CITY OF LAKE STEVENS PUBLIC WORKS

DRAFT

2026 Stormwater Management Program

The City manages stormwater in the city in accordance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Phase II Permit.

LAKESTEVENSWA.GOV

Contact Us
EnvironmentalPrograms@lakestevenswa.gov

HOW DO WE MANAGE STORMWATER?

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that flows off hard surfaces like roads, sidewalks, and buildings. As it flows, it picks up litter and other pollutants and carries them into lakes and streams.

The Stormwater Management Program has ten main parts. Every year, we update this plan to let the community know what the City is doing to manage stormwater and keep our lakes and streams clean.

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Stormwater Planning

Education & Outreach

Public Participation

System Mapping

Illicit Discharge Detection

New & Redevelopment

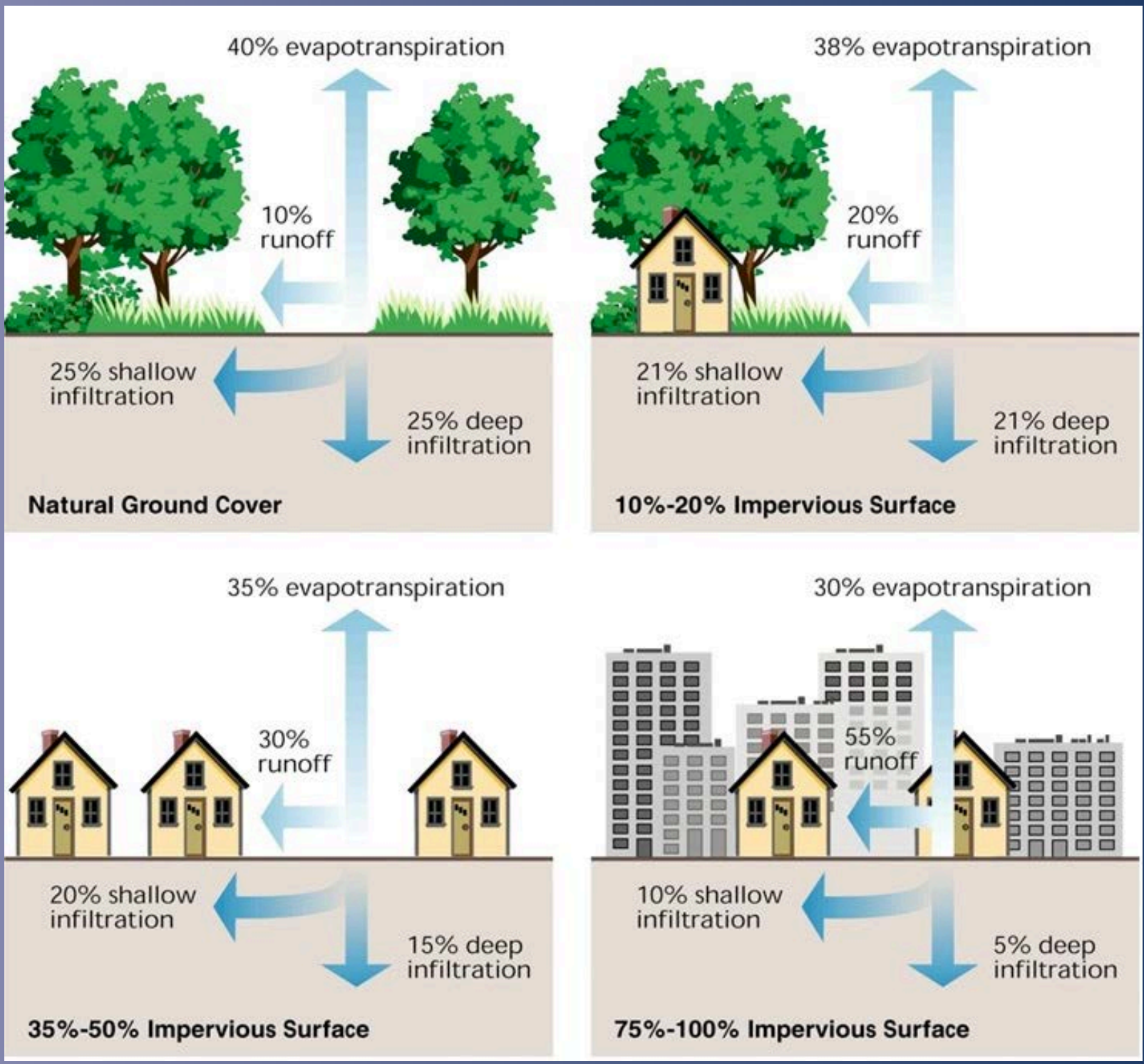
System Retrofits

Source Control

Operations & Maintenance

Water Quality Testing

Why is Stormwater Management Important?



