CITY OF SHORELINE

Shoreline Inventory and Characterization

Prepared for:
City of Shoreline
17544 Midvale Avenue N.
Shoreline, WA 98133

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Purpose

The City of Shoreline (City), Washington is undertaking a comprehensive update to its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) as required by the implementing guidelines in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). To support this effort, the City applied for and received a grant issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) (G0800171). This shoreline inventory and characterization study supports the SMP update process by providing a baseline inventory of existing conditions within the shoreline jurisdiction of the City.

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill (SSB) 6012, which established timelines for all cities and counties to amend their local shoreline master programs (SMPs) consistent with the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58 and its updated implementing guidelines, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-26. The City of Shoreline is required to prepare an update to its SMP by the end of 2009. The City prepared the first draft of this shoreline inventory and characterization report in 2004; however, the report was not formally adopted or finalized. The City's first step towards a comprehensive SMP update involves revising the 2004 draft report to update technical information that has changed or been made available since 2004, and to be consistent with the current state shoreline guidelines. This report provides:

- Analysis and characterization of ecosystem-wide processes that affect the City's shoreline;
- Analysis and characterization of shoreline functions; and
- Opportunities for protection, restoration, public access and shoreline use.

The inventory and characterization documents current shoreline conditions and provides a basis for updating the City's SMP goals, policies and regulations. This report will help the City establish a baseline of conditions, evaluate functions and values of resources in its shoreline jurisdiction, and explore opportunities for conservation and restoration of ecological functions.

This inventory and characterization report also includes a map folio, located at the end of the document. All figures referenced in the document are found in the map folio.

1.2 Shoreline Jurisdiction and Study Area Boundary

Under the SMA, the shoreline jurisdiction includes all submerged lands waterward of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of waters that have been designated as "shorelines of statewide significance" or "shorelines of the state," as well as those areas that are 200 feet landward of the OHWM of these same waters. The shoreline jurisdiction criteria were established in 1972, and are described in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-18. Generally, "shorelines of statewide significance" include portions of Puget Sound and other marine water bodies, rivers west of the Cascade Range that have a mean annual flow of 1,000

cubic feet per second (cfs) or greater, rivers east of the Cascade Range that have a mean annual flow of 200 cfs or greater, and freshwater lakes with a surface area of 1,000 acres or more. "Shorelines of the state" are generally described as all marine shorelines and shorelines of all other streams or rivers having a mean annual flow of 20 cfs or greater and lakes with a surface area greater than 20 acres.

The City's shoreline jurisdiction includes the Puget Sound shore within both the city limits and its potential annexation area (PAA). The portion of Puget Sound seaward from the line of extreme low tide is considered a "shoreline of statewide significance" per RCW 90.58.030(2)(e). The remainder of the Puget Sound landward of the extreme low tide mark is considered a "shoreline of the state." The City therefore includes approximately four miles of Puget Sound coastline. There are no rivers, streams or lakes in the City meeting the definition of "shorelines of the state."

Under the SMA, the shoreline area to be regulated by the City's Shoreline Master Program must include all shorelines of statewide significance, shorelines of the state, and their adjacent shorelands, which are defined as the upland area within 200 feet of the OHWM, as well as any associated wetlands (RCW 90.58.030) within its municipal jurisdiction. Since the SMP is in part a long-range planning document, this characterization report includes those marine shorelines within the city limits as well as the PAA. One-half mile of the Puget Sound is located in the City's PAA. The City's PAA is known as Point Wells, located directly north of the city in unincorporated Snohomish County (Maps 1 and 1-A).

The City's shoreline jurisdiction extends to the landward edge of associated wetlands. "Associated wetlands" means those wetlands that are in proximity to and either influence or are influenced by tidal waters or a lake or stream subject to the SMA (WAC 173-22-030 [1]). These are typically identified as wetlands that physically extend into the shoreline jurisdiction, or wetlands that are functionally related to the shoreline jurisdiction through surface water connection and/or other factors. The specific language from the RCW describes the limits of shoreline jurisdiction as follows:

> *"those lands extending landward for two hundred feet in all directions as measured on a horizontal plane from the ordinary high water mark; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward two hundred feet from such floodways; and all associated wetlands and river deltas"* (RCW 90.58.030[2][f]).

Wetlands associated with SMA regulated waters are limited to intertidal wetlands, mapped throughout the city limits along Puget Sound, and smaller wetlands associated with the lower reaches and mouths of Barnacle and Coyote (also known as Innis Arden South) Creeks.

1.3 Shoreline Planning Segments

For the purposes of this study, the City's shoreline jurisdiction was organized into five distinct segments (A through E) based broadly on the physical distinction along the shoreline, the level of ecological functions provided by each segment, as well as existing land uses and zoning

designations. Shoreline Planning Segments are described in Table 1 and depicted on Maps 1 and 1-A through 1-E.

Table 1. Shoreline Planning Segments

Shoreline Segment	Approximate Length (feet)	Approximate Segment Acreage	General Boundaries
A	3,411	15.6	Potential Annexation Area / Point Wells: located directly north of the city limits in unincorporated Snohomish County.
B	4,724	21.7	Richmond Beach residential area: the Snohomish County line south to Richmond Beach Saltwater Park.
C	2,801	11.0	Richmond Beach Saltwater Park south to Storm Creek culvert.
D	1,295	5.7	Innis Arden residential area: south of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park to Innis Arden Reserve Park.
E	9,424	41.6	Innis Arden Reserve / Highlands: Innis Arden Reserve Park south to city limits.

Source: City of Shoreline, 2002

Replace with Map 1. Shoreline Planning Area

Replace with Map 1A. Shoreline Planning Area

Replace with Map 1B. Shoreline Planning Area

Replace with Map 1C. Shoreline Planning Area

Replace with Map 1D. Shoreline Planning Area

Replace with Map 1E. Shoreline Planning Area

2. CURRENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK SUMMARY[1]

2.1 City of Shoreline Regulations

2.1.1 Current Shoreline Management Act Compliance

The Shoreline Management Act is implemented through the development of local Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). Local SMPs establish a system to classify shoreline areas into specific "environment designations." The purpose of shoreline environment designations is to provide a uniform basis for applying policies and use regulations within distinctly different shoreline areas. In a regulatory context, shoreline environment designations provide the governing policy and regulations that apply to land within the SMP jurisdiction. Portions of individual parcels that are outside SMP jurisdiction are governed by zoning and other applicable land use regulations. Generally, environment designations should be based on existing and planned development patterns, biological and physical capabilities and limitations of the shoreline, and a community's vision or objectives for its future development.

When the City of Shoreline incorporated in 1995, it adopted regulations outlined in Title 25 (Shoreline Management Plan) of the King County Code as the interim shoreline management code (Shoreline Municipal Code [SMC] 16.10). Shoreline properties within the City's PAA are regulated under the Snohomish County SMP, until such properties are annexed and the City's SMP is amended. During development of the City of Shoreline's first comprehensive plan in 1998, the City evaluated the natural and built characteristics of its shoreline jurisdiction and developed five preliminary shoreline environment designations:

- Urban Railroad (for developed portions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe [BNSF] Railway throughout the City's shoreline jurisdiction),
- Urban - High Intensity,
- Suburban - High Residential,
- Suburban - Low Residential, and
- Conservation.

These preliminary shoreline environment designations have not been approved by Ecology, since they were not part of a comprehensive update to the City's SMP. Therefore, they are not being implemented as part of Shoreline's interim shoreline management code.

[1] The discussion of regulatory requirements included herein is not intended to be a complete list of all permits or approvals necessary for work within the City's shoreline jurisdiction or other areas within the city or PAA. Other portions of local code and state and federal regulations may apply to development projects within the city. The permits and approvals necessary for construction may vary from parcel to parcel regardless of shoreline jurisdiction and may vary depending on the type and intensity of the work proposed. Prior to any construction within city limits, an applicant should contact the City and the applicable state and federal agencies to determine actual permit requirements. For development of parcels in the PAA outside of the city limits, an applicant should contact Snohomish County and the applicable state and federal agencies to determine actual permit requirements.

2.1.2 Comprehensive Plan, Zoning and Other City Regulations

- **City of Shoreline *Comprehensive Plan*** – The City's existing *Comprehensive Plan* was adopted in 2001. The *Comprehensive Plan* establishes goals and policies that define the community's vision for the physical, economic, and social development of the City for the next 20 years. The *Comprehensive Plan* land use designations in the Puget Sound shoreline planning area include Mixed Use (Point Wells), Low Density Residential, Public Facilities (e.g., the BNSF Railway right-of-way), Public Open Space, and Private Open Space (City of Shoreline, 2001). City land use designations are relevant to this shoreline inventory and characterization report as they establish the general land use patterns and vision of growth the City has adopted for areas both inside and outside the shoreline jurisdiction. The City's SMP goals and policies are one element of the *Comprehensive Plan* (included as an appendix). During this update process, the City will update its SMP element goals and policies and integrate them with the GMA comprehensive plan requirements for administrative and regulatory reform.
- **City of Shoreline Municipal Code, Chapter 20.40: Zoning** – Chapter 20.40 of the SMC (Zoning and Use Provisions) establishes zoning designations. Zoning designations in the Puget Sound shoreline planning area include: Residential 4 units/acre (R-4) and Residential 6 units/acre (R-6) (City of Shoreline, 2006). Point Wells, located in the City's PAA, is zoned Heavy Industrial (HI) by the Snohomish County Zoning Code (Snohomish County website, 2008).
- **City of Shoreline Municipal Code, Chapter 20.80: Critical Areas –** Chapter 20.80 of the SMC (Critical Areas) establishes development standards, construction techniques, and permitted uses in critical areas and their buffers (i.e., geologic hazard areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, wetlands, flood hazard areas, aquifer recharge areas, and stream areas) to protect these areas from adverse impacts. Designated critical areas are found throughout the City's shoreline planning area, particularly wetlands and streams, flood hazard areas, and geologic hazard areas (City of Shoreline, 2007a).
- **City of Shoreline *Surface Water Master Plan* –** The City's Surface Water Master Plan was adopted in 2005. The plan identifies surface water problems, prioritizes needs, and provides long-term solutions that reflect the community's priorities and can be funded by the City. The Plan includes an analysis of vegetation and wildlife habitat and water resources in relation to the control and treatment of stormwater (City of Shoreline, 2005b).

2.2 State and Federal Regulations

A number of state and federal agencies may have jurisdiction over land or natural elements in the City's shoreline jurisdiction. Local development proposals most commonly trigger requirements for state or federal permits when they impact wetlands or streams; potentially affect fish and wildlife listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA); result in over one acre of clearing and grading; or affect the floodplain or floodway. As with local requirements, state and federal regulations may apply throughout the City, but regulated resources are common within the City's shoreline jurisdiction. The state and federal regulations affecting shoreline-related resources include, but are not limited to:

- Endangered Species Act: The federal ESA addresses the protection and recovery of federally listed species. The ESA is jointly administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries (formerly referred to as the National Marine Fisheries Service), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Clean Water Act (CWA): The federal CWA requires states to set standards for the protection of water quality for various parameters, and it regulates excavation and dredging in waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Certain activities affecting wetlands in the City's shoreline jurisdiction or work in the adjacent rivers may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or Washington State Department of Ecology under Section 404 and Section 401 of the CWA, respectively.
- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA): The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regulates activities that use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow of the beds or banks of waters of the state and may affect fish habitat. Projects in the shoreline jurisdiction requiring construction below the OHWM of Puget Sound or streams in the city could require an HPA from WDFW. Projects creating new impervious surface that could substantially increase stormwater runoff to waters of the state may also require approval.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): Ecology regulates activities that result in wastewater discharges to surface water from industrial facilities or municipal wastewater treatment plants. NPDES permits are also required for stormwater discharges from industrial facilities, construction sites of one or more acres, and municipal stormwater systems that serve populations of 100,000 or more.

3. WATERSHED AND DRAINAGE BASINS

Water flow drives many ecological processes; therefore a useful characterization study area is the watershed. In Washington State, watersheds at a large scale are organized into Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). The City of Shoreline is located within the Lake Washington/ Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8). The City is located the northwest portion of the watershed and includes two subareas: the Nearshore Subarea, which includes the 4 miles of shoreline in the City of Shoreline and another twenty miles north and south of the City, and the Lake Washington Subarea.

Surface water drainage basins in the City include portions of the McAleer Creek, Lyons Creek, West Lake Washington, Thornton Creek, Seattle Golf Course, Bitter Lake and two Middle Puget Sound drainage basins, and most of the Boeing Creek drainage basin (see Map 2 in Appendix C). McAleer, Lyons, West Lake Washington, and Thornton Creeks drain to Lake Washington. Boeing Creek, Seattle Golf Course, Bitter Lake and the Middle Puget Sound basins drain to Puget Sound (City of Shoreline, 2005b). The features of the basins that drain to Puget Sound are discussed in more detail below:

- **Boeing Creek Basin:** Boeing Creek is partially piped from its origin and discharges into Puget Sound, passing through the City's shoreline planning area.

- **Seattle Golf Course Basin:** This 138 acre basin is located in the southwest portion of the city, with a small portion located in the City of Seattle. The runoff from the Seattle Golf Course Basin used to be collected in a wetland and infiltrated into the groundwater. The basin now discharges into Highlands Creek which then discharges into Puget Sound.

- **Bitter Lake Basin:** Only 54 acres of this basin is located in the city, in its southwest portion. None of the basin's major watercourses are located within the city.

- **Middle Puget Sound Basins:** The North and South basins enter Puget Sound through dozens of small creeks and storm drainage systems. The seven major drainage courses include: Highlands Creek, Blue Heron Creek (also known as Innis Arden North Creek), Coyote Creek (also known as Innis Arden South Creek), Storm Creek, Upper Barnacle Creek (also known as Upper Puget Sound North) and Lower Barnacle Creek (also known as South), Barnacle Creek, and Lost Creek. All the creeks originate from wetlands, urban runoff or hillside seeps, except that the headwaters of Upper and Lower Barnacle Creeks and Lost Creek are located to the north in Snohomish County.

Just two drainage basins drain to the shoreline planning area: Boeing Creek Basin and Middle Puget Sound Basin (see Map 4 in Appendix C). There are numerous surface water features conveyed through culverts into Puget Sound in addition to the creeks mentioned above. Drainages and streams are discussed in more detail in Section 5.8 *Streams* and include Lost Creek, Upper and Lower Barnacle Creeks, Barnacle Creek, Storm Creek, Blue Heron Creek, Coyote Creek, Boeing Creek, and Highlands Creek.

