



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City Kicks Off Shoreline Education Program

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, May 26, 2010 – A public presentation next Thursday, June 3, will give island residents the opportunity to learn about the state’s requirements for the update of the Shoreline Master Program, which guides development under Washington’s Shoreline Management Act. The program, scheduled for 6:30 – 8:30 pm at City Hall, will also include a discussion of private property rights and shoreline regulations.

The meeting is the first in a series of educational events intended to involve the public in the update process. The evening will include presentations by Barbara Nightingale, Regional Shoreline Planner and Geoff Talent, Regional Supervisor for the Shorelines and Environmental Assessment Program, both with the state Department of Ecology (DOE), which regulates the update process. Dawn Reitan of Inslee Best will also present and answer questions.

“We felt that it was important to kick off our educational efforts by giving people a solid understanding of the state requirements and the role of the DOE,” said Shoreline Planner Ryan Ericson. “We anticipate that the intersection of private property rights with shoreline regulation will be a crucial element of the community conversation around this process, so we’ve incorporated that topic, as well.”

The Shoreline Master Program is a combination of planning strategies and regulations required under the State Shoreline Management Act (RCW 90.58). State law requires the city to update the program by the end of 2011. The update is subject to the approval of the DOE.

Future public participation events include programs on Shoreline Ecology and Human Impacts, scheduled for June 17, Science and Policy scheduled for July 8, and a Science Forum and Discussion of Emerging Issues on July 22. Beach walks, field trips and other activities will be scheduled as the summer progresses.

More information on the Shoreline Master Program update and the city's public participation plans is available at www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, or from Ryan Ericson, Shoreline Planner, at 780-3719 or pcd@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us.

Citizens interested in future opportunities for involvement and education may sign up for the 2011 Shoreline Master Plan Update ListServ by going to the City's website at www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us and scrolling down to the listserv signup on the left hand side of the home page.

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