

# Shoreline Environment Designations



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Coastal Training Program  
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# Presentation will focus on...

- ❑ What to base environment designations on
- ❑ Options
- ❑ Guidelines designations
- ❑ Alternative environments
- ❑ Environment regulations
- ❑ Parallel environments
- ❑ Predesignation

# Classify shorelines into environment designations based on ecological characteristics



Hugh Shipman photo

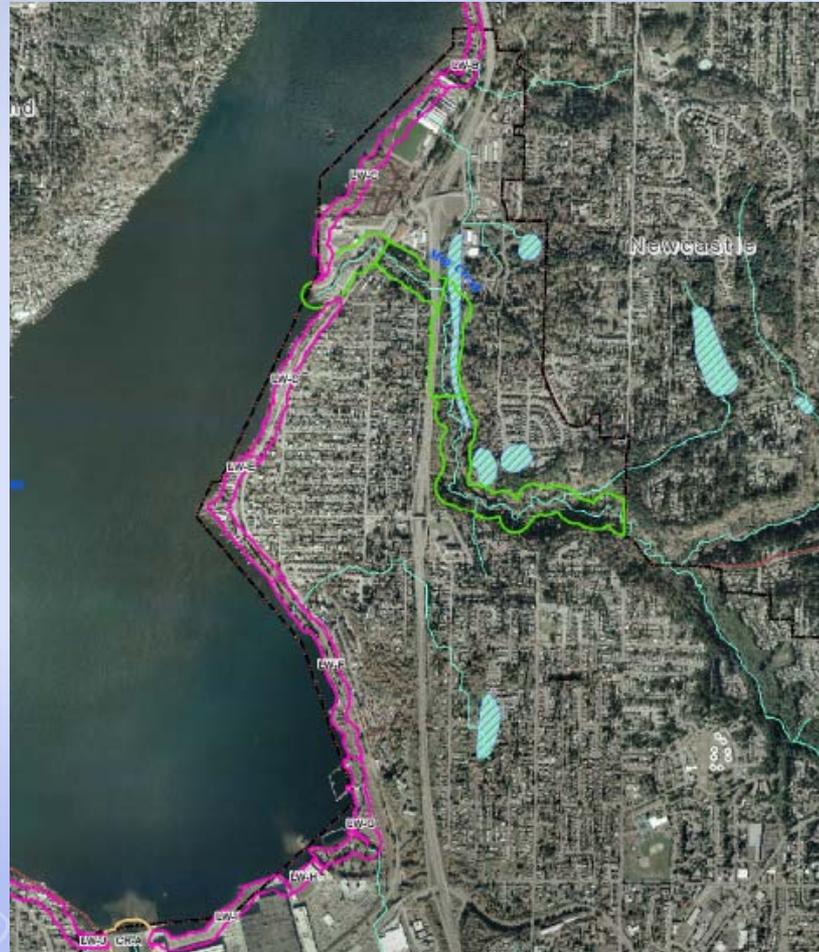


WA Coastal Atlas

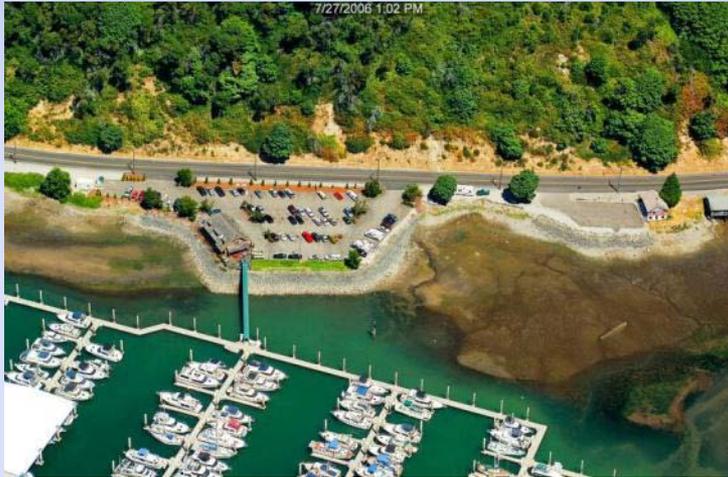
# Classify shorelines into environment designations using shoreline reaches