4. LAND USE PATTERNS

Land use in the City of Shoreline is largely influenced by the city's central geographical location and proximity to Puget Sound. The City is generally bounded by the City of Lake Forest Park to the east, the City of Seattle to the south, the Puget Sound shoreline to the west, and Snohomish County to the north, which includes the Cities of Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace, and the Town of Woodway. The City's shoreline jurisdiction is composed of a variety of natural and man-made characteristics that include natural beaches, wooded slopes, single-family homes, the BNSF Railway, and in the annexation area of Point Wells, an industrial port. Point Wells, a 100-acre industrial site located directly north of the City along Puget Sound, is currently under Snohomish County jurisdiction and is a potential annexation area for the City of Shoreline (City of Shoreline, 2005a).

4.1 Historical Land Use

The first major development along the Puget Sound coastline in the City occurred when the Great Northern Railroad was built along the water in 1891 (HistoryLink.org website, 1999). The railroad line provided a direct transportation link to downtown Seattle. In 1901, the Portland Ship Building Company built a shipyard at what is now the Point Wells site. Another historical landscape alteration that occurred along the coastline was the processing of sand and gravel at the current location of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (see background of the photograph

below, ca 1910). Over time, continued logging and residential development resulted in the landscape as seen today (Shoreline Historical Museum website, 1999).

Source: Shoreline Historical Museum

4.2 Existing Land Use

4.2.1 Residential Land Use

The City of Shoreline is predominately occupied by residential land uses, which support commercial and retail uses, various institutional uses, and a few industrial uses. Residential single-family development occupies approximately 51 percent of the land use in the community. Multi-family residential development occupies 4 percent and is primarily located near commercial areas along State Route 99 (also known as Aurora Avenue North) and in neighborhood centers (i.e., Richmond Beach, Echo Lake, North City, and Ballinger) (City of Shoreline, 2005a).

Several neighborhoods are located near the Puget Sound shoreline within the City. Neighborhoods include Richmond Beach (a portion of which is located immediately adjacent to the Puget Sound), Innis Arden, and the Highlands (City of Shoreline, 2005a). Residential development in the Puget Sound shoreline planning area is characterized by single-family properties, which occupy approximately 19 percent of the total shoreline planning area. Single-family residential uses which are located immediately adjacent to the Puget Sound abut the City's shoreline for a length of 1,886 linear feet. That is approximately 9 percent of the total linear length of the City's Puget Sound shoreline, including the PAA (King County, 2007). With the exception of residential properties in Segment B, the extensive bluff system along Puget

Sound (Photo E-3 in Appendix B) precludes extensive development within the City's shoreline jurisdiction.

4.2.2 Commercial and Industrial Land Uses

Commercial and industrial developments occupy approximately 4 percent of the land use within the City (City of Shoreline, 2005a). Point Wells is the only industrial property located along the Puget Sound shoreline and occupies approximately 20 percent of the total shoreline planning area (Photo A-1 in Appendix B). The Point Wells industrial facility abuts the City's Puget Sound shoreline for a length of 3,411 linear feet. That is approximately 16 percent of the total linear length of the City's Puget Sound shoreline (Snohomish County, 2007b). The City's 1998 *Comprehensive Plan*, adopted prior to the current 2005 *Comprehensive Plan*, indicated that the Point Wells property served as a petroleum product (gasoline and diesel fuel) marketing and distribution center for approximately 60 years or more (City of Shoreline, 1998b). The petroleum distribution center discontinued operation in 1994. An asphalt plant was operated at the site on a seasonal basis by the Chevron Corporation (Sound Transit, 1999b). The property was sold to Paramount of Washington in 2005 and is now used for petroleum products storage, processing and distribution. Soil and groundwater contamination are documented at the Point Wells facility (Snohomish County, 2007a).

4.2.3 Private and Public Utility Land Uses

Public facilities, institutions and right-of-way uses occupy approximately 29 percent of the City (City of Shoreline, 2005a). The BNSF Railway right-of-way extends in a north-south direction along the entire length of the city's shoreline planning area. It is the most dominant land use in the shoreline, occupying 48 percent of the total shoreline planning area. The BNSF Railway right-of-way abuts the City's Puget Sound shoreline (including the PAA) for a length of 15,398 linear feet. That is approximately 70 percent of the total linear length of the City's Puget Sound shoreline, including the PAA (King County, 2007).

There are two public facilities in the City's shoreline planning area, both of which are owned by King County. The first is right-of-way property located at the Point Wells site in Segment A. A conveyance system and marine outfall will be constructed on the property to serve the regional King County Brightwater Treatment Plant currently being constructed. The second property is located in Segment B which houses a King County wastewater pump station, known as the Richmond Beach Pump Station. A recreation easement has been obtained by the City to develop a park on this property, as described in more detail in Section 7.3.2 *Richmond Beach Pump Station Park Project* (City of Shoreline website, 2008).

4.2.4 Parks, Open Space and Vacant Land Uses

Only 1 percent of the City of Shoreline is undeveloped land. Parks, recreation, and open space (including lakes) occupy approximately 10 percent of the City (City of Shoreline, 2005a). Within the Puget Sound shoreline planning area, 8 percent of the land is occupied by parks and open space including the Richmond Beach Saltwater Park in Segment C and the Innis Arden Reserve in Segment E (Photos C-2 and E-1 in Appendix B; Map 11 in Appendix C). Four percent (960 lineal feet) of the properties that abut the City's Puget Sound shoreline (including the PAA) are

occupied by park and reserve. Vacant properties occupy 2 percent of the total shoreline planning area and are located in Segments B and E. (King County, 2007).

4.3 Comprehensive Plan / Zoning Designations

4.3.1 Comprehensive Plan

According to the City of Shoreline Comprehensive Plan Map (2001), the City's shoreline planning area is largely comprised of properties designated as Low Density Residential and Public Facilities (i.e., the BNSF Railway right-of-way). Public Open Space and Private Open Space designations occupy the remainder of the shoreline planning area. In addition, the annexation area currently occupied by the Paramount of Washington facility in unincorporated Snohomish County is discussed in the *Comprehensive Plan* (2005a) and is currently designated as Mixed Use (see Map 9a in Appendix C) (City of Shoreline, 2001). Snohomish County designates Point Wells as Urban Industrial (Snohomish County website, 2008). The property owner has petitioned the County to change the Comprehensive Plan designation to Urban Center (Snohomish County, 2007a).

General goals and policies established in the 2005 *Comprehensive Plan* related to the protection of natural features encourage the protection and improvement of the natural environment and environmentally critical areas, construction of surface water facilities that promote water quality and enhance and preserve natural habitat, identification and protection of wildlife corridors, and preservation of wetlands, aquatic and riparian habitats and Puget Sound buffers (City of Shoreline, 2005a).

The general goals and policies of the City's 1998 Shoreline Master Program are included in the 2005 *Comprehensive Plan* as an appendix. Water-oriented uses are encouraged but must be balanced with the protection of Puget Sound shoreline's natural resources (City of Shoreline, 2005a).

4.3.2 Zoning Designations

Zoning designations in the City of Shoreline generally follow land use designations as discussed above. There are only two zones within the City's Puget Sound shoreline planning area; Residential 4 units/acre (R-4) and Residential 6 units/acre (R-6). The zones encompass the BNSF Railway right-of-way, parks, open space, and public facilities (see Map 8 in Appendix C) (City of Shoreline, 2002). Point Wells is zoned as Heavy Industrial (HI) in the Snohomish County Permit, Planning, and Zoning Map (Snohomish County website, 2008). The property owner has petitioned the County to change the zoning to Planned Community Business (Snohomish County, 2007a).

Table 2 identifies the relative percentage of existing land uses in each planning segment based on 2007 King County and Snohomish County Assessor land use records. Table 2 also includes the *Comprehensive Plan* land use and zoning designations for each segment.

4.4 Impervious Surface

Impervious areas in the City were analyzed based on the King County Impervious/Impacted Surface Interpretation dataset (see Map 14 in Appendix C) (King County, 2004). The dataset is based on high-resolution multispectral imagery from 2000. It includes mostly surfaces with high to complete impermeability, such as concrete, asphalt, roofing materials and other sealed surfaces that prevent the natural penetration of water into soil. Examples of impervious surfaces identified in this imagery include: building roof tops regardless of composition or construction; roadways, highways and parking lots constructed of concrete or asphalt; parking areas with a high density of parked vehicles as represented by the imagery; sidewalks, pedestrian walkways and malls constructed of concrete, asphalt or brick; and, other prepared surfaces such as bicycle paths, tennis courts and running paths.

Impervious surfaces reduce the potential for stormwater infiltration and increase stormwater runoff, including the rate of runoff and timing of peak flows. In general, higher percentages of impervious area are an indicator of development density and intensity which is tied to an increase in stormwater runoff. Impervious surfaces may contain pollutants that are harmful to water quality. Pollutants originating in the shoreline planning area likely originate from landscaped areas (e.g., parks and residential yards), BNSF Railway (e.g., creosote railroad ties and railroad cars), industrial facilities (e.g., overwater structures), and, to a lesser extent, vehicles and roadways. The approximate impervious area has been determined based on a qualitative assessment of the 2004 King County dataset and 2002 aerial photography, and from coordination with City staff in 2003. Impervious surface at the Point Wells facility in Segment A was estimated visually based on 2002 aerial photography of the site. Table 2 includes the approximate amount of impervious area within each shoreline planning segment. Overall, approximately 20 percent of the City's shoreline planning area is impervious due to concrete, asphalt, roofing surfaces or other sealed surfaces. The PAA contains the highest impervious area due to historic heavy industrial uses. Segment B contains 25 to 30 percent impervious area due to residential development near the shoreline. Segment E, which comprises nearly half of the shoreline planning area (43.5%) has fairly low impervious surface (approximately 5 to 15 percent). Thus, stormwater runoff and infiltration rates are not as altered in Segment E in comparison to Segments B and D.

Table 2. Percentages of Existing, Allowed and Planned Land Use and Impervious Surfaces by Segment in Puget Sound Shoreline Planning Area

Shoreline Segment	Existing Land Use (Includes approximate percentage within each segment)		*Comprehensive Plan* Land Use Designations	Existing Zoning (Includes approximate percentage of each zoned area within each segment)		Approximate Impervious Area[2]
A	Petroleum Facility King County Right-of-Way (ROW)	95% 5%	Mixed Use (City of Shoreline *Comprehensive Plan*)	Heavy Industrial (Snohomish County Zoning)	100%	60-70%[3]
B	Single Family Residential BNSF Railway ROW Utility Vacant	42% 42% 10% 5%	Public Facilities Low Density Residential Public Open Space	Residential, 6 units/acre (R-6) Residential, 4 units/acres (R-4)	98% 2%	50-60%
C	BNSF Railway ROW Park Single-Family Residential	61% 34% 4%	Public Facilities Public Open Space Low Density Residential	Residential, 4 units/acre (R-4)	100%	5-10%
D	Single-Family Residential BNSF Railway ROW	52% 48%	Low Density Residential Public Facilities	Residential, 4 units/acre (R-4)	100%	15-25%
E	BNSF Railway ROW Single-Family Residential Open Space Vacant	72% 17% 10% 1%	Public Facilities Private Open Space Low Density Residential	Residential, 4 units/acre (R-4)	100%	5-15%

Sources: City of Shoreline, 2002; Snohomish County 2007; King County, 2004 and 2007.

[2] Approximate impervious area is based on King County data (2004), aerial photo interpretation and coordination with City staff in 2003.

[3] Impervious surface at the Point Wells facility in Segment A was estimated in 2003 based on aerial photography of the site showing the presence of a barge dock, rail line, and tanks within the shoreline environment.

4.5 Existing and Planned Public Access Sites

Public access to the Puget Sound shoreline in the City of Shoreline is restricted to existing parks. Rugged terrain characterized by steep bluffs occurs throughout most of the shoreline planning area, which limit physical access to the water. Further, the BNSF railroad tracks parallel the entire shoreline within city limits. Public access to the railroad right-of-way is prohibited. Waterward public access is restricted in some areas by privately owned tidelands (including BNSF, residential and industrial property owners). Existing parks and open space areas in the City's shoreline planning area include (see Map 11 in Appendix C) (City of Shoreline, 2005c):

- **Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (Public) –** This regional 40-acre park located in Segment C provides active and passive uses including picnic areas, shelter buildings, a playground area, observation areas, trails, and Puget Sound shoreline beach access (Photos C-2 and C-3 in Appendix B). Park users occasionally use the shoreline access for swimming in Puget Sound during favorable weather conditions.

- **Blue Heron Reserve (Private)** – This private tract is preserved as a natural area and is associated with Blue Heron Creek. It is located in the southern portion of Segment C. No public shoreline access is permitted along the tract.

- **Coyote Reserve (Private)** – This private tract is preserved as a natural area and is associated with Coyote Creek. It is located in the northern portion of Segment D. No public shoreline access is permitted along the tract.

- **Innis Arden Reserve (Public) –** This 23-acre natural open space area/greenway passive-use park is located in the northern area of Segment E along the bluffs overlooking Puget Sound. Hiking/walking trails represent the main activity of this passive-use reserve. Although trails eventually lead to the shoreline, the public has to cross the BNSF railroad tracks and riprap to reach the Puget Sound shoreline beach (Photo E-1 in Appendix B).

- **Boeing Creek Reserve (Private) –** Four acres of natural area associated with Boeing Creek along the Puget Sound shoreline in the center portion of Segment E is preserved as private open space. No public shoreline access is permitted from this reserve along the bluff (Photo E-2 in Appendix B).

Improvements and enhancements to existing park and open space resources along Puget Sound identified in the City's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2005c) include:

- **Richmond Beach Saltwater Park** - As outlined in the Plan, a Community Attitude and Interest Survey was conducted to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs and services within the city. The City surveyed 575 residents in the community. Thirty-one percent of the respondents selected upgrading Richmond Beach Saltwater Park as one of the four most important actions the City should take[4]. Largely

[4] The other three actions were to upgrade existing neighborhood parks and play grounds (38%), upgrade natural areas and nature trails (30%), and improve shoreline and beach access (29%).

in response to the survey, the City is currently in the process of adding viewpoints and interpretive signage, and improving trails (see Section 7.3.3 *Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Project* for more details). Additional improvements and enhancements identified by the Plan that would be implemented at a later date include developing an underwater marine park, a pier, and a trail along Puget Sound to connect the park to Innis Arden Reserve.

