

4.2 General Use

4.2.1 Nonconforming Uses, Non-Conforming Lots, and Existing Development

4.2.1.1 Applicability

This section applies to shoreline uses and/or structures that were lawfully established or constructed prior to the effective date of the initial adoption of the Master Program (November 26, 1996) or its amendments, but which do not conform to present regulations or standards of the Master Program.

4.2.1.2 Goal

It is the purpose of this program to recognize legally established primary residential structures, and to allow them to be maintained, repaired, remodeled, replaced and in some cases expanded in conformance with these rules. Residential structures that do not conform to this program should, over time, as the owner proposes changes to the structure, conform as completely as possible to this program, with due regard to unique site conditions and property rights.

It is further the purpose of this program to ultimately, over time, have uses and commercial structures conform to the provisions of this program. Over time, uses and commercial structures that do not conform to the standards of this program should be phased out as uses cease or redevelopment of structures occurs.

Note: Existing structures and uses that do not conform to this Program are not required to meet its requirements, unless the owner proposes changes to a structure or use that would require review under this Program.

4.2.1.3 Policies

1. Lawfully constructed commercial and industrial structures shall be allowed to be repaired, maintained, and remodeled provided that the alteration does not increase the nonconformity.
2. Lawfully constructed structures, established uses, public facilities, transportation structures, and/or lots of record located within the shoreline jurisdiction prior to the effective date of the Master Program but which do not conform to the present policies, regulations or standards, shall be allowed to continue and be repaired and maintained.
3. Lawfully constructed residential structures may be repaired, maintained and remodeled provided the alteration meets the goals and provisions of this program.
4. Lawfully constructed residential structures may be expanded in some circumstances, provided the expansion will not result in adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and processes, and mitigation is provided.
5. Once discontinued, re-establishment of nonconforming uses located in the shoreline jurisdiction shall be restricted.
6. Lawfully constructed commercial structures that are located in the shoreline jurisdiction are to be phased out over time. Depending on the extent and intensity of the

nonconformity, a primary residential structure and primary appurtenance, may be allowed certain alteration or expansion, provided that adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and shoreline processes are mitigated or restored.

7. Lawfully constructed structures that are destroyed by fire, explosion, flood, or other casualty may be restored or replaced without increasing or expanding the nonconformity, and are encouraged to decrease nonconformity. Legally established overwater structures that are destroyed may be reconstructed to the same size, but the configuration may be altered to reduce the impact to the shoreline environment provided the size of the nonconformity is not increased. Such redevelopments may be permitted provided that impacts to shoreline functions and processes are mitigated or restored, and the reconstruction application is submitted within two years of the date of destruction.
8. Provisions for reconstruction of a lawfully constructed residential house shall allow certain expansions of the existing structure when it can be demonstrated that the expansion will not result in adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and shoreline processes are mitigated or restored.
9. Legally created nonconforming lots of record may be developed provided that adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and shoreline processes are mitigated or restored.
10. Redevelopment of nonconforming public rights-of-way and associated existing transportation structures may be permitted for purposes of facilitating essential public access, development of public trails and/or public shoreline access.

4.2.1.4 Regulations – General

1. Nonconforming uses and developments and/or existing buildings and structures that were lawfully constructed or existed prior to the effective date of initial adoption of this Program (November 26, 1996), or its amendments, but which do not meet the specific standards of this Program, may be continued subject to the provisions of this section; provided that shoreline modifications shall conform to Section 6.1, General Shoreline Modification Provisions, and Section 6.2, Shoreline Stabilization.
2. A complete application for any reconstruction under this section must be submitted within two (2) years of the date of damage or removal, and upon approval of the application, redevelopment must be completed within one (1) year of the commencement of reconstruction. A one (1) year extension may be granted, provided that a written request is submitted no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to either deadline and provided that the owner is not responsible for the delay.
3. An existing use designated by the adoption of an applicable amendment hereto as a conditional use that lawfully existed prior to the adoption of the Program or the adoption of an applicable amendment hereto and which has not obtained a conditional use permit, shall be considered a legal nonconforming use and may be continued subject to the provisions of this section without obtaining a conditional use permit.
4. A structure for which a variance has been issued but which does not comply with applicable requirements of this Program as amended shall be considered a legal existing structure and the requirements of this section shall apply.

5. Any permitted remodel or expansion shall not cause adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and/or processes.