## Renton shoreline reaches

- Lake Washington -11
- May Creek – 4



# Classify shorelines into environment designations based on land use patterns



WA Coastal Atlas photos

# Classify shorelines into environment designations based on community goals

- ❑ Comprehensive plan = community goals
- ❑ Be consistent with comprehensive plans
- ❑ Comp plan should assure adequate infrastructure for shoreline uses

# Classify shorelines into environment designations based on I/C recommendations

Table 6-2. Summary of Process Alterations and Management Potential, Lake Washington Shoreline

Process	Scale	Alterations	Restoration Potential
Hydrology: Flow Regime	Watershed	<u>High</u> Regional management of water resources has altered watershed hydrography and temporal water level fluctuations	<u>Low</u> Human needs expressed in existing land-use and water resource management limits potential for restoration of hydrologic processes.
	City	Not applicable	Not applicable
Water Quality: Inputs	Watershed	<u>High</u> Urbanized land-uses contribute toxins and nutrients from lakeshore and tributaries Point-source inputs from industrial sources	<u>Low</u> Lake Washington tributaries outside of the City are the most urbanized in the state, limiting the potential for effective protection and restoration.
	City	<u>High</u> Although the upper Cedar and May Creek watersheds are rural, areas within the city are still highly urbanized. The lakeshore is completely built-out.	<u>Moderate</u> May Creek and Cedar River basins are less urbanized than other Lake Washington tributaries and have potential for protection through Best Management Practices (BMPs) along the lakeshore must focus on limiting continuing degradation from existing development
Water Quality: Storage	Watershed	<u>High</u> Disturbed riparian corridors in low-order streams and loss of wetlands and floodplain connectivity	<u>Low-Moderate</u> Potential for wetland and floodplain restoration is low, but riparian restoration/protection to attenuate nutrient cycling through biotic uptake and improved hyporheic function is more feasible.
	City	<u>High</u> Remnant wetlands persist or have been restored along the lakeshore; floodplain connection is very minimal along the Cedar River; May Creek and other low-order tributaries have some riparian function	<u>Low</u> Lakeshore naturalization would improve groundwater exchange and potentially increase water quality in nearshore areas See Sections 5.2 and 5.3 for management options in May Creek and Cedar River

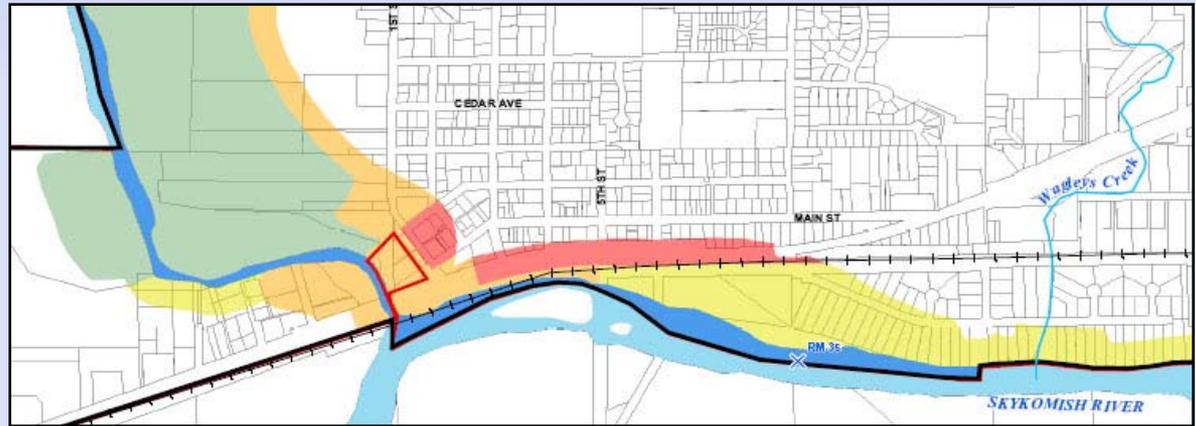
# There are several options for developing environment designations:

