STANDARDS FOR PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE IN ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS

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Iris pseudacorus; photo: G. Carr

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Title 23:

LAND USE CODE

(...regulates uses and structures and is intended to protect and promote public health, safety and general welfare; provide adequate light, air, access, and open space; conserve the natural environment and historic resources; maintain a compatible scale within an area; minimize traffic congestion and enhance the streetscape and pedestrian environment.)

Chapter 23.60A:

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM REGULATIONS

"to prevent the inherent harm in an uncoordinated and piecemeal development of the State's shorelines."

Last updated 2015

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Title 25:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chapter 25.09: REGULATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS

Last updated early 2017

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Title 25:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chapter 25.11: REGULATIONS FOR TREE PROTECTION

"...protection of the urban forest."

Last updated 2015

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Title 25:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chapter 25.05 mirroring WAC 197-11: STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)

"...identifies and analyzes environmental impacts associated with governmental decisions and actions..."

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM REGULATIONS (23.60A)

Mandated by Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), created by referendum in 1972; includes goals, policies, and regulations governing land use, public access, and environmental protection in the Shoreline District.

Seattle's Shoreline District includes:

- Duwamish Waterway
- Ship Canal
- Lake Union
- Lake Washington
- Green Lake
- Puget Sound
- •...their associated wetlands and floodplains
- ... all land within 200 feet of these

Applies to both parcels and rights-of-way



Lysimachia vulgaris, Lake Washington; photo: Ben Legler

GOOGLE: DPD GIS



DPD GIS



DPD GIS



ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREA (ECA) REGULATIONS (25.09)

- As required by Washington State Growth Management Act
- A formally designated and protected area containing a natural resource or hazard such as landslide-prone areas, steep slope erosion hazard areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and wetlands and their buffers
- Defined for City of Seattle in SMC Chapter 25.09
 - Google "SEATTLE SMC"
 https://library.municode.com/wa/seattle/codes/municip al_code

ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS (ECA)

- Geologic Hazard Areas
 - -Liquefaction-prone Areas
 - -Peat Settlement-prone Areas
 - -Landslide-prone Areas
 - ✓ includes Known and Potential Landslide Areas (incl. Steep Slopes)
 - -Seismic Hazard Areas
 - -Volcanic Hazard Areas
- Abandoned Landfills
- Flood-prone Areas



ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS (ECA)

- Wetlands (and Wetland Buffers)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
 Conservation Areas
 - Riparian Corridors
 - Priority Habitats (WDFW;
 e.g. biodiversity corridors and areas)
 - Habitats for Species of Local Importance (Great Blue Heron)
 - Eagle Nest Sites



ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS (ECA)

By protecting ECAs, the City protects valuable biological, chemical, physical, and human social functions benefitting Seattle, its residents/visitors, and the larger region and world:

- ✓ Maintaining air and water quality
- ✓ Storing, conveying, and otherwise managing stormwater and floodwater
- ✓ Moderating temperatures in streams and other waterbodies
- ✓ Recharging/discharging groundwater
- ✓ Reducing sedimentation and erosion
- ✓ Reducing sediment, chemical nutrient. and toxic pollutants
- Providing important habitat, resources, and corridors that support diverse biodiversity
- ✓ Providing valuable opportunities for recreation, education, scientific study, and aesthetic appreciation
- ✓ Contributing to the sense of place that is Seattle

DPD GIS



FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS (SMC 25.09.012.D)

