

Clark County's CLEAN WATER PROGRAM



The Clean Water Program seeks to reverse decades of environmental degradation and prevent future generations from having to clean up our mess.



WHY YOU SHOULD CARE ABOUT CLEAN WATER

Clean Water is Essential in Our Lives

Clark County residents might ask themselves, "How does this issue affect me?" or, more bluntly, "Why should I care?"

These are understandable questions, especially during tough economic times when people struggle to pay their bills and worry about their future.

Despite a down economy, there are many reasons why you should care about clean water:

- Because clean water is an essential part of a healthy community and helps make the Pacific Northwest a special place to live.
- Because we all have a vested interest in protecting the environment and reducing pollution in our streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.
- Because we need clean water for drinking, for irrigating gardens and for swimming, fishing and other recreation. All of these uses might make us sick if the water is not clean and free from toxins.
- Because Clark County is making documentable progress to clean up Salmon Creek and other waterways and proving that this problem can be solved by a community that values clean water.
- Because it's far easier and cheaper to treat polluted storm-water near its source than it is to try to remove pollution from waterways.
- Because the county's Clean Water Program strives to protect community roads and property from stormwater flooding.
- Because Clark County must comply with the federal Clean Water Act and could face stiff fines, up to \$37,500 a day, for violating the law.

Continued on back

A healthy community needs clean water.

- Because we want to leave a better environment for our children and for our grandchildren, not one where they will have to pay to clean up messes we left behind.
- Because we all contribute to the problem. Water that drains from our roofs and off our lawns or fields picks up contaminants as it flows into storm drains. The fertilizers we put on our lawns, the waste produced by our pets, and the oil that leaks from our cars get washed into the stormwater system.

You should care because we are all part of the problem, and we all need to be part of the solution.



Clark County Environmental Services | P.O. Box 9810 | Vancouver, WA 98666-9810
www.clark.wa.gov/environment | cleanwater@clark.wa.gov | (360) 397-2121 | Printed February 2012



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2322;
Relay 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.