- ❑ Use designations in Guidelines
- ❑ Retain designations from existing SMP
- ❑ Develop alternative environment designations.
- ❑ Use any combination of the above

# Environment designations must be mapped

WAC 173-26-211  
requires:

- Accurate map
- Clear identification of boundaries in text if parcels are not on map
- Automatic Urban/  
Rural Conservancy if not mapped



City of Sultan Shoreline Designations Map

Natural – Protect ecologically intact shorelines with minimally degraded shoreline functions



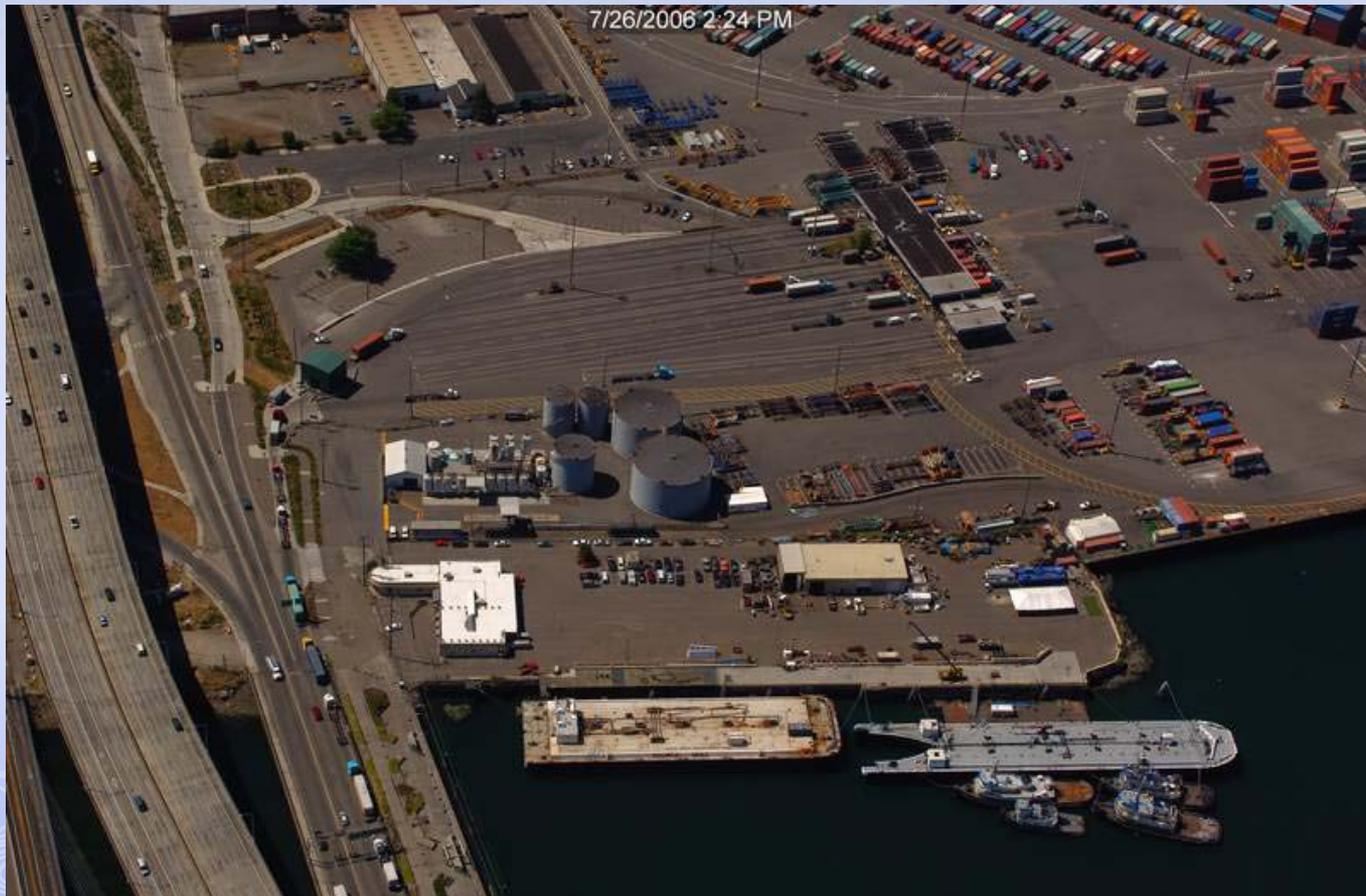
# Rural Conservancy – Conserve existing natural resources & processes, provide for sustainable resource use



