

# Public Access

## Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater

The Shoreline Management Act has three broad policies:

1. Encourage water-dependent uses
2. Protect shoreline natural resources
3. Promote public access

*"The public's opportunity to enjoy the physical and aesthetic qualities of natural shorelines of the state shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible consistent with the overall best interest of the state and the people generally."*



Public dock at Long Lake Park provides access to the Lake.

### Existing Public Access

Most public access to shorelines in the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater is provided in City, County, and State parks and boat ramps.

### Proposed Public Access

Under the proposed shoreline regulations, public access will also be required:

- On any new developments (including redevelopment) for water enjoyment, water-related, and non-water dependent uses
- In any new subdivisions of land into more than four parcels.

This means that rather than community access tracts in new subdivisions (such as the example on right), public access will be provided.

Exceptions are made for individual single-family residences, not part of a development (of more than four parcels) or when public access is infeasible due to incompatible uses, safety, security, impact to the shoreline, or if constitutional or other legal limitations apply.

If traditional public access is infeasible, alternates such as off-site improvements, viewing platforms, separation of uses through site planning and design, and restricting hours of public access must be considered.



Access to shorelines is often restricted in community tracts maintained by homeowners associations. Under the proposed regulations all new subdivisions will require dedicating public access

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The Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater actively pursue opportunities to increase public access along shorelines. The following are some of the opportunities they are exploring:

### Lacey

- Woodland Creek Corridor Trail
- Hicks Lake Wetlands Trail Network
- Long Lake Expansion

### Olympia

- Chambers Lake Open Space
- Grass Lake Refuge Phase II
- Ward Lake Park
- West Bay Drive Park
- West Bay Drive Waterfront Trail

### Tumwater

- Pioneer Park Phase III – including Watershed center and hatchery
- Deschutes Valley Trail



Plans for a trail network in Hicks Lake wetland in Lacey will provide additional public access to this shoreline area.