

December 7, 2009

This letter is concerning the Shoreline Management Plan.

I have a few concerns, and would like some clarification.

If I understand correctly, anyone adding onto a house in the 125 foot buffer zone would be subject submitting a landscape plan for the shoreline. This plan would include removal of all blackberry plant, and replacement of native plants.

What does this mean?

1. Will there be someone at the Planning Department who can provide a list of suggested, easy to obtain plants? If there is a person, will that person be able to determine if plants are needed for dry, moist sunny, salt water (since our water is brackish) or what condition someone really needs to plant for?
2. Can the homeowner draw their own plan for submission or are they expected to hire a professional?
3. How far down the bank should these plans go?
4. What happens to this new landscape when the river rises and there is no good root structure to hold the banks in place?

The thought of native plants is a good thought but very impractical in the context it is being used here. You are asking a few people to go to an added expense to do something that; unless they are young, energetic and fit, and or love to garden and have the time will not be able to maintain. Many of the homes along the river are high bank which makes it dangerous to maintain.

As long as the city does not eradicate the blackberries on the trail or on the riverside opposite homes, birds will deposit seeds and blackberries will sprout. Not to mention the homeowners along the river who are not disturbing their buffer zones. Blackberries will and do abound in Tukwila and other regions. Blackberries are not the only Invasive plant on the riverbank.

I hope you will take my thoughts into consideration.

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