Clark County
Clean Water Commission

An overview of the clean water program

1300 FRANKLIN ST. 6TH FLOOR
Public Service Center
1st Wednesday every other month
6:30 -8:30 P.M.

Meetings are open to the public

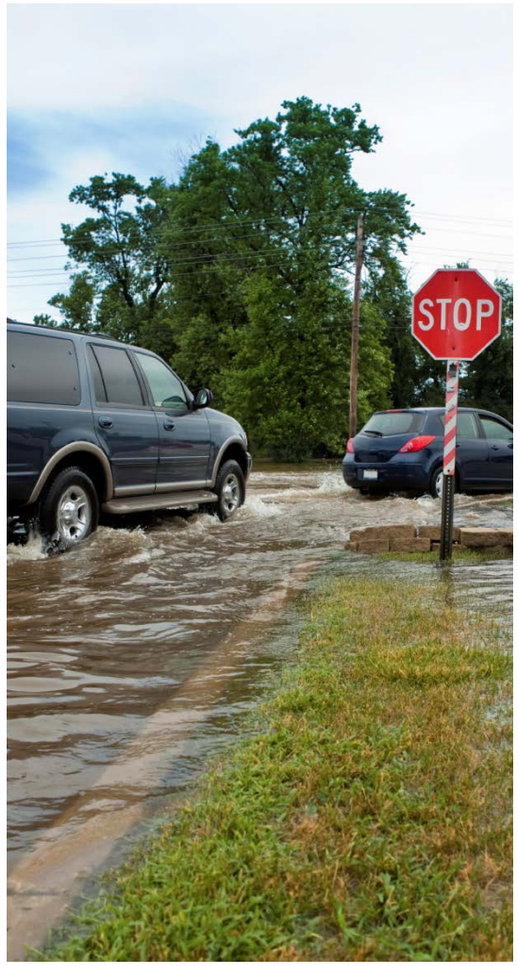
www.clark.wa.gov/environmental-services/clean-water-commission

What is stormwater?

Water from rain or melting snow that "runs off" across the land instead of seeping into the ground.

Fact: Stormwater is the #1 threat to water quality in urban areas

- **Impervious surfaces increase amount of stormwater runoff**
- **Runoff causes erosion of bare dirt increasing sediment to waterways**
- **Pollution in runoff from cars, yards, household, and pet waste impacts water quality**



Stormwater example …

Increased impervious surfaces (roads, houses, buildings, sidewalks, etc.) limits where the stormwater runoff can soak into the ground

Why does it matter, why should we care?

- <u>Reducing pollution</u> protects water quality
- <u>Managing stormwater runoff</u> reduces volumes that could erode river channels
- <u>Protecting our quality of life</u> for recreational uses such as swimming and fishing
- <u>Protecting wildlife habitat</u> for the diverse species that live in and near our rivers

Who regulates stormwater?

5

Primary Regulatory Authority

- State of WA Dept. of Ecology — WA Water Pollution Control Law RCW Chapter 90.48
- United States Env. Protection Agency — Federal Water Pollution Control Act USC Title 33, Section 1251

Primary CC Authority

- BOCC
- County Manager

CC Code 13.26A, 40.386 – plus other related planning codes

Primary Responsible County Departments

- Environmental Services
- Clark County Departments

Public Works
Community Development
Community Planning
Prosecuting Attorney

Stakeholders

- Technical Advisory Stakeholder Advisory Development Engineering Advisory Board
- Other municipal NPDES permittees
- General Public

Environmental Services programs:

6

- **Inventory and Mapping**
- **Stormwater Capital Construction**
- **Maintenance and Operations**
- **Assessment and Monitoring**
- **Technical Assistance and Enforcement**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Fee Administration**