4.2.1.5 Regulations - Nonconforming Uses

1. Nonconforming uses shall not be altered or expanded in any way that increases the nonconformity.
2. If a nonconforming use is discontinued for twelve (12) consecutive months, any subsequent use shall be conforming; except that if a nonconforming use is operated within a nonconforming structure that is accidentally damaged or destroyed and reconstruction is proposed under Section 4.2.1.6.1(3), then the use may be re-established within the same time period as the reconstruction for the nonconforming structure pursuant to Section 4.2.1.4(2)
3. A nonconforming use cannot be changed to another nonconforming use.
4. Change of ownership, tenancy, or management of a nonconforming use shall not affect its nonconforming status, provided that all provisions are met.

4.2.1.6 Regulations – Existing Development

4.2.1.6.1 General Provisions – Nonconforming Structures

1. Existing structures may be maintained, repaired, renovated, or remodeled provided all the following is met:
 - a. Changes to the structure that would alter or increase the nonconformity are not permitted;
 - i. Any vertical or horizontal extension of a wall must meet the provisions of this program.
 - ii. Adding to the footprint of an existing structure is permitted as long as the addition meets the requirements of this program.
 - b. There is no further encroachment into the buffers unless allowed by this program or through an approved variance;
 - c. Renovations or remodels are entirely contained within the building;
 - d. If moved, the structure shall be made to conform to regulations of this program.
2. If an existing primary structure is damaged or destroyed by fire, explosion, earthquake, flooding or other casualty, it may be reconstructed to the bulk dimension existing immediately prior to the catastrophic event, provided the use is conforming or meets the provisions of Section 4.2.1.4, Regulations-General, and 4.2.1.5, Regulations – Nonconforming Uses, above.

- a. This provision shall not apply to structures that are destroyed due to a criminal act initiated by the property owner; and
- b. The replacement structure shall not warrant new shoreline stabilization for the life of the new structure.
- c. The replacement structure meets geologically hazard provision for existing development in Section 4.1.5, Regulations – **Nonconforming Uses**, and Appendix B.

4.2.1.6.2 Existing Structures – Commercial and Industrial (Primary and Accessory)

1. Existing commercial structures shall not be altered or expanded in any way that increases the nonconformity without first obtaining a variance.
2. Reconstruction of existing commercial structures and buildings intentionally demolished or destroyed in any other manner than described in Section 4.2.1.6.1(2), shall be in conformance with all standards of the Program.

4.2.1.6.3 Existing Structures – Residential Single-Family: Primary Structures

1. If an existing primary residential structure is damaged or destroyed as described in Section 4.2.1.6.1(2), the existing primary residential structure configuration may be altered or expanded pursuant to subsections 4.2.1.6.3(2-4).
2. An existing primary residential structure may be altered or expanded to the extent allowed by this Program, provided:
 - a. Enlargement or expansion of the building configuration, including any new impervious surfaces located within the Shoreline Buffer shall be located landward of the existing or original building footprint, only one such expansion may occur within the lifetime of the development, and the expansion shall not exceed:
 - i. The allowed building area for Point Monroe District, Section 5.9.6(2).
 - ii. The allowed building area for encumbered lots, Section 4.2.1.7.
 - iii. For structures not meeting i or ii; twenty five percent (25%) of the existing building footprint.
 - b. Any vertical expansion must meet height requirements of this Program;
 - c. Remnant foundation and/or impervious surfaces located within the Shoreline Buffer shall be removed;
 - d. Mitigation of the shoreline buffer is provided in accordance with Section 4.1.2, Environmental Impacts;
 - e. The remodel or expansion shall not cause adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and/or processes; and
 - f. All other applicable standards and provisions are met, including regulations of this Program, the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code, the septic system requirements of the Kitsap Health District, and any state and federal laws.

3. Permitted expansion of an existing structure shall not substantially impact the existing views of the water from primary waterfront residences or public rights-of-way to any greater degree than a fully conforming structure.
4. Increases in structure footprint outside of the Shoreline Buffer shall be allowed, even if all or a portion of the existing footprint is within the Shoreline Buffer. In such case, the addition or enlargement shall be treated as a separate building or structure in determining conformity to all of the requirements of this Program.

4.2.1.6.4 Existing Structures – Multifamily Residential: Primary Structures

1. If an existing primary multifamily residential structure is damaged or destroyed by fire, explosion, earthquake, flooding or other casualty, it may be reconstructed to the bulk dimension existing immediately prior to the catastrophic event, including building height and footprint of the structure.
 - a. This provision shall not apply to structures that are destroyed due to a criminal act involving the property owner; and
 - b. The replacement structure shall not warrant new shoreline armoring for the life of the new structure; and
 - c. The reconstruction shall not cause adverse impacts to shoreline ecological functions and processes.
 - d. The replacement structure meets geologically hazard provision for existing development in Section 4.1.5, Critical Areas, and Appendix B.
2. An existing primary multifamily residential structure or portion thereof may be reconstructed, altered, or expanded, including the footprint and/or the height increased, to the extent allowed by this Program, if the following are met:
 - a. Public access is provided pursuant to Section 4.2.4.6, Regulations – Public Access Design and Location Standards; and
 - b. Mitigation of the shoreline buffer is provided to meet no net loss, as detailed in Section 4.1.2, Environmental Impacts, including revegetation standards in Section 4.1.2.5(3).

