



January-February 2014

Newsletter Update Volume 6

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

Details, details, details!

Clark County staff and our consultant team have been working to update both the stormwater code and the manual to meet the Department of Ecology requirements. All of the draft updates have been written and we are now working through all of the details necessary to clarify and link users to the information they need. Here are some of the changes you can expect to see:

- **Water Quality Code 13.26A** - This code has been in place for many years to "protect the county's surface and groundwater quality by providing minimum requirements for reducing and controlling the discharge of contaminants." The chapter requires the use of pollution control practices in the Clark County Stormwater Manual. The chapter focuses primarily on post-construction source control, dumping, maintenance, etc. The current permit requires us to focus on development projects therefore changes to this section are minor, such as formatting, updating language and consistency.
- **Stormwater and Erosion Control Code 40.385** - This code is in place to apply stormwater requirements to development projects to "safeguard public health, safety and welfare by protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters...." The chapter focuses on management of construction activities. This chapter has significant changes as it has been reduced from 26 pages to about 6 pages. This chapter tells users "what" is required to protect stormwater, so most of the "how" has been removed and been placed in the updated stormwater manual (see below). The main change is to require the use of Low Impact Development (LID) in the manual.
- **Clark County Stormwater Manual** - Exciting changes are in the Clark County's manual. In past years, users had to refer to multiple documents to make sure they have met all of the requirements of the stormwater code. The new layout for the manual is a stand-alone, Clark County specific document. The manual will be in four sections: 1) The overview information about what is needed for development and redevelopment applications; 2) design BMPs and details; 3) pollution source control standards; and, 4) operations and maintenance standards. The new layout should allow each user the opportunity to download just the information that they need without having to sift through multiple sections or chapters.



Photo by: Gary Davenport

Important dates:

- **Technical Advisory Committee** meeting #7
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St.
• **March 5th – 3-5 pm**
- **Stakeholder Advisory Committee** meeting #4,
Elections, 1408 Franklin St.
• **March 13th - 4-6 pm**
- **Clean Water Commission**
Public Service Center, 6th Floor, 1300 Franklin St.
• **March 5th, 6:30 - 8:30 pm**
- **Planning Commission Work Session - April 2014** - date / time to be confirmed
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** - Documents will be available in mid-April for public review
- Additional public outreach will be scheduled this spring for all citizens

All meetings are open to the public



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Technical updates - Staff are refining the technical language so that you have clear guidelines to design your development project.

The new Clark County Stormwater Water Manual will be a series of four (4) books. The information in this manual will guide you through the various steps and procedures to appropriately design your development project to meet the county's stormwater regulations. *Please consider reviewing the various chapters that affect your work during the public comment review period for the Review Drafts.* Here are some key chapters that may be of interest to you:

- **Book 1, Chapter 1- Minimum Requirements and Submittal Requirements**
- The Minimum Requirements are the set of standards required by the county stormwater permit from the state of Washington. This section has updated flow charts to help navigate which requirements may apply to a project. There are a set of submittal requirements that can be used with your design team to ensure that applications are complete prior to submittal to the county. It also includes a new requirement to use LID where feasible.
- **Book 1, Chapter 3 - On-Site Stormwater Management** - This chapter reviews the types of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may be required or optional use for a site. The section covers topics such as when to use dispersion and infiltration techniques, such as splashblocks, rain gardens, bioretention and permeable pavements.
- **Book 1, Chapter 4 - Infiltration Analysis and Design** - This chapter walks through (step by step) the factors that need to be considered in the design of a stormwater system. The chapter considers the initial conditions of a site, design methods for infiltration and criteria to design the various facilities.
- **Book 1, Chapter 8 - Construction Site Pollution Prevention** - What happens on a site during construction also needs to be planned to minimize the risk of pollutants leaving a construction site. This chapter covers erosion control BMPs for the site. Clark County inspectors will refer to this section when they visit a construction site. The chapter should also be consistent with state erosion control requirements under the general permit.

Updated documents will be ready with a "Review Drafts" in April, 2014

There is a lot of information that is being updated as part of the stormwater code and manual update. We will be providing several options for the public to review and comment on the "Review Drafts." The Review Drafts incorporate updates and feedback from various county departments, the Technical Advisory Committee and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The Review Drafts will be updated based on stakeholder feedback that is collected over the next two months. Staff will revise the draft prior to submitting to the Washington Department of Ecology by the end of June 2014 for review. We anticipate DOE's comments will be issued by fall 2014. You will be able to participate in discussions via the following formats:

Clark County Clean Water Commission.

March 5, 2014, 6:30-8:30 pm,
Public Service Center

Clark County Planning Commission Work session.
mid-April, 2014, date and time TBD)

Stormwater Code and Manual update public comment period.
Posted on County web page by mid-April.

FEEDBACK

Q. There is a lot of information required in the application. Will every project application require that an engineer be hired to design, prepare plans and technical reports?

A. One of the goals of the update project for the stormwater manual is to clarify what information you may need for every step of your project and simplify the process to the greatest extent possible. Every site will need to meet the requirements of properly managing stormwater. Some projects, such as a single-family residential site in a planned subdivision have already completed the required engineering. Residential building projects on existing lots do not require an engineered design for items such as splash blocks, rain gardens and dispersion.

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

