



October 2013

Newsletter Update Volume 3

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.

With the change of color in the trees we typically see lots of rain in Clark County. It is a great time of year to be thinking about what changes we want to make in our municipal code and stormwater design manual. Clark County staff have been working with two stakeholder committees to hear issues, questions and concerns related to potential updates. We will continue to meet with these committees throughout the update process to ensure that the updates are effective and efficient as possible. Refer to the "Important Date" section for a list of upcoming meetings. As a

stakeholder, your input is important and we invite your participation.

As a reminder for this time of year, the combination of fallen leaves and rain-fall could result in localized flooding near storm drain inlets and streets. The recent sunny weather allows time to check out our local stormwater system and clean out any debris that could potentially clog the vary systems. Remember to collect your leaves and yard debris for compost or collection. Do not push leaves or debris into the street as it may clog downstream drains.



Important dates:

- **Technical Advisory Committee** meetings
Public Service Center, **1300 Franklin St.**
 - **November 20th – 3-5 pm**
 - **December 18th – 3-5 pm**
 - **January 22, 2014 – 3-5 pm**
 - **March 5, 2014 – 3-5 pm**
- **Stakeholder Advisory Committee** meeting #3, **December 2013**, day/time TBD
- **Clean Water Commission**
November 6th, 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

WHAT'S NEW



BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) - A review of Clark County Municipal Code

The **Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit** states Clark County is required to "review, revise and make effective their local development-related codes.... to incorporate and require LID Principles and LID Best Management Practices." Per this requirement, county staff have been working with a local consultant team to identify potential changes to code language. Their review has identified over 50 potential areas in

the code to be considered for updates to ensure that LID features can be safely and effectively used in our community.

Some of the updates may include adding new, or clarifying existing, definitions in the code. Other areas may require changes to landscape codes to allow for LID while meeting other requirements such as buffers or screening. The report also identified opportunities to adjust language in other sections such as parking and transportation. Draft proposed changes will be considered prior to June 2014 including public comment.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Maintenance and Operations - What changes do we expect?

As part of our outreach on the update process, we have heard several questions related to maintenance and operation of stormwater facilities, such as:

- Are there specifications or checklists that Homeowner's Associations can follow to maintain their private facilities?
- Are fact sheets available to clarify expectations for stormwater facilities?
- Does the County need to inspect the facilities or are there options for inspections that allow others to inspect and repair?
- Where can we find instructions on how to care for a rain garden or bioretention feature near my house?

These questions, and more, provide excellent feedback to help the county prepare updates to the *Stormwater Facility Maintenance Manual* to best support customers needs.

The manual will include up-to-date information on Low Impact Development (LID) facilities based on current design standards. Research and technologies for LID are constantly changing therefore updates to the manual ensure customers



The County inspects, maintains and repairs the public municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) per the State's permit requirements

have current information. The updates will include information that has been tested for Pacific Northwest facilities.

The changes in design standards will mean that facilities may be smaller and more dispersed throughout new subdivisions. Subdivision layouts may look different than traditional developments. It will be important to educate property owners in new projects on the types of facilities.

Watershed Fact - Did you know that Clark County has a program specifically for homeowners?

The Green Neighbors program has great information and tools to keep stormwater runoff from your house healthy.

FEEDBACK

Q. Are the proposed updates for all development projects in Clark County? Are there separate regulations for the cities?

A. This current update project is for the areas outside city limits. Urban unincorporated and rural Clark County development and redevelopment projects will need to follow the new regulations once they have been adopted in June 2015. The cities (considered Phase II permittees) have their own State requirements and will be updating their regulations shortly after the County updates their codes and manuals. Check with your local city for a schedule of their regulation requirements.

Need more information?

Visit our website for links to county and state information on this project:

www.clark.wa.gov/stormwater

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

Resources for stormwater facility maintenance

Are you a local business that has a private stormwater facility? Do you belong to a HOA that has to manage stormwater facilities in your neighborhood?

Did you know that there are resources available to help identify the type of facility and how best to operate and maintain that facility? The local jurisdictions in Clark County have worked together to provide a resource to owners of private stormwater facilities. Visit the web link below for information on:

- *Types of stormwater facilities*
- *How the various facilities work*
- *Maintenance considerations for each type of facility*
- *Checklists for maintenance and recognizing and fixing problems*
- *Lists of resources based on your jurisdiction*

Clark County will be updating the *Clark County Stormwater Facility Maintenance Manual* as part of the code and manual update to include more information on LID facilities.



stormwaterpartners.com