:** Retain Seattle's role as the Gateway to Alaska and ensure ample area is designated for uses that serve Puget Sound and Pacific trade.

**3. Shipbuilding, Boat Building & Repairs:** Encourage a critical mass of facilities in Seattle in order to meet the needs of the diverse fleets that visit or have a home port in Seattle, including fishing, transport, recreation and military vessels.

**4. Moorage:** Meet the long-term and transient needs of ~~((all of))~~~~((Seattle's))~~ ships and boats, including fishing, transport, recreation and military. ~~((Locate))~~ Support long-term moorage in sheltered areas close to services, and short-term moorage in more open areas. Support the efficient use of Fishermen's Terminal, Shilshole Bay Marina

and other public moorage facilities. Protect commercial and recreational moorage from displacement by encouraging the full use of submerged lands for recreational moorage in areas less suited for commercial moorage and less sensitive to environmental degradation. Require large recreational marinas to provide some commercial transient moorage as part of their facilities.

5. **Recreational Boating:** Maintain diverse opportunities for recreational boaters to access the water. ~~((Seattle's unofficial status as a "boating capital."))~~ Allow a variety of boating facilities, from launching ramps for small "car top" or "hand-carried" boats to major marinas. Encourage recreational moorage by providing both long-term and short-term moorage at marinas and short-term moorage at cultural and recreational sites. ~~((Provide long-term recreational moorage for residents and sufficient short-term moorage close to cultural and recreational centers for visitors.))~~
6. **Passenger Terminals:** Maintain and expand the opportunity for convenient travel by ship to local and distant ports for residents and visitors. Encourage ~~((more))~~ passenger-only ferries on the Central Waterfront.
7. **Fishing Industry:** Maintain a critical mass of support services including boat building and repair, moorage, fish processors, and supply houses to ~~((permit))~~ allow Seattle fishermen to continue to service and have a home-port for their vessels in Seattle waters. Recognize the importance of the local fishing industry in supplying local markets and restaurants. Recognize the economic contribution of distant-water fisheries to Seattle's maritime and general economy.

**LU273** Allow ~~((a))~~ multi-use ~~((concept of))~~ developments including uses that are not water-dependent or water-related where ~~((LUG52))~~ the demand for water-dependent and water-related uses is less than the land available or ~~((when))~~ if the use that is not water-dependent is necessary for the viability of ~~((supports))~~ the water-dependent uses. Such multi-use development shall ~~((;))~~ provide ~~((d that the major use is water dependent and that it provides))~~ public access to the shoreline and shoreline ecological restoration to achieve other Shoreline Master Program goals. ~~((yet maintains the economic viability of the use.))~~

## shoreline recreation ~~((goals))~~

**LUG58** Manage and optimize publicly owned shorelines that are suitable for public recreation.  
~~((53))~~

**LUG59** Increase shorelines dedicated to public recreation and open space.  
~~((54))~~

**LUG60** Identify, protect and reserve for public use and ~~((for))~~ enjoyment ~~((those))~~ areas in the Shoreline District ~~((containing special shoreline qualities that cannot be easily duplicated))~~ that provide a variety of public access activities and that connect to other public access sites so that public access is available throughout the City.  
~~((55))~~

**LUG61** Allow increased opportunities for the public to enjoy water-dependent recreation, including boating, fishing, swimming, diving and enjoyment of views.  
~~((56))~~

## ~~((recreation policies))~~

~~((LU258—Allow for increased opportunity for the public to enjoy water dependent recreation including boating, fishing, swimming, diving and enjoyment of views.))~~

- ~~LU274~~ Designate ~~((as suited))~~for water-dependent recreation areas ~~((having))~~where there are natural beaches, large amounts of submerged land ~~((area for moorage-))~~or sheltered water and ~~((the absence of))~~where there is minimal heavy ship traffic ~~((and that is incompatible))~~or land suitable for heavy industrial activity, while ~~((minimizing environmental impacts))~~protecting ecological functions.
- ~~LU275~~ Provide for recreational boating facilities including ~~((terminals,))~~ moorage and service facilities on publicly-owned land and encourage the provision of such facilities on private property ~~((, if the environmental impact is acceptable))~~ in appropriate areas that minimize environmental impacts.
- ~~LU276~~ Increase publicly-owned shorelines, giving priority to those areas of the city that lack recreational facilities.
- ~~LU277~~ Explore alternatives to ~~((means other than-))~~acquisition ~~((,))~~ ~~((to))~~for providing ~~((e))~~ public recreation at the shoreline and on the water.
- ~~LU278~~ ~~((Use))~~Identify submerged lands that could be used for underwater parks~~((-when feasible)).~~

