

Chapter 3 Shoreline Management Policies

3.1 Management Policies of General Applicability

3.1.1 Economic Development

The City of Snoqualmie contains no industries, transportation facilities, port facilities, commerce or other developments that are particularly dependent on their location on or use of the shorelines, other than Puget Sound Energy's Snoqualmie Falls Hydroelectric Project and the nearby Salish Lodge, perched on right bank above the 268 foot waterfall. The City's location above Snoqualmie Falls and the nature of the bank of the Snoqualmie River makes water dependent uses unlikely in the future, but opportunities should be created for the development of additional water enjoyment uses.

Policy 3.1.1.1 Allowed uses and development standards should provide for additional opportunities, where appropriate, for the development of riverfront water enjoyment uses promoting economic development, including river vistas from walkways, patios and decks of restaurants and other businesses.

Policy 3.1.1.2 Allowed uses and development standards for all shoreline environments should provide for development of riverfront trails and viewing areas to increase water enjoyment uses in support of tourism.

Policy 3.1.1.3 Ensure through appropriate use regulations and development standards that the development of such water enjoyment uses causes no net loss of shoreline functions.

3.1.2 Public Access

There are presently only two publicly owned parks and one privately owned park providing public access to the area immediately adjacent to the Snoqualmie River. Sandy Cove Park at the foot of King Street affords good visual access, and summertime wading access. Riverview Park on Park Street provides visual access only due to its high bank. The privately owned Puget Sound Energy Park is also open to the public for viewing Snoqualmie Falls. The existing SR202, Meadowbrook and Snoqualmie Valley Trail pedestrian bridges also provide visual public access to the river. The City owns other undeveloped open space properties along the left bank of the Snoqualmie River and adjacent to Kimball Creek, which are currently not improved to provide public access.

Policy 3.1.2.1 Provide additional opportunities for access to publicly owned properties adjacent to the riverfront of the Snoqualmie River and Kimball Creek, including potential river walks and viewing platforms at various locations within the riparian area.

Policy 3.1.2.2 Apply appropriate use regulations and development standards for the riparian areas in order to maximize the public's visual and physical access to the water while respecting the natural character of the environment and ensuring public safety.

Policy 3.1.2.3 Preserve and enhance existing access to the riverfront and riparian areas along the Snoqualmie River.

Policy 3.1.2.4 Shoreline areas that hold unique value for public enjoyment should be purchased for public use.

3.1.3 Recreation

Recreation along the shorelines of the City of Snoqualmie above Snoqualmie Falls is provided at Sandy Cove Park, Riverview Park, Three Forks Natural Area and the Mt. Si Golf Course. Recreation at these facilities consists of passive uses such as viewing the shoreline, hiking, fishing, and picnicking. Limited active recreation also exists at Riverview Park and Mt Si Golf Course in the form of a basketball court, play equipment and golfing. In addition to passive recreation uses, kayak and canoe access to the Snoqualmie River below Snoqualmie Falls is provided by Puget Sound Energy within the boundaries of the hydroelectric project. Shoreline recreation such as swimming or boating within the City above Snoqualmie Falls is limited due to the hazards of steep banks and cold water, as well as proximity to the falls and hydroelectric facility.

Policy 3.1.3.1 A variety of compatible recreational experiences and activities should be encouraged where appropriate to satisfy diverse public recreational needs.

Policy 3.1.3.2 Ensure existing or future public recreational development or activity has a minimal impact on, or enhances the environmental quality, function, and aesthetics of the shoreline.

Policy 3.1.3.3 Shoreline recreational developments should be consistent with all adopted park, recreation, and open space plans.

3.1.4 Circulation

The transportation and circulation system within the shoreline of the City of Snoqualmie is a network of city streets, state highway SR202, bridges, bike paths, trails and railroad facilities.

Policy 3.1.4.1 Ensure that all roadways developed within shoreline jurisdiction include adequate facilities for pedestrians, bicycle, and public transportation where appropriate.

Policy 3.1.4.2 Trail and bicycle paths should be encouraged in riparian areas where appropriate and should be constructed in a manner compatible with the natural character, resources, and ecology of the shoreline.

Policy 3.1.4.3 Require circulation systems to be designed as necessary to satisfy public needs while minimizing the impacts that might occur to the natural features and functions of riparian and wetland areas.

Policy 3.1.4.4 Roadway systems should be located to reduce interference with either natural shoreline functions or other appropriate uses.

Policy 3.1.4.5 Parking areas should be located outside of the riparian area wherever feasible. Where not feasible due to existing development patterns or other site planning limitations, ensure adequate stormwater controls are in place to minimize impact to water quality.

3.1.5 Shoreline Use

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3.1.6 Conservation

The riparian areas in the City of Snoqualmie vary widely from a fully developed state, to degraded areas affording some opportunities for restoration, to nearly pristine open space areas providing significant wildlife habitat and other ecological functions. Shoreline jurisdiction throughout the floodplain is characterized by a significant system of hydraulically connected wetlands. Conservation efforts should be focused on those areas providing the most ecological functions.

Policy 3.1.6.1 Preserve, restore and enhance those riparian and wetland areas whose condition affords the most opportunities for the protection of wildlife habitat, and other ecological functions.

Policy 3.1.6.2 Protect and improve the visual and aesthetic qualities of riparian areas and vistas to the fullest extent practicable.

Policy 3.1.6.3 Ensure new development and uses in and adjacent to riparian and wetland areas, including significant vegetation removal, are planned and designed to minimize disturbance of environmental functions and shoreline ecosystems.

Policy 3.1.6.4 Encourage vegetation conservation and restoration to provide bank and slope stabilization that would reduce the need for structural shoreline stabilization measures.

3.1.7 Historic, Cultural, Scientific and Educational

The most significant public landmark and important Snoqualmie Tribe cultural resource located within Snoqualmie's shoreline is the 268-foot cascading Snoqualmie Falls. Other historical structures and sites found in Snoqualmie's shoreline include the Snoqualmie Falls Hydroelectric power plant, School District Administrative offices, old churches, and buildings within the Downtown Commercial Landmark District, which include the Snoqualmie train depot, the old City Hall, and other contributing commercial buildings. The hydroelectric power plant site and historic buildings, school district administration office building and the train depot are State-designated landmarks.

Policy 3.1.7.1 Protect and restore shoreline area sites or structures which have been placed on the national, state or local historical register.

Policy 3.1.7.2 Preserve suspected or newly discovered historical or cultural significant sites until their value for conservation is confirmed.

Policy 3.1.7.3 Encourage educational projects and programs that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the history of shoreline uses, shoreline management, and environmental conservation.

3.1.8 Shoreline Stabilization and Flood Protection

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