



**CITY OF DAYTON
SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE**

**OPEN HOUSE and VISIONING WORKSHOP(s)
SUMMARY REPORT**

Introduction

The City of Dayton held two community open house and visioning workshops to engage the public in the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update. The City planned and conducted the open house and visioning workshops in two sessions on September 9, 2014, across the street from City Hall at the St. Joseph Church Annex.

The goals and purpose of the open house and visioning workshops as described in the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology's) SMP Handbook are to:

- Gain an understanding of the common shorelines interests held by the public.
- Give the public an opportunity to review and understand the framework for the SMP update. This includes the shoreline conditions discussed in the Inventory and Characterization report, the statewide interests expressed by the SMA, and the requirements of the SMP Guidelines, including the standard to achieve no net loss of shoreline ecological conditions.
- Identify community goals and aspirations for local shorelines within this framework.
- Help to develop shoreline environment designation criteria, policies, uses and regulations.

Open House and Visioning Workshop Structure

The meeting included an overview of the SMP update process required under the Shoreline Management Act and state guidelines. The presentation also included information from the SMP update's Inventory, Analysis, and Characterization (IAC) Report, which summarizes City shoreline conditions. The participants were asked to comment on the all aspects of the shorelines

During the meeting, public comments were received and recorded. To help solicit feedback, a set of visioning questions were discussed, which covered the following topics:

- Water-dependent and other shoreline uses
- Ecological functions
- Future development potential
- Economic development opportunities
- Public access
- Critical areas

Copies of the SMP PowerPoint Presentation, Shorelines Inventory Maps and proposed Shorelines Designations were provided to attendees. Everyone was encouraged to provide written comment on the form provided or via email to the Dayton Planning Director.

The website is intended to facilitate continued communication and public involvement by providing an opportunity for interested parties to access additional information, including meeting announcements, status updates, and SMP update materials.

Outreach and Attendance

The September 9th 2:30 PM session was attended by 21 individuals including, a City Council Member, City Planning Commissioner, and City Historic Preservation Commissioner. The 6:30 PM session was attended by 9 individuals including the City Mayor, and a 16th District State House Representative. Both sessions included the City Planning Director, RLO & Associates consultant, and Dept of Ecology Shorelines Planner. The following outreach measures were conducted to notify the public of the upcoming open house and visioning workshops:

- Newspaper – A public notice was published in the Waitsburg Times on August 28, 2014, 12 days in advance of the workshop.
- Mailing – Notice of the open house and visioning workshop was mailed to all property owners within 200’ of the shoreline on August 30, 2014.
- Email – Email announcements were distributed to stakeholders on August 30, 2014, including: members of the public and business community; environmental stakeholders; tribes; and local, City, state, and federal agencies.
- Door hangers – A door hanger meeting notice and reminder was placed on the front door knob or fence gate of residential properties along the shoreline jurisdiction on Sept. 6th and 8th.
- Columbia County Fair Exhibit – The City designed and staffed a booth for SMP outreach and notice of the open house and visioning workshop at the County Fair which ran from Sept. 5th -7th.
Postings - Two 2’x3’ signs giving notice of the open house and visioning workshops were posted along the Touchet River Dike Path near the City Park and Sports Complex. Other 8.5” x 11” notices were posted at the library bulletin board, local grocery store and front door of City Hall.
- Website – Announcements of the upcoming events are posted to the City’s SMP Update webpage. The event was also posted on the City’s front webpage calendar.
<http://www.daytonwa.com/index.php/13-departments/planning-department/53-shorelines-master-program-update>

Summary of Public Comments

Public comment received during the visioning workshop is summarized below.

1. Concerns over loss of property rights & added regulations.
2. Need to clarify public rights in river for protection of private property owners.
3. Portions of the Levee Path are privately owned. Signage along the path reminding people that they should be considerate of the property owners.
4. Reference to easements for levee path project in 2002-3. (Unknown who has copies, easements not recorded).
5. Mustard Creek drainage has changed significantly over the years, restoration should occur to help filter waters.
6. Possible drainage improvements would help trees that are either dying or stressed?

