



Newsletter Update Volume 1

Clark County is updating the 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.

Clark County is responsible for building and maintaining the public drainage system that carries stormwater runoff from roads and developed areas to the natural waterways throughout the urban, unincorporated area. This system includes pipes, catch basins, storm water ponds and roadside ditches. The county is regulated by the state’s Department of Ecology through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit as part of the federal Clean Water Act.

Under the county’s permit, we are

required to provide opportunities for the public to participate in the updates to the County Municipal Code and Design Manuals that guide future development in our community. A new permit went into effect **August 1, 2013**, and will be in place for five years. Clark County values the perspectives, expertise and interest of citizens to ensure any code and manual updates provide efficient and flexible tools to guide development while protecting the health of streams and rivers. Code and Design Manual updates must go into effect by **July 1, 2015**.

Important dates:

- **August 1, 2013** - New NPDES Phase 1 Municipal Stormwater Permit goes into effect in Clark County
- **August 14, 2013** - Technical Advisory Committee meeting #2 - 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Public Service Center, 6th Floor, 1300 Franklin St.
- **August 28, 2013** - Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting #1 - 4- 6 pm, Public Service Center, 6th Floor, 1300 Franklin St.

Check this box for important dates in the project schedule!

WHAT’S NEW

Check this box for important updates on the project tasks

LID BARRIER CODE REVIEW

Clark County is reviewing our existing municipal code to identify barriers, gaps and opportunities regarding language requiring Low Impact Development (LID). This work is expected to be complete by early fall. A final report will be submitted to the Department of Ecology.

MUNICIPAL CODE UPDATE

County staff will write draft language to update sections of code impacted by the new stormwater regulations.

STORMWATER DESIGN MANUAL UPDATE

The design manual, operations and maintenance manual and pollution control manual will be updated as part of this process, including more information regarding the use of LID. The project also will create a “small project” manual for small-scale building projects that meet lower thresholds.

Did you know?

Stormwater runoff is the largest pollution problem to the health of our creeks, streams and rivers.



A failed drainage ditch causing erosion.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Photo credit: G. Piazza

Protecting stormwater runoff protects our streams, creeks and river, including the habitat necessary to support wildlife and fish.

Changes coming to Clark County

The new permit from the state requires Clark County to use LID facilities in new and re-development projects after updates go into effect in July 2015. The new regulations are designed to:

- Minimize impervious surfaces
- Reduce native vegetation loss
- Limit stormwater runoff in all types of development.

The project has two main phases:

Draft updates - will be completed by June 2014 and submitted to the Department of Ecology

Final adoption of updated code and manuals by the BOCC - to be completed and ready to apply by July 2015.

Public outreach...we need your help!

The updates to our code and manuals benefit from the input of our citizens. Updates must meet regulatory requirements, while ensuring they are suitable to Clark County's unique community including soil types, topography and citizen interest and needs. The new standards should allow flexibility to meet our various conditions.

To ensure we consider all potential impacts of these changes, we want to hear from our stakeholders. We plan to host:

- Technical Advisory Committee meetings
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings
- Public forums
- Web updates
- Email newsletter updates
- Trainings
- Media releases

If you would like to receive project information or submit ideas for outreach, please contact:

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GLOSSARY

The new Department of Ecology permit has a good deal of technical information. Here are some key acronyms and terms to know:

LID - Low Impact Development

A stormwater and land use management strategy that strives to mimic the pre-disturbance stormwater processes of infiltration, storage, evaporation and transpiration. It emphasizes conservation, use of on-site natural features, site planning, and distributed stormwater management practices integrated into the project design.

BMP - Best Management Practice

Type of features or facilities that best meet the design goal for the project, such as rain garden or bioretention.

MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

A series of drainage structures used to collect and transport stormwater runoff. Could include catch basins, pipes, detention ponds, sedimentation traps, etc.

SWMP - Stormwater Management Plan

The county's plan that highlights required tasks for the stormwater management program, including activities such as mapping, inspections, monitoring, construction, trainings and public outreach.

Infiltration

To allow water to soak into the ground where it lands.

Impervious surface

A hard surface that limits the ability for water to soak into the ground, thereby creating runoff.

FEEDBACK Check this box for customer questions and answers

Q. How are these new regulations going to affect our community? Will it cost more to develop while protecting stormwater?

A. Clark County will continue many years-long efforts, such as mapping stormwater facilities, monitoring streams and rivers, operating and maintaining existing facilities, and providing public education. Changes will include increased use of LID techniques such as rain gardens, bioretention and permeable pavements. LID costs to build and maintain features vary per region and individual site conditions.

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