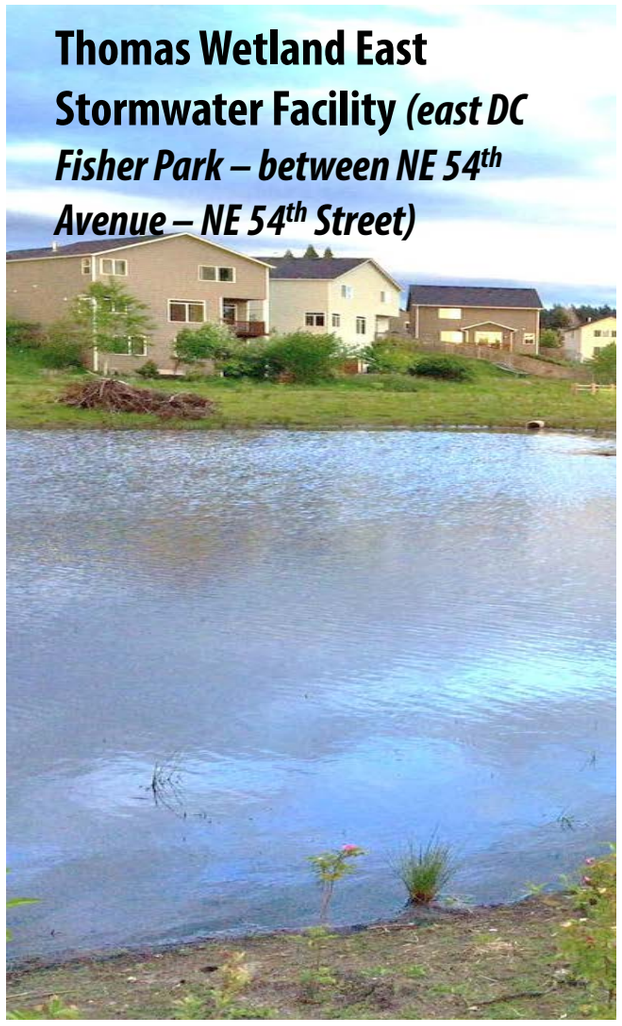
Identifies and maps the location of all stormwater features in GIS

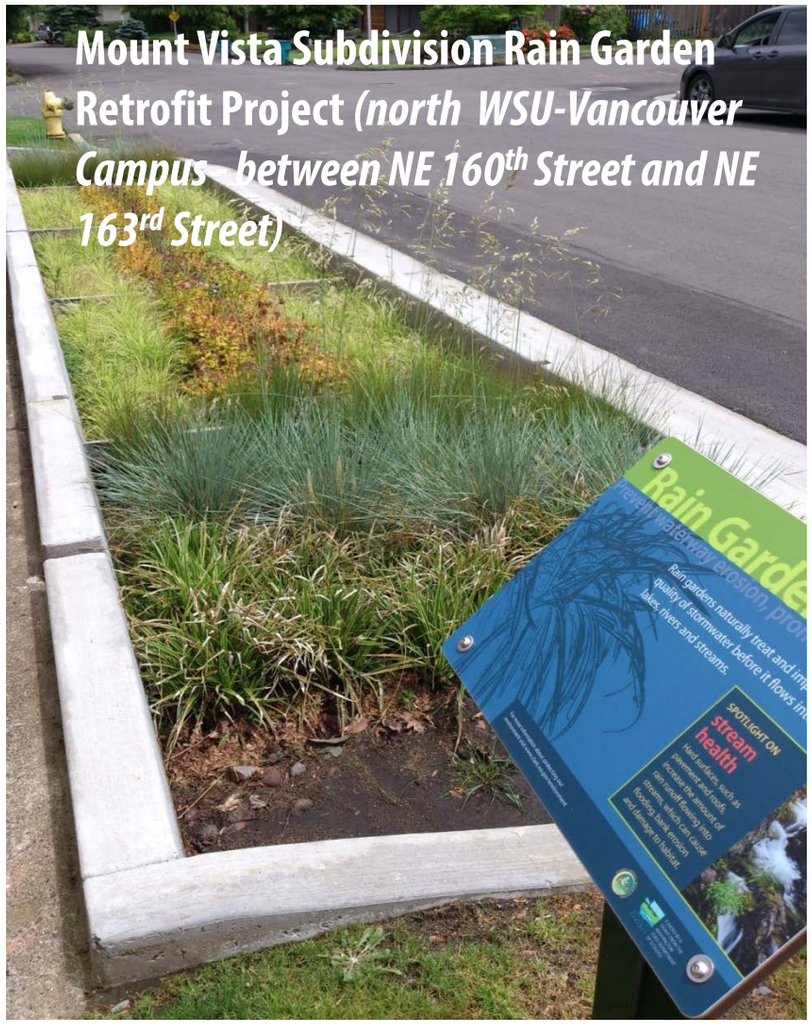
Environmental Services programs:

7

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration

Builds new facilities to manage runoff for quantity and quality or retrofits old facilities