When a city grows, there are more hard surfaces like roads and buildings. Instead of absorbing into the ground or being intercepted by plants and trees, rainwater runs off these hard surfaces. This is called stormwater runoff, and it can pick up dirt and pollution from streets and yards and carry it to our lakes and streams. By creating tools, programs, and education, we help keep our lakes and streams clean.

Stormwater Management Plan Updates

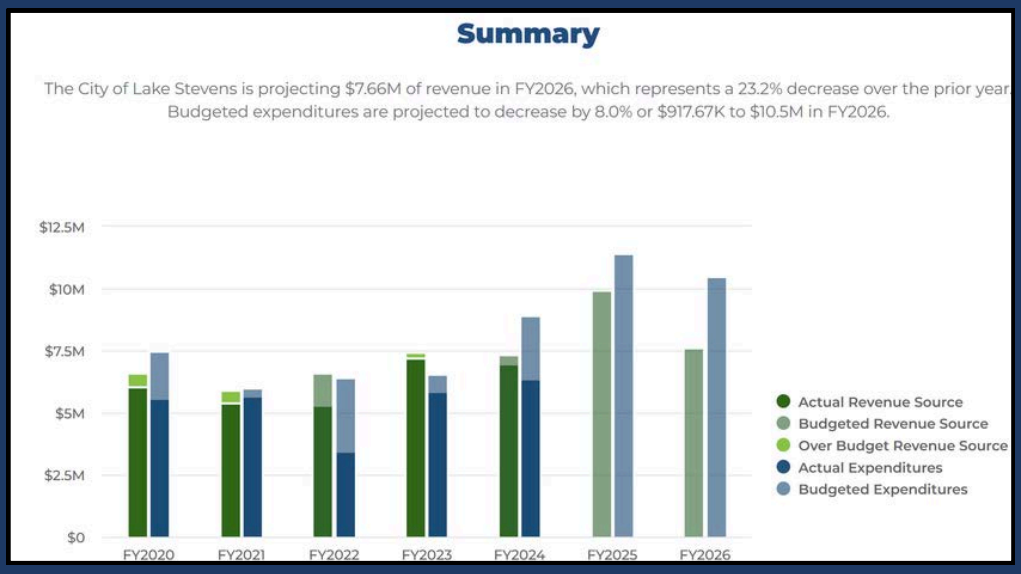
Program Updates

Updates to the program are made annually, in the first quarter of the year. Updates reflect events and information for the upcoming year. The public is encouraged to comment on the program and raise issues that may need to be added.

Overall program updates are based on regulatory requirements and are prioritized in accordance with the Public Works adopted Strategic Plan (right).

Public Works Five Year Strategic Plan

Track and Maintain Natural and Built Environment	*Improve the Natural Environment and Provide Accessible Infrastructure*	*Ensure Responsible Stewardship of Public Funds to Deliver Reliable Public Works Services*	*Make Public Works a Great Place to Work With Empowered a Skilled and Responsive Workforce*	*Foster Positive Relationships with the Public, Other City Departments and Other Agencies*
Understand our infrastructure, including its condition, location, maintenance needs, and replacement cycle	Prepare and maintain a 20-year Capital Facilities Plan w/6-year Capital Improvement Plan, TIP	Utilize labor efficiently (labor vs. workload)	Provide employees training to advance personal and strategic goals	Other agencies and the Public know who and how to contact Public Works
Optimize the use of resources to deliver the desired levels of service	Construct Capital projects that are accessible and safe for all	Quantify and justify what Public Works does and what is needed	Employees deliver quality work products efficiently and safely	Improve external communication and education
	Construct Capital projects that improve the natural environment	Maximize the use of alternative funding sources	Empowering employees to make decisions for how to effectively complete their work	Ensure regulatory compliance in all areas
		Efficiently spend tax dollars	Employees advance their careers in the City	We are trusted by others



