

## Newsletter Update Volume 8

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

#### Thank you for your feedback!

Clark County has completed a the public comment period on the "Review Draft" of the updated stormwater code and manual. The Clean Water Program staff received comments from both internal stakeholders (other County departments that use the manual) and external stakeholders. External stakeholders included both our Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Committees, the Design and Engineering Advisory Board and citizens. Here is a brief overview of some of the comments received:

- **Clarify submittal requirements** - Several tables and flow diagrams are being adjusted to simplify and clarify for users.
- **Update business practices** - Some sections were updated to reflect current practices such as vegetation management and use of integrated pest management as part of the maintenance activities.
- **Update infiltration testing** - Low Impact Development's success relies on its ability to allow water to infiltrate into the ground. There has been numerous discussions with local experts on how best to test sites for appropriate design guidance as well as ensuring completed LID facilities will function properly.
- **Provide clarifications that could save applicants money** - There were several ideas proposed to help project applicants save money during their planning and design phases of their project. If there are options to verify soils that will (or will not) infiltrate water, then streamline the application process to reduce unneeded soil testing. Also, look into options for economic feasibility of LID features. For sites where LID may be cost prohibitive for the overall project's success.

#### There will still be opportunities to comment!

Clark County is required to submit a Draft of our proposed updates to the Department of Ecology by June 30, 2014. The final documents are targeted to be complete by March, 2015. This allows the County time to adjust and modify the documents to best suit our community's needs.



Salmon Creek spring 2014

#### Important dates:

- Draft Submittal to Department of Ecology  
• **June 30, 2014**
- Future Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings, as well as public forums, will be scheduled as needed after Clark County receives review comments from the Department of Ecology

*All meetings are open to the public*



# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## What's next for the code and manual update project?



### Policy & Process Updates

Through the process of updating the stormwater manual, there were several issues that were identified that need clarification, either with policy direction or updates to the application process.

The overall goal of the updated manual is to simplify and clarify information for all users, both those new to the process and returning users. Here are some areas that will continue to be reviewed for clarity:

- **Single-family residential stormwater design** - when do you need a licensed engineer?
- **County ownership of subdivision facilities** - should the county maintain or the HOA?
- **Updated standard details and legal documents** - create user friendly standards for all users.
- **Certainty of how new rules are applied** - create easy to understand policies and guides for all users.

### Trainings

While some of the information in the stormwater manual is similar to the past manual, there are many new requirements. LID will now be mandatory. Therefore, it may be beneficial to provide updated trainings, workshops and information to help users understand how to navigate the new manual.

Here are some ideas about new trainings. Let us know what trainings would help you and your colleagues:

- **The application process** - What is new in the submittal requirements?
- **The site planning process** - What are the new considerations for your project planning and design?
- **LID BMPs** - An overview of the various BMP techniques.
- **LID construction** - Tips and tricks to consider for a successful facility.
- **LID maintenance** - Learn some of the key techniques to maintain your new facility and minimize life-cycle costs.

### Final adoption of code and manual

The stormwater code and manual are in draft form and will soon be reviewed by the Washington Department of Ecology to verify that the manual is equivalent to state standards. Here is an anticipated timeline for the remainder of the project:

- **July - September 2014** - DOE has 90 days to review and comment on our draft manual.
- **Summer and fall 2014** - Clarify any outstanding questions, policies, processes or products related to our manual.
- **Fall - winter 2014** - Prepare trainings, outreach and workshops.
- **Winter 2014** - Prepare final versions of the code and manual.
- **March 2015** - Start the adoption process for code and manual.
- **June 2015** - BOCC to finalize the adoption of code and manual.
- **July 2015** - New regulations go into effect.

## FEEDBACK

**Q.** There are a lot of steps to complete in the application process. Do I have to hire an engineer to design stormwater facilities for a project? Do I have to hire a specialist to complete soil testing? These can add a lot of costs to a project.

**A.** There are several steps in the planning and design phases of a project that require a licensed engineer in the state of Washington. The technical aspects of designing the technical plans (with the required calculations) and various reports may require an engineer if your project requires a certain size facility. Some smaller projects that only require dispersion of runoff or a rain garden will not require an engineers. There are standard details and guidance manuals available for this level of design.

### Need more information?

Visit our website for links to county and state information

[www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater](http://www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater)

(360) 397-2121 or e-mail [cleanwater@clark.wa.gov](mailto:cleanwater@clark.wa.gov)

### Are you looking for more information about LID?

There are several resources you can review to learn more about planning, design, construction and maintenance of LID:

- **Department of Ecology LID Resources page** - Lists a variety of information including building, planting and maintain LID.
- **2012 Technical Guidance Manual for LID** - A great resource full of technical information to design features.
- **Tour of LID in Clark County** - Our booklet and web page point you to examples of LID in our community. Take a tour of the sites to better understand the look and feel of these facilities.