# Aquatic – Protect, restore and manage resources waterward of the OHWM



High Intensity - Provide for water-oriented commercial, transportation & industrial uses, protect & restore ecological functions



Urban Conservancy – Protect & restore ecological functions of sensitive shorelines in urban areas, allow uses consistent with this intent



# Shoreline Residential – Accommodate residential development consistent with SMA



# Alternative environments can reflect local conditions



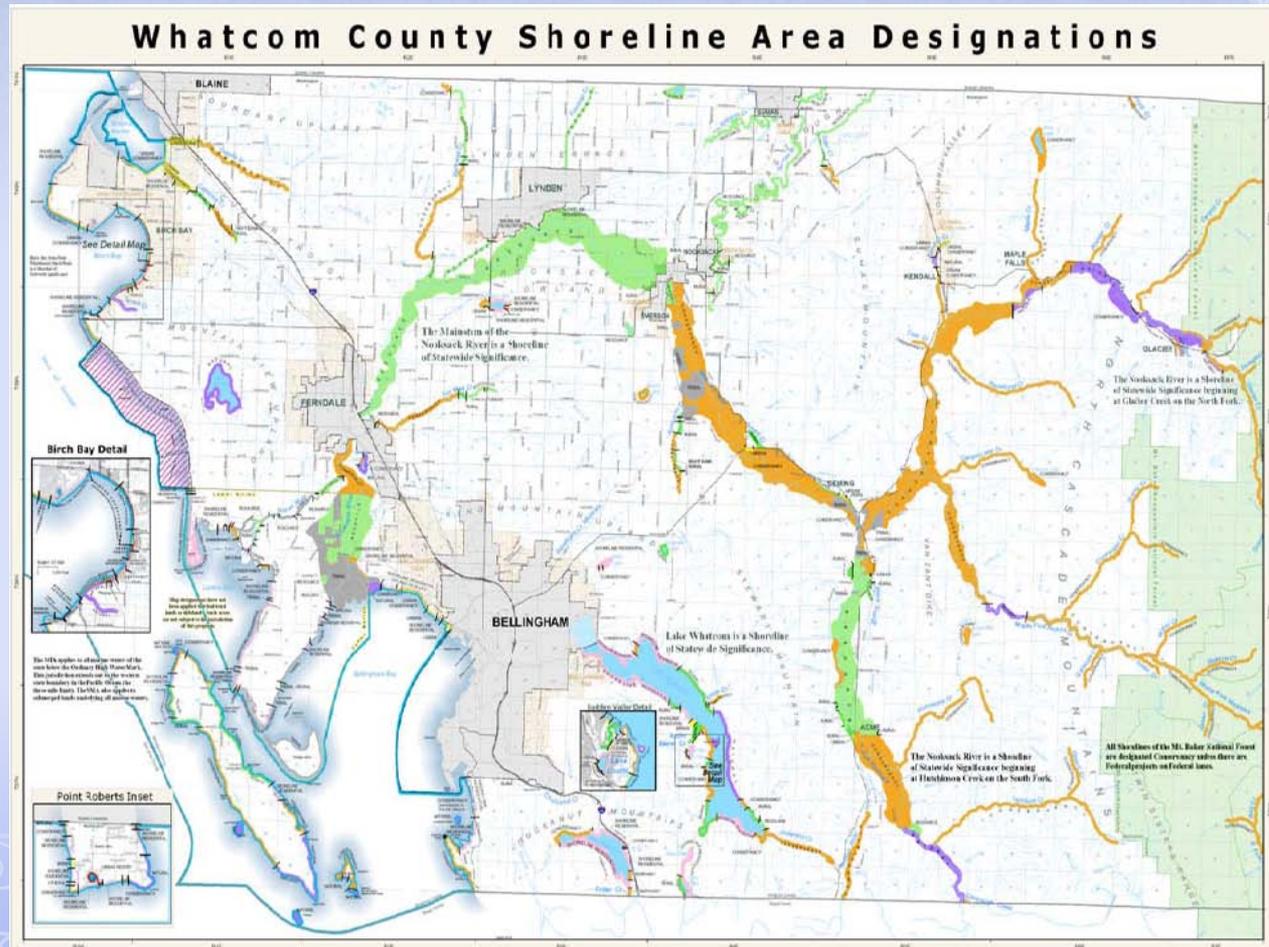
Bishop Building  
Waterfront Historic District  
environment designation  
Port Townsend