## shoreline archaeological and historic resources ~~((goals))~~

- ~~LUG62~~ ~~((Appropriately designate sites and areas of shoreline having historic or cultural significance.))~~Encourage the restoration, preservation and maintenance of areas of the shoreline having significant archaeological and historical significance.
- ~~LUG63~~ ~~((Support and e))~~Encourage the restoration of ~~((those areas or conditions))~~archaeological and historic features of the shoreline ~~((now unsuitable for private or public use,))~~where consistent with economic and environmental goals.
- ~~((LUG58 Upgrade and/or beautify the public shoreline.))~~

## ~~((shoreline archaeological and historic resources policies))~~

- ~~LU279~~ ~~((Support and encourage the restoration, preservation and maintenance of areas of the shoreline having significant historical or cultural significance, and a program for shoreline restoration and beautification.))~~Designate, protect, preserve and support restoration of sites and areas of the Shoreline District having historic or cultural significance, including through landmark designation where appropriate.
- ~~((LU264 Consider protection of individual sites or aspects of areas identified as being of historical significance through landmark designation.))~~
- ~~LU280~~ Avoid impacts to areas identified as archaeologically and historically significant, unless no reasonable alternative locations exist and impacts to the resource are mitigated.

## **SHORELINE ENVIRONMENTS**

The Shoreline Master Program must address a wide range of physical conditions and development settings along areas of the shoreline. The Shoreline Master Program prescribes different environmental protection measures, allowable use provisions and development standards for each of these areas of the shoreline. The method to account for different shoreline conditions is to assign an environment designation to each distinct shoreline section. The environment designation assignments provide the

framework for implementing shoreline policies and regulatory measures specific to the environment designations. The shoreline environments within Seattle's Shoreline District is divided into two broad categories; Conservancy and Urban and then subdivided further within these two categories.

The Conservancy shoreline environments are less developed and provide for areas of navigation, recreation and habitat protection. The Urban shoreline environments are areas that are more developed and provide for single family residential development and water-dependent and water-related uses. The Conservancy and Urban shoreline environments are described in the following goals and policies and displayed on Land Use Figure 1).

## **conservancy shoreline environment goals and policies**

LUG62 The conservancy shoreline environments are intended to provide for navigation, public access, recreation, protection and restoration and enhancement of ecological functions, in the Shoreline District, while allowing some development if designed to protect ecological functions.

### **Conservancy Management (CM) Environment.**

LUG63 The purpose of the Conservancy Management Environment is to preserve and enhance the shoreline environment while providing opportunities for shoreline recreation

LU281 Encourage restoration of ecological functions in areas where such function has been degraded.

LU282 Accommodate water-oriented public infrastructure projects or such projects that require a waterfront location and that are compatible with the ecological functions of the area

### **Conservancy Navigation (CN) Environment**

LUG64 The purpose of the Conservancy Navigation Environment is to preserve the shoreline environment while providing navigational use of the water.

LU283 Allow in-water and over-water structures that are primarily for navigational purposes.

LU284 Enhance and restore ecological function, where feasible, in areas where such function has been previously degraded.

### **Conservancy Preservation (CP) Environment**

LUG64 The purpose of the Conservancy Preservation Environment is to preserve, enhance and restore the ecological functions in the Shoreline District

LU285 Prohibit uses that substantially degrade the ecological functions or natural character of the shoreline.

LU286 Prohibit commercial and industrial uses and non-water-oriented recreation.

LU287 Prohibit parking that can be located outside the CP area.

LU288 Limit access and utilities to those necessary to sustain permitted uses and activities.

### **Conservancy Recreation (CR) Environment**

LUG64 The purpose of the Conservancy Recreation Environment is to preserve and enhance the shoreline environment while providing opportunities for shoreline recreation

LU289 Prioritize public access, water-dependent recreation and other water-oriented uses compatible with ecological protection.

LU290 Locate public access and public recreation only where the impacts on ecological functions can be effectively mitigated.

### **Conservancy Waterway (CW) Environment.**

LUG65 The purpose of the Conservancy Waterway Environment is to preserve and enhance the shoreline environment while providing access to the shoreline and water by watercraft

LU291 Provide navigational access to adjacent properties, access to and from land for the loading and unloading of water craft and temporary moorage.

LU292 Allow in- and over-water structures only where needed for navigational purposes, temporary moorage, minor vessel repair, pedestrian bridges and/or ecological restoration.

LU293 Minimize impacts on navigation, public views and ecological functions.

