

Kenmore Critical Areas Regulations (CAR)
and Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update

FACT SHEET



WHAT ARE CRITICAL AREAS? WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Critical areas in Kenmore include lands and ecosystems that contain:

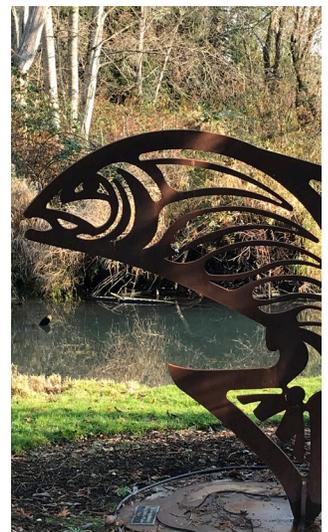
- **Wetlands** assist in reducing erosion, siltation, flooding, ground and surface water pollution, and provide wildlife, plant, and fisheries habitats.
- **Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas** contribute to biodiversity, support fisheries, and provide open space corridors; such areas include riparian areas that reduce erosion and promote water quality.
- **Frequently flooded areas** perform important hydrologic functions and may present a risk to persons and property.
- **Geologically hazardous areas** include areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, and pose a threat to public health and safety when incompatible development is sited in areas of significant hazard.

Critical areas are protected under state and city laws to sustain ecological functions and values and to protect public health and safety. Each local government, including Kenmore, must adopt and periodically revise their regulations concerning critical areas. We do this in the Kenmore Municipal Code.



WHAT ARE SHORELINES? WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Shorelines of the state are larger water bodies and shorelands that are valuable and fragile. Shorelines require a plan and regulations governing preferred uses, public access, and ecological protection. The City and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) must jointly adopt and periodically review a Shoreline Master Program (SMP). In Kenmore, the SMP applies to Lake Washington, Sammamish River, and Swamp Creek and associated wetlands.





APR–JUL 2018

Gap Analysis & Recommendations
 Mapping
 Project Website & Information
 Planning Commission Introduction & Workshops



AUG–DEC 2018

Focus groups on select topics
 Code Amendments
 State Environmental Policy Act Review
 Planning Commission Hearing & Recommendations



DEC 2018–MAR 2019

City Council Hearing & Deliberations

FEDERAL, STATE, TRIBAL, AND OTHER AGENCY COMMUNICATION



WHAT IS THE UPDATE ALL ABOUT?

The City of Kenmore last comprehensively updated its critical areas regulations (CAR) in 2006 (Chapter 18.55 KMC). Kenmore is reviewing its CAR to consider more recent environmental conditions, evolving best available science, and experience in administering the code. A “gap analysis” will identify areas where the code could be amended for consistency with recent science or for clarity. Some topics Kenmore is considering in the CAR Update include: wetlands ratings per Ecology guidance; stream typing per guidance from the State Departments of Natural Resources and Fish & Wildlife; and geologic hazardous area standards and practices.

Kenmore last updated and adopted its SMP in 2012 with Ecology’s approval. Kenmore is required to conduct a periodic review and consider updated state laws and rules, ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and other development regulations, and address local needs. Kenmore will also provide for consistent critical areas regulations within and outside the shoreline jurisdiction. Some topics Kenmore is considering in the SMP Update include: review of regulations and procedures applicable to parks, roads, and other public infrastructure uses.



WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE UPDATE? HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

The City intends to address its CAR and SMP updates before the required Shoreline Management Act deadline of June 30, 2019. The overall schedule for the update is illustrated in the flow chart above.

You can participate by:

- attending public meetings,
- learning about critical areas and shorelines,
- signing up for our email mailing list, and
- asking questions and providing comments.



HOW CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Please see the project website: <http://www.kenmorewa.gov/communitydevelopment>

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