Stormwater Management Program Plan

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

Utility Engineering | Public Works

February 2025

Introduction

This Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP) has been prepared to document recent (2024) and future (2025) actions that the City of Vancouver is undertaking to protect water resources and improve water quality in our community. These activities meet requirements established under the Federal Clean Water Act and implemented through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES Permit) program by Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to manage and treat stormwater discharges to surface waters. Ecology also regulates stormwater infiltration to groundwater, as authorized under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act through the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program, to protect all waters of the state from contaminants carried in stormwater runoff.

The first Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (NPDES Permit) was issued to the City of Vancouver in 2007 as a Regulated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The stormwater permit has been updated and reissued in approximately five-year intervals. The current permit term will expire on July 31, 2029. With each permit cycle additional requirements are added to ensure that communities reduce pollutants in stormwater to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) through use of all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control, and treatment (AKART) to restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and underground aquifers. Municipalities covered under this permit are allowed to discharge stormwater from systems they own and operate into waters of the state when the prescribed program elements are implemented to protect water resources.

This document has been organized to align with programmatic components outlined in the permit, with details to demonstrate compliance with required activities and highlight key elements of the City's stormwater program. The Vancouver SWMP is updated every spring with an evaluation of program implementation and effectiveness. Some parts of the program plan and program priorities exceed NPDES permit requirements to better protect groundwater and to sustain local ecosystems. Program plan elements not required by the NPDES permit are generally not included here in the SWMP Plan.

The City has implemented an ongoing program to gather, track and maintain information per S5.A.3 of the NPDES Permit, including costs or estimated costs of implement the SWMP.

The SWMP is submitted to Ecology each year with an Annual Report; both are posted on the City's website at Stormwater Management Plan -The City of Vancouver, WA by May 31st. Members of the community are invited to review and provide comments to support development and implementation of the Stormwater Management Program Plan. Please submit comments to surfacewater@cityofvancouver.us.

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Stormwater Planning

The City of Vancouver implements a Stormwater Planning Program to inform and assist in development of policies and strategies as water quality management tools to protect receiving waters.

Vancouver is currently working on updates to its Comprehensive Plan which will shape how the community looks and feels, how it functions and operates over time. The plan will guide the City's growth and development over the next 20 years into 2045. Internal coordination as well as extensive public outreach will ensure stormwater management and watershed protection strategies are incorporated.

The City is also updating its Critical Areas ordinance which regulates development within sensitive habitats, wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas and geologic hazard areas. The entire city has been designated a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) to protect Vancouver's drinking water, which is pumped from regional groundwater aquifers. City Planning staff are leading the update effort while working with Public Works teams to ensure stormwater impacts are addressed.

Vancouver continues to implement Low Impact Development (LID) Principles and Best Management Practices (BMPs) as the preferred approach for site development per the city's land use and development codes. City staff continues to assess and document any newly identified administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID principles or LID BMPs and develop measures to address the barriers.

The city completed a Stormwater Management Action Plan in 2023 identifying the Middle Burnt Bridge Creek basin for prioritizing stormwater management actions to help lower stream temperature, increase dissolved oxygen and reduce bacteria. The City plans to begin identifying and prioritizing specific stormwater retrofit projects in the basin for conceptual design for installation of water quality BMPs.

Public Education and Outreach

Vancouver's education and outreach programs engage members of the community to increase understanding of the impact stormwater runoff has on water quality and encourage positive behaviors to reduce the use of common practices that cause or contribute to stormwater pollution.

Public education and outreach is a vital component of the City of Vancouver's ongoing actions to protect and enhance water resources and aquatic habitat. Central to these efforts is the Water Resources Education Center, funded and operated directly by the City of Vancouver.

General Awareness:

Vancouver's Water Resources Education Center provides opportunities to the general public, K-12 students, and other community groups to engage and learn about local watersheds, drinking water, surface water and stormwater management.

In 2024, the City became a supporting member of the Stormwater Partners of Southwest Washington to fund and implement a regional education and outreach program including general awareness campaigns for priority groups. The partnership include a five-year plan to select audiences and messaging throughout the permit term with consistency across six jurisdictions. This formal collaboration leverages expertise and resources for more effective implementation.

City staff provide technical assistance and outreach to local businesses and industries. Vancouver is a member of Ecology's statewide Pollution Prevention Assistance Program which offers free, hands-on technical assistance to help businesses identify and initiate practical methods to reduce and eliminate non-stormwater discharges to stormwater systems. Funding from the federal Environmental Protection Agency is allowing the City to help support local small businesses safely dispose of dangerous waste (that could impact public health and our water systems if not stored and disposed of properly) by providing free waste disposal drop off services for a limited time.