4.2.1.6.5 Existing Structures – Residential: Accessory Structures

1. If an existing residential accessory structure is damaged, destroyed or intentionally demolished, the reconstruction shall be in conformance with all standards of the Program, except:
 - a. An existing essential single family residential accessory structure may be reconstructed as follows:
 - b. Replacement structure is the same bulk dimension as the existing structure.
 - c. Replacement structure may be located within Zone 2 provided mitigation occurs in accordance with 4.1.2.5, Regulations – Revegetation Standards.

- d. Attached decks essential to a single family residence may be replaced in the same location.
- e.. All other applicable standards and provisions are met, including regulations of this Program, the Bainbridge Island Municipal Code, the septic system requirements of the Kitsap Health District, and any state and federal laws.

4.2.1.7 Regulations – Encumbered and Nonconforming Lots

1. Single-family development and redevelopment, except in the Point Monroe District, that is proposed on a legal nonconforming lot located in the shoreline jurisdiction or proposed for a shoreline property that is significantly encumbered by shoreline or critical area buffers, may be allowed without a shoreline variance when the following criteria are met:
 - a. A lot contains a building area of 2,500 square feet or more available for a single-family residence and normal appurtenances and unrestricted by buffers from shorelines or critical areas shall comply with the provisions of this Program. The building area means the entire area that will be disturbed to construct the home, normal appurtenances (except drainfields), and landscaping; or
 - b. A lot that does not meet the requirement of subsection 1.a above, shall meet the following:
 - i. Landslide hazard provisions of Section 4.1.5, Critical Areas, and Appendix B and provide the maximum buffer dimension feasible for critical areas; and
 - ii. Provide a building area not to exceed 2,500 square feet with maximum lot coverage of 1,200 square feet. The building area shall be located on the portion of the lot providing the maximum Shoreline Buffer dimension with consideration given to view; and
 - iii. All single-family residential development approved under this section shall meet the shoreline structure view setback provisions in Section 4.1.3.11, Regulations – Shoreline Structure Setback View Requirement; and
 - c. The area between the structure and the shoreline and/or critical area shall comply with revegetation standards in Section 4.1.2.5(3), the vegetation conservation standards of Section 4.1.3, Vegetation Management, and provisions of Section 4.1.5 Critical Areas, and Appendix B; and
 - d. Development may not take place waterward of the ordinary high water mark; and
 - e. Facilities such as a conventional drainfield system may be allowed outside of the building area specified above, and allowed within buffer areas, except wetlands buffers. Such facilities shall not be located closer than 75ft to OHWM; and shall be subject to regulations of Section 4.1.5, Critical Areas.

4.2.1.8 Regulations – Nonconforming Public Facilities & Transportation

1. Nonconforming public facilities shall be allowed to continue and to be repaired, maintained, or remodeled.

2. Redevelopment of nonconforming public rights-of-way and associated transportation structures are allowed for purposes of facilitating essential public access, development of public trails, and/or public shoreline access, provided that no other alternative is feasible and redevelopment shall be otherwise consistent with the provisions of this Program, including but not limited to the provisions for public access and no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and processes.

4.2.1.8 Regulations - Existing Residential and Commercial: Aquatic Structures and Accessory Aquatic Structures

1. Existing docks floats, and buoys may be repaired and replaced in the same foot print and shall comply with this Program's requirements for materials and standards, to the extent practicable.
 - a. Except that as a conditional use, an existing dock may be modified, reoriented or altered within the same general location to be more consistent with the provisions of this Program.
2. Except for docks and floats, repair and replacement up to 50% of the footprint of any existing aquatic structures, including shoreline modifications, or buildings or portions thereof within the Aquatic or Priority Aquatic designations, shall only be done once within any five year period. Such replacements shall comply with this Program's requirements for materials and standards to the extent practicable. If the structure is composed of several components, then the 50% shall be calculated independently for each component.
3. The replacement shall meet Section 4.1.2, Environmental Impacts, including the mitigation sequencing standards of Section 4.1.2.6, Regulations-Mitigation, to meet the standard of no net loss of shoreline ecological functions and/or processes. Shoreline stabilization shall also meet the alternative analysis provision of Section 6.2.8(1).