### **urban shoreline environment goal**

LUG66 The urban shoreline environments are intended to provide for increased development of the shoreline for residential, commercial and industrial uses while protecting ecological functions.

### **Urban Commercial (UC) Environment**

LUG67 The purpose of the Urban Commercial Environment is to provide for water-oriented uses of the shoreline and for uses that are not water-oriented when shoreline restoration and enhancement or public access is provided.

LU294 Allow uses that are not water-oriented only when in combination with water-dependent uses or in limited situations where they do not conflict with or limit opportunities for water-dependent uses or on sites where there is no direct access to the shoreline.

LU295 Require visual access to the water through view corridors or other means for commercial and larger multifamily residential projects.

LU296 Provide for public access to the shoreline and require shoreline environmental restoration and enhancement for uses that are not water-dependent.

### **Urban General (UG) Environment**

LUG68 The purpose of the Urban General Environment is to provide for commercial and industrial uses in the Shoreline District where water access is limited.

LU297 Allow commercial and industrial uses that are not water-dependent or water-related.

LU298 Require visual public access where feasible.

### **Urban Harborfront (UH) Environment**

LUG68 The purpose of the Urban Harborfront Environment is to provide for water-oriented uses (uses that are water-dependent, water-related, water-enjoyment or a combination of such uses) of the shoreline and for a mix of uses that are water-oriented and not water-oriented on lots where shoreline restoration and enhancement or public access is provided.

LU299 Allow a mix of uses in recognition of this environment's roles in tourism and transportation, while ensuring a high degree of public access and recognizing the historic, environmental and anthropogenic natures of this area.

LU300 Allow uses that are not water-oriented as part of mixed-use developments or in circumstances where they do not conflict with or limit opportunities for water-oriented uses.

LU301 Allow uses that are not water-oriented on sites where there is no direct access to the shoreline.

LU302 Allow uses that reflect the diversity of development in the area and support adjacent retail and tourism industry. On waterfront lots provide public access and opportunities for large numbers of people to access and enjoy the water in the form of restaurants and water-dependent recreational activities. Allow a broader range of uses on upland lots to support the tourist industry and retail core.

LU303 Maintain and enhance views of the water and the landforms beyond the water to augment the harborfront's pedestrian environment and status as an important waterfront destination. Connections to east/west corridors and waterfront trails should be encouraged.

LU304 Encourage and provide for physical public access to the water, where appropriate and feasible

LU305 Development should support or enhance the existing historic character of the urban harborfront while balancing the need for ecological enhancement.

### **Urban Industrial (UI) Environment**

LUG69 The purpose of the Urban Industrial Environment is to provide for water-dependent and water-related industrial uses on larger lots

LU306 Allow uses that are not water dependent to locate on waterfront lots in limited circumstances and in a limited square footage on a site as part of development that includes water-dependent or water-related uses, where it is demonstrated that the allowed uses will benefit water-dependent uses and where the use will not preclude future use by water-dependent uses.

LU307 Allow uses that are not water-dependent or water-related where there is no direct access the shoreline.

### **Urban Maritime (UM) Environment**

LUG72 The purpose of the Urban Maritime Environment is to provide for water-dependent and water-related industrial uses on smaller lots.

LU308 Design public access to minimize interference with water-dependent, water-related and industrial uses and is encouraged to be located on street ends, parks and other public lands.

LU309 Allow uses that are not water dependent to locate on waterfront lots in limited circumstances and in a limited square footage on a site as part of development that includes water-dependent or water-related uses, where it is demonstrated that the allowed uses will benefit water-dependent uses and where the use will not preclude future use by water-dependent uses.

LU310 Allow uses that are not-water-dependent or water-related on lots where there is no direct access to the shoreline.

### **Urban Residential (UR) Environment**

LUG72 The purpose of the Urban Residential Environment is to provide for residential use in the Shoreline District when it can be developed in a manner that protects shoreline ecological functions.

LU311 Provide for single-family residential use of the shoreline in areas that are not suited for industrial and commercial use.

LU312 Provide development standards that allow residential development and protect ecological functions, such as shoreline armoring standards and structure setback regulations.

LU313 Multifamily development is not a preferred use in the Shoreline District and should be limited to locations where allowed as of January 2011.

LU314 Require public access as part of multifamily development of greater than four units.

LU315 Provide for access, utilities and public services to adequately serve existing and planned development.

## shorelines of statewide significance

In addition to the goals and policies of each shoreline environment the following goals apply to all shorelines of statewide significance under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Master Program, which include: Puget Sound, the Duwamish River (shorelines from the south city limits north to South Massachusetts on the east side and Southwest Bronson Street on the west side, and including Harbor Island and the East and West Duwamish Waterways), Lake Washington and Union Bay to the Montlake Bridge.