Budget Information

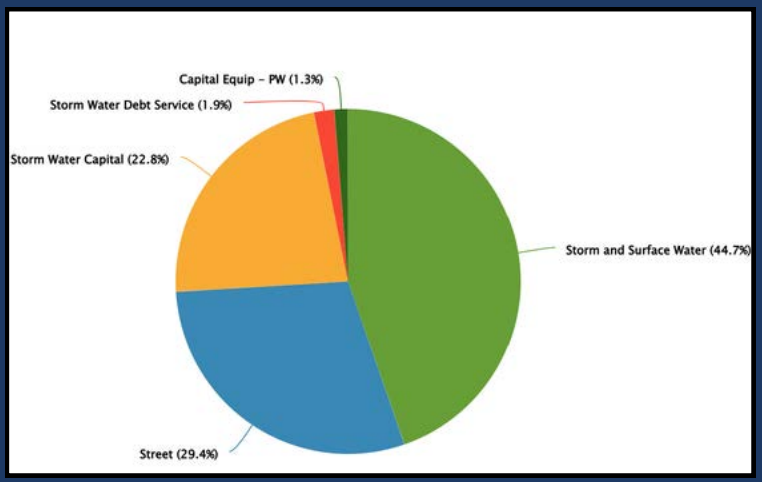
The stormwater program is primarily funded through stormwater management utility taxes placed on residential and business properties within the City of Lake Stevens. The stormwater program also seeks grant funding for large-scale programmatic changes and capital projects.

In 2026, the City will do a stormwater utility rate study to evaluate stormwater utility taxes and update rates starting in 2028.

Expenditures by Fund for Public Works Department

The stormwater management program accounts for approximately 45% of the expenditures for Public Works.

2026 Public Works Budget Expenditures by Fund

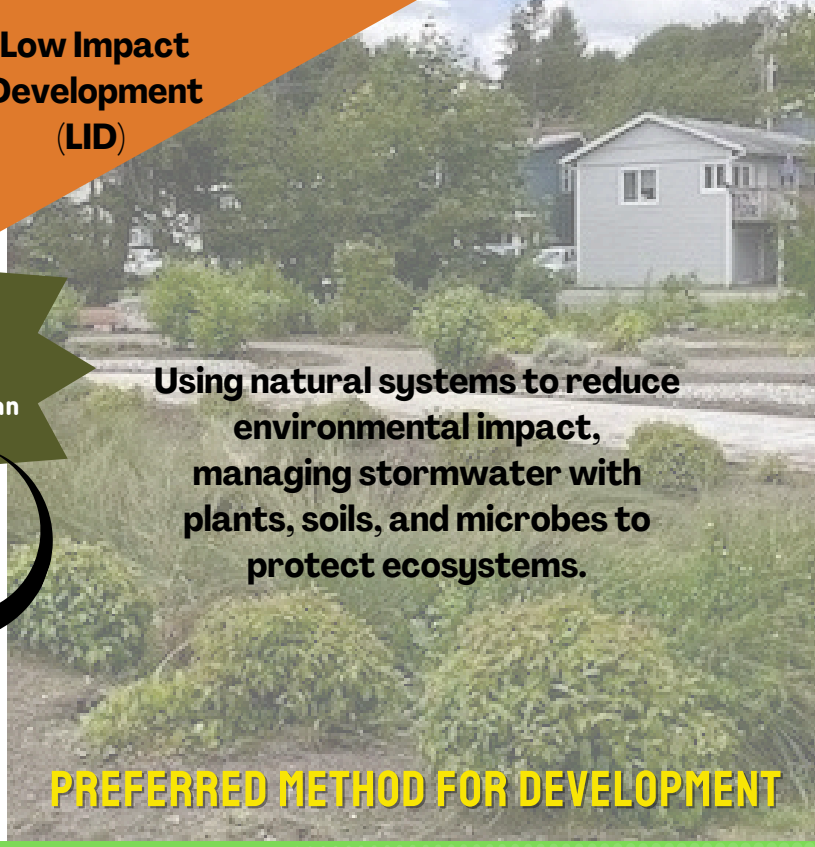


Program Planning

Long-range planning supports a strong stormwater program and helps identify ways to protect and improve water quality. Public Works works with agencies, City departments, and the community to define issues, develop coordinated solutions, and engage stakeholders to meet its goals.

Stay tuned on the City's website for more about these plans and how you can provide input!

Low Impact Development (LID)



Using natural systems to reduce environmental impact, managing stormwater with plants, soils, and microbes to protect ecosystems.

