



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Shoreline Master Program Forum to Help Capture Community's Vision

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, September 20, 2010 – The community is invited to discuss the future of the island's shorelines at a Visioning Forum Thursday, September 30 from 6 – 9 pm at Council Chambers, City Hall. The event is part of the City's efforts to encourage public involvement in the process of updating its Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP guides development under the state Shoreline Management Act, which requires that the city complete an update of the regulations by the end of 2011.

"The City of Bainbridge Island has an ongoing commitment to meaningful public input and participation," said Ryan Ericson, Shoreline Planner. "This workshop will focus on the future of our shorelines, how our island fits into the Puget Sound ecosystem, and important goals concerning shoreline use. We want to hear from island residents on what they value about our shorelines and how these areas should be managed into the future."

The meeting agenda will include a short description of the Shoreline Master Program update process followed by community group discussions of goals and policies. During break-out sessions, participants will have the opportunity to share concerns and discuss creative ideas for policy solutions in four topic areas:

1. Public access and recreation opportunities and priorities
2. Restoration opportunities and priorities
3. Water oriented uses: demand, regulatory issues and opportunities
4. Residential development: user needs and creative ways to achieve no net loss

"The Visioning Forum will provide an opportunity for the members of the community to come together, discuss and share their thoughts on use, goals and policies of our island's shorelines," said Ericson. "The results of the forum will help inform our citizen workgroups, which begin meeting next month to review existing broad goals and policies and formulate recommendations for updating the Program." The citizen workgroups, which include "At Large" members as well as representatives of four stakeholder groups -- Bainbridge Shoreline Homeowners, Bainbridge Citizens, Bainbridge Alliance for Puget Sound, and the Association of Bainbridge Communities - have been appointed for six months, and will kick off their efforts at a special meeting of the Planning Commission this Thursday.

For more information, contact Ryan Ericson, Shoreline Planner, 780-3719,
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