- 1. Areas defined and/or mapped by WDFW as biodiversity areas and corridors
- 2. Areas designated by WDFW as Priority Habitats and Species areas except wetlands (SMC 25.09.012.C)
- 3. Corridors of land or water connecting Priority Habitats and Species areas or habitat areas for species of local importance meeting one of these criteria:
 - a. WDFW or the Department's species habitat management plan identifies the parcel as part of a corridor connecting habitat areas for priority species or species of local importance;
 - Parcel is adjacent to or connects parcels containing priority species or species of local importance and the Director determines that the parcel is part of a wildlife corridor based on information provided by a qualified wildlife biologist; or
 - c. Parcel provides fish passage between fish habitat in Type S, F, Np and Ns waters per WAC 222-16-030 and 222-16-031 upstream and downstream of the parcel, whether that passage is in riparian watercourses, pipes, or culverts.
- 4. Areas that provide habitat for species of local importance
- 5. Riparian areas
- 6. Priority habitats as regulated in 23.60A.156 and 23.60A.160....(Shoreline Management Program)
- 7. Areas that state or federally designated endangered, threatened, and sensitive species have a primary association

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS (SMC 25.09.012.D)

3. Corridors of land or water connecting Priority Habitats and Species areas or habitat areas for <u>species of</u> <u>local importance</u> meeting one of these criteria:

- a. WDFW or the Department's species habitat management plan identifies the parcel as part of a corridor connecting habitat areas for Priority Species or <u>species of local importance</u>
- b. Parcel is adjacent to or connects parcels containing Priority Species or <u>species of local importance</u> and the Director determines that the parcel is part of a wildlife corridor based on information provided by a qualified wildlife biologist

4. Areas that provide habitat for species of local importance

In the City of Seattle, only Great Blue Heron has been identified as a <u>Species of Local</u> <u>Importance</u>. Process for nominating a Species of Local Importance is found at SMC 25.09.200.C.



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WDFW PHS

https://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/



Internet Explorer 9 Users: For use with IE9, turn on "compatibility view". See http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/internetexplorer/products/ie-9/features/compatibility-view for more information.

WDFW PHS (must use Google Chrome)

https://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/



FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS: HERON MANAGEMENT

- Directors Rule (DR 13-2018) directs management of great blue herons
- For proposals affected by these rules, applicants can opt to use the Standard Management Plan (Appendix I, DR) or consult with WDFW (425-775-1311) to negotiate an Alternative Management Plan (Appendix II, DR). City defers to WDFW in developing Alternative Plans
- Heron Management Area consists of
 - nesting colony
 - permanent, year-round buffer of 197 ft
 - seasonal buffer of 300 ft or 500 ft (Feb 1 through Aug 31)
- Heron Management Core Zone consists of
 - nesting colony
 - permanent, year-round buffer of 197 ft
- DR regulates noise, vegetation management, and development in the Management Area and Core Zone
- No federal, state, or local agency actively tracks status or exact boundaries of heron colonies

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS: EAGLE MANAGEMENT

- Bald eagle is not listed specifically as a Priority Species by WDFW or as a Species of Local Importance by the City of Seattle. It is, however, protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and is thusly captured by the City's ECA provisions (25.09.012.D.7) due to these federal regulations
- In enforcing its ECA provisions related to eagles (primarily eagle nest sites), the City relies on guidelines developed by (and permits issued by) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- For each active nest site, there are two concentric management zones: 330 ft, 660 ft
- No federal, state, or local agency actively tracks nest site activity

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS: EAGLE MANAGEMENT

- For regulatory purposes, breeding season for eagles in Washington is assumed to be Jan 1 through Aug 31
- For applicants with projects affected by an active eagle nest site, SDCI recommends proposed work be conducted between Sept 1 and Dec 31 in any year
- If unable to conduct proposed work during this time, applicant would generally need to present a permit from USFWS (<u>https://www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/permit_types/do_i_need_a_p</u> <u>ermit.html</u>) before SDCI issues its permit(s)
- USFWS permit is relatively easy to obtain but costs \$500 and requires lead-time and coordination with USFWS in Olympia

<u>SMP</u> REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

23.60A.155: Best management practices for over-water uses and structures

23.60A.155.A.8: Do not use herbicides, pesticides, or fertilizers, except as allowed in subsection 23.60A.190.J.2

23.60A.172: Aquatic noxious weed control is allowed by SDCIissued permit only in all Environmental Designations

23.60A.190: Standards for vegetation and impervious surface management

SMP REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

23.60A.190.J: Application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in the Shoreline District

1. Application of pesticides and herbicides is prohibited in the Shoreline District, except as provided in 23.60A.190.J.2. The Director shall adopt a rule identifying best management practices (SDCI Tip 250) including identifying pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that are prohibited due to impacts on ecological functions, using appropriate scientific and technical information as described in WAC 173-26-201(2)(a).