PREFERRED METHOD FOR DEVELOPMENT

Long Range Plans for 2026

The City has several long range planning efforts in 2026. These plans are designed to better understand our natural and built environment and how the two can work together to achieve water goals, improve natural habitat, and provide functional and aesthetic infrastructure for the community.

Salmonid Basins Plan

The plan will assess drainage basins to pinpoint priority areas for improving water quality and salmon habitat. A second phase in 2026 will define specific water-quality improvement projects..

Check out the website

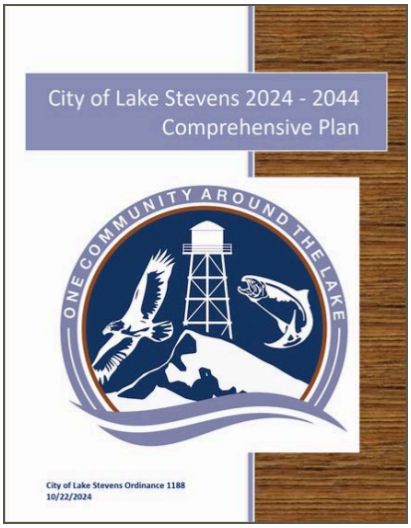
Engineering and Development Design Standards

This project will incorporate LID designs into the City's construction standards.

Enhanced Maintenance Plan

This plan will create a customized stormwater infrastructure maintenance program to improve water quality and minimize failures.

Residential roadside bioswale to capture, treat and detain stormwater



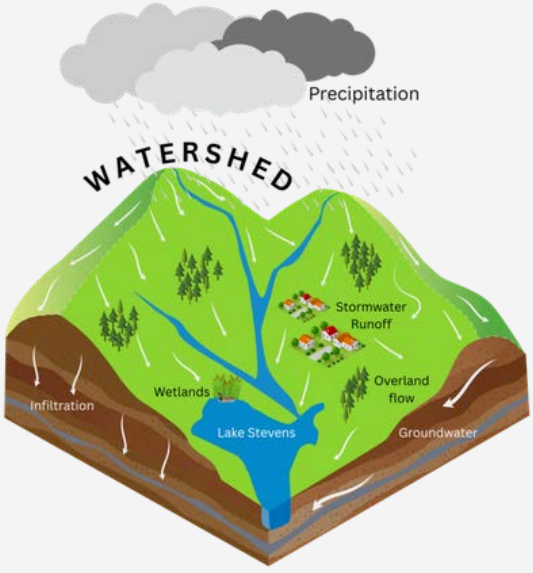
Technical Staff Review (TSR)

TSR is an interdisciplinary team of City staff and outside utility agencies that meets bi-monthly to discuss upcoming development projects, code updates, and long-range plans. This process helps to eliminate barriers to achieving stormwater management and watershed goals.

Education and Outreach

Community Working Together to Improve Water Quality

TAKE THE PLEDGE



Every action we take at home affects the health of our lake, rivers, and streams. Use this toolkit to choose the behaviors you pledge to adopt. Your choices make a difference.

Commit to change today!

2026 EVENTS

This year's webinars!

April 8th – Stormwater Facility Webinar

Learn about what a stormwater detention facility is, why it matters, and if you are responsible for one in your neighborhood or business.

Where is the closest stormwater facility to you? Use out online web map to learn more

June 17th – Noxious Weed Control webinar

Learn about noxious and invasive weeds in our city and how to remove and prevent them.

Lake Stevens Water Quality Education Website

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

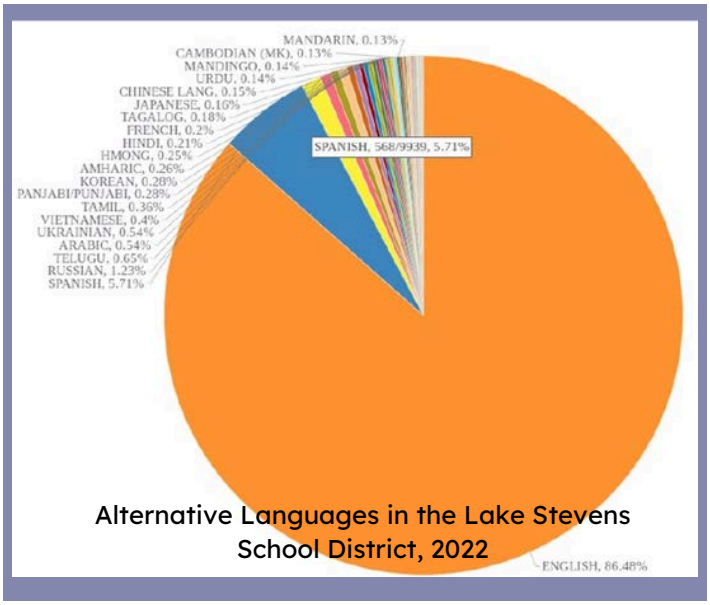
The City is committed to providing ongoing opportunities for public engagement in the development, implementation, and update of the Stormwater Management Program.

