

The Shoreline Enhancement Subcommittee needs your input.

7-05

The Shoreline Enhancement implementation subcommittee of the Birch Bay Steering Committee is asking you to make additions/corrections to the following objectives and then to prioritize them, 1 being highest, within each of the 4 categories.

Shoreline Enhancement/Restoration Objectives:

1. Basic considerations
 - a. Storm surge abatement /Flood protection from Birch Bay State Park north to Roger's Slough/Seagull Cove (where it's stinky) at the southeast end of Birch Bay Village including consideration for emergency/disaster management (tsunami route, oil spill, 100 year storm, etc).
 - b. Clarify and define public spaces. Establish a Public Beach Access Plan for the Birch Bay shoreline. Procure additional public access shorelands/tidelands.
 - c. Improve people-friendly beach and water access.
 - d. Establish a safe pedestrian walkway/promenade.
 - e. Establish a safe bicycle path.
 - f. Habitat restoration – find a place for increased clay sediments from Point Whitehorn and Birch Point to collect.
 - g. Protect the Birch Bay Drive road base.
 - h. Make provision for the under grounding of utilities to improve appearances.
 - i. Restore natural beach-building processes and get rid of the groins and riprap.
 - j. Retrofit the stormwater/surface water outfalls including the appropriate treatment to improve/protect water quality.
 - k. Re-establish natural vegetation and provide sandy areas for sun bathing.
2. Funding
 - a. Identify the various finding mechanisms/sources to build the project including identifying/prioritizing smaller stages/segments.
 - b. Establish a regular maintenance/repair program of the berm over time and identify funding sources for it.
 - c. Cause the Birch Bay shoreline to be designated "Conservancy Buffer" to emphasize the value placed on the shoreline by the community and to assist in the acquisition of funding.
3. The berm in relation to other public spaces.
 - a. Create a public town center-type gathering space.
 - b. Provide public accommodations such as rest rooms, parking, showers, benches, picnic tables, fire pits, interpretation of and appropriate behavior in the natural environment, etc.
 - c. Provide easy access to retail/commercial spaces to encourage economic development on the east/landward side of Birch Bay Drive.
 - d. Develop safe bicycle and pedestrian links to other public spaces/areas.
 - e. Establish parallel parking along Birch Bay Drive, away/across from the beach.

4. Appearances/Accessibility
 - a. Provide full ADA/disabled accessibility in all aspects.
 - b. Consider the ground level view from buildings/patios and the like.
 - c. Provide different design elements for the different uses along the berm.

The above objectives were developed for the Birch Bay shoreline improvement/restoration/berm/promenade project as discussed in the Birch Bay Community/Subarea Plan, chapter 6, Shorelines and Shorelands, as adopted by Whatcom County in September 2004 and as further described in the Birch Bay Shoreline Improvement Plan & Conceptual Design dated December 2002. These documents are available on-line at <http://www.biz.birchbay.net/bbbsc/>. The purpose of this exercise is to provide the necessary information to conduct a cost and feasibility study, the next step in this implementation process that Whatcom County may fund, for which we will need to find funding or a combination of both.

FYI – Examples of restored beaches near by.

1. Marine Park (near the Alaska Ferry Terminal) in Bellingham restored just this last winter.
2. Crescent Beach on Mud Bay in Surrey, B.C. just across the border in Canada restored about 4 or 5 years ago.
3. Right here in Birch Bay from the mouth of Terrell Creek north to the southern property line of Jacob's Landing was restored about 1985. This year that area is due for its periodic material replenishment, especially necessary on the north end.
4. You can get a video copy of the year 2000 presentation by master shoreline restorer Wolf Bauer about the natural shoreline processes here in Birch Bay by borrowing from the Birch Bay Chamber's visitor information center, the Blaine public library or from Doralee Booth, 371-7440.

Your input/response can be provided to the subcommittee in several ways.

1. You are invited to attend the next subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2005 at 7pm at Jacob's Landing. Please RSVP to John Sand at 332-8897 if you plan to attend so that he can arrange for the appropriate sized space to accommodate the group. Our guests that evening will be coastal engineer Shannon Kinsella of Reid, Middleton in Everett who just recently participated in the shoreline restoration at Marine Park. Our other guest at this meeting will be Ellen Barton of the Whatcom Council of Governments who will inform us of funding possibilities/procedures especially from FEMA.
2. You can e-mail your response to kathyberg@comcast.net by August 3, 2005.
3. You can snail-mail your response by August 1st to Kathy, 7585 Sterling Ave., Birch Bay, WA 98230. Yes, you can use Birch Bay if you are sure that you get the zip code correctly!

Your help and ideas will be greatly appreciated, thank you!