- **Innis Arden Reserve** - Improving trail system, developing overlook viewpoints and interpretive signage, stabilizing slopes, enhancing vegetation and developing safe access to Puget Sound across the BNSF Railway right-of-way.

As part of King County mitigation for impacts from the Brightwater Treatment Plant project, a new park will be installed at the King County Richmond Beach Pump Station. Improvements to the site will include construction of a small parking area, restroom, interpretive watchtower overlooking the BNSF railroad and Puget Sound, and play areas. No shoreline access west of the BNSF railroad is proposed (see Section 7.3.2 *Richmond Beach Pump Station Park Project* for more details) (City of Shoreline website, 2008).

The City of Shoreline's *Comprehensive Plan* provides a list of funded and unfunded parks, recreation, open space and city facility capital improvements. Opportunities for enhancing public access to the shoreline under consideration include development of a trail system along Puget Sound between Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and Innis Arden Reserve, amenity enhancements and development of overlooks, viewpoints, and interpretive signage, and habitat and native plant restoration at Innis Arden Reserve, construction of a pedestrian crossing from Richmond Beach Pump Station park site to the beach, and providing beach access at the Boeing Creek Reserve (City of Shoreline, 2004; City of Shoreline, 2005a).

4.6 Roads and Transportation Facilities

The BNSF railroad runs the length of the Puget Sound shoreline in the city abutting the shoreline for a length of 15,398 linear feet. That is approximately 70 percent of the total linear length of the City's Puget Sound shoreline, including the PAA (King County, 2007). The developed and undeveloped portions of the BNSF Railway right-of-way occupy approximately 48 percent of the City's shoreline planning area (King County, 2007), varying in width from 100 feet to greater than 300 feet. The rail line provides freight movement and intercity passenger rail. The rail line serves as the region's primary rail freight connection to the north, as well as a major connection to the east, and is an important link in the multimodal system supporting the Ports of Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma. An average of 36 freight trains, six Amtrak passenger trains and six Sound Transit Sounder passenger trains use the railway each day (Herrera Environmental Consultants, 2005). Unattached engines also traverse between cities along the rail line. The Sounder is operated by Sound Transit, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority. It is a commuter rail service located along a 35-mile corridor between Everett and Seattle that uses the existing BNSF Railway right-of-way. Amtrak trains use the existing right-of-way between Vancouver, BC and Portland, Oregon. (Sound Transit, 1999a; Sound Transit website, 2008; Amtrak website, 2008).

BNSF Railway is proposing to install a train traffic signal, utility bungalow, and retaining wall south of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park in Segment C. This would involve filling a minimal amount (less than ½ an acre) of freshwater wetland. BNSF Railway is also proposing to install train traffic signals, a utility bungalow, a train-switching mechanism, retaining wall, and a new access road north of Boeing Creek in Segment E. The improvements will involve filling 0.25 acres of freshwater wetland. BNSF Railway will also be installing improvements in other locations along the BNSF rail line between Everett and Seattle outside of Shoreline city limits. Sound Transit will pay for the improvements in order to meet conditions established in a joint agreement between BNSF and Sound Transit. These conditions are required of Sound Transit in order to run a third daily Sounder commuter train between Everett and Seattle. Mitigation for the wetland fill and impacts from these improvements will occur off-site at the Qwuloolt restoration site in Marysville and Meadowdale Marina in Edmonds. Construction is expected to begin in 2009 (Herrera, 2005).

Due to the topography of the Puget Sound shoreline and the private ownership of the BNSF Railway along the extent of the shoreline, the only major roadway that falls within the City's shoreline planning area is Richmond Beach Drive NW (see Map 10 in Appendix C). Richmond Beach Drive NW is the primary roadway that allows access to thirty-two residences along the shoreline in the northwestern portion of the city. The residences span a total of 1,886 linear feet along the shoreline (King County, 2007). The homes are accessed from Richmond Beach Drive NW via the Richmond Beach Overcrossing Bridge which passes over the BNSF railroad tracks. The Bridge connects to 27th Avenue NW, a local road located behind the residences that runs parallel to the Puget Sound shoreline. 27th Avenue NW is also the only motor vehicle access west of the BNSF Railway right-of-way in the city via the Bridge (see Map 1B in Appendix C). The timber bridge was originally built in 1923 and rebuilt in 1956. The City is planning to replace it with a reinforced concrete bridge. Once the City finalizes negotiations with BNSF Railway on a temporary construction easement, project cost sharing and construction issues, construction will begin (City of Shoreline website, 2008).

4.7 Wastewater and Stormwater Utilities

The Ronald Wastewater District (RWD), formerly known as the Shoreline Wastewater Management District (SWMD), provides wastewater service to a majority of the City of Shoreline and includes the Point Wells property. Highlands Sewer District serves the Highlands Neighborhood in the southwest portion of the City. Wastewater collected from RWD is treated at two facilities under contract arrangements: King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) West Point Treatment Plant in Discovery Park, Seattle, and the City of Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant. Wastewater from the Highlands Sewer District is conveyed to RWD facilities (City of Shoreline, 2005b). Two RWD customers currently operate septic systems in the Richmond Beach Neighborhood; however, none of the properties fall within the City's shoreline planning area (Newman, personal communication, 2003).

Four RWD lift stations are located within the Puget Sound shoreline planning area. The King County Richmond Beach Pump Station is located in Segment B (King County, 2007). King County maintains a 30-inch diameter emergency overflow outfall pipe associated with the pump station. The outfall pipe is located in Segment B. King County also maintains an emergency

overflow outfall pipe in Segment E. The pipe is associated with the Hidden Lake Pump Station located outside of shoreline planning area near Boeing Creek Shoreline Park (see Map 10 in Appendix C).

Upon the City's incorporation in 1995, the City of Shoreline inherited and assumed jurisdiction over the storm and surface water management system located in the roadways within the city limits. As of 1998, facilities located outside the roadways are under the City of Shoreline jurisdiction as well. Stormwater utilities generally consist of a mix of open ditches and channels, pipes, vaults and open retention/detention facilities.

4.8 Historical/Cultural Resources

Historic and cultural resources are documented through a variety of sources. Official registers include the National Register of Historic Places and the Washington State Heritage Register. In 1995, the City of Shoreline adopted Chapter 15.20 of the municipal code (Landmark Preservation) to provide for the designation, preservation, protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of designated historic resources within the boundaries of the City. The Landmark Preservation chapter adopts by reference several sections of the King County Code Chapter 20.62 (Protection and Preservation of Landmarks, Landmark Sites and Districts). None of the properties designated as landmarks in the City of Shoreline are located within the shoreline planning area (see Map 13 in Appendix C).

The Historical/Cultural Element of the 1998 Shoreline Master Program provides general goals and policies to ensure important archaeological, historical, and cultural sites located within the shoreline jurisdiction are identified, protected, preserved, and restored for educational and scientific purposes. It also aims to adopt standards that ensure the protection and preservation of historic and cultural sites (City of Shoreline, 1998b). Historic preservation is also addressed in the Community Design Element of the 2005 Shoreline *Comprehensive Plan.*

In 1996, the King County Historic Preservation Program conducted an inventory of historic resources in the City of Shoreline. It did not include an inventory of archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, or historic landscapes. However, an analysis of documented research revealed Native American peoples traveled along the Puget Sound shoreline and stream drainages to collect resources such as tobacco at Richmond Beach. No buildings directly associated with railroad development in Richmond Beach, lumber production, agricultural production, or the interurban railroad remain today (Copass, 1996).

In 2001, Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services (LAAS) conducted a study of six potential wastewater treatment plant sites in Snohomish County as part of King County's Brightwater Treatment Plant project. The inventory included the Point Wells site. No archaeological sites or historic structures are recorded within 0.25 miles from the Point Wells industrial site. However, LAAS determined Point Wells has a high probability for hunter-fisher-gatherer archaeological resources based on the existence of a former sandspit and lagoon buried in fill in the western half of Point Wells beneath the steep bluffs along the shoreline. Further archaeological investigation is recommended to determine if archaeological deposits associated with the former sandspit and lagoon exist beneath fill (LAAS, 2001).

Sound Transit performed an inventory of historic, cultural, and archaeological resources along the commuter route between Seattle and Everett in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Commuter Rail Project (1999). The inventory was based on existing documents, coordination, including contact with Native American tribal organizations, and the National Register of Historic Places. At the time the EIS was written, Sound Transit was considering developing a station near the City of Shoreline. Two station alternatives were considered in the EIS, Point Wells and Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. Sound Transit determined that no known historic, cultural, or archaeological resources areas were listed in, or eligible for, the National Register. While construction work at these two areas could affect undiscovered prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits, native soils have been previously disturbed; suggesting questionable integrity of any archaeological remains (Sound Transit, 1999a).

4.9 Site Contamination

According to Department of Ecology's Facility Site database, there is one known contaminated site in the shoreline planning area (Ecology website, 2008). The Point Wells site is listed on the Department of Ecology's Suspected and Confirmed Contaminated Sites List for soil, groundwater and surface water contamination associated with previous petroleum production. In 1999, documentation prepared for the King County Brightwater Treatment Plant examined potential soil and groundwater contamination at several sites under consideration at that time for a treatment facility, including Point Wells. When the Brightwater document was prepared, the long-term soil and groundwater remediation plans by Chevron, the property owner at that time, were unknown (CH2MHill and Associated Firms, 2001). However, as part of the Brightwater Treatment Plant conveyance project, a portion of Point Wells is undergoing a voluntary cleanup program with Ecology for suspected and confirmed soil and groundwater contamination.

5. NEARSHORE PHYSICAL CHARACTERIZATION

5.1 Nearshore Processes

The Puget Sound nearshore is defined as the area of marine and estuarine shoreline extending from the top of shoreline bluffs to the depth offshore where light penetrates the water thereby supporting plant growth (King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks [KCDNRP], 2001). The nearshore also includes estuaries and tidal rivers to the head of tidal influence. Landforms found in the Puget Sound nearshore environment include bluffs, beaches, mudflats, kelp and eelgrass beds, salt marshes, spits, and estuaries.

The processes occurring within the Puget Sound nearshore area are critical for maintaining habitats and health of the nearshore shoreline environment. Changes in the physical processes within the nearshore can negatively affect habitats by limiting food and nutrient sources for marine life, deteriorating beach sediment movement, accelerating erosion, and altering the flows of surface and groundwater. Nearshore processes are those actions which occur as a result of

wind, tidal influence, waves, and surface and groundwater flow that result in sediment movement and affect habitat formation.

The City of Shoreline beaches are typical of Puget Sound and can be characterized by two distinct foreshore components: a high-tide beach and a low-tide terrace (Downing, 1983). The high-tide beach consists of a relatively steep beachface with coarse sediment and an abrupt break in slope at its waterward extent. Low wave energy beaches, such as those along the City's shoreline, have a high-tide beach composed of poorly sorted sediment, with intermittent intertidal vegetation and a relatively narrow backshore. Extending seaward from the break in slope, the low-tide terrace typically consists of a gently sloping accumulation of poorly sorted fine-grained sediment (Komar, 1976; Keuler, 1979). Considerable amounts of sand in a mixed sand and gravel beach are typically winnowed from the high-tide beach by waves and deposited on the low-tide terrace (Chu, 1985). The amount and composition of beach sediment generally follows a seasonal cycle. Under normal seasonal weather patterns, the stronger, wind-driven waves that occur in winter remove material from the beachface, while more gentle, summer wind-driven waves move sediment back onshore (Masselink and Hughes, 2003).

Puget Sound beach morphology and composition is dependent upon three main influences; wave energy, sediment sources, and relative position of the beach within a littoral cell. Wave energy is controlled by fetch; the open water over which winds blow without any interference from land. Wind-generated wave action gradually erodes beaches and the toe of coastal bluffs, leading to landslides. These coastal bluffs are the primary source of sediment for most Puget Sound beaches. In the City, coastal bluffs are separated from the shoreline by the BNSF railroad, thus completely removing bluff sediment sources. Fluvial sources of sediment are typically of only local significance in comparison to bluff sediment sources, which reportedly account for roughly 90% of beach material (Keuler 1988, Downing, 1983). Bluff composition and wave energy influence the composition of beach sediment. Waves sort coarse and fine sediment and large waves can transport cobbles that small waves cannot.

Wind-generated waves typically approach the shore at an angle, creating beach drift and longshore currents and transporting sediment by a process called littoral drift. Net shore-drift refers to the long-term, net result of littoral drift. Net shore-drift cells represent a sediment transport sector from source to deposition along a portion of coast. Each drift cell acts as a system consisting of three components: a sediment source (erosive feature) and origin of a drift cell; a transport zone where materials are moved alongshore by wave action with minimal sediment input; and an area of deposition (accretion area) that acts as the drift cell terminus (Jacobson and Schwartz, 1981). Deposition of sediment occurs where wave energy is no longer sufficient to transport the sediment in the drift cell. Drift cells in the Puget Sound region range in length from 46 feet to just under 19 miles, with the average drift cell just under 1.5 miles long (Schwartz, 1991).The Washington Coastal Atlas (Ecology website, 2008) maps net-shore drift direction, or the prominent drift direction, including divergence zones and areas of "no appreciable drift" (which include highly modified, protected harbor shorelines). Based on the wave regime, extensive fetch, and coastal geomorphology the net drift direction of all the shoreline planning segments is south to north (Schwartz, 1991). Divergence zones are present at the north end of Point Wells and south of the City boundary in the City of Seattle, but the City's shoreline is within a single drift cell.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) ShoreZone Inventory (2001) documents shoreline sediment stability as stable, erosional, or accretional, and sediment sources as fluvial, alongshore, and backshore (see Table 3). The City's shoreline is homogeneous in terms of the sediment stability and source because of the BNSF railroad. The railroad results in a stable sediment characterization throughout the shoreline, with the exception of the shoreline adjacent to Innis Arden Reserve. Construction of the railroad buried much of upper foreshore beach, thereby locking up coarse sand and gravel in the littoral system. This limits or precludes longshore transport of sediment. Sediment sources in the City are limited and are characterized by the ShoreZone data as alongshore with the exception of some fluvial sediment released from Boeing Creek. As discussed previously, the railroad interrupts historic sediment supply from eroding bluffs.