What to expect in 2026

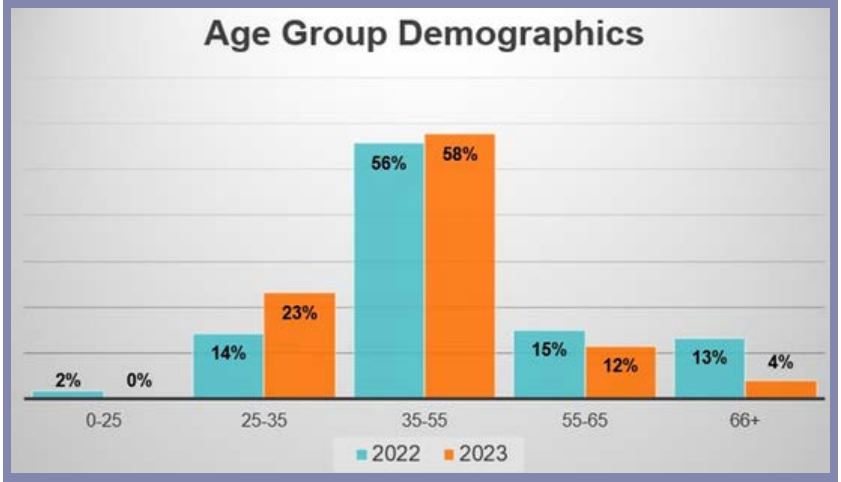
Sign up for notification on our project pages! To access the pages, visit our website.

Public engagement opportunities for long-range plans.

Engagement strategy for reaching over-burdened communities.



Alternative Languages in the Lake Stevens School District, 2022



Age group demographics in the city. Knowing the demographics help us outreach and engage with the community.

The Annual Stormwater Management Program Plan is available for comment through summer 2026!

View the 2025 NPDES Annual Report and send us your comments or questions!

Stormwater Management Program Website

Stormwater System Mapping

The City maintains a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map of stormwater infrastructure. This is an important component to understanding the way stormwater moves through the city, as well as to ensuring proper maintenance of the facilities. The City continues to map new facilities and reviews and updates existing mapping.

Check out the online map!

GIS Comprehensive Map

Stormwater Infrastructure at a Glance

Catch Basins (city-maintained)	6,646
Stormwater Facilities (city-maintained)	133
Miles of Stormwater Pipes	174.4
Miles of Stormwater Pipes Inspected (2024 - 2025)	26

Mapping Updates for 2026

Tree Canopy Inventory

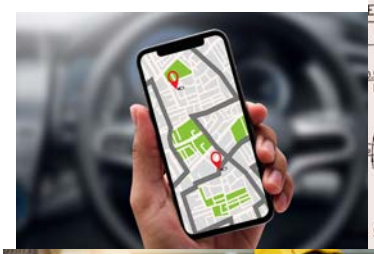
Map tree canopy throughout the city. This information will support goal and policy decisions as well as evaluate the impacts of tree canopy to improve stormwater management.

Outfall Mapping

By 2028, the City will map all contributing basins to outfalls with 24-in nominal diameter or greater. An outfall is the location where the stormwater system drains to a natural water body.

CCTV Inventory

44 miles of pipes are expected to be inspected with closed circuit TV inventory by the end of 2026. This inventory updates asset condition ratings and provides baseline data for capital facility planning.