LU316 Protect the ecology of natural beaches and fish migration routes, including the natural processes associated with feeder bluffs.

LU317 Encourage and enhance shoreline recreational activities, particularly in developed parks.

LU318 Provide for quality public access to the shoreline.

LU319 Preserve views of Puget Sound and the land forms beyond, as well as views of Lake Washington and Union Bay.

LU320 Preserve and enhance the resources of natural areas and fish migration routes, feeding areas and spawning areas.

## height in the shoreline district ((policy))

LU321 The 35-foot height limit provided in the Shoreline Management Act shall be the standard for maximum height in the Seattle Shoreline District. Exceptions in the development standards of a shoreline environment may be made consistent with the Act and with underlying zoning and special districts where:

1. a greater height will decrease the impact of the development on the ecological condition;
2. a greater height will not obstruct views from public trails and viewpoints;
3. a greater height will not obstruct shoreline views from a substantial number of residences, and will serve a beneficial((the))public interest ((will be served)); ((and))
4. greater height is necessary for bridges, or equipment of water dependent or water-related uses or manufacturing uses; or
5. greater height is necessary to allow for the replacement of the State Route 99 Viaduct (only for seawall reconstruction and either a tunnel ((with a surface roadway-))or a surface roadway).

LU322 Heights lower than 35 feet shall be the standard for structures overwater.

~~((d. a reduced height is warranted because of the underlying residential zone; or))~~

~~((e. a reduced height is warranted because public views or the views of a substantial number of residences could be blocked.))~~

## SMP process ((goal))

~~LUG73~~ Continue shoreline planning by periodically updating the inventory, goals, policies and regulations to respond to  
~~((59))~~ changing attitudes and conditions in Seattle's shorelines.

~~((process policy))~~

~~LU323~~ Conduct periodic assessments of the performance of and the need for change in the Shoreline Master Program.  
~~((266))~~

~~((area objectives for Seattle's shorelines goals~~

~~LUG60~~—Recognize the unique opportunities in different areas of our shorelines to accommodate different types of water-dependent businesses and shoreline recreation, and to protect and enhance natural areas and views of the water.

~~LUG61~~—Restore Lower Duwamish Watershed habitat while maintaining the urban industrial nature of the area, its neighborhoods and the importance of sustaining a healthy and diverse working waterfront and marine ecology.

~~LG62~~—Strengthen the vitality of a functioning ecosystem within the Lower Duwamish Watershed by integrating projects into their surrounding environments, by supporting a diversity of habitats, and by strengthening connections between habitats throughout the Watershed.

~~area objectives for Seattle's shorelines policies~~

~~LU267~~—The Lower Duwamish Watershed Habitat Restoration Plan (December, 1996, as may be amended from time to time) should be considered by agencies when conducting planning or permitting activities within the watershed.

~~LU268~~—It is the intent of the Area Objectives to indicate which of the Shoreline Areas Goals and Policies are to be met on each specific section of shoreline. The Management System for Appropriate Uses as required by the Shoreline Management Act shall consist of the Area Objectives for the diverse areas of Seattle's shorelines, the purposes of the shoreline environments, the shoreline environment designations, and the use regulations and development standards of the Land Use Code.

~~LU269~~—The area objectives for Seattle Shorelines illustrated in Land Use Figure 1 are as follows:

~~1. Area Objectives For Shorelines Of Statewide Significance~~

~~a. Puget Sound (Residential/  
Recreational Areas)~~

~~—(The Puget Sound area includes all of the shorelines on Puget Sound within the City limits, except the Shilshole area, Elliott Bay, the Harborfront and the Duwamish Waterways.)~~



- ~~• Protect the fragile ecology of the natural beaches and fish migration routes.~~
- ~~• Encourage and enhance shoreline recreational activities, particularly in developed parks.~~
- ~~• Provide for quality public access to the shoreline.~~
- ~~• Preserve and enhance views of the water.~~
- ~~• Protect areas developed for residential use in a manner consistent with the Single family and Multi-family Residential Area Policies.~~

~~b. Elliott Bay~~

~~—(The Elliott Bay area is all shoreline area from 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue West to SW Atlantic Street, except the Harborfront, Harbor Island and the Duwamish Waterways.)~~

- ~~• Reserve waterfront lots for major port terminals, large water dependent and water related manufacturing and industrial facilities, and major water dependent recreational developments.~~
- ~~• Choose shoreline environments that are appropriate for recreational and industrial uses based on water depth, amount of dry land, topography, and truck and rail access.~~
- ~~• Protect and enhance migratory fish routes and feeding areas.~~