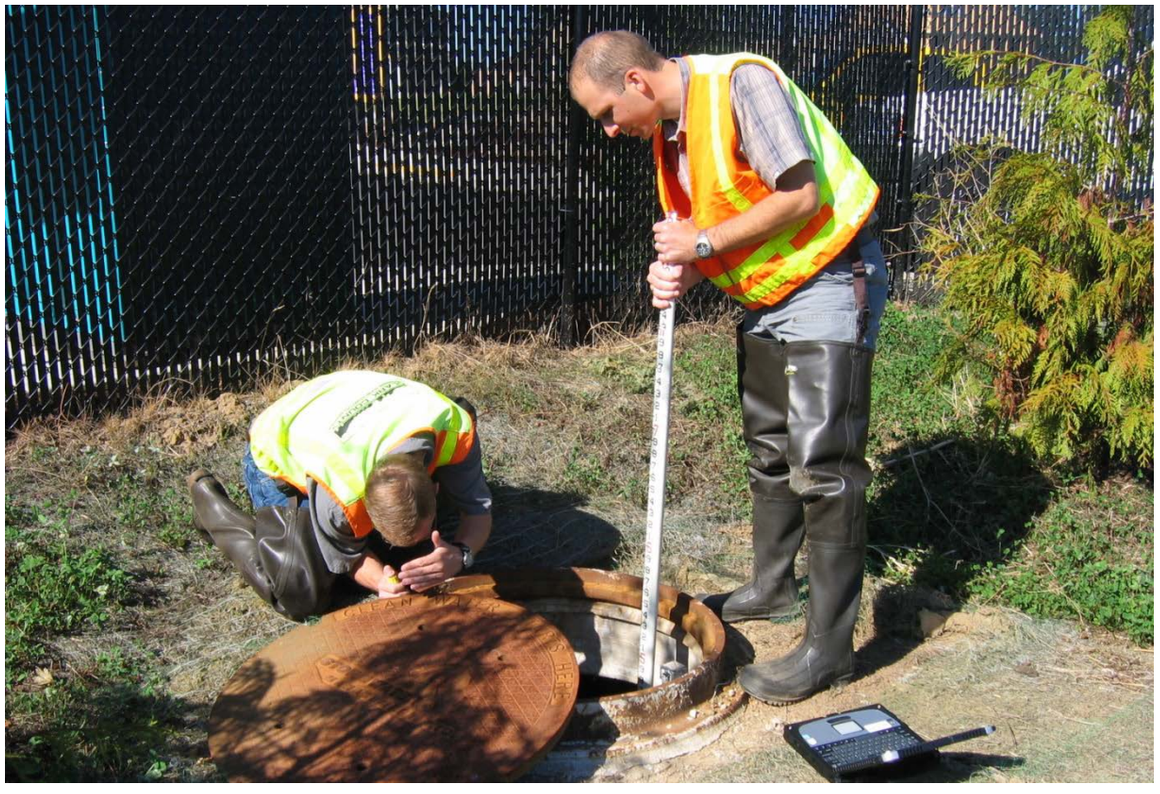


Environmental Services programs:

8

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration

County staff inspect, repair and maintain county owned facilities. We also work with owners of private facilities for on-going maintenance.



Clark County stormwater system: over 1,000 county owned facilities, including 450 detention/retention ponds; 400 miles of stormwater pipes; 11,000+ catch basins; 2000+ drywells

Environmental Services programs:

9

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration

Monitoring provides a picture of the health of local waterways. Testing include water chemistry, pollution and aquatic bugs (indicator of health).

Environmental Services programs:

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration

Site visits – help businesses identify problems and solutions
Technical assistance – support Homeowner's associations with inspection and maintenance
Code enforcement – works with owners to correct problems

Environmental Services programs:

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- **Education and Outreach**
- Fee Administration

Raise awareness of stormwater issues as well as affect behavior to reduce pollution. Audiences include general public, businesses, citizens, homeowner's associations, and partner agencies.