2. Application of pesticides and herbicides is prohibited in and over wetlands, riparian watercourses, and other water bodies and within 200 feet of wetlands, riparian watercourses, and other water bodies and waterward of OHWM of riparian watercourses and other water bodies, except as provided in 23.60A.190.C.2.b.4 or as allowed by the Director for these circumstances and if the allowed pesticide or herbicide application is done by a licensed applicator:

- a. The State or local Health Department recommends or directs their use to address a threat to public health;
- b. A County, State, or federal agency with jurisdiction directs their use for control of a State-listed noxious weed or plant pests covered by the WSDA plant pest program, and non-chemical alternatives have been evaluated;
- c. If the Director determines the applicant has demonstrated use of pesticides will have no adverse impact to fish and wildlife. Such a determination may be in the form of concurring the applicant has developed BMPs or an IPM plan consistent with standards developed by the Director;
- d. If the Director has determined use of a pesticide to control invasive plants would have less overall adverse environmental impact than other control strategies; or
- e. If the Director determines there is a serious threat to public safety, health, or the environment.

3. Application of synthetic fertilizers is prohibited in the Shoreline District. Application of organic fertilizers shall follow BMPs for use of fertilizers within 200 feet of water bodies, including limiting use of fertilizers, hand-mixing the fertilizer with ingredients that do not dissolve quickly, and using composted dry grass clippings, leaves, and saw dust as fertilizer.

<u>SMP</u> REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

<u>23.60A.190.C:</u> Shoreline District waterward of the OHWM. Waterward of the OHWM vegetation management is allowed or prohibited as provided in 23.60A.190.C.1 and 23.60A.190.C.2 and requires mitigation as provided in 23.60A.190.C.3.

- 1. Removing or disturbing aquatic vegetation, except for aquatic noxious weeds, is prohibited except as necessary for development, uses or shoreline modifications approved under this Chapter 23.60A and authorized by the Director.
- 2. Aquatic noxious weed removal
 - a. Removing or controlling aquatic noxious weeds is allowed, allowed as a special use, allowed as a shoreline conditional use, or prohibited as provided in 23.60A.172 and this Section 23.60A.190.
 - b. In removing aquatic noxious weeds the following techniques are required to be used in the sequence listed below, unless the applicant demonstrates the priority is inapplicable or not feasible or that a different sequence or technique will be more effective in reducing impacts on ecological functions; all other techniques are prohibited:
 - 1) Hand-pulling or mechanical harvesting and cutting;
 - 2) Placement of bottom barriers. Bottom barriers are required to be made of biodegradable material and shall not cover an area greater than 1,000 square feet;
 - 3) Rotovating, weed rolling, or other methods that disturbs bottom sediments or the benthos;
 - 4) Use of herbicides or other chemical treatment methods applicable to the control of aquatic noxious weeds that are approved by Ecology and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.
- 3. In applying mitigation sequencing pursuant to 23.60A.158, adverse impacts on ecological functions to be addressed include, but are not limited to: disturbance of underwater substrate; turbidity; loss or disturbance of food, shelter, spawning, and migration habitat; and loss or disturbance of fish runs, biological communities and biodiversity, particularly benthic productivity.

