

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 USER'S GUIDE TO THE MASTER PROGRAM**

The City of Mountlake Terrace Shoreline Management Master Program consists of several components, together with explanatory text and maps, all prepared to reflect the philosophy of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA or Act) of 1971 and the requirements of RCW 90.58 and WAC 173-26. Each of the components is designed to serve a separate and distinct purpose within the structure of the Shoreline Management Master Program (Master Program or SMP).

The purposes of this Master Program are:

1. To carry out the responsibilities of the City of Mountlake Terrace as established by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58).
2. To promote uses and development of the City of Mountlake Terrace shoreline consistent with the City of Mountlake Terrace Comprehensive Plan while protecting and restoring environmental resources.
3. To promote the public health, safety, and general welfare by providing a guide and regulation for future development of the shoreline resources of the City of Mountlake Terrace.

#### **1.1.1 AUTHORITY**

Authority for enactment and administration of the program is the Shoreline Management Act of 1971, Chapter 90.58 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

#### **1.1.2 APPLICABILITY**

All proposed uses and development occurring within shoreline jurisdiction of the City of Mountlake Terrace must conform to the Shoreline Management Act and this Master Program. All uses, even those not meeting the definition of development, are subject to the provisions and development regulations of this Master Program, even though a permit may not be required.

#### **1.1.3 CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE SHORELINE JURISDICTION**

The shoreline jurisdiction within the City of Mountlake Terrace consists of the shoreline along Lake Ballinger, and associated wetlands and floodplain. See Appendix A for Shoreline Maps. Under the SMA, the shoreline area to be regulated under the City's Master Program must include shorelands, defined as the upland area within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), as well as any associated wetlands and floodplain (RCW 90.58.030 - Definitions and Concepts). All proposed uses and development occurring within the shoreline jurisdiction must conform to Chapter 90.58 RCW, the Shoreline Management Act, and this Shoreline Master Program.

#### **1.1.4 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS OR REGULATIONS**

1. Uses, developments and activities regulated by this Master Program may also be subject to the provisions of the City of Mountlake Terrace Comprehensive Plan, the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Mountlake Terrace Municipal Code (MTMC), and various other provisions of local, state, and federal law, as may be amended. Project proponents shall comply with all applicable laws prior to commencing any use, development or activity.
2. The Shoreline Master Program has been developed as a both a policy and a regulatory program. As such, the Shoreline Master Program is a part of and was developed to be consistent with the City of Mountlake Terrace Comprehensive Plan and its component elements.
3. The MTMC establishes specific and detailed regulations for most of the uses, development, and activities regulated in this chapter. The MTMC and this Master Program are intended to operate together to produce coherent and thorough shoreline regulations. Uses, developments and activities must comply with both the MTMC and the Shoreline Master Program in all cases. If there is a conflict between the two, the Shoreline Master Program shall prevail.

#### **1.1.5 LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION**

As provided for in RCW 90.58.900, the Shoreline Management Act is exempted from the rule of strict construction; the Act and this Master Program shall, therefore, be liberally construed to give full effect to the purposes, goals, policies, and standards for which the Act and this Master Program were enacted.

#### **1.1.6 MASTER PROGRAM CONTENTS**

This Master Program contains the following components:

##### **Goals and General Development Policies**

The Goals express the desires of the people of the City of Mountlake Terrace with respect to the long-range development of the City's shorelines. Each element described in RCW 90.58.100(2) is addressed by a Goal and a series of General Development Policies. These goals and policies form the basis for all succeeding levels of the Master Program but, with the exception of the Shoreline Use Element, are not directly used in the Development Evaluation Process.

**Use Activity Policies** address each of the activities enumerated in WAC 173-16-060 and are intended to establish citywide policies for the conduct of each such activity in the shoreline jurisdiction.

**Use Activity Regulations** are designed to regulate the Use Activities in a manner compatible with the policies established for each such activity. These regulations establish minimum performance standards for shoreline activity conduct; deviation from these regulations can only be allowed subject to issuance of a Variance.

**Environment Designation Criteria** set forth the “ground rules” to be used in determining which Environment is appropriate to assign a given section of shoreline. (These criteria are not used in the Development Evaluation Process for a specific use proposed within an environment.)

### **Environment Designations (Map)**

The Environment Designations establish the kinds of activities allowed on a given section of shoreline. They also specify the intensity of use and the manner of use of that shoreline. The general philosophy underlying the use of each Environment is contained in the Management Policies of each designation type. Appendix A contains the Shoreline environment map.

The Shoreline Management Act specifies that special consideration shall be given to Shorelines of Statewide Significance as defined by RCW 90.58.030(2)(e). There are no Shorelines of Statewide Significance within the City of Mount lake Terrace.

### **1.1.7 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION**

This Master Program is divided into the following eight parts, consistent with the material to be included within a Master Program as established in Chapter 173-26 WAC:

1. Chapter 1 contains basic and general information regarding the Shoreline Master Program.
2. Chapter 2 contains the city's goals and policies with respect to the program elements established in Chapter 173-26 WAC.
3. Chapter 3 contains information regarding the different shoreline environments to be found within the city including goals and policies specific to each of the shoreline environments.
4. Chapter 4 contains policies and regulations with respect to general Master Program provisions identified in Chapter 173-26 WAC.
5. Chapter 5 contains policies and regulations that apply to specific uses and modifications that are regulated under the Shoreline Master Program.
6. Chapter 6 contains administrative procedures for shoreline permitting.
7. Chapter 7 contains definitions applicable to the Shoreline Master Program.
8. The Appendices contains the shoreline environments map and reference regulations and documents pertaining to this Master Program.