



December 2013

Newsletter Update Volume 5

Clark County is updating its municipal code and stormwater design manual to comply with Washington's **NPDES Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater Permit**. This newsletter series will give you the latest updates and progress on the project.

WHAT'S NEW

Clark County Municipal Code - updates

Clark County will be required to update its municipal code to meet the requirements of the 2013 stormwater permit by June 2015. The Clark County code contains the laws that govern the county. There are several sections of code related to stormwater management. These sections inform citizens on "What" are the requirements to comply with the stormwater permit. The stormwater manual update describes "How" to meet those requirements. There are several goals for the updates to the municipal code:

- **Increase the clarity of information** - some sections will become shorter as we articulate the key points of the stormwater management requirements.
- **Reduce redundancies** - there are several tools that the county uses to describe the regulations, several of which may have outdated or overlapping information (i.e. code, manual, specs, pre-con)
- **Increase the ability to implement LID** - reduce the barriers in development regulations that may limit the use of LID or contain conflicting requirements.
- **Make the information easier to access** - By rewriting chapter 40.385 Stormwater and Erosion Control, the new chapter will provide a better road map for customers to navigate the various requirements.

All code language will be submitted as a draft to the Department of Ecology (DOE) by June 2014 for their review and approval. Final outreach efforts to our stakeholders and citizens will be included with DOE's comments in the fall and winter 2014. Final adoption of county will be completed by the Board of County Commissioners by late spring 2015.

Need more information on Clark County Code? Refer to our web page at: www.codepublishing.com/wa/clarkcounty.html

Remember, these code changes just affect development in Clark County outside of the cities' limits. Refer to your local city code for information on their stormwater codes.



Important dates:

- **Technical Advisory Committee** meetings
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St.
 - December 18th – 3-5 pm
 - January 22, 2014 – 3-5 pm
 - March 5, 2014 – 3-5 pm
- **Stakeholder Advisory Committee** meeting #3,
December 19, 2013, 4-6 pm, Elections conference Rm., 1408 Franklin St.
- **Clean Water Commission**
January 8th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Public Service Center, 6th Floor, 1300 Franklin St.
- **Additional public outreach will be scheduled this winter for all citizens**
- **Target date** - mid-March for updated DRAFT documents

All meetings are open to the public



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Standard Design Details - *Information to help you design the right feature for your site.*

Clark County has a long list of standard engineering and construction details available on its **Public Works** website. County staff, including engineering design, design review, construction, inspection, operations and the building divisions are working together to review and update these details. Main goals include:

- **Eliminate outdated or duplicative details and notes** - Many details are outdated with current construction materials and technologies. Some details are not necessary as the [WSDOT specification book](#) provides sufficient information.
- **Create consistent information** - Staff are coordinating between the divisions to eliminate gaps or conflicting information between the various regulation tools such as specifications, pre-con notes, standard plan notes, etc.
- **Update information** - Other design details require updates to ensure that they are clear and accurate. New LID techniques can be added to ensure there is clear guidance on the design intent.

Did you know that there are improvements you can make today to improve stormwater runoff on your own property?

- **If you own a home**, there are several things you can do to keep your yard green and river friendly. Winter is a great time to plan for your yard improvements. Visit our **Green Neighbors** program website for ideas and information. [clarkgreenneighbors.org](#)
- **Is your business interested in "green" techniques to protect stormwater?** Visit our **Green Business** program to talk to our expert staff on ideas that work best for your business. [clarkgreenbiz.org](#)
- **Does your school want to get involved?** The **Washington Green Schools** has a school grounds audit that can give your school's Green Team ideas on site improvements.

Watershed Fact - There are some watersheds in Clark County that are seeing improvements in water quality - Creeks such as Brezee Creek, Gee Creek and Rock Creek have recently seen improvements in water quality or biological health. Stormwater management regulations support our efforts to see continued improvements in our watersheds. As we continue to grow, these regulations help minimize the risk of increased stormwater runoff and pollution.

Trainings and outreach will be important to be ready for new requirements in 2015

Clark County, the Department of Ecology and other professional organizations are hosting a variety of trainings and seminars to help you, your clients and colleagues learn about the latest developments in Low Impact Development, stormwater management design and project implementation. Here are just a few of the upcoming events, for your information.

**Green Infrastructure series
EPA: Best Practices for Green
Infrastructure Operations and
Maintenance, webcast, January 7,
2014, 1:00-2:30 pm**

**WVHM 2012 Basics Workshop,
Kirkland, WA, January 14, 2014,
8:00 am - 12:00 pm (fee)**

**WVHM 2012 Advanced
Workshop, Kirkland, WA, January
14, 2014, 1:00-5:00 pm (fee)**

**Bioretention Summit in Portland,
OR. January 16-17, 2014**

More information can be found
on our website.



FEEDBACK

Q. Didn't Clark County just recently update the road standards? Will these requirements be included in the updates to standard details and requirements?

A. Yes and no... Clark County completed updates to the road standards in the past several years. Some of the requirements were updated to allow a greater use of LID. Given the extensive work during that process, our current update project will not address any significant changes in these standards. As stormwater and road design technologies and techniques improve in coming years, these changes can be addressed in the next round of standards updates.

i Need more information?

Visit our website for links to county and state information

www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater

(360) 397-2121 or e-mail cleanwater@clark.wa.gov