photos by Jeffree Stewart

Boathaven Marina  
Boathaven environment  
designation  
Port Townsend

# Whatcom County SMP has 10 environment designations



# Purpose statement should describe shoreline management objectives of designation



# Designation criteria should describe basis for assigning designation to shoreline reaches



# Management policies are basis for regulations

- Encourage a mixture and variety of uses and activities in the Historic Waterfront Designation, particularly those that:
  - a. Preserve and restore the historic character of Port Townsend.
  - b. Support and reinforce the design and architectural qualities of the Water Street National Historic District when located within or adjacent to its boundaries.

# Regulations should address only issues that vary from designation to designation

- ❑ Permitted and prohibited uses
- ❑ Setbacks, buffers, height, bulk and density limits
- ❑ Lot coverage, density
- ❑ Conditional uses

# Tables offer quick view of SMP regulations

The chart is coded according to the following legend.

P = May be permitted  
 C = May be permitted as a conditional use only  
 X = Prohibited; the use is not eligible for a Variance or Conditional Use Permit  
 N/A = Not applicable

	Natural	High Intensity	Urban Conservancy	Urban Cons. - Mining	Shoreline Residential	Tye Stormwater Facility	Aquatic <sup>1</sup>
<b>SHORELINE USE</b>							
Agriculture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aquaculture	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Boating facilities	X	X	X <sup>6</sup>	C <sup>12</sup>	X	P <sup>9</sup>	P
<b>Commercial:</b>							
Water-dependent	X	P	C	X	X	P	X
Water-related, water-enjoyment	X	P	C	X	X	P	X
Nonwater-oriented	X	C	X	X	X	P	X
Flood hazard management	C <sup>4</sup>	P	P	P	P	P	X
Forest practices <sup>7</sup>	X	P	P	P	P	P	X
In-stream structures	X	C	C	C	C	C	C
<b>Industrial:</b>							
Water-dependent	X	P	X	C <sup>5</sup>	X	X	X
Water-related, water-enjoyment	X	P	X	C <sup>5</sup>	X	X	X
Nonwater-oriented	X	C	X	C <sup>5</sup>	X	P	X

Monroe SMP, portion of use matrix

# Example of Standards Table\*

	<b>SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT DESIGNATION</b>				
	High Intensity	Shoreline Residential	Urban Conservancy	Natural	Aquatic
<b>Riparian Buffer</b>	50 ft	150 ft	150 ft	200 ft	n/a
<b>Building Setback</b>	15 ft	20 ft	20 ft	n/a	n/a
<b>Building Height Limit</b>	50 ft	25 ft	35 ft	15 ft	n/a
<b>Density</b>	10 du/acre	6 du/acre	4 du/acre	1du/acre	n/a
<b>Frontage Width</b>	50-70 ft	50*-90 ft	50*-90 ft	n/a	n/a
<b>Lot Coverage</b>	85%	35%	35%	n/a	n/a