Behavior Change:

Vancouver has joined a regional education and outreach program through an interlocal agreement with the Stormwater Partners to develop a behavior change campaign focused on dumpster maintenance. The behavior emphasis is on preventing stormwater contamination and leaching pollution by closing the dumpster lid. A consultant has been retained and planning sessions are underway to set priorities and work toward rolling out the campaign.

Stewardship Opportunities:

The Water Resources Education Center offers numerous stewardship opportunities throughout the year to engage the public in learning about the environment. The Student Watershed Monitoring Network serves thousands of students annually and the Storm Drain Medallion Program allows residents to install markers at catch basins in their neighborhoods to reduce the risk of pollution entering water resources.

Public Education and Outreach (continued)

Other stewardship opportunities provided through the City of Vancouver include our Volunteer Program and Litter Stewards with events targeting litter cleanup, ivy pulls, native plant installations, and adopt-a-park activities across the community. Our Urban Forestry program will host multiple events around the city for tree plantings, tree maintenance trainings and community festivals. Public Works staffs training events on recycling, composting and conscious consumption.

Public Involvement and Participation

On-going opportunities for public involvement and participation in stormwater management planning provides valuable insight on the community's priorities and concerns for mitigating stormwater impacts.

A variety of platforms are available for the public to provide input on Vancouver's stormwater management plans, including an invitation to comment on annual updates to the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). The SWMP and Annual Report are submitted to the Department of Ecology and posted on the City website by May 31 each year.

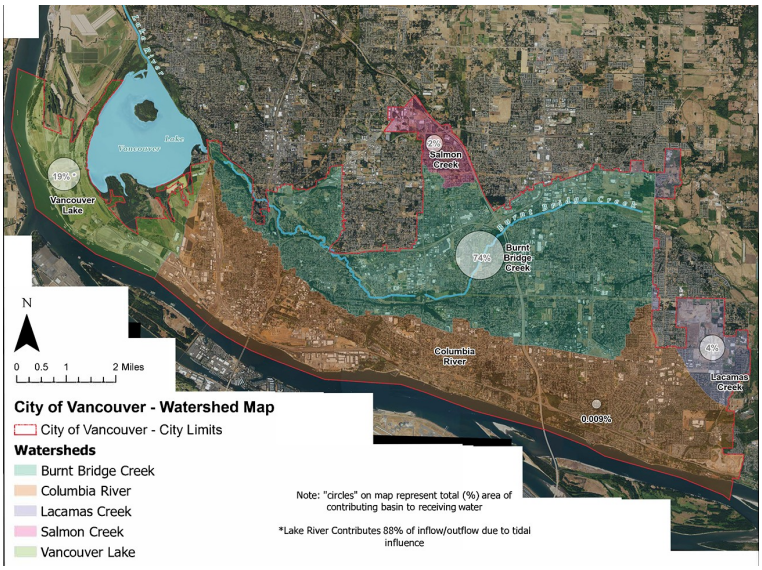
Vancouver City Council enacts ordinances and resolutions, adopts rules and regulations, and approves the city budget and utility rate structure. City Council meets the first through fourth Mondays of each month (except holidays or fifth Mondays). Council meetings are open to the public and provide various opportunities for public comment or testimony. Meetings are held at City Hall Council Chambers and aired (live closed captioning available) via Clark/Vancouver Television (CVTV) and on the City's Facebook page.

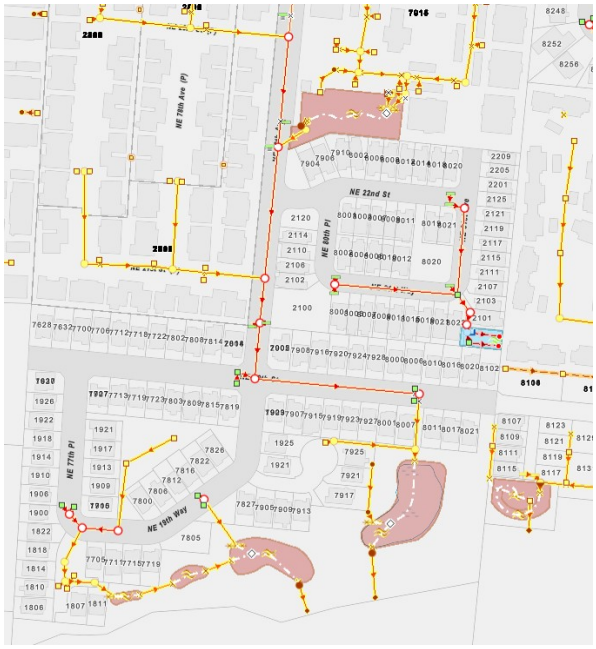
We are working on an update to our citywide Comprehensive Plan and the city provided opportunities to provide input through April 2024 on proposed changes for consideration by the Planning Commission. The City intends for the Comprehensive Planning process to be co-creative and iterative with community members with an emphasis on historically underrepresented, excluded or negatively impacted communities. The plan encompasses areas on infrastructure, equity, climate and economic development. It will be finalized in June of 2025.