7. Major concern voiced is the potential of flooding and the need for maintenance of the levee.
8. Policy/information to landowners regarding use of pesticides should be provided.
9. Water quality long term issue for City, City must meet Ecology Standards for waste water treatment in 2021.
10. Include what people can do to clean-up their property in the 200' jurisdiction - Removal of invasive species, brush, garbage, etc. .
11. Clarify the USACE jurisdiction for flood control through an illustration. (15' landward of path)
12. Property owners inside the city and in the county should be given the tools (Best Practices training) so that they reduce impacts to the Touchet R.
13. Why change the existing SMP? Do we know whether it has worked to protect the river and habitats?
14. Some attendees voiced concern that the shorelines update is part of the "Agenda 21". Also concerns about "COG's" and work of ST Ecology is just bringing more regulations that the community does not need.
15. Rebuild Mustard Creek drainage by re-opening old waterway from Touchet River to cottonwood forests on eastern shore. Trees are dying from lack of water and cisterns are dry. Don't impact rights of private property owners along Touchet River.
16. Improve current level of flood control by dredging river to allow for 15 foot clearance at Highway 12 Bridge.
17. Continue to limit vehicle traffic along top of levee to official uses only.
18. Place signage along levee paths and waterway to indicate private property locations. Possibly include language asking users to limit stays and police themselves accordingly. Add to regulatory language, which by nature is preventative, what can be done by citizens to police and protect their property.

Next Steps

The public feedback provided during the two visioning workshop provides valuable information for the next step of the SMP planning process, which is to draft goals and policies for shoreline development.

Based on the local conditions identified in the inventory report and the public feedback provided through the visioning workshops, the City will develop draft goals and policies and fine tune the environment designations for the shoreline jurisdiction.

The Draft SMP scheduled for submittal on 10/31/2014 will include the following Goals and Policies that resulted from the 9/9/2014 visioning.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Economic Development

Goal: Keep buffer areas as narrow as possible while maintaining no net loss of current ecological function during property development

Objective ED1: Balance ecological protection with right to develop private property

Objective ED2: Maintain levee integrity to prevent flood damage

Public Access

Goal: Maintain and improve current levels of access to the river while protecting private property

Objective PA1: Provide notice when private property is crossed by levee paths

Action PA1.1: Provide education to citizens that the levee paths and stretches of the river cross private property at different points

Action PA1.2: Place signage along levee paths where public property stops and private property begins

Objective PA2: Limit vehicle traffic along levee paths to only authorized users

Recreation

Goal: Retain or improve current levels of walkability

Objective R1: Add to path system

Action R1.1: Explore feasibility of pedestrian bridge near Smith Hollow

Action R1.2: Explore feasibility of trail system near Rock Hill

Circulation

Did not receive specific comments on this element

Land Use

Goal: Preserve private property rights while maintaining access to the river

Objective LU1: Provide notice when levees cross private property

Objective LU2: Explore public/private partnerships for debris removal in Patit Creek beyond managed area

Objective LU3: Explore feasibility of adding fast growing trees landward of levee on the west side of the Touchet River that will provide shade to levee path and the River

Conservation

Goal: Restore Mustard Creek drainage

Objective C1: Save dying cottonwood trees in Mustard Creek drainage

Action C1.1: Restore year round water from Touchet River to Mustard Creek drainage

Historic/Cultural Values

Did not receive specific comments on this element

Flood Hazard Reduction

Goal: Maintain current levels of flood control

Objective FHR1: Do not lose USACE levee certification

Action FHR1.1: Follow recommended actions on levee maintenance including dredging increased shoaling areas and brush control

Action FHR1.2: Work with USACE to increase amount of brush allowed on levee

Additional opportunities for public input will continue to be provided throughout this next phase of planning via contact with stakeholders, information posted on the website, and other communications.