The width of intertidal beach in the City's shoreline is also relatively constant throughout the shoreline length, averaging 20 to 40 feet wide. The exception is within Segment B where some wider intertidal beaches are present near residential development along the shoreline. Additional details of ShoreZone data are contained in Appendix A. Table A-1 includes more detailed information within each of the planning segments. Map 2 in Appendix A depicts the individual ShoreZone segments

Table 3. Shoreline Sediment Sources and Mobility

Shoreline Segment	Approximate Intertidal Width	Estimated Sediment Source	Sediment Stability	Net shore Drift Direction
A	20 - 37 feet	Alongshore (all of segment)	Stable	North
B	30 - 105 feet	Alongshore (all of segment)	Stable	North
C	27 - 36 feet	Alongshore (all of segment)	Stable	North
D	36 feet	Alongshore (all of segment)	Stable	North
E	21 - 46 feet	Alongshore (most of segment); Fluvial in relation to Boeing Creek	Stable (most of segment); Erosional from north end of segment (646.7 feet to south)	North

Source: WDNR, 2001; Schwartz, 1991.

Johannessen et al. (2005) inventoried current and historic shoreline erosion and accretion areas in the City of Shoreline. Drift cell "SN-3" generally corresponds with the shoreline within the City, beginning 1.5 miles south of Boeing Creek and extending north to Point Wells. Historically, this drift cell was comprised of 45% feeder bluff, 18% feeder bluff exceptional, and an additional 4% as potential feeder bluff. The remaining 67% of the shoreline was comprised of four scattered accretion areas. These accretion areas were characterized by delta lagoons, longshore lagoons and stream mouths. Along the Point Wells shoreline, before it was developed as an industrial site, there was a longshore lagoon that connected to a larger delta lagoon to the north.

The construction of the BNSF railroad separated historic coastal feeder bluffs from the shoreline, resulting in a 100% loss of sediment sources (Johannessen et al., 2005). The City's shoreline now consists of nine separate accretion shoreforms interrupted by railroad and residential modifications (Johannessen et al., 2005). No active feeder bluffs are currently present. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of the shoreline is classified as modified due to the railroad with the remainder (29%) classified as accretion shoreforms. From the north end of the City south to Richmond Beach (Segment B) there is a broad accretion shoreform, which corresponds with the slightly wider intertidal width shown earlier in Table 3. Table 4 is a summary of the information included in Johannessen et al. (2005).

Table 4. Current and Historic Beach Feeding Sources/Erosion and Accretion Areas in City of Shoreline (Drift Cell SN-3)

	Feeder Bluff (%)	Feeder Bluff Exceptional (%)	Potential Feeder Bluff (%)	Not Feeder Bluff (%)	Accretion Shoreforms (%)	Modified (%)
Historic conditions	45%	18	4	5	18%	11%
Current Conditions	0%	0%	0%	0%	29%	71%
Change	-45%	-18%	-4%	-5%	+11%	+61%

Source: Johannessen et al. 2005

5.2 Geologic Units

Geologic information was collected from two sources: the Tetra Tech/KCM Geology (Geographic Information Systems [GIS]) data used in basin characterization reports (2004a and 2004d) and King County/Booth Surficial Geology Mapping (2005). These two sources characterize the geology of the shoreline planning area as containing till, beach deposits, advance outwash deposits, transitional beds, recessional outwash deposits, possession drift, landslide, and Whidbey formations.

The City is located at the western edge of the Seattle drift plain, an irregular plateau that drops toward Puget Sound (TT/KCM, 2004a and 2004d). The glacial retreat left behind layers of silt/clay, till, and gravel. Steep bluffs are characteristic in shoreline planning Segment E (Highlands/Boeing Creek) and begin to diminish in a northerly direction through shoreline Segments D and C.

5.3 Soils

The Soil Survey for King County (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service [USDA SCS], 1973) does not include the City of Shoreline. The Soil Survey for Snohomish County (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS], 1983) maps Point Wells (Segment A) as "Urban Land." Soil information from a 1952 survey by the US SCS was reviewed for soil type by basin (TT/KCM, 2004a and 2004d). The survey indicates that the

predominant soil type in the Middle Puget Sound South Basin is Everett gravelly sandy loam (75 percent) with the remainder being Alderwood gravelly sandy loam. The majority of the Boeing Creek Basin is Alderwood gravelly sandy loam. The predominant soil type in the Middle Puget Sound North Basin is split between the two major soil types already mentioned. The rest of the soils represent less than four percent of the total area in the City, including Carbondale muck, coastal beach and Norma fine sandy loam.

The Geotechnical Assessment Report prepared for the Sound Transit Everett to Seattle Commuter Rail Project (HWA GeoSciences, Inc., 1998) describes the typical soils and slope profile found along the waterfront from Everett to Seattle. In general, the area is dominated by Pleistocene aged glacial soils associated with the Vashon Drift and consisting of recessional outwash deposits, glacial till, advance outwash and glacial lacustrine. Recent soil deposits include beach and colluvial deposits, some of which are associated with landslides. Where major landscape modifications have occurred, such as Point Wells, fill soils are typically present (HWA GeoSciences, Inc., 1998).

The waterfront bluffs found along the City's shoreline (Segments B through E) are typically composed of a cap of very dense gravelly sand with scattered cobbles and boulders in a clay/silt matrix (glacial till), overlaying dense sand and gravel (glacial advance outwash), which overlies hard clay (glacial lacustrine). The thicknesses of these layers can vary substantially. However, the till cap is generally at the top of the bluffs, sometimes overlain by deposits of medium dense sand and gravel (glacial recessional outwash). The hard clays are typically at or near sea level. Streams draining the uplands dissect bluffs and flow into Puget Sound, depositing fine sand and silt in alluvial fans. Littoral drift, which is the accumulation or movement of foreshore sediments along the shore by littoral currents and oblique waves, reworks some of this material and becomes beach deposits (HWA GeoSciences, Inc., 1998).

5.4 Seismic Hazard Areas

Seismic hazard areas are defined in Chapter 20.80.220 of the SMC as "lands that, due to a combination of soil and ground water conditions, are subject to severe risk of ground shaking, subsidence or liquefaction of soils during earthquakes. These areas are typically underlain by soft or loose saturated soils (such as alluvium) and have a shallow ground water table."

There are mapped liquefaction susceptibility areas along Segments A, B, C, D and a portion of E. All are mapped as having high liquefaction susceptibility (City of Shoreline, 2002).

5.5 Landslide Hazard Areas

The west-facing slopes along Puget Sound within the City have experienced recent and historical landslide activity. The contact zone between the hard clay layer and the overlying sand layer is the source of many landslides along the coast of Puget Sound, which commonly occur after major storm events. In general, slope stability in the City's shoreline planning area is more stable in the northern portion, though containing some isolated unstable areas, and unstable in the southern portion (Segment E).

Baum et al. (2000) conducted an inventory of recent landslides that included the City of Shoreline. Significant storm events during 1996 and 1997 resulted in several major landslide episodes. The most common types of landslides were shallow earth slides and debris flows, some of which blocked culverts and overtopped the BNSF railroad track (locations are shown on Map 7). These landslides range in volume from 300 cubic yards to 40,000 cubic yards. The largest one occurred in Segment E north of Highlands Creek (Baum et al. 2000). The seawall and stone revetments of the BNSF railroad protect the base of the bluff from wave erosion and have probably increased the stability of the bluff. Baum et al. (2000) suggests that the bluff retreat during the winters of 1995-96 and 1996-97 might have been greater had the seawall and embankment not been present.

In the City, regulated landslide hazard areas are classified in SMC Chapter 20.80.220. Hazard areas are based on percent slope, soil composition, and the presence of emergent water. Three categories are used and defined as:

1. Moderate Hazard: Areas with slopes between 15 percent and 40 percent and that are underlain by soils that consist largely of sand, gravel or glacial till.

2. High Hazard: Areas with slopes between 15 percent and 40 percent that are underlain by soils consisting largely of silt and clay.

3. Very High Hazard: Areas with slopes steeper than 15 percent with zones of emergent water (e.g., springs or ground water seepage), areas of landslide deposits regardless of slope, and all steep slope hazard areas sloping 40 percent or steeper."

No landslide hazard areas are identified in Segment A (Point Wells). The extreme north and south portions of Segments B and C contain landslide hazard areas in the extreme north and south portions of both segments. Landslide hazard areas exist throughout all of Segments D and E (King County iMAP, 1991). See Map 7 in Appendix C for landslide hazard area locations.

5.6 Erosion and Sedimentation Hazard Areas

Erosion hazard areas are defined in Chapter 20.80.220 of the SMC as "lands or areas underlain by soils identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) as having 'severe' or 'very severe' erosion hazards. This includes, but is not limited to, the following group of soils when they occur on slopes of 15 percent or greater: Alderwood-Kitsap (AkF), Alderwood gravelly sandy loam (AgD), Kitsap silt loam (KpD), Everett (EvD) and Indianola (InD)."

No erosion hazards currently exist within the City's shoreline planning area; however, erosion hazard areas are identified east of Segment E primarily in the upper Boeing Creek Basin (see Map 7 in Appendix C) (City of Shoreline, 2002).

5.7 Aquifer Recharge Areas

Within the City of Shoreline, including the Puget Sound shoreline planning area, there are no known critical aquifer recharge areas that supply potable water. Almost all the City's potable water comes from surface sources originating in the Cascade Mountains and is either operated by the Shoreline Water District or the City of Seattle. The City's lakes and wetlands may contribute to aquifer recharge (City of Shoreline, 2005a).

5.8 Streams

Streams provide valuable wildlife corridors, a source of fluvial sediments to the marine shoreline (moved along the shoreline by currents), and support a range of fish species. The City of Shoreline is located in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8, the Cedar-Sammamish Watershed. Information on stream conditions was drawn in particular from the following documents: *City of Shoreline Surface Water Master Plan* (City of Shoreline, 2005b), *Salmonid Habitat Limiting Factors, Water Resource Inventory Area 8 Final Report* (Kerwin, 2001), *Boeing Creek Basin Draft Characterization Report* and *Middle Puget Sound Basin Characterization Report* (TT/KCM, 2004a, 2004d), and the *City of Shoreline Stream Inventory and Assessment* (TT/KCM, 2004b). Streams are depicted on Map 4 and Map 10 in Appendix C. A total of seven streams have been identified to flow into the Puget Sound within the PAA and the City limits. In general, the western portion of the City ultimately drains to Puget Sound through the following streams: 1) Lost Creek, 2) Barnacle Creek, 3) Storm Creek, 4) Blue Heron Creek, 5) Coyote Creek, 6) Boeing Creek, and 7) Highlands Creek.

Segment A has an unnamed tributary of Barnacle Creek that is located east of the BNSF railroad and south of Point Wells. It travels south where it connects to Barnacle Creek in Segment B. Lost Creek is located north of the city limits in the Town of Woodway. It flows southwest both in piped and open water sections towards Puget Sound. It appears to connect to Barnacle Creek before discharging into Puget Sound in Segment B. Barnacle Creek is formed by the confluence of Upper Barnacle Creek and Lower Barnacle Creek and discharges to Puget Sound in Segment B. The stream includes piped and open water sections along the BNSF railroad and flows through a wetland area downstream of Richmond Beach Drive NW (see Photo B-2 in Appendix B). The creek has three outlets to Puget Sound (including one near Lost Creek) via culverts beneath the BNSF railroad. The lower section of Barnacle Creek is tidally influenced upstream for a distance of about 20 feet (Photo B-6 in Appendix B). A stream evaluation letter was submitted to the City as part of a development permit for a residential property located near the intersection of Richmond Beach Drive NW and NW 196th Street. According to the letter, the portion of Barnacle Creek from NW 196th Street south to where it discharges to the Puget Sound may not meet the City's definition of a stream per SMC 20.80 (Critical Areas) (The Watershed Company, 2008). However, the findings of the letter were not verified by WDFW. Furthermore, WDFW has indicated to the City that they will defer to the City's stream inventory (see *City of Shoreline Stream Inventory and Assessment*) even when presented with a more recent report which concludes that a stream does not qualify as a stream per the City's regulations (Nammi, 2009).

Storm Creek, which begins upstream of NW 195th Street and includes several unnamed tributaries, is located at the very south end of Segment C. South of NW 191st Street, Storm

Creek continues southwest for 3,000 feet through the privately owned Eagle Reserve in Innis Arden before entering Puget Sound. The stream is confined within a very steep ravine between the mouth and 17th Place NW. Severe erosion occurs in the lower sections of Storm Creek through the Eagle Reserve (Photo D-3 in Appendix B). Bank hardening and several weirs have been constructed to protect private property, a pump station, and a sewer line crossing Storm Creek (City of Shoreline, 2005b).

Blue Heron Creek and Coyote Creek discharge to Puget Sound (Photo D-1 in Appendix B) and are located within Segment D and E respectively. Blue Heron Creek begins as two tributaries that join near NW 185th Street. Much of the stream flows through the private Blue Heron Reserve. Coyote Creek begins as three or more branches that extend into ravines with relatively steep side slopes. These branches come together on private property near NW 175th Street. Below the confluence of these branches, the creek flows another 1,700 feet before entering Puget Sound. The lower portion of the creek flows through a private tract called the Coyote Reserve and through Innis Arden Reserve. In comparison, Blue Heron Creek drains a larger area than Coyote Creek and experiences larger flows.

Boeing Creek and Highlands Creek discharge to Puget Sound and are located within Segment E. There are also several short unnamed tributaries that occur within the Innis Arden Reserve and flow to Puget Sound (see Map 4). Boeing Creek begins as two large tributaries that are mostly contained within pipes and occur in developed commercial areas. From the confluence of the two tributaries, the main stem descends through forested ravines to Hidden Lake, a small, constructed lake that the City regulates as a storm detention facility. Downstream from Hidden Lake, the stream has steep gradients and incised channels with moderate-to severe erosion of the channel beds and banks. A steel-pile dam is present approximately 2,300 feet from the mouth, which acts as a barrier to upstream fish. Many sections below the dam have experienced slope failure, and the substrate is generally embedded having been filled in with sediment, providing poor spawning habitat for salmonids (King County 1994). Boeing Creek enters Puget Sound through a large box culvert under the BNSF railroad. The lower portion of the stream is tidally influenced at high tides.

Highlands Creek is located within the Highlands development near the southern City boundary. The stream flows west through private property and is mostly contained within a piped system. The approximate length of the watercourse is 1,200 feet, of which 850 feet is piped.

None of the streams are currently listed on the state Department of Ecology's 2004 303(d) list, which lists streams that do not meet water quality standards for one or more parameters (Ecology website, 2008). However, many small streams, such as those found within the City's shoreline planning area, may potentially be at risk for exceeding several water quality parameters.