\* Not prescriptive

## Parallel environments respect ecological conditions & development opportunities

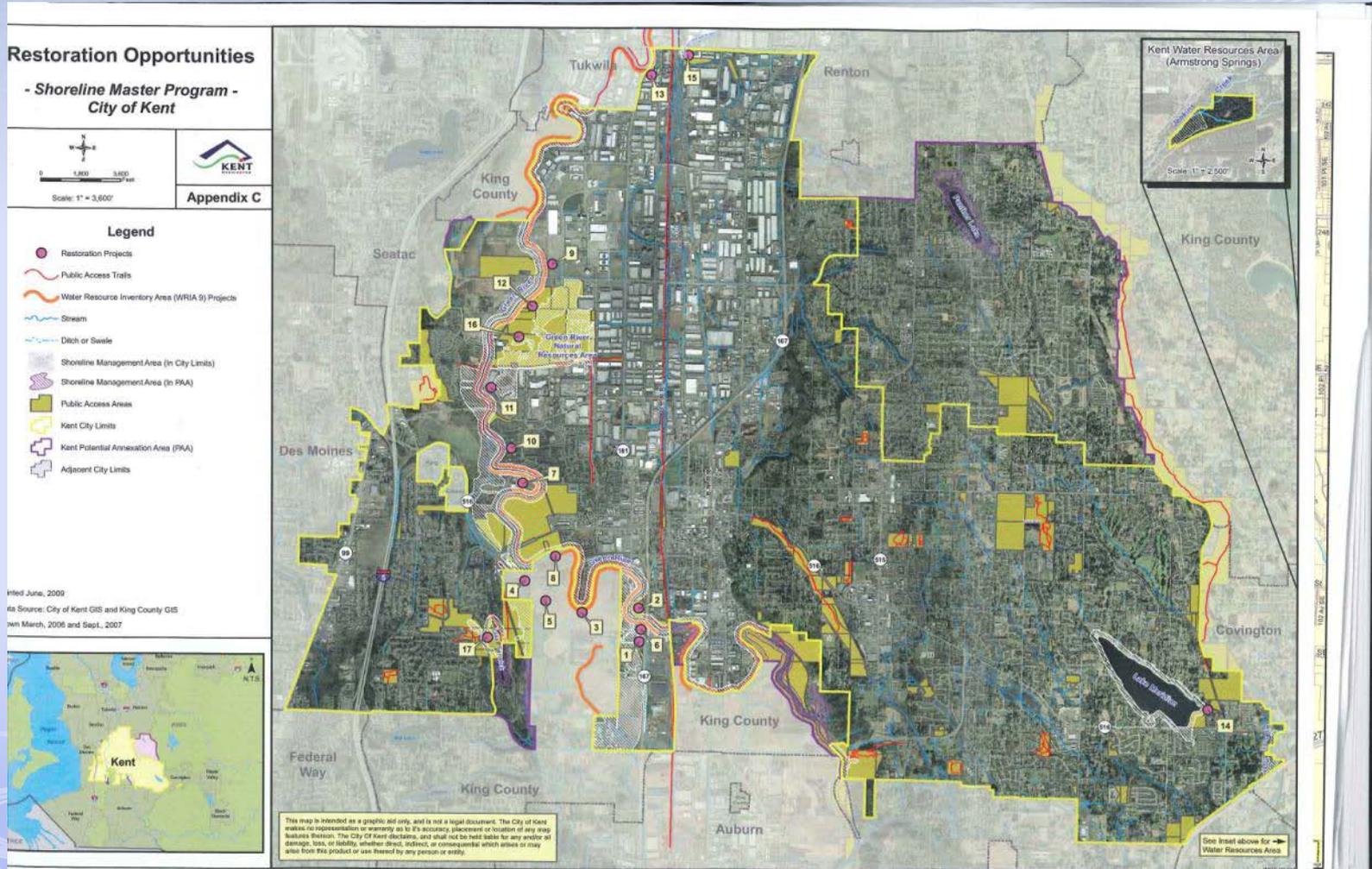
- ❑ Reflect differences in environmental conditions
- ❑ Acknowledge the presence and effect of physical features
- ❑ Protect the immediate riparian corridor shoreline qualities
- ❑ Allow for upland development

