

Chapter 4 SHORELINES OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 Designation of Shorelines of Statewide Significance

In accordance with the criteria of RCW 90.58.030(2)(e), Definitions and Concepts, the legislature designated specific shorelines of the state, including their shorelands and associated wetlands, as having statewide significance. For the City of Gig Harbor, this includes the portions of Puget Sound, including Gig Harbor Bay, seaward from the line of extreme low tide.

4.2 Goal - Shorelines of Statewide Significance

To recognize that all of the City's shorelines waterward of extreme low tide are designated as shorelines of statewide significance (RCW 90.58.030(e)(iii)), and should be protected and managed according to state policy (RCW 90.58.020).

4.2.1 Policy - Shoreline Management

Because Gig Harbor's shorelines are of value to the entire state, the City's shoreline master program should:

- 1) Recognize and protect the statewide interest over local interest;
- 2) Preserve the natural character of the shoreline;
- 3) Result in long term over short term benefit;
- 4) Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline;
- 5) Increase public access to publicly owned areas of the shorelines;

- 6) Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline; and
- 7) Provide for other appropriate and necessary uses established by this master program and the Shoreline Management Act.

Uses that are not consistent with these policies should not be permitted on shorelines of statewide significance.