

Shoreline Master Program Update Public Hearing Draft Policies – Vegetation Conservation

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Land%20Use/Public Hearing Draft Policies.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Land%20Use/Public%20Hearing%20Draft%20Policies.pdf)

VEGETATION CONSERVATION

The intent of vegetation conservation is to protect ecological functions and ecosystem-wide processes performed by vegetation along shorelines and to restore ecological functions and processes that are temporarily disturbed or permanently displaced by allowed shoreline modification and development. Vegetation conservation should also be undertaken to protect human safety and property, to increase the stability of shoreline areas susceptible to erosion, to reduce the need for structural shoreline stabilization measures, to improve the visual and aesthetic qualities of the shoreline, to protect plant and animal species and their habitats, and to enhance shoreline uses.

In Bellevue, lands designated as aquatic environments, as well as associated shorelines, provide habitat for a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Healthy environments for aquatic species are inseparably coupled with the ecological integrity of the surrounding terrestrial ecosystems.

Applicability of Vegetation Conservation Policies

This section provides policy direction for the modification, protection, and restoration of vegetation for all uses, development, or activities in the shoreline jurisdiction.

Vegetation Conservation Policies

SH-48. Protect, conserve, enhance and establish native vegetation and trees near the water's edge, and vegetation compatible with native species, through the adoption of appropriate development regulations to support shoreline ecological functions and processes and protect human safety and property.

SH-49. Balance vegetation conservation with appropriate recreational use of the shoreline and require mitigation proportional to any adverse environmental impacts associated with vegetation removal.

SH-50. Develop vegetation conservation development standards that prioritize the retention of native trees and shrubs and implement shoreline vegetation mitigation proportional to the impact associated with new development or substantial expansion.

SH-51. Provide incentives to private property owners to achieve specific vegetation conservation and improvement goals, including retention and enhancement of native vegetation along the shoreline.

SH-52. Discourage use of fertilizers and pesticides in the shoreline jurisdiction through education, and suggest alternatives such as use of Department of Ecology approved herbicides to control aquatic weeds when native plant communities and associated habitats are threatened or where an existing water dependent use is restricted by the presence of aquatic weeds and removal cannot be effectively accomplished by mechanical, cultural, or biological means.

Comment [DB1]: WAC 173-26-221(5)

Comment [DB2]: Modeled after existing Policies EN-44 and EN-49 and WAC 173-26-221(5)

Comment [DB3]: Bellevue specific approach and WAC 173-26-221(5)

Comment [DB4]: Bellevue specific approach and WAC 173-26-221(5)

Comment [DB5]: Bellevue specific approach and WAC 173-26-221(5)

Comment [DB6]: Bellevue specific approach modeled after existing Policies EN-3 and EN-59 and WAC 173-26-221(5)