MS4 Mapping and Documentation

Vancouver maintains GIS data of the stormwater system. Vancouver's mapping program includes attributes of all known outfalls to surface waters, receiving waters, stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned and operated by the City, tributary conveyances to known outfalls and discharge points (24-inch diameter or larger), and connections with other public and private stormwater systems.

This data is regularly updated by the City's team of GIS technicians that maintain and update electronic maps and databases for the stormwater utility. Field reconnaissance and televised inspections support the ongoing process of identifying pipe type and verifying public and private connections to and from the city's stormwater system to fill in missing data gaps. Mapping information is regularly updated as new public and private projects are completed and existing systems inspected. Stormwater mapping data is available upon request.





Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Vancouver's Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program is designed to prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and illicit discharges into water resources to reduce the risk of non-stormwater contaminants entering water resources. In Vancouver, the IDDE program addresses pollution issues associated with the MS4 as well as water quality concerns related to storm, surface, and groundwater outside the scope of the NPDES permit. Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) Chapter 14.26 prohibits the discharge of contaminants to water resources and requires certain operations and activities to utilize best management practices to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city and preserve the integrity of the city's water resources.

The City provides education and technical assistance to businesses, industries, and the general public on how to implement water resource protection and pollution control practices. When those measures have been unsuccessful in eliminating illicit discharges, the use of escalating enforcement procedures and legal actions are supported through VMC Chapter 22.

The City works with local, state and federal agencies to locate, assess, characterize, trace and remove sources of illicit discharges. When discharges contribute to violations of state water quality standards the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is notified. The City maintains a hotline (360-487-7130) and email address (CityWaterProtection@cityofvancovuer.us) that allows community members to report illicit discharges or dumping. Calls and emails are directed to the appropriate response authority for investigation, containment, and follow up.

The Water Protection Program actively inspects and monitors industrial facilities, commercial operations and residences for water quality compliance and best management practices. Technical assistance is provided to public employees, businesses, and the general public on the hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of potentially harmful materials.

Field assessments and outfall inspections take place throughout the year with targeted screening during the dry weather months to locate and accurately map storm system features and look for indicators of illicit discharges. All inspections, investigations, illicit discharges and spill-related activities are tracked in the program's database.

Ongoing efforts include improving clarity in standard operating procedures and methods for tracking, evaluating, categorizing, correcting, and documenting illicit discharges. City staff continue to research, review, and develop technical assistance tools to minimize accidental pollutant releases to waters of the state. Training is conducted for all city staff responsible for identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges.

Controlling Runoff

New Development, Redevelopment & Construction Sites

Multiple city departments implement programs to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the City's stormwater system and water resources from new development, redevelopment, and construction activities on both private and public sites.

Vancouver Municipal Code 14.24 (Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control) and 14.25 (Stormwater Control) were established to prevent harm to the health or safety of the public by minimization of stormwater runoff and erosion of sediment from land development and land-disturbing activities. The Water Resources Protection Ordinance (VMC 14.26) was created to protect water resources by establishing development regulations and minimum standards to reduce the risks of contaminants entering water resources. Collectively, these ordinances provide the City with the legal authority to inspect and enforce requirements and standards that protect water quality and reduce the discharge of pollutants.

Citywide processes have been established for controlling runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites through planning review and field inspection. The City's Community Development department coordinates the overall site planning process while Public Works staff review proposals to determine the applicability of Minimum Requirements for stormwater management following Appendix 1 of the Stormwater Permit. An integrated permitting database system and GIS mapping are some of the tools used to track and record reviews, inspections, and enforcement actions for property development and construction activity.

The City has qualified engineering and planning staff reviewing all site plans for stormwater management, erosion control, and water resource protection compliance on private and public projects, including roads.

The link to the electronic Notice of Intent (NOI) forms for the Construction Stormwater General Permit and the Industrial Stormwater General Permit are provided to applicants during the site plan review process.

