

Shorelines of the state include all marine shorelines, large lakes (greater than 20 acres), and large rivers and streams (with a minimum of 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) mean annual flow). The Shoreline Management Act applies to these water bodies and shorelands. Shorelands are defined as those areas extending landward for 200 feet from the waters edge, floodplains and associated wetlands. Together, shorelines of the state and shorelands comprise the shoreline jurisdiction.

Within the shoreline jurisdiction, some areas are identified as shorelines of statewide significance. Shorelines of statewide significance include Puget Sound shorelines (those on Vashon-Maury Island), lakes that are 1,000 acres or greater in size, and rivers with a mean annual flow of 1,000 cfs or greater.

King County's shoreline jurisdiction was last evaluated in the 1970s, shortly after the adoption of the Act. At that time, federal lands, such as national parks and wilderness areas, were excluded.

As part of its Shoreline Master Program update, King County is reevaluating the extent of its shoreline jurisdiction. The WA Department of Ecology has determined that large rivers and lakes on federal lands should be included in Shoreline Master Programs and directed the County to rely on a recent United States Geological Survey report to identify the current point where streams meet the 20 cfs threshold. King County also evaluated more recent data from various sources to identify lakes subject to the Act.

Miles of Shoreline Included in King County Shoreline Master Program

	Shoreline (miles)			Total
	Lake	River/Stream (includes both banks)	Marine	
Current Jurisdiction (existing Shoreline Master Program)	162	1,196	51	1,409
Potential Extension of Jurisdiction (draft updated shoreline jurisdiction)	72	500	0	572
Total (current jurisdiction and potential extension)	234	1,696	51	1,981

The number of parcels completely or partially within the total shoreline jurisdiction is 15,659. This number of parcels amounts to 10.9% of all parcels in the unincorporated area of King County.

Refer to the Draft Shorelines Technical Appendix, Section 1 for a more detailed description of the recent shoreline jurisdiction evaluation.