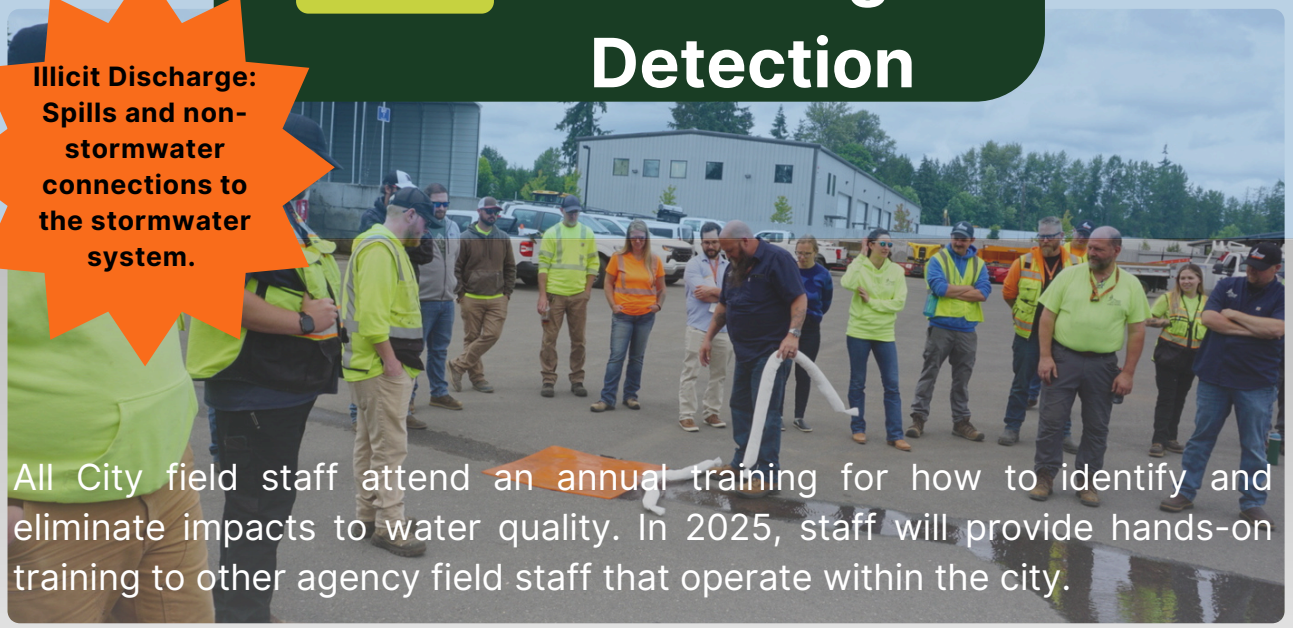
How do we collect data?

The City uses a combination of methods to collect spatial data of assets and information (attributes) about the assets. This data is stored in GIS.

- **Handheld devices to collect data in the field.**
- **Aerial imagery to assess asset locations.**
- **As-built drawings for asset locations and attributes.**

Illicit Discharge Detection

Illicit Discharge: Spills and non-stormwater connections to the stormwater system.



All City field staff attend an annual training for how to identify and eliminate impacts to water quality. In 2025, staff will provide hands-on training to other agency field staff that operate within the city.

How do we respond?

A standardized process. We follow procedures in the 2020 ICID Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual for responding to a spill based on the type and size of spill. It first starts with identification. **The public plays a big role in the first step!**

What are the impacts?

Harm. Spills have the potential to harm the environment, our welfare, and potentially human health. Our stormwater system connects to the Lake and streams around us. **Protect the lake and streams!**

What happens if I cause a spill?

Report it! It is important to report spills as soon as they happen so the City can provide immediate assistance. If you have a business, be prepared for a spill. Reach out to us to learn how. **Negligent spills will be subject to enforcement.**

How do I know what can and can't go down the stormwater drain?

The City has a list of common things that are allowed, sometimes allowed, and not allowed to be dumped in the stormwater drain. Visit the list in our municipal code: **LSCM 11.06.100**

Is washing your car in the driveway considered a spill?

Yes! It's a spill if the wash water runs into the stormwater drain in the street. **Instead, direct the water to a lawn or landscaped area.**

REPORT A SPILL: 425-622-9403

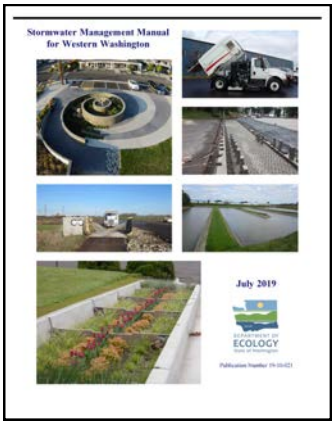
Report a general water quality or drainage concern by downloading tha App or scan the QR Code to submit a Service Request

NEW AND REDEVELOPMENT

The City has regulations for stormwater management when a property is being developed or redeveloped. The regulations ensure stormwater is treated to reduce pollution in our streams and Lake, and managed to prevent localized flooding.

