



Shoreline Master Programs (SMP)

Public Participation

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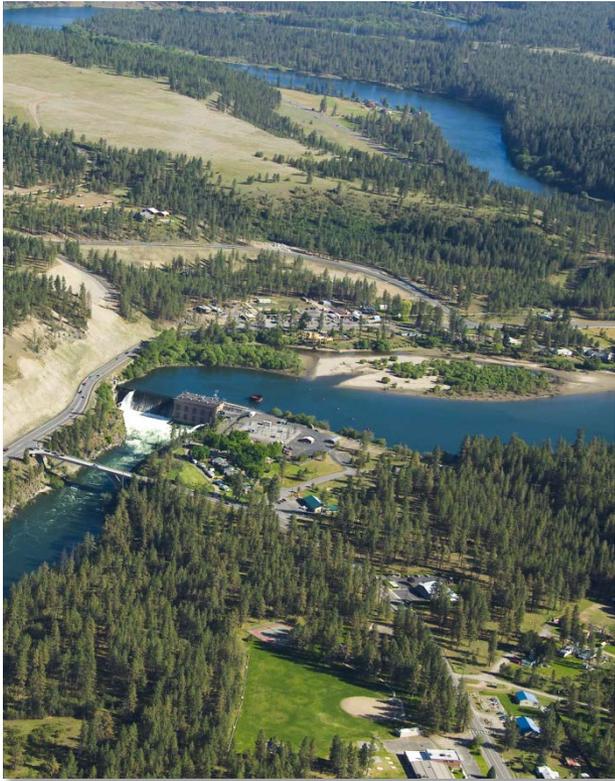
Public participation - what is it?

“Any process that involves the public in problem solving or decision making and uses public input to make decisions.”

- International Assoc. for Public Participation

Ensures all interested parties have an opportunity to shape shoreline policies and regulations.

Resources



- **SMP Handbook**
 - **Public Participation**
 - **Community Visioning**
- **SMP web portal**
 - **Citizen Guide**
 - **Planners Toolbox**
- **Printed and online materials**
 - **Frequently Asked Questions**
 - **“Making Sense of Tough Issues”**
 - **Brochure**
- **Coastal Training Program: *Planning and Facilitating Collaborative Meetings***

Legal basis - Required

- **SMA, SMP rules**
 - **Minimum requirements**
- **New programs, comprehensive and limited amendments**
- **Must integrate requirements with GMA public participation plan**
- **Can face legal challenges**

Legal basis - Beyond “inform”

“actively encourage”

SMA [RCW 90.58.130]

**“make all reasonable efforts to
inform, fully involve and
encourage participation”**

SMP Guidelines [WAC 173-26-090]

Public Participation Plan



Major elements

- **Prepare and use a plan.**
- **Involve interested parties throughout Phases 1-5 and use a variety of techniques.**
 - ✓ **Community visioning, Public hearing**

Major elements

- Maintain good records.
- Grant requirements:
 - ✓ Public participation plan
 - ✓ Community visioning report
 - ✓ Quarterly updates on progress



>>> Significant changes may require approval

“Public” - Required

- **All interested persons or groups**
- **Adjacent local governments**
- **Affected Indian Tribes**
- **Federal and state governments**
- **Special experts or interests**

Interested parties - Examples

- Property owners – residents, non-residents
- Recreationists – fishers, hunters, campers
- Visitors – tourists, sports events
- All ages – seniors, students
- Non-English speakers



Interested parties - Both individuals and groups

- Home-based business owners – chambers of commerce
- Property owners – realtors association
- Birders – Audubon Society



The public participation plan should include:

- **Primary contact for the public**
- **“Public” categories and outreach techniques for each category**
- **Include Committee members, if known**
 - **Roles and responsibilities of committees, planning commission, elected officials**

The plan should:

- Describe opportunities and timelines for public participation
- Provide dates or milestone targets for SMP products

Schedule

The City of University Place is aware that developing and maintaining a schedule will contribute to the successful adoption of the SMP. By publicizing this tentative schedule at the start of the process, the public will be able to understand key dates where input is especially critical. If there are modifications to these dates, the schedule on the City's website will be updated.