# Parallel environments acknowledge presence of railroad and upland uses

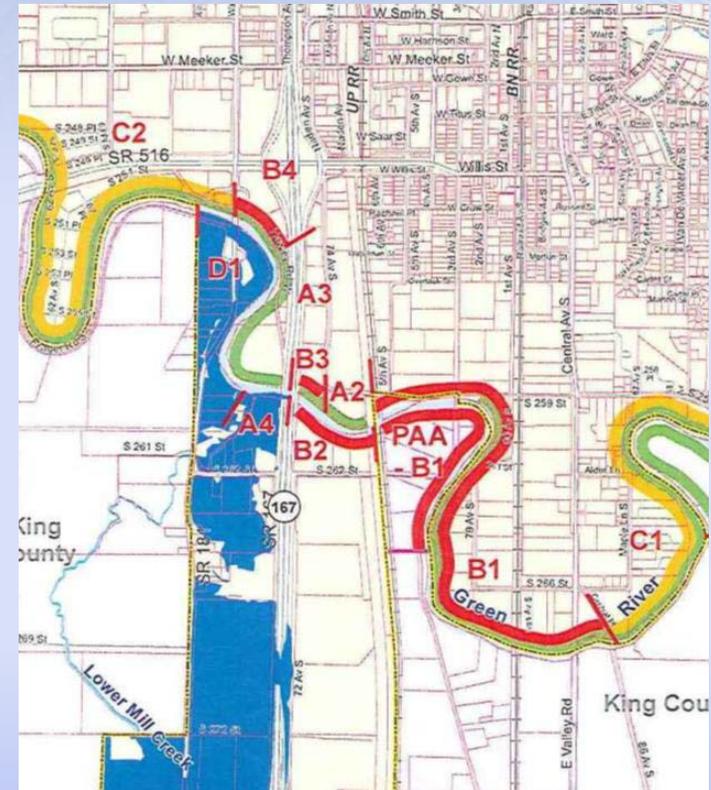
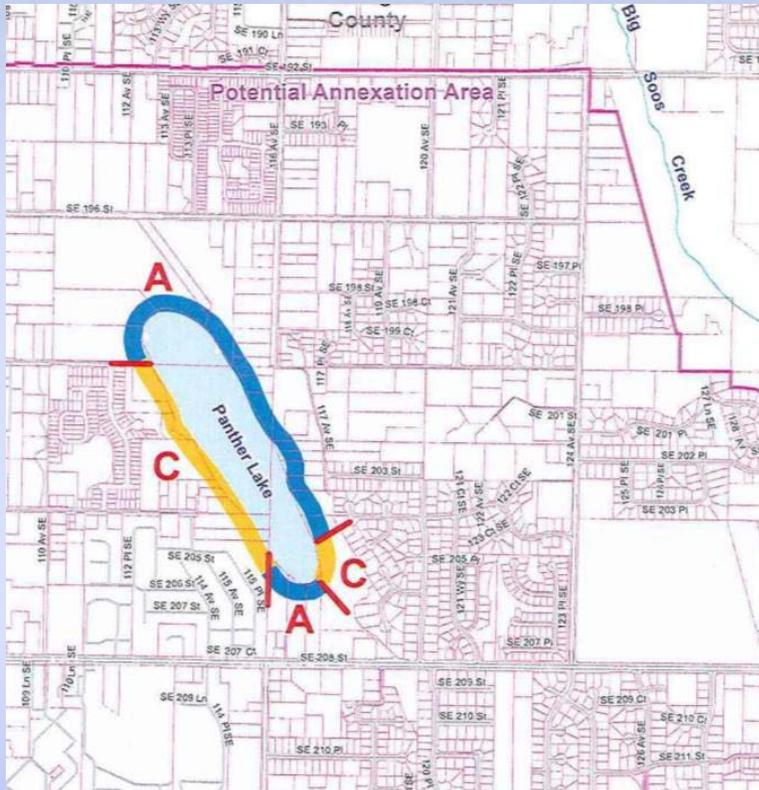
Edmonds  
Draft SMP



# Predesigninate environments in UGAs



# Predesignate environments in UGAs



Draft Kent SMP

# What will Ecology look for?

- Base environment designations on:
  - Ecological characteristics
  - Land use pattern
  - Community goals
  - Inventory/characterization recommendations
- Explain use of custom designations
- Include purpose statement, designation criteria, management policies & regulations