How do we manage stormwater?

Through development permit review, we can look at how stormwater is being managed. Lake Stevens Municipal Code has adopted the 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington and the 2009 Engineering Design and Development Standards. Both of these manuals are used to set the requirements and standards for stormwater management. The documents at right are links:



2025 Metrics	
# of stormwater management plans reviewed for new and redevelopments	351
# of active construction sites inspected for temporary erosion and sediment control	47

What's New:

Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS) - Updates coming in 2026 - 2027

2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW) - Coming Spring 2027

Active Contruction Site Best Management Practices (BMP) for controlling runoff of exposed soil.

All staff that conduct inspections of active construction sites are certified sediment and erosion control leads.

EDDS Update Prioritizing Low Impact Development in Standard New Road Designs

Low Impact Development Swale for Road Runoff

SYSTEM RETROFITS

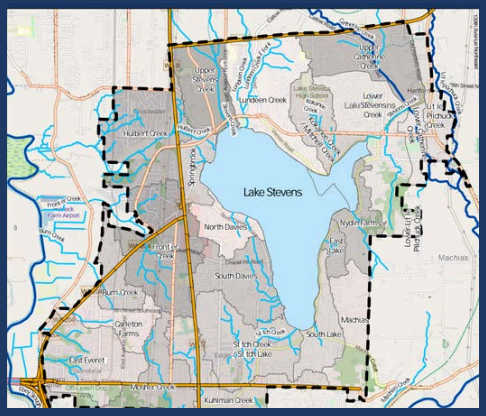
EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

This is a brand new 2024-2029 NPDES permit requirement. System retrofits for existing development aims to evaluate existing infrastructure and identify areas for retrofits or new capital projects. The goal of implementing these projects is to reduce stormwater discharges to downstream waters like streams and the lake. Each project would contribute to the City's required "equivalent drainage area" that was assigned in the permit.

6.5 ACRES LAKE STEVENS EQUIVALENT DRAINAGE AREA

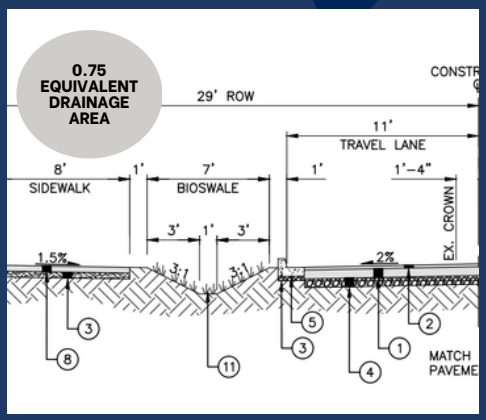
Raingarden at North Cove Park

Our Approach for 2025



Watershed Basin Planning

In 2025, the City started a multi-year watershed basin planning document that will guide policies and goals as well as identify areas to prioritize retrofits to improve water quality. This project will help identify future stormwater retrofits.



Opportunistic Projects

Opportunistic projects generally come in the form of planned and funded capital projects. In 2026, the City will add a bioswale for stormwater treatment for road runoff in the City's identified industrial area.