The following table provides a tentative schedule for public open houses:

City of University Place Public Open House Schedule	
April 2010	Introductory Open House -- Review Draft Inventory and Characterization
September 2010	Community Visioning Workshop -- Consider how to transform Inventory findings into SMP goals, policies, and regulations
October 2011	Presentation of SMP Package -- Review a draft of the Complete SMP Package

The following table provides due dates for deliverables to Ecology and highlights key public involvement opportunities. The City will publicize more specific timeframes for public involvement opportunities in advance of key deliverable dates.

City of University Place Public Involvement Opportunities Schedule	
11/15/2009	Preliminary jurisdiction maps (Task 1.1)
11/15/2009	Public participation plan (Task 1.2)
11/15/2009	Draft list of inventory data sources (Task 2.1)
12/15/2009	Digital working maps of inventory information (Task 2.1)
4/15/2010	Draft shoreline inventory and characterization report with map portfolio (Tasks 2.1 - 2.3)
7/15/2010	Final shoreline inventory and characterization report with map portfolio (Tasks 2.1 - 2.3)
11/15/2010	Strategy for shoreline uses, public access, resource protection and restoration (Task 3.1 Community Visioning)
3/1/2011	Complete Draft SMP (Tasks 3.2 - 3.5)
3/1/2011	Cumulative impact analysis report (Task 3.6)
7/15/2011	Complete restoration plan and implementation strategy (Task 4.1)
10/15/2011	Revised designations, policies, and regulations that address the findings of the cumulative impacts analysis; revised cumulative impacts analysis; final jurisdiction maps and boundary descriptions (Task 4.2)
10/15/2011	No net loss report (Task 4.3)
11/15/2011	Complete draft SMP and SEPA documentation (Tasks 5.1 - 5.2)
2/15/2012	Adopted SMP, SEPA documentation, evidence of compliance with GMA notice requirements, public hearing record, response to comments received (Tasks 5.1 - 5.7)

Your plan will depend on your community:

- Get input on plan itself!
- Type and size of your jurisdiction
- Complexity of your shoreline/shoreline issues
- Stakeholder diversity
- Other factors (e.g. other planning efforts)

Tips to encourage participation



**Effective = Audience-based
ASK – get input on the
plan!**

- Keep it local
- Keep it easy to understand
- Make it convenient

Tips to encourage participation

Effective = Audience-based

- Be clear about how and why to be involved, and how input will be used
- Be timely in providing results of input

Techniques to connect - Inform

- Expert-led field trips
- Printed materials – FAQs, documents
- Direct mailings – postcards
- Posted notices, fliers
- Media – newspaper, radio, newsletters

Techniques to connect - Involve



Surveys

Comment periods

Techniques to connect - Inform and Involve

- Public meetings – open house, workshop, town hall, hearing
- Community events – booths during comment period
- Website – online information, comment inbox
- Community visioning



Community Visioning Report

What is visioning?

“...community ideals and dreams that get turned into manageable and realistic community goal statements.”

~ Department of Commerce, “Shaping Washington’s Growth Management Future - Citizen Participation and Community Visioning Guide”, 1991, updated 2008.

Visioning should be:

- Part of the public participation process
- Used to document that the public was heard – and summarize what was heard
- After Inventory and Characterization

Example visioning exercise (views):

Existing Conditions



Proposed Height of Structures



Technical and Citizen Advisory Committees

- Encouraged – not required



Effective committee members

- Represent constituency – not just themselves
- Are committed to multi-year process
- Chair is fair, respectful, and experienced



Effective committees

- Start with training and education
- Include planning commission and/or council members
- Understand and agree with expectations, roles, responsibilities, and ground rules

Document public involvement

- Maintain a list of interested parties
- Keep track of who participates, their comments, and any formal response
- How public influenced the SMP
- Hold at least one public hearing

Tips for keeping the process on track

See Chapter 6 – page 16



- Get broad input on the plan
- Provide abundant and varied opportunities
- Be clear - roles, responsibilities, expectations
- Nurture - elected officials, committees, and others throughout the process.

Questions?

