

CITY OF MOUNT VERNON SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: 2021 PERIODIC REVIEW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The City of Mount Vernon (City) is undertaking a Periodic Review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the State Legislature. This review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information, and improved data.

A Public Participation Plan is required to describe how the City will encourage early and continuous public participation throughout the process of reviewing the SMP.

This Public Participation Plan describes the steps that the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as the City's contact information. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by the City. This plan is a working document and will be adjusted as needed to ensure the greatest and broadest public participation.

1.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOALS

- Provide interested parties with timely information, an understanding of the process, and multiple opportunities to review and comment on proposed amendments to the SMP.
- Actively solicit information from citizens, property owners, and stakeholders about their concerns, questions, and priorities for the Periodic Review process.
- Encourage interested parties to review and comment on proposed changes to the SMP throughout the process.
- Provide forums for formal public input at project milestones prior to decision-making by local officials.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The City is committed to providing multiple opportunities for public participation throughout the SMP periodic review process. The City will use a variety of communication tools to inform the public and encourage participation, including, but not limited to the following:

2.1 City Website

The City's website includes a Periodic Review webpage where interested parties can access status updates, draft documents, official notices, and other project information. The webpage will be the primary repository of all information related to the Periodic Review process. The page will include who to contact for more information and an email link for questions and comments.

The City's webpage can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or using this web address:

<http://mountvernonwa.gov/1059/Shoreline-Master-Program-SMP-Update>

2.3 Mail and Email notifications

A letter will be mailed to all property owners and residents/tenants of properties within the shoreline jurisdiction, notifying them of the upcoming SMP review and inviting them to join an email list for interested parties. The list will be maintained by the Development Services Department and will be used to notify interested parties about Periodic Review progress and participation opportunities, including the open house.

Interested parties can be added to the list by contacting the Development Services Department at (360) 336-6214 or PermitTech@mountvernonwa.gov.

2.4 Joint City and Washington Department of Ecology Public Comment Periods and Hearings

The Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review and recommendations to the City Council. The Planning Commission will conduct a public comment period and at least one public hearing to solicit input on the Periodic Review. The City Council will also hold at least one public hearing before final adoption, this public hearing will be a joint hearing. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology on public notification of comment periods and hearings to take advantage of Ecology's optional SMP amendment process that allows for a combined state-local comment period (WAC 173-26-104). Interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide comments during the Planning Commission and/or City Council public hearings.

Notices for all hearings will be emailed to those that have requested to be part of the City's email notification list, posted on the City's website, and published in the classifieds section of the Skagit Valley Herald. All joint-hearing notices with the City and Department of Ecology for the SMP Periodic Update will provide information on the duration of the comment period, and the time and location of any joint-public hearing. Notices will be published as required in City code and will comply with all other legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act. All notices will be provided to the Department of Ecology.

Interested parties will be encouraged to provide comments to the City by letter or through the City's permit portal. All comments will be provided to the Planning Commission and City Council. The Periodic Review webpage will be the central repository for information under consideration. Documents will be available for review at the City's Development Services Department by appointment only, and copies will be provided at the established copying cost.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all public meetings and hearings will take place via telephone and/or video-conferencing formats until further notice.

2.5 News media

The local news media will be kept up-to-date on the Periodic Review process and receive copies of all official notices.

3.0 STAKEHOLDERS

The City will engage the following stakeholders:

- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Commerce
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Northwest Clear Air Authority
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Skagit River System Cooperative
- Skagit County (Planning and Development Services and Assessor)
- Skagit Council of Governments
- Skagit Transit
- Skagit Conservation District
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Dike Districts 1, 3, 17, and 20
- Drainage Districts 20 and 17
- City of Mount Vernon (Public Works and Parks & Enrichment Services)
- City of Burlington
- Port of Skagit County
- Skagit River Systems Cooperative
- Swinomish Tribe
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
- Samish Tribe
- Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
- Tulalip Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe
- Skagit Public Utility District #1
- Puget Sound Energy
- Cascade Natural Gas
- Ziple Fiber
- Comcast

4.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

The following is a general timeline including anticipated public participation opportunities. The City will coordinate with the Department of Ecology throughout the process. A detailed timeline will be posted on the Periodic Review webpage as additional information becomes available.

2021 PRELIMINARY SMP UPDATE SCHEDULE	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Participation Plan sent to Ecology
March - April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email notification sent to stakeholders and interested parties• Review SMP and other relevant City codes and policies• SMP Update Periodic Checklist available on website
April - May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Commission and Council meetings• Propose draft amendments
May – June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Commission to review draft amendments• Post amendments on City website• Edits and revisions suggested by Planning Commission are made to draft
June – September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30-day public comment period on draft revisions• Public Hearing before Planning Commission during 30-day public comment period• Environmental review (SEPA)
September - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ecology initial determination (up to 30 days)• City Council adoption• Submit locally adopted SMP to Ecology