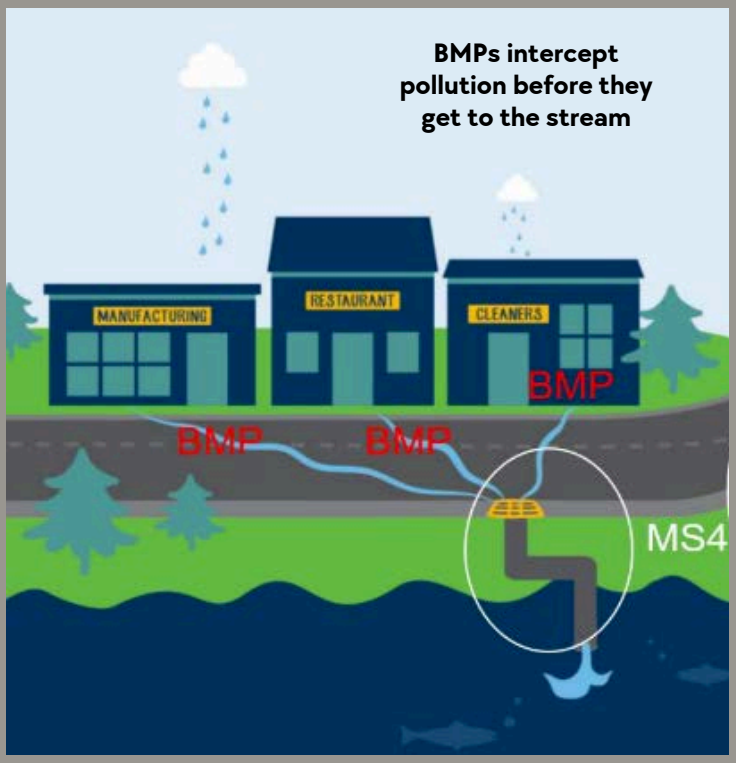
Completed Projects

In 2024, the City worked with a contractor to clean 14 miles of stormwater pipes.

The City also purchased approximately 7 acres of land for a future stream restoration project to move Lower Stevens Creek from a manmade ditch along the road to its natural flow path.

Source Control

Source Control is a program that identifies businesses within the city that have the potential to pollute stormwater runoff based on the nature of the business. Common business types include automotive, construction, restaurant, industrial, etc. The program works with business owners to identify potential sources and implement operational or structural best management practices (BMPs) to reduce the risk of stormwater pollution.



235 Businesses Identified for the Program - List will be updated in 2026

City staff perform 20% of the inspections per year based on total number of businesses identified in the program. At least 47 inspections are performed per year.

A **"Potential Pollutant Site"** is a business or activity on private property that generates significant pollution or prohibited contaminants. These sites are inspected under the Source Control Program and evaluated based on how their materials interact with stormwater or surface water, potentially causing prohibited discharges.

Business corrections are based on progressive enforcement. **We work with you to find a solution.**

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE?

Regular maintenance of stormwater infrastructure helps to keep pollutants out of our streams and lakes. Stormwater infrastructure is also designed to mitigate local flooding.

Maintenance of the stormwater system is tracked through the City's asset management software.

HELP US IDENTIFY MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Report a general water quality or drainage concern by downloading tha App or scan the QR Code to submit a Service Request

Need help downloading the App? Visit the User Guide.

Stormwater Detention Pond

Stormwater Catch Basin

WHAT DO WE MAINTAIN?

The stormwater operations and maintenance team maintains the publically owned stormwater infrastructure that consists of:

- Catch Basins
- Ditches
- Road sweeping
- Flow Control: Detention ponds, Detention Pipes, and Vaults
- Low Impact Development Infrastrcuture (rain gardens, bioswales, etc.)
- Stormwater treatment facilities

Maintenance Stats - 2025	
Public Stormwater Facilities Cleaned	56
Public Catch Basins Cleaned	1,032
Feet of Stormwater Pipes Cleaned	68,000
Tons of Sediment Remove From Stormwater Pipes	900
Stormwater Filters Replaced	76
# of Work Orders Completed	5,489

Stormwater pipe replacement

Stormwater team digging a new ditch and reseeding it.

A Snohomish County Streams Corrective Requirement

Water Quality Improvement

Sign that was designed by City staff to remind people to clean up after their pets.

A series of studies of the public water bodies in Snohomish County determined that, for all streams in the County, the primary pollutant making water not meet standards is fecal coliform, which is a bacteria primarily sourced from warm blooded mammals. The US Environmental Protection Agency issued a requirement to correct the problem with a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.

Our stormwater plan addresses these issues:

When is bacteria in the water measured?

Screening occurs when an active spill investigation of the stormwater system takes place - a random opportunistic event. Water samples from the furthest downstream outfall are collected and sent to a lab. If fecal results are high, then the City will investigate the source.

What businesses might contribute to the issue?

As part of the Source Control program, we have included facilities that include animal care and boarding, and composting or other operations involving animal waste. Our inspections work to correct deficiencies and promote best management practices.

How can individuals get involved and help out?

We install signs and stations for individuals living in or visiting the city parks to help with minimize the sources of fecal coliform in our watersheds. By picking up pet waste and disposing of it in a receptacle, a significant source of the pollutant is reduced.