Environmental Services programs:

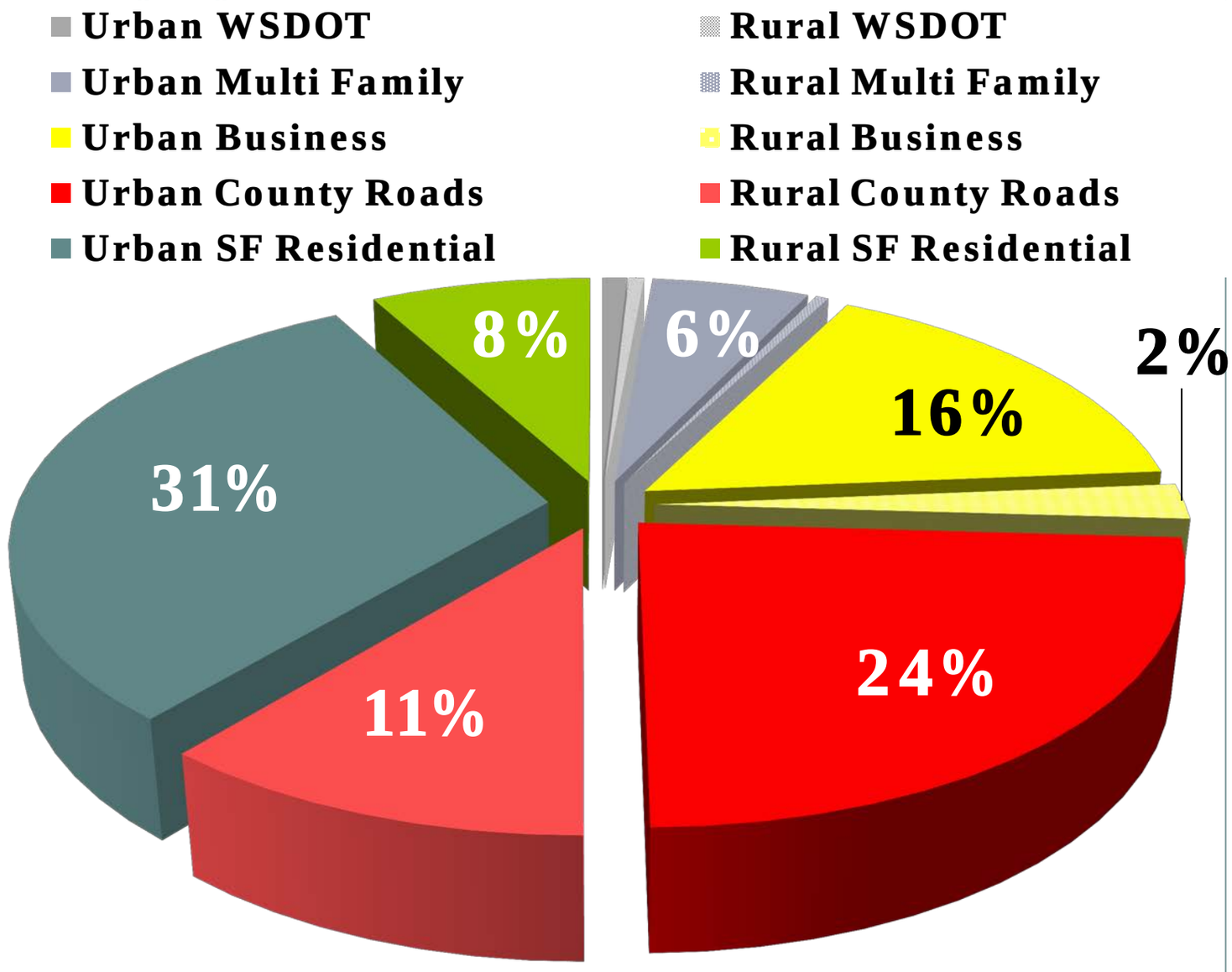
- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- **Education and Outreach**
- Fee Administration

Examples of Educational Messaging:

- Canines for Clean Water – pick up pet waste
- Business source control – don't dump or wash materials down storm drains, repair dumpsters
- Lawn care – reduce chemical use and sweep (don't rinse down a drain)
- Green Neighbors – information that applies to residential homes
- Schools – Student watershed monitoring network partnership with the City of Vancouver
- Spill Kit Program – provide information on how to clean up spills to prevent pollution
- Small Acreage Program – large lot properties can manage manure and other runoff risks

Environmental Services programs:

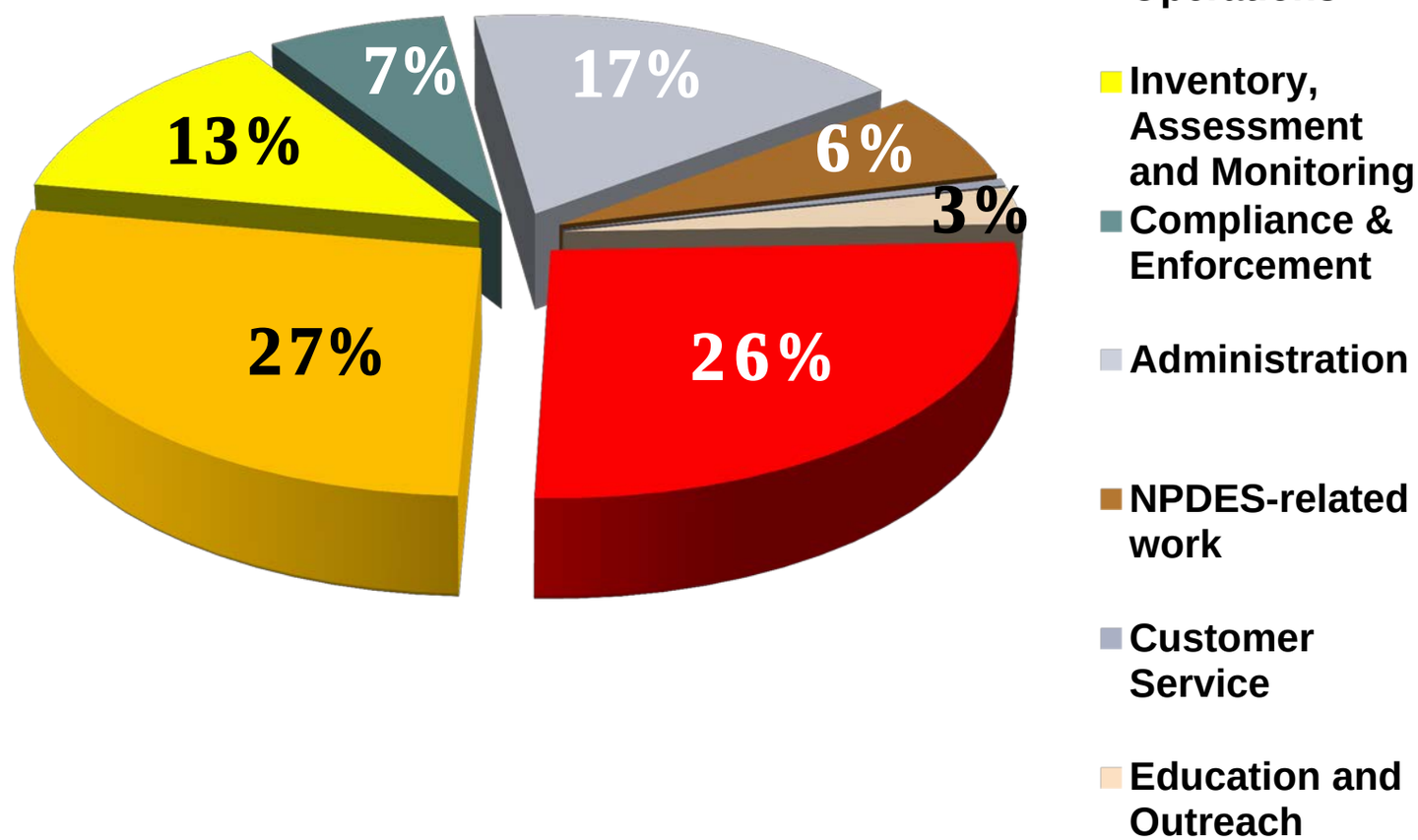
- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration



Where the monies come from - DES manages the Clean Water Fee program for properties with impact to stormwater runoff

Environmental Services programs:

- Inventory and Mapping
- Stormwater Capital Construction
- Maintenance and Operations
- Assessment and Monitoring
- Technical Assistance and Enforcement
- Education and Outreach
- Fee Administration



Where the monies go to manage the program – DES utilizes approximately $13,430,000 for the 2015/2016 budget cycle

What are the changes for 2016?

Updates to the Clark County Stormwater Manual and related municipal code:

- **<u>New stormwater manual</u> – Administration, BMP Design, Source Control and Maintenance/Operations**
- **<u>Updated codes</u> – edits to CCC 13.26A Water Quality and repeal of CCC 40.385 Stormwater and Erosion Control – Replace with 40.386**
- **<u>Requirement to use Low Impact Development</u> where feasible, including bioretention, rain gardens, infiltration, etc.**

The goal of LID is to mimic the natural landscape – let stormwater infiltrate into the ground as close to the source as possible and minimize pollution of that runoff.

Do you need more information?

Contact the Clean Water Division:

1300 Franklin St.
Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
(360) 397-2121
www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater

Don Benton
Director

Dean Boening
Clean Water Division Manager