As stated above, many of the streams discharge directly into Puget Sound through culverts. Culverts that are undersized and/or have a steep slope may increase water velocity, which may cause downstream scouring of nearshore areas during periods of significant water runoff (Parker, 2000).

5.9 Flood Hazard Areas

Flood hazard areas are defined in the Shoreline *Comprehensive Plan* as "those areas within the floodplain subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year" (City of Shoreline, 2005a). These areas are typically identified on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) as the 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain is regulated by two chapters of the SMC: Chapter 16.12, Flood Damage Prevention, and Chapter 20.80.380-410 of the CAO.

Portions of the shoreline in Segment B, C, D, and E are mapped as a 100-year floodplain on the King County FIRM series, Panels 20, 40, 310, and 330 (FEMA, 1995). Flood hazards for Segment A (Point Wells) are mapped on Snohomish County FIRM series and include panels 1294 and 1292 (FEMA, 1999). The stream corridor of Boeing Creek (Segment E) is also mapped as a 100-year floodplain (FEMA, 1995), but the stream is not large enough itself to be a shoreline of the state and only the mouth of the stream is located within the marine shoreline. The King County Sensitive Area Map Folio (King County iMAP, 1991) shows only the Boeing Creek stream corridor within Segment E as being a potential flood hazard area (see Map 4 in Appendix C). Typically, the areas south of stream mouths and the marine shoreline below the OHWM are indicated as flood hazard areas. Following the recommendations made in the Snohomish County FIRM series, Base Flood Elevation for shoreline in all Segments (A, B, C, D, and E) will be 10 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

Several existing houses are within the shoreline of Puget Sound along 27th Avenue NE in Segment B (see Map 4 in Appendix C). Most of the homes are protected by bulkheads, with the exception of those on the south end, which, based on a conversation in March 2006 between Juniper Nammi (City of Shoreline Planner) and Chuck Steele (Ecology Floodplain Specialist), were reported to have had flooding in the past (Chuck Steele, personal communication, 2008). The existing lots within the flood hazard areas along 27th Avenue NE are fully developed, therefore flood regulations in the SMC would be applied primarily to remodel and rebuilding on these sites.

Industrial facilities and a large dock associated with Point Wells exist within the shoreline of Puget Sound in Segment A. Portions of these facilities are within the mapped flood hazard area (see Map 4 in Appendix C). Flood regulations in the SMC would be applied to replacement or rebuilding of industrial facilities and to shoreline restoration projects. If the property were to be rezoned in the future, flood regulations in the SMC would be applied to platting, subdivision, and new construction on the site.

5.10 Shoreline Modifications

Three white papers prepared in recent years summarize the current knowledge and technology pertaining to marine and estuarine shoreline modifications in the Puget Sound. These papers are: *Overwater Structures: Marine Issues* (Nightingale and Simenstad, 2001); *Marine and Estuarine Shoreline Modification Issues* (Williams and Thom, in King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks [KCDNRP], 2001); and *Beaches and Bluffs of Puget Sound* (Johannessen and MacLennan, 2007). These documents, along with *Reconnaissance Assessment of the State*

of the Nearshore Report: Including Vashon and Maury Islands (WRIAs 8 and 9) (KCDNR, 2001) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources ShoreZone Inventory (2001) were summarized and incorporated into this section. A field visit in September 2003 verified modifications along portions of the shoreline providing public access. Table A-2, Appendix A contains additional information regarding shoreline modifications within the planning segments.

Shoreline modifications refer to structural alterations of the shoreline's natural bank, including levees, dikes, floodwalls, riprap, bulkheads, docks, piers or other in-water structures. Such modifications are typically used to stabilize the shoreline and prevent erosion. Shoreline armoring (i.e. riprap, bulkheads, and other shore parallel structures) is the most common type of shoreline modification. Shoreline armoring impedes sediment supply to nearshore habitats, and this sediment starvation can lead to changes in nearshore substrates from sand or mud to coarse sand, gravel, and finally hardpan. This may, in turn, decrease eelgrass and increase kelp abundance, as well as forage fish spawning habitats. Armoring also alters natural process dynamics by blocking or delaying the erosion of upland areas and bluffs that replenish the spawning substrate. Beach narrowing and lowering and decreased driftwood abundance also result from shoreline armoring (Johannessen and MacLennan, 2007).

Construction of shoreline armoring may cover or destroy eelgrass meadows, and overwater structures may deprive eelgrass of light. Dredging can excavate eelgrass or cause excessive turbidity and permanent filling of eelgrass meadows (KCDNR, 2001).

Bulkheads and piers may also affect fish life by diverting juvenile salmonids away from shallow shorelines into deeper water, thereby increasing their potential for predation (Nightingale and Simenstad, 2001). Piers also alter wave energy and current patterns and obstruct littoral drift and longshore sediment transport (Williams and Thom, 2001). Sewer outfalls introduce nutrients and pollutants to the nearshore area altering current cycles and food web interactions.

5.10.1 Shoreline Armoring

Approximately 97 percent of the City's shoreline adjacent to Puget Sound is modified with riprap and bulkheads (WDNR, 2001). The majority of this armoring is associated with the BNSF railroad bed (Map 12 in Appendix C). The WDNR ShoreZone Inventory (2001) indicates that approximately 23 percent of Segment A (approximately 796 feet; the southern portion of Point Wells) is unmodified beach. The remaining portion of Point Wells (approximately 2,694 feet) is highly modified with riprap and sheet pile, as well as a large barge dock. Segment B is entirely modified with riprap. A portion of Segment B (approximately 1,845 feet) is modified with concrete and wooden bulkheads along a residential area adjacent to Puget Sound (Photo B-2 in Appendix B). Approximately 73 percent of Segment C is unmodified, at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park where beach extends waterward of the railroad right-of-way. The north and south ends of Segment C are modified with riprap. All of Segments D and E (along the entire length of the City's shoreline south of Richmond Beach Saltwater Park) are modified with riprap (WDNR, 2001).

5.10.2 Docks, Piers, and Over-Water Structures

There are no docks, piers, or over-water structures along Puget Sound within the City limits (Segments B through E) (Map 12 in Appendix C). However, within the PAA, Point Wells (Segment A) contains a large industrial dock originally used for loading oil when the site was operated as a bulk fuel terminal (Photo A-1 in Appendix B). The dock is currently used for both import and export of materials to and from the facility.

6. NEARSHORE BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION

6.1 Wetlands

Wetlands near the Puget Sound shoreline typically include tidal marshes and tidally influenced estuaries. Tidal marshes may contain both salt and freshwater habitats that experience tidal inundation (KCDNR, 2001). Several wetlands have been mapped by various sources in the City's shoreline planning area. According to the 1987 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), the entire area of the City's shoreline planning area in the City limits and UGA boundary is designated as an "estuarine intertidal aquatic bed/unconsolidated shore" (E2AB/USN) wetland (US Department of the Interior [USDI], 1987a and 1987b). The King County Sensitive Areas Map Folio (King County, 1990) also identifies intertidal wetlands encompassing all segments within the City's shoreline planning area. Although mapped as wetland at a landscape level, many of these areas in the City are unvegetated beach or mudflat and therefore would not meet the state definition of wetland as per City code requirements.

The *Stream and Wetland Inventory and Assessment* conducted by Tetra Tech/KCM in 2004 for the City documented one non-tidal wetland within Segment B within the City's shoreline planning area (Map 4 in Appendix C). This palustrine forested wetland is less than one acre in size and is associated with Barnacle Creek. Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) data indicate that a small (less than one acre) scrub/shrub wetland is located at the northernmost extent of Segment E and is associated with Coyote Creek within the shoreline planning area (WDFW, 2008).

6.2 Critical Fish and Wildlife Areas

Critical fish and wildlife habitat areas are those areas identified as being of critical importance in the maintenance and preservation of fish, wildlife and natural vegetation. Critical fish and wildlife habitat areas are defined in SMC Chapter 20.80.260 as follows:

> *Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas include nesting and breeding grounds for State and Federal threatened, endangered or priority species as identified by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, including corridors which connect priority habitat, and those areas which provide habitat for species of local significance which have been or may be identified in the City of Shoreline Comprehensive Plan.*

Critical fish and wildlife habitats in the City's shoreline planning area are characterized in the following sections.

6.2.1 Marine Riparian Zones

Marine riparian vegetation is defined as vegetation overhanging the intertidal zone (KCDNR, 2001). Marine riparian zones function by protecting water quality; providing wildlife habitat; regulating microclimate; providing shade, nutrient and prey; stabilizing banks; and providing large woody debris (Anchor Environmental and People for Puget Sound, 2002).

The existing railroad bed, land clearing, and shoreline armoring have impacted the marine riparian zones of all the City's shoreline segments. Marine riparian zones are not located within any of the shoreline planning segments (WDNR, 2001) (Table A-3 in Appendix A). The only marine riparian vegetation that occurs west of the BNSF railroad is located at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (see Photo C-2 in Appendix B).

6.2.2 Banks and Bluffs

Banks and bluffs are part of the marine riparian zone and can be a source of sediment to adjacent beaches, providing habitat to bluff-dwelling animals, rooting area for riparian vegetation, and a source of groundwater seepage to marine waters (KCDNR, 2001). Shoreline development and armoring, vegetation clearing, and changes in hydrology, among others, can adversely impact the natural functions of bluffs.

The ShoreZone Inventory (WDNR, 2001) maps moderate height, inclined cliffs composed of fines/mud and sand in Segments B and C (Tables A-4 in Appendix A). These are described as erosional features, providing sediments to the beach.

6.2.3 Beaches and Backshore

Beaches are composed of generally loose, unconsolidated sediment that extends landward from the low water line (Johannessen and MacLennan, 2007). Backshore areas are immediately landward of beaches and are zones inundated by storm-driven tides. Beaches and backshores provide habitat for numerous organisms, including cutthroat trout, piscivorous birds (grebes, herons, and mergansers), and shorebirds (Dethier, 1990). A typical profile of an undisturbed shoreline in Central Puget Sound would include an upper backshore or storm berm area that collects logs, algae, and other debris during storms (Photo B-3 in Appendix B). The intertidal portion of the beach is typically relatively steep and composed of a mixture of cobbles and gravel in a sand matrix (KCDNR, 2001).

Sediment abundance throughout the shoreline segments is characterized predominantly as "moderate" (some mobile sediment, but not likely to rapidly move) (Table A-1 in Appendix A). Erosional areas are described in Segment E. Beach sediments in shoreline planning area are characterized in Table A-1 and A-4 in Appendix A.

The WDNR ShoreZone Inventory utilized the British Columbia ShoreZone Mapping System, which classifies the shoreline into homogeneous stretches (or units) based on key physical controlling factors (WDNR, 2001). Table 5 summarizes the general beach or shoreline substrate composition, based on the British Columbia classification, for each shoreline planning segment (WDNR, 2001).

Table 5. ShoreZone Classification by Segment (WDNR, 2001)

Shoreline Segment	British Columbia Classification*
A	• Sand beach • Sand and gravel flat or fan
B	• Sand beach • Sand flat • Sand and gravel flat or fan
C	• Sand beach • Sand and gravel beach, narrow
D	• Sand beach
E	• Sand and gravel beach, narrow • Sand flat

*British Columbia Physical Mapping System (Howes et al., 1994 *in* WDNR, 2001)

Sobocinski (2003) conducted a comparative survey of beach fauna found on natural and altered beaches (i.e. where shoreline armoring was present) located above the mean high tide level. One of the four survey sites was located at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. The study looked at vegetative wrack and invertebrate assemblages, among several other parameters. Vegetative wrack is comprised of natural organic marine material cast on the shore deposited during an ebbing or receding tide. Not surprisingly, the percent cover of wrack was greater at natural beach stretches than at altered beaches at all sites. Wrack serves as important habitat for many beach-dwelling fauna. Fauna found along altered beaches were dominated by marine organisms, such as crustaceans, and contained less insects, talitrids and collembolans (organisms that are terrestrial-dependent) than the neighboring natural beach. The study suggests that a shift to more marine organisms is the result of lowering the land/sea interface and replacing sandy sediments with hard substrate. In addition, the removal of shoreline vegetation, which often accompanies shoreline armoring, also changes the physical structure of this zone by creating hotter, drier habitats, and removing vegetation-dependent organisms, such as insects and invertebrates which inhabit the intertidal zone (Sobocinski, 2003).

6.2.4 Flats

Flats generally include gently sloping sandy or muddy intertidal or shallow subtidal areas (KCDNR, 2001), and are used by juvenile salmonids, shorebirds, and shellfish, among other species. Flats are generally located at the mouths of streams where sediment transported

downstream is deposited, and in areas of low wave and current energy where longshore waves and currents deposit sediment (Photo B-4 in Appendix B) (KCDNR, 2001). Sand flats are mapped in Segment B and much of Segment E (in the vicinity of the Barnacle and Boeing Creek outlets). Sand and gravel flats are mapped in Segments A and B. No mud flats are present in the City's shoreline.

Shoreline activities that may impact tidal flats (KCDNR, 2001) include:

- Unnatural erosion or deposition of sediment;
- Harvesting of shellfish and other marine life;
- Fecal and chemical contamination;
- Physical disturbances from shoreline armoring, marina construction, and upland development practices;
- Shading from overwater structures; and
- Loss of emergent and riparian vegetation.

6.2.5 Eelgrass Meadows

Eelgrass is a perennial, marine aquatic vascular plant that is rooted in the substrate and can spread horizontally to produce new plants. Eelgrass requires fine-grained substrates and is particularly associated with low to moderate high-energy intertidal and shallow subtidal mud/sand substrates. The plants need sufficient light during summer to support growth and for nutrient storage over winter. Typically, eelgrass beds form between about two meters above mean lower low water (MLLW) to almost nine meters below MLLW depending on water quality. However, other factors such as extreme low or high nutrient levels, substrate composition, presence of other species, and toxic pollutants can affect eelgrass abundance and distribution.

The importance of eelgrass has been described in various sources, including the *Reconnaissance Assessment of the State of the Nearshore Environment* (KCDNR, 2001) and more recently in *Kelp and Eelgrass in Puget Sound* (Mumford, 2007). Eelgrass plants are important primary producers, fixing carbon that enters nearshore food webs and generating nutrients and substrate that form the base of the food chain. Eelgrass meadows provide refuge and foraging habitat for many salmonid species, other fish, invertebrates, birds and aquatic organisms.

