Piloting Green Shores for Homes: How Does the Rating System Really Work?

Margaret Glowacki
Seattle (Wash.), Margaret.Glowacki@seattle.gov

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Piloting Green Shores for Homes: How Does the Rating System Really Work?

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
Seattle Washington
May 02, 2014
Maggie Glowacki
Land Use Planner/Fisheries Biologist
City of Seattle

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Photo: NASA Visible Earth
How Does the Rating System Really Work?

• Evaluation of rating system
  ➢ Submittal information required
  ➢ Ease of scoring each site
  ➢ Credit categories
• Results of evaluation
• Adjustment to rating system
• Next steps
February 2014

- 2 Freshwater sites
  - Kirkland, WA
  - Lake Washington

- 2 Marine sites
  - San Juan County, WA
  - Salish Sea

- Selection of sites
- Tech team members
  - 2 subgroups N & S
Lake Washington
Green Shore Site Components

- Both sites
- Partial bulkhead removal
- Gray and green shoreline structures installed
- Riparian vegetation
- Large woody debris
- Gravel and boulder placement
Lake Washington
Site 1

Before

After
Lake Washington
Site2
San Juan County Sites

Orcas Island - Site 1
- Bulkhead removed
- Soft shore protection – sand/gravel/boulders/LWD
- Creosote pile removal

San Juan Island - Site 2
- no bulkhead installed
- rainwater management limited site disturbance, native vegetation/tree
San Juan County
Site 1

Before

After
San Juan County
Site 2
Submittal Information and Ease of Rating System

• Reviewed info provided for permit applications

• Permits - Shoreline Master Program/Environmentally Critical Areas

• Determine information needed to calculate credit score

• Ease of use – link to credit document, use JARPA
Credit Categories

3 Main Categories

- Shoreline Processes
  - Bulkhead removal
  - Setbacks

- Shoreline Habitat
  - Riparian vegetation
  - Large woody debris

- Water Quality
  - Impervious surface
  - Pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer

- Monitoring required or bonus points, what if you don’t do something, i.e. don’t put in a bulkhead, don’t cut down trees, the roll of LWD in different environments.
What Did We Learn and What Did We Change?

- All sites are not created equally - site conditions influence what can be done on site
- Example - Parcel size, urban/rural, freshwater/marine
- Difference in LWD function in the marine environment compared to a lake environment.
- Result adjusted rating system so smaller wood is favored in the lake environment LWD okay for marine environment
What Did We Learn and What Did We Change?

• Most important - condition of site at the completion of project
• Award credits for saving trees
• Don’t “penalize” a site that doesn’t have a bulkhead & isn’t adding one
• Adjusted rating system
• Lake WA property owners
• What motivated the home owners to green their shoreline?
• Attracting a lot of attention from recreational boaters
What’s Next for the Rating System?

1) Train local Green Shore Verifiers and Re-evaluate the rating system

2) Complete Lake Washington wind and wave mapping

3) Finalize rating system – June 2015

4) Implement the program in Lake Washington, San Juan County and British Columbia
Thank you!

Funding:  🗽EPA
Partners:
Washington Sea Grant
San Juan County
Archipelago Marine Research
Victoria, B.C.
Stewardship Centre for B.C.
Islands Trust B.C.

Contact Information
Maggie Glowacki
Sr. Land Use Planner/Fisheries Biologist
Seattle Department of Planning and Development
margaret.glowacki@seattle.gov
206-386-4036