<u>SMP</u> REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

23.60A.158: Standards for mitigation sequencing

- A. Regulations set out in this Chapter 23.60A are minimum requirements that shall be supplemented by mitigation sequencing in this Section 23.60A.158 when needed to achieve no net loss of ecological functions. Mitigation under this Section 23.60A.158 is not intended to duplicate mitigation for the same ecological function that is required under other City regulations or under state and federal permits: coordination among local, state and federal regulatory agencies and Indian Tribes, as applicable, shall occur when determining required mitigation for shoreline substantial development permits.
- B. Mitigation sequencing 1. Mitigation sequence below shall be undertaken in the following priority:

Step A. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;

- Step B. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation by using appropriate technology or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts;
- Step C. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- Step D. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations;
- Step E. Compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and
- Step F. Monitoring the impact and the compensation projects and taking appropriate corrective measures.

ECA REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

25.09.075: Standards for pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use

Similar code language as SMP.....

ECA REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

25.09.075: Standards for pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer use

- A. Application of pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizer is prohibited in a riparian corridor, wetland, or wetland buffer except as allowed by the Director for one of the following circumstances:
 - 1. The State or local Health Department recommends or directs their use to address threat to public health;
 - 2. County, State, or federal agency with jurisdiction directs their use for control of a state listed noxious weed or plant pests covered by WSDA plant pest program, and non-chemical alternatives have been evaluated;
 - 3. If the Director determines the applicant has demonstrated the use will have no adverse impact to fish and wildlife. Such a determination may be in the form of concurring in writing the applicant has developed BMPs or an IPM plan consistent with standards developed by the Director;
 - 4. If the Director determines that use of a pesticide to control invasive plants would have less overall adverse environmental impact than other control strategies; or
 - 5. If the Director determines there is a serious threat to public safety, health, or the environment.
- B. If allowed, pesticide, herbicide, and synthetic fertilizer applications will be done by a Washington State licensed Commercial Applicator or Private Commercial Applicator.
- C. Application of organic fertilizers shall follow BMPs for use of fertilizers in a riparian corridor, wetland, or wetland buffer, including limiting the use of the fertilizers, hand-mixing the fertilizer with ingredients that do not dissolve quickly, and using ingredients such as compost, composted dry grass clippings, leaves, and sawdust as fertilizer.

ECA REGULATION OF PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE, AND FERTILIZER USE

IMPLEMENTATION

- 25.09 applies to parcels as well as rights-of-way
- 25.09.065 (Mitigation Sequencing) and 25.09.070 (Standards for Tree and Vegetation and Impervious Surface Management): captures all vegetation modification proposals in landslide-prone, steep slope erosion hazard areas and their buffers, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, and wetlands and their buffers.
- 25.09.045 (Exemptions) allows all City agencies to self-regulate under 25.09 for Exempt proposals only.
- If a City agency determines their proposal is Exempt from the ECA regulations they need not apply to SDCI for any ECA approvals. However, that City agency still must comply with other provisions of 25.09, including but not limited to 25.09.045.B (BMPs and documentation), 25.09.065 (Mitigation Standards), and 25.09.070 (revegetation using native plants).
- If a City agency determines their proposal is not Exempt, they need to formally apply for an SDCI approval.

SUMMARY SHORELINE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

- All activities require an approval from SDCI; no "selfexemption"
- No pesticides or herbicides allowed unless certain criteria are met and technique sequencing has been completed
- All applications must be made by Washington State licensed Commercial Applicator or Private Commercial Applicator
- Mitigation required for all vegetation modifications
- No synthetic fertilizers
- Tree Protection regulations (25.11) apply

SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS

- All activities in certain ECAs require compliance; possible "self-exemption"
- No pesticides or herbicides allowed unless certain criteria are met
- All applications must be made by Washington State licensed Commercial Applicator or Private Commercial Applicator
- Mitigation sequencing and revegetation required for all vegetation modifications
- No synthetic fertilizers
- Tree Protection regulations (25.11) apply

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Impatiens glandulifera; photo: Ben Legler