Eelgrass beds have been documented in Puget Sound in the City's shoreline planning area including Point Wells (Woodruff et al., 2001 and WDNR, 2001). The occurrence of eelgrass is most dense in Segments D and E, north and south of the mouth of Boeing Creek (Table A-5, Appendix A).

Shoreline activities that may impact eelgrass (KCDNR, 2001) include:

- Clam harvesting and other direct alteration by humans;
- Propeller scour and wash;
- Physical disturbances from shoreline armoring;
- Shading from overwater structures; and

- Physical disturbances from dredging and filling.

6.2.6 Kelp Forests

There are 23 species of kelp in Puget Sound, with only two species of floating kelp and 21 that are considered prostrate, or not-floating. The prostrate species are limited to shallower portions of the nearshore zone and comprise the majority of marine vegetation biomass in some areas (Mumford, 2007). Kelps are held to the substrate by holdfasts, which unlike roots do not penetrate the bottom or carry nutrients. Unlike eelgrass, kelps are not rooted and must obtain nutrients directly from the water and require a hard substrate. They favor areas with high ambient light and low temperatures, which result in nutrient-rich waters, and moderate wave energy to circulate the nutrients.

Kelp provides habitat for many fish species, including rockfish and salmonids, potential spawning substrate for herring, and buffers shorelines from waves and currents, among other functions (KCDNR, 2001). A change in kelp distribution may indicate the coarsening of shallow subtidal sediments (such as that caused by erosion related to a seawall) or an increase in nutrient loading (such as from sewage effluent).

Kelp is found in all shoreline planning segments with the exception of Segment D. Kelp beds are sporadic throughout and limited in their lateral extent (Table A-5 in Appendix A) (Woodruff et al., 2001; KCDNR, 2001).

Shoreline activities that may impact kelp densities (KCDNR, 2001) include:

- Physical disturbances from shoreline armoring, marina construction, and harvesting;
- Shading from overwater structures;
- Beach nourishment; and
- Nutrient loading.

6.2.7 Priority Habitats and Species

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) maintain priority habitat and species information for Washington State, including the status of species as threatened or endangered. The City of Shoreline occurs within the WDFW Region 4. Priority habitats within Region 4 include consolidated marine/estuarine shorelines, cliffs, caves, snags, riparian areas, old-growth/mature forests, and urban open spaces. These habitats may contain up to 13 species of invertebrates, 62 species of vertebrates, and 20 species of mammals (City of Shoreline, 1998a). The following sections discuss some of the priority species and species of local importance that occur within the City's shoreline planning area.

Shellfish

Geoduck clams are documented in subtidal areas adjacent to shoreline Segments A, B, C, and E and Dungeness crabs are also documented in subtidal areas adjacent to Segment E (WDFW, 2008). The King County 1996/1997 Beach Assessment (KCDNR Website, 2003) performed at

Point Wells Beach in Segment A and Richmond Beach Park in Segment C documented shellfish use of these beach areas. Assessments of the Point Wells shoreline (Segment A) resulted in the identification of 31 species of invertebrates, including littleneck, butter, horse, and sand clams; purple shore crabs, pygmy rock crabs, red rock crabs, and graceful crabs; California green shrimp, and hairy hermit crabs (KCDNR, 2003). Littleneck and butter clams dominated the clam populations by number and biomass. Assessments of the Richmond Beach Park shoreline (Segment C) resulted in the identification of 37 species of invertebrates including cockle, softshell, horse, and bay mussels; black-clawed crab, graceful decorator crab, and red rock crab. Horse clams were the dominant species of clams at Richmond Beach Park.

The Washington State Department of Health has closed Richmond Beach in Segment C to recreational shellfish harvesting (Washington State Department of Health Website, 2008) due to the presence of biotoxins. None of the City's shoreline is currently used for commercial shellfish harvesting.

Salmonids

The *Salmonid Habitat Limiting Factors: Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Final Report* (Kerwin, 2001) identifies the known presence of salmon in local streams. Boeing Creek (Segment E) has documented salmonid use including Chinook (listed as threatened under the ESA), coho (Federal species of concern), chum salmon, searun cutthroat trout, and resident cutthroat trout. It is likely that many of the fish are products of the "Fish in the Classroom" program (Daley, 2004). Coho are listed by the WRIA 8 as occurring in Boeing Creek. Highlands Creek contains no salmonids. All other streams are likely to contain resident cutthroat trout in some portions of the stream (TT/KCM 2004b, and Daley, 2003).

The City of Shoreline Stream Inventory (TT/KCM, 2004b) notes that the flume under the BNSF railroad in the lowest reach of Boeing Creek likely prevents fish passage seasonally during low flows. The primary detriment to habitat quality in this reach is the significant amount of sediment from landslides in the ravine. The sediment fills in pools within the stream, clogging gravels with sand and/or silt thus reducing spawning suitability.

Nearshore habitat is an important environment for juvenile salmonids, where the shallow water depth obstructs the presence of larger, predator species (Kerwin, 2001). Juvenile salmon rely on the nearshore and estuarine marine habitats for food, migration corridors, protection from predators, and a transitional environment that supports the physiological changes that occur as they transition from a freshwater to a marine environment (Fresh, 2006). Spawn and migration timing, and the use of different marine habitats vary widely between salmonid species as well as stocks or subpopulations of the same species.

All shoreline segments within the City's shoreline planning area are known or expected to contain juvenile salmonids including bull trout (federally listed), Chinook, chum, coho, cutthroat, pink, sockeye, based on the knowledge of species life histories (KCDNR, 2001).

Forage Fish

Forage fish are key components of the marine food web and have important commercial and recreational value. They are generally characterized as small, schooling fish that prey upon zooplankton and are in turn preyed upon by larger predatory fish, birds and marine mammals (Penttila, 2007). The five forage fish species most likely to occur in the City's shoreline planning area include surf smelt, sand lance, Pacific herring, longfin smelt, and eulachon (Kerwin, 2001 and King County DNR, 2001). Different species utilize different parts of the intertidal and subtidal zones, with sand lance and surf smelt spawning primarily in the substrate of the upper intertidal zone, and Pacific herring spawning primarily on intertidal or subtidal vegetation (Lemberg et al., 1997; Penttila, 2007). Water quality and other conditions that affect food or predator abundance are important for all species of forage fish.

Four primary sources were referenced in compiling information on potential forage fish spawning areas within the City's shoreline planning area: Marine Resource Species (MRS) data maintained by WDFW (2008), the *Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Final Report* (Kerwin, 2001), the *City of Shoreline, Fish Utilization in the City of Shoreline Streams* (Daley, 2003), and the *Reconnaissance Assessment of the State of the Nearshore Environment* (KCDNR, 2001). Information on the five potential forage fish species within the City's planning area is summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. Forage Fish Species and Presence by Shoreline Segment

Species	Documented Presence	Spawning Timing	Preferred Spawning Substrate	Spawning Location
Pacific herring	None (nearest is Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island)	Quartermaster Harbor stock spawn February/March	Eelgrass	Upper high tide limits to depths of 40 feet (typically between 0 and –10 tidal elevation)
Sand lance	Segments A and B	November 1 to February 15	Fine sand, mixed sand and gravel, or gravel up to 3cm	From + 5 tidal elevation to higher high water line (from bays and inlets to current-swept beaches)
Eulachon	None	Late winter/early spring	Unknown	Freshwater streams
Longfin smelt	None	Winter	Sand with aquatic vegetation	Freshwater streams
Surf smelt	Segments A and C	South Puget Sound stocks are fall-winter spawners (September to March)	Mix of coarse sand and fine gravel	Upper intertidal

Sources: (Kerwin, 2001; O'Toole, 1995; KCDNR, 2001; Lemberg et al., 1997)

Information on documented spawning activity was available from the WDFW (2008). No Pacific herring, sand lance, surf smelt, spawning areas are currently documented in any of the

shoreline inventory segments (WDFW, 2008). However, it is fair to assume that they all utilize the nearshore areas for feeding and migration. Both King County DNR (2001) and Kerwin (2001) document surf smelt spawning areas in Segment C, along Richmond Beach Park (Photo C-2 in Appendix B). A sand lance spawning area is mapped along the shoreline within the City of Shoreline, in the southern portion of Segment A (Photo A-1 in Appendix B) (Kerwin, 2001) and just north of Barnacle Creek in Segment B (KCDNR, 2001). Both sources cite the documented presence of surf smelt in planning Segment A (Point Wells). In addition, the mouth of Boeing Creek (Segment E) has been identified as an important area for the feeding, migration, and spawning and rearing of all the forage fish mentioned above (Daley, 2004).

Nearshore modifications impact potential forage fish habitat in the following ways:

- Development impacts the shoreline, particularly marinas and boat ramps, which introduce the potential for repeated disturbance and potentially alter nearshore hydrology;
- Sewer outfalls introduce pollutants and nutrients to the nearshore;
- Overwater structures shade intertidal vegetation and may alter nearshore hydrology; and
- Riprap revetments and vertical bulkheads alter nearshore hydrology and may increase wave energy on intertidal areas.

The sand lance's habit of spawning in the upper intertidal zone of protected sand-gravel beaches throughout the increasingly populated Puget Sound basin makes it vulnerable to the cumulative effects of various types of shoreline development. The WAC Hydraulic Code Rules for the control and permitting of in-water construction activities in Washington State include consideration of sand lance spawning habitat protection.

Shorebirds and Upland Birds

A variety of waterfowl and shorebirds utilize the nearshore environment for wintering and breeding. Waterfowl and seaduck species include Canada goose, mallard, wigeon, shoveler, scaup, goldeneye, long-tailed duck, northern pintail, bufflehead, and mergansers. Diving birds such as loons, grebes, scoter, guilemot and cormorants use intertidal habitats for foraging. Approximately seventy-five species of birds are associated with marine nearshore environments in Washington (O'Neil et al., 2001).

Adjacent to the open waters of Puget Sound, the upland terrestrial environment provides habitat for birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. The WDFW PHS maps indicate the presence of purple martin nest structures on pilings at the mouth of Boeing Creek from 2000 to 2004. It is unknown whether martin are currently using the structures. Bald eagles use the shoreline and large trees for perching. No nests are currently documented within the City. Marbled murrelet (federal and state listed as threatened species) has also been documented in the shoreline vicinity, but no seabird colonies or waterfowl concentrations are documented within the City. Adolfson Associates (1999) also documented the use of interior uplands by two priority species including the pileated woodpecker and the band-tailed pigeon.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SHORELINE FUNCTIONS AND OPPORTUNITY AREAS

This section summarizes key findings concerning how functions of the Puget Sound shoreline have been impaired within the City of Shoreline, both by land use activities and alterations occurring at an ecosystem-wide scale, and by activities within the City, its PAA, and its shoreline planning area. This section also identifies opportunities for the protection or enhancement of areas where shoreline ecological functions are intact, and opportunities for restoration of impaired shoreline functions, at both a programmatic (i.e., City-wide) and site specific level. Opportunities for enhanced or expanded public access to the shoreline are also discussed.

7.1 Shoreline Ecological Functions

Shoreline ecological functions of the City of Shoreline planning segments are summarized in Table 7. The table is organized around Ecology's list of processes and functions for shorelines using the landscape analysis methodology. It also provides a qualitative assessment of the function performance provided by each reach as Low, Medium or High. Due to the similarity of shoreline functions provided by Segments D and E, these segments are combined in this analysis.

Table 7. Summary of Ecological Functions

Function	Shoreline Planning Segments			
	Segment A	**Segment B**	**Segment C**	**Segments D & E**
HYDROLOGY				
Transport & stabilize sediment	Low – The burial of the upper foreshore (from industrial development) locked up coarse sand and gravel in the littoral system, preventing longshore transport of sediment. One area of exception on Point Wells is the natural beach within the southern half of Segment A. This natural sand flat and beach area would provide Low to Moderate sediment transport functions.	Low – The burial of the upper foreshore (from railroad construction) locked up coarse sand and gravel in the littoral system, preventing longshore transport of sediment. In addition, small stream mouth estuaries were buried by the railroad. Box culverts and pipes alter sediment dynamics at the mouths. The presence of residential bulkheads, some of which are below the mean high tide level, also interrupts longshore transport of sediment.	Low to Moderate – The area of undisturbed beach west of railroad at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park provides some sediment transport function. It is limited however by its short length (alongshore) and narrow width.	Low (similar to Segment B) Boeing Creek provides a localized fluvial sediment source, but this is limited to a small section of shoreline.
Attenuating wave energy	Low – With the exception of the southern portion, the shoreline is armored with riprap that likely increases wave energy, thus affecting beach sediment composition.	Low - The rock revetment of railroad and residential bulkheads may result in increased wave energy along the shoreline, possibly affecting beach sediment composition.	Moderate – The widest area of undisturbed beach west of railroad serves to attenuate wave energy more than any other portion of the shoreline.	Low (similar to Segment B)
Removing excessive nutrients and toxic compounds	Low - Loss of wetlands has reduced shoreline potential for the filtering and cycling of pollutants. Sources of pollutants have increased as a result of urban and land uses, and increased impervious surface within the drainage basins.	Low to Moderate - Barnacle Creek and associated forested wetland provide some filtering of pollutants. However, the wetland is narrow and east of the railroad grade.	Low (similar to Segment A)	Low to Moderate – similar to Segment A, the loss of wetland has decreased the shorelines ability to perform water quality improvement functions. However, the intact portions of the Boeing Creek riparian corridor do provide filtering of pollutants generated upstream.
Recruitment of	Low – The industrial development of Point Wells	Low	Low to Moderate – The	Low