~~c. Harborfront (Central Waterfront)~~

~~—(The Harborfront area is the shoreline area from Bay Street on the north to S. Jackson Street on the south.)~~

- ~~• Encourage economically viable marine uses to meet the needs of waterborne commerce.~~
- ~~• Facilitate the revitalization of downtown's waterfront.~~
- ~~• Provide opportunities for public access and recreational enjoyment of the shoreline.~~
- ~~• Preserve and enhance elements of historic and cultural significance.~~
- ~~• Preserve views of Elliott Bay and the land forms beyond.~~

~~d. The Duwamish~~

~~—(The Duwamish area includes the Duwamish river from the south city limits north to South Massachusetts on the east side and Southwest Bronson Street on the west side, and including Harbor Island and the East and West Duwamish Waterways.)~~

- ~~• Preserve the statewide interest by encouraging industrial and port uses in this area, where such uses are already concentrated, while also protecting migratory fish routes.~~
- ~~• Protect Kellogg Island as an important natural resource for fish and wildlife habitat and the opportunity for the public to view those resources.~~

- ~~• Work with appropriate government agencies and shoreline users to reduce the input of pollutants, restore contaminated areas and regulate disposal of dredge spoils.~~

- ~~• Increase public access and recreational opportunities through the Duwamish Public Access Plan.~~

~~e. The Shilshole Area~~

~~—(The Shilshole area is the shoreline area from NW 80<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, to the Chittenden Locks.)~~

- ~~• Retain the strong, water dependent recreational character of the area. Water dependent recreational uses and their supporting services are the preferred uses for this area.~~
- ~~• Permit non water dependent commercial uses when providing access to the water, protecting views and not usurping land usable for future water dependent recreational uses.~~
- ~~• On waterfront lots, new residential uses may be permitted when adjacent to existing residences. Protect the fish migration routes.~~

~~f. Lake Washington and Union Bay~~

~~—(The Lake Washington area is the shoreline area on Lake Washington from the north to south city limits, including Union Bay, to the Montlake Bridge.)~~

- ~~• Preserve the resources of natural areas and fish migration, feeding areas and spawning areas.~~
- ~~• Provide quality public access to the shoreline by encouraging and enhancing shoreline recreational activities, particularly in developed parks.~~
- ~~• Preserve and enhance views of the water.~~
- ~~• Protect developed residential and commercial areas in a manner consistent with adopted land use policies.~~

~~—Union Bay:~~

- ~~• Protect fragile natural environments.~~
- ~~• Provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the natural environment.~~

~~2. Area Objectives For Other Shoreline Areas~~

~~a. The Ship Canal~~

~~—(The Ship Canal area includes the Lake Washington Ship Canal from the Chittenden Locks to the Fremont Bridge.)~~

- ~~• Retain and encourage the important role that the Ship Canal plays in state, regional and local fisheries by reserving the Ship Canal primarily for water dependent and water related uses. Non water dependent uses shall be restricted, prohibited or allowed only on a limited basis by the selection of shoreline environments that favor water dependent uses.~~

- ~~Encourage the development of non-water dependent commercial, institutional and manufacturing uses on those areas of the Fremont Cut that do not have water access.~~

b. ~~Lake Union and Portage Bay~~

~~(The Lake Union area is all of Lake Union from the Fremont Bridge to the Montlake Bridge, and all of Portage Bay, from the I-5 Bridge to the Montlake Bridge.)~~

- ~~Maintain and encourage a diversity of uses around Lake Union and Portage Bay by designating different areas of the shoreline with different shoreline environments.~~
- ~~Retain the working character of Lake Union by reserving those areas of the lake's shorelines that are suitable for water dependent uses for the use of marine businesses. Prohibit new residential uses on industrial shorelines.~~
- ~~Allow a greater mix of uses, including non-water dependent uses providing public access, in those areas that are not being preserved for water dependent uses.~~
- ~~Preserve the existing floating home community.~~
- ~~Provide a maximum amount of public access in locations that do not conflict with water dependent manufacturing uses.~~
- ~~Provide for some open water and protect views of the Lake and Bay in all environments in Lake Union and Portage Bay.~~
- ~~Restore and enhance and Lake's natural environment.~~

c. ~~Green Lake~~

~~(The Green Lake area includes the lake, the park and its 200 foot wide shoreline.)~~

- ~~Encourage and enhance the shoreline recreational activities and opportunities in the area as a unique urban park.~~
- ~~Explore restoration options for improving water quality, reducing algae and other plant growth, and enhancing sports fishing.))~~