Function	Shoreline Planning Segments			
	Segment A	**Segment B**	**Segment C**	**Segments D & E**
LWD and other organic material	removed sources of LWD and areas where driftwood could accumulate. The small area of undisturbed beach at the southern end of the Segment A provides a Low to Moderate function for recruitment of organic material.	(similar to Segment A) The presence of the railroad has resulted in beach narrowing and lowering, and thus decreased driftwood abundance on the shore. Railroad maintenance includes physical removal of LWD from upstream sources and stream culverts under the railroad are too small to allow passage of woody debris.	undisturbed beach at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park allows for some recruitment of organic material, but LWD is limited due to the railroad. In addition, the beach gradient is too steep to have meaningful interaction between LWD and hydrology.	(similar to Segment B)
VEGETATION				
Temperature regulation	Low – Overhanging vegetation in the nearshore environment is absent from the shoreline due to industrial development.	Low (Similar to Segment A) Overhanging vegetation is separated from the nearshore due to existing development on the beach and to the railroad.	Low (Similar to Segment B) Some vegetation is present at Richmond Beach Park but there are few trees and little to no overhang of vegetation due to the railroad.	Low – The railroad separates steep slopes and historic bluffs from nearshore environment.
Attenuating wave energy	Low – Lack of marine riparian vegetation and large woody debris in the nearshore results in no attenuation of wave energy.	Low (similar to Segment A)	Low – Some vegetation is present at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, but the beach gradient is too steep to allow this function to be performed.	Low (similar to Segment A)
Sediment removal and bank stabilization	Low – Except for the southern portion of Segment A, no large woody debris or vegetation is present to stabilize or reduce erosion.	Low (similar to Segment A)	Moderate – Scattered and narrow vegetation provides some bank stabilization. Bank stabilization work has been conducted by the City in the southern portion of the segment.	Low (similar to Segment A)

Function	Shoreline Planning Segments			
	Segment A	**Segment B**	**Segment C**	**Segments D & E**
Recruitment of LWD and other organic material	Low – Industrial development has removed all sources of organic material.	Low – Maintenance of the railroad results in complete interruption of LWD delivery and input from coastal bluffs. The absence of a back beach also significantly reduces accumulation of large wood on the beach.	Moderate – Driftwood is regularly burned by Park users. A small amount of vegetation west of the railroad is a source of organic material and a small amount of back beach is also present.	Low (similar to Segment B)
HABITAT				
Physical space and conditions for reproduction	Low to Moderate – Industrial development at Point Wells resulted in loss of historic sandspit and lagoon. Existing large pier and dock also reduces intertidal habitat. However, eelgrass is mapped off-shore which provides spawning habitat for forage fish. Shellfish beds are also documented in the southern portion of the segment.	Low to Moderate – Marine nearshore habitat for forage fish remains intact due to lack of overwater structures (piers and docks), but the railroad construction resulted in the loss of intertidal habitat (for beach spawning forage fish), longshore lagoon and small stream mouth estuaries.	Low to Moderate –Marine nearshore habitat for forage fish remains intact due to lack of overwater structures (piers and docks), but the railroad construction resulted in the loss of intertidal habitat (for beach spawning forage fish), longshore lagoon and small stream mouth estuaries. Similar to Segment A, eelgrass and shellfish beds are present. However, a sewer outfall is present that likely introduces nutrients and pollutants to the nearshore area potentially altering current cycles and food web interactions.	Low to Moderate – The sediment supplied at the mouth of Boeing Creek provides feeding, spawning and rearing habitat for several species of forage fish.
Resting and Foraging	Low to Moderate – Large pier shades nearshore habitat and limits the growth of vegetation. Industrial uses replace beach habitats. However, area of undisturbed beach provides habitat for shorebirds and has documented forage fish use.	Low – Residential land uses and bulkheads limit the use of nearshore habitat for resting and foraging.	Moderate - The lack of overwater structures (marinas, piers, etc.) allows the growth of nearshore vegetation that provides resting habitat for juvenile salmonids. The absence of a back beach habitat and marine riparian vegetation results in no habitat for piscivorous birds, shorebirds and numerous other organisms.	Moderate - Similar to Segment C with the addition of dense eelgrass present to the north and south of Boeing Creek.

Function	Shoreline Planning Segments			
	Segment A	**Segment B**	**Segment C**	**Segments D & E**
Migration	Low – The large pier at Point Wells may divert juvenile salmonids away from nearshore, resulting in increased predation.	Low – Bulkheads along the shoreline may divert juvenile salmonids away from nearshore, resulting in increased predation.	Moderate to High – No impediments to salmon migration are present.	Moderate to High (similar to Segment C)
Food production and delivery	Low to Moderate – The disconnection of marine riparian vegetation from the nearshore has eliminated any biotic input or food for forage fish and salmon. Eelgrass beds are present off-shore.	Low – Residential land uses and bulkheads may disrupt biotic inputs from marine riparian vegetation. Eelgrass beds are present.	Low to Moderate – The small amount of vegetation at Richmond Beach Saltwater park likely supplies some biotic input, although small because only limited vegetation is present. Eelgrass beds are present off shore.	Low to Moderate – Similar to Segment A with the addition of eelgrass beds that provide important food sources for forage fish and migrating salmonids.

7.2 Programmatic Restoration Opportunities

Table 8 provides a summary of shoreline ecological functions for the Coastal/Nearshore Environment. Causes of impairment and the relative scale at which impairments are occurring (e.g., watershed, shoreline segment scale, or multiple scales) are identified. General or programmatic restoration opportunities to address impairments are described. Individual residential bulkheads and railroad riprap constitute existing and necessary protection from wave energy and therefore are not included in any Programmatic Restoration Opportunities.

Table 8. Summary of Shoreline Functions and Programmatic Restoration Opportunities

Condition and Causes of Impairment	Scale of Alterations and Impairment	Shoreline Ecological Functions Affected	Programmatic Restoration Opportunities
Bulkheads on shoreline deflect wave action and disrupt natural coastal processes. Bulkheads disrupt natural delivery of sediment to the coastal areas, as well as increase beach scouring and wave deflection.	Watershed and Reach scale	Hydrologic Sediment transport and deposition	Potential redevelopment of Point Wells is an opportunity to replace hard armoring with soft-shore.
Alteration to and development on feeder bluffs reduce the potential of these areas to provide sediment delivery to coastal zones, disrupting natural coastal beach accretion.	Watershed scale	Sediment delivery	No active feeder bluffs in City due to BNSF railroad. Removal of bulkheads in Point Wells may reestablish some sediment delivery processes. Culverts conveying surface water flow from streams continue to be an important source of sediment delivery. Replace stream culverts with larger box culverts or other fish-friendly structures.

Condition and Causes of Impairment	Scale of Alterations and Impairment	Shoreline Ecological Functions Affected	Programmatic Restoration Opportunities
Wetlands adjacent to the Puget Sound coast are altered due to development and land use and can no longer provide essential storage, recharge, or water quality functions.	Watershed and Reach scale	Hydrologic Hyporheic Water quality	Target local coastal wetland restoration and mitigation so they provide storage, detention, and water quality functions. Restore and reconnect wetlands adjacent to Puget Sound coast such as Barnacle Creek wetlands. Protect intact wetlands along the Puget Sound coast such as those associated with Coyote Creek.
Riparian habitat along the coast has been impaired through land development and marine riparian vegetation is generally absent due to presence of the BNSF Railroad. Input of large wood from the bluffs is largely eliminated by BNSF railroad maintenance practices. The absence of a back beach significantly reduces accumulation of large wood on the beach.	Watershed and Reach scale	Riparian habitat structure	Protect and restore tributaries to the Puget Sound which provide riparian habitat and deliver woody debris and sediment, such as Boeing Creek.
Man-made debris and remnant structures in the coastal areas disrupt intertidal habitats and salmonid passage. Water quality in the nearshore environment is impaired due to remaining creosote pilings, runoff from creosote railroad ties, and other toxic debris and sewer outfalls. Sediment transport and accretion processes disrupted.	Watershed and Reach scale	Intertidal habitat Water quality	Target removal of abandoned man-made structures and dilapidated docks in Richmond Beach and Point Wells areas. Remove creosote pilings and debris at Point Wells, which harm intertidal habitats. Encourage BNSF to replace creosote railroad ties with non-toxic materials.

7.3 Site-Specific Restoration Opportunities

A number of site-specific City and non-City projects that would occur in the City's shoreline jurisdiction are in various stages of planning, as summarized in Table 9 below. The City could explore working with applicants, resource agencies, and permitting agencies to ensure that

components or mitigation measures associated with these projects are consistent with the City's shoreline management goals. Opportunities and projects identified in the table are described in more detail immediately following the table.

Table 9. Summary of Site-Specific Opportunities and Projects for Public Access and Restoration

Segment	Existing Public Access	Public Access Opportunities	Public Access Projects	Site-Specific Restoration Opportunities	Site-Specific Restoration Projects
A	Point Wells Beach (informal and limited access) at the south end of segment	South Point Wells Habitat Restoration	None	Point Wells Complete Site Restoration South Point Wells Habitat Restoration South Point Wells Lagoon Creation Barnacle Creek Wetland Construction	King County Brightwater Treatment Plant project at Point Wells site. Project includes restoration plantings.
B	Point Wells Beach (informal and limited access) at the north end of segment	None identified	Richmond Beach Pump Station Park includes interpretive watchtower	None identified	None proposed
C	Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	None identified	Public access improvements at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	Restore and protect native marine riparian vegetation at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, west of BNSF railroad tracks.	Master Plan for Richmond Beach Saltwater Park. The plan includes native plant restoration and slope stability efforts.
D	None	None identified	None proposed	None identified	None proposed
E	Innis Arden Reserve (limited access)	None identified	None proposed	Boeing Creek Enhancement	Boeing Creek Park and Underground Storage Pipe project

7.3.1 Segment A

Point Wells Restoration Opportunities

The *Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Volume II* (WRIA, 2005) identifies many potential restoration and protection projects as part of their Tier 1 Initial Habitat Project List for nearshore/estuary Reaches 8-12 and Sub-reaches. Three specific projects were identified at Point Wells, which is within Reach 10.

Point Wells Complete Site Restoration: Restore the entire Point Wells site by completely removing the sea wall, riprap dike, and fill. Regrade the site and reconnect local freshwater sources to re-create a tidal lagoon system with an opening at the north end of the point, which was probably the original mouth of the tidal lagoon system. Reestablish native riparian and backshore vegetation. Project categorized as "high" for benefits to Chinook and "low" for feasibility.

South Point Wells Habitat Restoration: Enhance the south shoreline by removing riprap dike, eliminating invasive plants, and reestablishing native riparian and backshore vegetation. The south shoreline is approximately 800 feet long, has sandy substrate, supports some beach grass and other herbaceous vegetation, and includes a fair amount of large woody debris. The south shoreline, with its proximity to nearby residential areas, has potential value for public access. Project categorized as "high/medium" for benefits to Chinook and "medium/low" for feasibility.

South Point Wells Lagoon Creation: Creation of a three acre inter-tidal lagoon at the south end of the Point Wells site that may have historically been a marsh (before it was filled). The south shoreline is approximately 800 feet long, has sandy substrate, supports some beach grass and other herbaceous vegetation, and includes a fair amount of large woody debris. Project categorized as "high/medium" for benefits to Chinook and "medium/low" for feasibility.

Barnacle Creek Wetland Construction Opportunity

The *Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Volume II* (WRIA, 2005) also identifies one specific project within the Barnacle Creek drainage. The project involves creation of tidally influenced wetland habitat on the east side of the BNSF railroad tracks at Barnacle Creek. Project categorized as "low" for both benefits to Chinook and feasibility.

Brightwater Treatment Plant Project at Point Wells

The KCDNRP WTD is currently constructing a regional wastewater treatment plant called Brightwater in unincorporated Snohomish County. A conveyance line from the treatment plant to the Point Wells site is currently being built in order to convey treated wastewater to Puget Sound. A marine outfall will be installed offshore of the Point Wells site, extending approximately one mile along the sea bottom of Puget Sound. Following construction, King County will landscape a portion of the Point Wells site with Puget Sound coastal grasses and enhance the shoreline buffer. Eelgrass removed from the outfall construction site will be

replanted and monitored until 2019 to ensure effective recovery. The project is anticipated to be complete by the year 2010 (KCDNRP, WTD website, 2008).

7.3.2 Segment B

Richmond Beach Pump Station Park Project

A new park site is located in the Richmond Beach neighborhood at Richmond Beach Drive NW and NW 198th Street. The City obtained a 50-year recreation easement on a 2.3-acre parcel of land from King County as mitigation for impacts from the Brightwater Treatment Plant project. In the mitigation agreement between the City of Shoreline and King County, it was agreed that the County would provide $750,000 of mitigation funding for City of Shoreline community improvements. Most of the mitigation funding has been designated for the creation of a new City park at the pump station site. This park is currently being called Richmond Beach Pump Station Park until it receives a new name following City and County naming policies. A 2005 Master Plan for the park includes a small parking area, restroom, interpretive watchtower overlooking the BNSF railroad and Puget Sound, and play areas. No shoreline access west of the BNSF railroad is proposed (City of Shoreline website, 2008).

7.3.3 Segment C

Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Project

The City's Master Plan for Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (City of Shoreline, 2007b) includes improvement of the park entrance and road; pedestrian sidewalks, stairs and trails; bridge access and safety; a new beach wash-down area; a new overlook parking area across from the caretaker's residence; a new mid-level terrace area with parking, picnic area and gathering space; and new entry, way-finding and interpretive educational signage. In addition, the plan includes selective site improvements and a program of restoration ecology to control erosion and eliminate invasive plant species in the Park and nearshore areas. Phase I improvements include slope stability efforts in specific areas that showed evidence of unstable soil conditions or erosion during geotechnical investigation. Improvements include controlling public access away from steep slope areas, improving access across steep slopes by constructing raised stairs and boardwalks in selected locations, and by implementing a community participation program of removing invasive plants and replacing them with native plant species tolerant of dry, sandy and gravelly soils. Future phases of the master plan propose beach and dune restoration.

7.3.4 Segment D

No site-specific projects or opportunities have been identified to provide public access or restore shoreline functions and processes. Opportunities in this segment are limited because properties along the shoreline are privately owned. There are also hazards along the shoreline including unstable slopes and landslide hazards.

7.3.5 Segment E

Boeing Creek Park and Underground Storage Pipe Project

In October 2007, King County completed construction of a new 500,000-gallon underground storage pipe in Boeing Creek Park to temporarily store wastewater during large storms and help reduce overflows to Puget Sound. The pipe replaced an existing 24-inch sewer in Boeing Creek Park owned by the Ronald Wastewater District. The new sewer is 12 feet in diameter and about 640 feet long. The new underground storage pipe is conveying normal wastewater flows toward the Hidden Lake Pump Station. At the request of the City of Shoreline, King County also graded the existing stormwater facility in Boeing Creek Park. The County grading increased the capacity of the facility and stabilized the area. The City then followed with their own park improvement project in 2008. Improvements to the park include new on street parking, ADA pathway improvements, new picnic areas, benches, stormwater detention pond upgrades including a cascading stone water feature, irrigation, native plant landscaping, and trail improvements including improvements to the lower log crossing. The suspension foot bridge will not be part of these improvements as the December storm caused erosion damage to the creek banks including the proposed site for the bridge (City of Shoreline website, 2008).

Boeing Creek Enhancement

The *City of Shoreline Stream Inventory* (TT/KCM, 2004b) notes that the foremost option for recovery within the City is enhancement of the lowest reach of Boeing Creek. The key habitat enhancement activity is to reduce stormwater runoff from developed areas adjacent to Boeing Creek. By reducing stormwater runoff, landslides will occur at more natural levels and sediment loading in the stream will be reduced.

8. DATA GAPS

This shoreline inventory and characterization report relies on data described in each technical section. In some cases, data identified as needed for the analysis and characterization were not available for incorporation in this report. The 2003 Ecology Guidelines require that data gaps or missing information be identified during the preparation of the shoreline inventory and analysis. The following are considered data gaps at this time:

- Aerial photographs used in this analysis are dated 2002. More recent aerial photographs are not currently available or have not been purchased by the City.
- Impervious surface information used in this report has been approximated using aerial photographs. Additional information may exist that needs to be explored.
- Data related to impacts to shoreline resources from the operation and maintenance of the BNSF railroad tracks is not available. Coordination with BNSF Railway is desired to achieve cooperation between City activities in the shoreline jurisdiction and BNSF operation and maintenance activities.

- Tribal information on fisheries or other marine shoreline resources is currently lacking.
- Location of archaeological resources is unknown. Coordination with Native American tribal organizations would help to identify the probability or likelihood that intact archaeological resources may be present in the shoreline planning area.

9. SUMMARY

The City's shoreline jurisdiction includes approximately 4 miles of Puget Sound coastline within the city limits and in its PAA. Similar to other cities along the Puget Sound, existing development and infrastructure has affected the shoreline environment within the City of Shoreline. Ecosystem-wide processes and ecological functions that have been altered in the marine shoreline include sediment processes, large woody and organic debris recruitment and transport, water quality, riparian vegetation and habitat conditions.

Shoreline armoring to protect the BNSF railroad has most severely altered sediment processes in the City. Sediment delivery is limited to several streams that deliver sediment via culverts under the railroad right-of-way. Forage fish spawning still occurs at these limited points of sediment input (e.g. Boeing Creek) (Daley, 2004). In the Richmond Beach neighborhood, sediment processes have been altered by armoring to protect residential development in several areas, but still provide important habitat and sediment functions.

Clearing of riparian vegetation along the marine shoreline for the BNSF Railway construction and maintenance, and other shoreline armoring has resulted in a lack of large woody and organic debris available for recruitment to the system. The lack of debris in turn affects the stability of the beaches as the presence of beach logs and debris can reduce erosion by dissipating wave energy and trapping sediment.

Restoration and preservation activities that could improve ecological functions and eco-system wide processes in the marine shoreline include: reduction of stormwater runoff to landslide-prone areas; revegetation of riparian areas to provide shade to cool water temperatures, filter run-off and to provide a source of large woody debris and organic materials; limiting shoreline armoring to allow for continued sediment delivery and to protect nearshore habitat; and improvements to water quality in adjacent upland areas.

Table 10 below summarizes the shoreline characterization for each planning segment. The segments are shown on Map 1. Overall, the Puget Sound shoreline in the City of Shoreline is uniform in its development pattern and biological diversity. The BNSF railroad extends the length of the shoreline. Segment breaks were primarily associated with changes in land use. Point Wells, located in the city's PAA, is the only industrial facility along the shoreline, contrasting with the residential nature of the city's shoreline. South of Point Wells, land use breaks along segment boundaries are primarily associated with varying densities of residential development, and parks and open space resources such as Richmond Beach Saltwater Park and Innis Arden Reserve. While Richmond Beach Saltwater Park provides recreational facilities and access to the Puget Sound shoreline, access at other open space and park resources are limited.

Shoreline modifications associated with the railroad and residential development are found throughout the majority the city's shoreline planning area, with the largest contiguous unmodified portion occurring at Richmond Beach Saltwater Park.

Biological resources and potential habitat areas along the Puget Sound shoreline are largely uniform throughout the city. Less developed areas along the shoreline such as Innis Arden Reserve and Boeing Creek Reserve offer greater habitat potential for wildlife. Areas regulated as critical areas are found throughout the shoreline planning area, primarily comprised of inter-tidal wetlands, streams discharging to Puget Sound, seismic hazards, flood hazards and landslide hazard areas associated with bluffs. Critical areas are listed in Table 10 under Hazard Areas and Habitat / Habitat Potential. Streams discharging to Puget Sound, many of which pass through culverts under the railroad, are listed under Stormwater Outfalls / Stream Discharges.

Table 10. Shoreline Segment Summary Matrix, City of Shoreline

Shoreline Segment	Land Use / Transportation	Stormwater Outfalls / Stream Discharges	Public Shoreline Access	Hazard Areas	Habitat / Habitat Potential
A	Petroleum Facility King County Right-of-Way (ROW)	Combined stormwater and groundwater remediation outfall near south end of dock	Point Wells Beach (informal and limited access) at the south end of segment	Soil, Groundwater and Surface Water Contamination Seismic Hazard Areas	Wetlands Fish and Wildlife Areas (Forage Fish, Salmonids, shorebirds and piscivorous birds, shellfish, eelgrass and kelp)
B	Single Family Residential BNSF Railway ROW Utility Vacant	Richmond Beach Wastewater Pump Station emergency overflow outfall; Stream Outfalls: Barnacle Creek	None	Flood Hazard Areas Seismic Hazard Areas Landslide Hazard Areas	Wetlands Fish & Wildlife Areas (Forage Fish, Salmonids, Banks/Bluffs, shorebirds and piscivorous birds, shellfish, eelgrass and kelp)
C	BNSF Railway ROW Park Single-Family Residential	None	Richmond Beach Saltwater Park	Flood Hazard Areas Seismic Hazard Areas Landslide Hazard Areas	Wetlands Fish & Wildlife Areas (Forage Fish, Salmonids, Banks/Bluffs, shorebirds and piscivorous birds, shellfish, eelgrass and kelp)
D	Single-Family Residential BNSF Railway ROW	Stream Outfalls: Storm and Blue Heron Creeks	None	Flood Hazard Areas Seismic Hazard Areas Landslide Hazard Areas	Wetlands Fish & Wildlife Areas (Salmonids, shorebirds and piscivorous birds, shellfish, eelgrass and kelp)
E	BNSF Railway ROW Single-Family Residential Open Space Vacant	Stream Outfalls: Coyote, Boeing, and Highlands Creeks	Innis Arden Reserve (limited access)	Flood Hazard Areas Seismic Hazard Areas Landslide Hazard Areas	Wetlands Fish & Wildlife Areas (Forage Fish: Boeing Creek Mouth, Salmonids, shorebirds and piscivorous birds, shellfish, eelgrass and kelp)

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APPENDIX A

WDNR SHOREZONE INVENTORY SUMMARY TABLES BY SHORELINE PLANNING SEGMENT

The following shoreline characterization information has been compiled from the Washington Department of Natural Resources *ShoreZone Inventory* GIS database (WDNR, 2001). Each table is organized by shoreline planning segment and the ShoreZone Units falling within each shoreline planning segment. The length of each unit shown in the tables indicates the length of the ShoreZone unit occurring within that shoreline planning segment. Some ShoreZone units cross shoreline planning segment boundaries and/or extend beyond the study area for this shoreline characterization (see Map 2).

Table A - 1. Beach Sediment Characterization (WDNR, 2001)

Planning Segment	WDNR ShoreZone Unit ID	Length of ShoreZone Unit within Segment	Estimated Sediment Source	Sediment Abundance	*Dominant Sediment Transport Direction	Stability
A	2511	1352.3	Alongshore	Moderate	South	Stable
A	2512	1342.1	Alongshore	Moderate	South	Stable
A	2513	796.3	Alongshore	Moderate	North	Stable
B	2514	1542.7	Alongshore	Moderate	North	Stable
B	2515	1845.8	Alongshore	Scarce	North	Stable
B	2516	1166.0	Alongshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Stable
C	2516	384.7	Alongshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Stable
C	2517	673.8	Backshore	Moderate	South	Stable
C	2518	1268.8	Backshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Stable
C	2519	350.0	Alongshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Stable
D	2519	1289.1	Alongshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Stable
E	2520	646.7	Alongshore	Moderate	Undetermined	Erosional
E	2521	3501.7	Fluvial	Moderate	South	Stable
E	2522	5200.0	Alongshore	Moderate	South	Stable

* Schwartz (1991) documents “net shore drift” from south to north in all planning segments

Table A- 2. Shoreline Modifications (WDNR, 2001)

Planning Segment	WDNR ShoreZone Unit ID	Length of ShoreZone Unit within Segment (feet)	Total % Modified	Primary Type of Modification	% Primary Modification	Secondary Type of Modification	% Secondary Modification	Tertiary Type of Modification	% Tert. Modification	# Boat Ramps	# Piers/Docks
A	2511	1352.3	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	1
A	2512	1342.1	100	Sheet Pile	100		0		0	0	1
A	2513	796.3	0		0		0		0	0	0
B	2514	1542.7	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	0
B	2515	1845.8	100	Concrete Bulkhead	50	Wooden Bulkhead	30	Riprap	20	0	0
B	2516	1166.0	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	0
C	2516	384.7	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	0
C	2517	673.8	0		0		0		0	0	0
C	2518	1268.8	0		0		0		0	0	0
C	2519	350.0	100	Riprap	100		**0**		**0**	**0**	**0**
D	2519	1289.1	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	0
E	2520	646.7	100	Riprap	100		**0**		**0**	**0**	**0**
E	2521	3501.7	100	Riprap	100		**0**		**0**	**0**	**0**
E	2522	5200.0	100	Riprap	100		0		0	0	0

Table A-3. Marine Riparian Zones (WDNR 2001)

Planning Segment	WDNR ShoreZone Unit ID	Length of ShoreZone Unit within Segment (feet)	Estimated % with Riparian Vegetation	Estimated Length of Riparian Vegetation	Estimated Intertidal Zone Width (ft)
A	2511	1352.3	0	0	20
A	2512	1342.1	0	0	30
A	2513	796.3	0	0	37
B	2514	1542.7	0	0	105
B	2515	1845.8	0	0	47
B	2516	1166.0	0	0	30
C	2516	384.7	0	0	30
C	2517	673.8	0	0	27
C	2518	1268.8	0	0	32
C	2519	350.0	0	0	36
D	2519	1289.1	0	0	36
E	2520	646.7	0	0	21
E	2521	3501.7	0	0	46
E	2522	5200.0	0	0	46

Table A- 4. Beach Type and Composition (WDNR, 2001)

Planning Segment	WDNR ShoreZone Unit ID	Length of ShoreZone Unit within Segment (feet)	Shoreline Type (BC classification)	Supratidal-Upper Component	Intertidal-Upper Component	Intertidal-Lower Component	Intertidal-Lowest Component	Subtidal
A	2511	1352.3	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND)			
A	2512	1342.1	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND	WHARF (METAL)		
A	2513	796.3	Sand and gravel flat or fan	Vegetated Dune (logs overlaying sand)	BEACH BERM (LOGS OVERLYING SAND)	BEACH FACE (SAND, PEBBLE	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND, PEBBLE)	
B	2514	1542.7	Sand flat	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND)	TIDAL FLAT (SAND)		
B	2515	1845.8	Sand and gravel flat or fan	Seawall)concrete, wood, riprap)	SEAWALL (CONCRETE); BEACH FACE (SAND)	BEACH FACE (COBBLE, PEBBLE, SAND)	TIDAL FLAT (SAND, PEBBLE, COBBLE); TIDAL FLAT WITH BAR (SAND)	
B	2516	1166.0	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap); inclined cliff of moderate height (fines/mud, sand)	BEACH FACE (SAND, PEBBLE)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND)		
C	2516	384.7	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap); inclined cliff of moderate height (fines/mud, sand)	BEACH FACE (SAND, PEBBLE	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND)		
C	2517	673.8	Sand and gravel beach, narrow	Beach berm (logs overlaying cobble, pebble, sand)	BEACH BERM (COBBLE, PEBBLE, SAND)	BEACH FACE (PEBBLE, SAND)		
C	2518	1268.8	Sand and gravel beach, narrow	Beach berm (logs overlaying cobble, pebble, sand)	BEACH BERM (LOGS OVERLYING SAND, PEBBLE)	BEACH FACE (SAND)		
C	2519	350.0	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap)	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND)	
D	2519	1289.1	Sand beach	Seawall (Riprap)	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND)	
E	2520	646.7	Sand and gravel beach, narrow	Seawall (Riprap)	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (SAND, PEBBLE)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (PEBBLE, SAND)	
E	2521	3501.7	Sand flat	Seawall (Riprap)	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (COBBLE, PEBBLE, SAND)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND); BEACH WITH BARS AND TROUGHS (SAND)	
E	2522	5200.0	Sand flat	Seawall (Riprap)	Seawall (Riprap)	BEACH FACE (COBBLE, PEBBLE, SAND)	BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND); BEACH WITH LOW TIDE TERRACE (SAND, PEBBLE, COBBLE); BEACH W/BARS	

Table A- 5. Biological Assemblages (WDNR, 2001)

Planning Segment	WDNR ShoreZone Unit ID	Length of ShoreZone Unit within Segment (feet)	Summary of Biological Assemblages
A	2511	1352.3	Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (NER), Sargassum (SAR), Eelgrass (Zos)
A	2512	1342.1	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
A	2513	796.3	Dune Grass (GRA), Barnacles (BAR), Kelp (SBR,NER), Sargassum (SAR), Eelgrass (ZOS)
B	2514	1542.7	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (SBR), Sargassum (SAR), Eelgrass (Zos)
B	2515	1845.8	Rockweed (FUC), Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (SBR,NER), Eelgrass (ZOS)
B	2516	1166.0	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
C	2516	384.7	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
C	2517	673.8	Dune Grass (GRA), Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (NER, SBR), Eelgrass (Zos)
C	2518	1268.8	Dune Grass (GRA), Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (NER, SBR), Sargassum (SAR), Eelgrass (Zos)
C	2519	350.0	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
D	2519	1289.1	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
E	2520	646.7	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (Zos)
E	2521	3501.7	Lichen (VER), Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Eelgrass (ZOS)
E	2522	5200.0	Barnacles (BAR), Green Algae (ULV), Kelp (NER), Eelgrass (ZOS)

Replace with Map 2. Shorezone Identifiers