The City inspects all development sites that meet the minimum thresholds of the Stormwater Permit prior to land clearing, during construction, and upon completion of construction. All primary inspection staff have completed required and appropriate training to implement these program elements; follow -up training is routinely scheduled to address changes in procedures, techniques or staffing.

Operations & Maintenance

Vancouver implements an operations and maintenance (O&M) program to regulate and conduct activities that ensure facilities continue to prevent or reduce stormwater impacts by setting standards and timely maintenance intervals for facilities owned, operated, or regulated by the City.

Publicly-owned System:

City Stormwater Operations has an ongoing program to inspect and clean or maintain publicly owned catch basins, manholes, conveyance pipes, and stormwater facilities as well as regularly sweeping City streets. Inspections are conducted at intervals prescribed in the NPDES Stormwater Permit. Maintenance actions are performed in accordance with standards. Spot checks of stormwater facilities are conducted following major storm events that exceed the 10-year 24-hour storm (3.0-3.5 inches of rainfall in 24 hours) to identify any damage and additional maintenance needs.

Privately-owned System:

The City's Stormwater Control ordinance (VMC 14.25) and land use process are the mechanisms used to identify maintenance responsibilities and inspection authority for privately owned stormwater facilities in Vancouver. Stormwater facilities that discharge to the MS4 are inspected in accordance with the Permit and Stormwater Manual.

Staff Training:

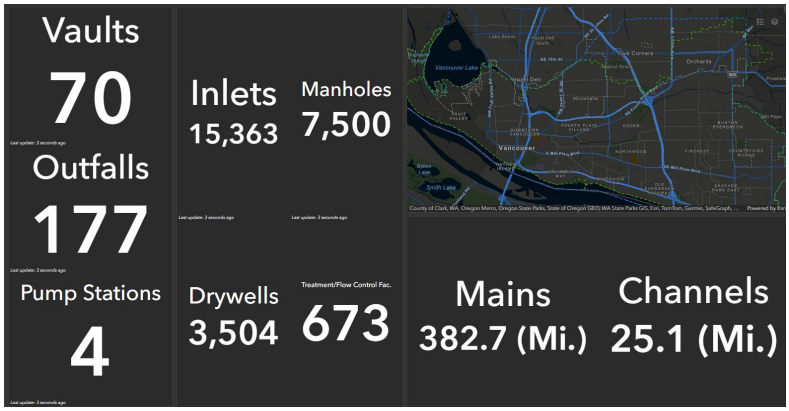
City staff with construction, operations, or maintenance activities related to stormwater control and treatment receive in-person training at regular intervals on preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. Recently developed training videos for field staff are available to all City employees through a city-wide learning program (Workday). Videos can be viewed on demand and assigned to new personnel.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP):

The SWPPP for the City's Operations Center details stormwater best management practices used to protect water resources from equipment, materials and activities that may be exposed to precipitation and where runoff could result in contaminating water resources.

Record Maintenance:

A computerized maintenance management system (INFOR) and GIS mapping applications are used to schedule and document inspections, maintenance activities and enforcement actions.



Source Control Program for Existing Development

The City of Vancouver implements the Water Resource Protection Program to prevent and reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff with legal authority adopted in Vancouver Municipal Code (14.26).

This program includes requiring application of operational and structural source control Best Management Practices (BMPs) for sites that have the potential to generate pollutants; city staff maintain a site inventory, conduct sites visits at businesses identified through evaluation of potential risk, and initiate enforcement procedures for sites that fail to adequately implement required BMPs.

City staff will annually conduct site visits equal to 20% of the inventory to ensure businesses are effectively implementing operational and/or structural BMPs to prevent illicit discharges and reduce pollutant discharges to surface water or the stormwater drainage system. Initial site visits will focus on providing information and technical assistance regarding appropriate pollution prevention strategies. Follow-up, education, and progressive enforcement actions are used to bring sites into compliance.

Staff responsible for implementing the source control program receive on-going training on source control BMPs and their proper application, site visit protocols, and enforcement procedures to remain current with technological advances in stormwater management and compliance with regulatory requirements.

For the coming year, site visits will prioritize industrial land uses and operations. Each staff member will have an assigned geographic area in the city to build relationships and have continuity with expectations. Building rapport with businesses and establishing trust is key to implement this permit requirement and cultivate voluntary compliance when possible.

Monitoring & Assessment

Regional status and trends monitoring:

Vancouver, in collaboration with other Southwest Washington stormwater permittees, developed a regional status and trends monitoring program to meet state receiving water monitoring objectives. All permittees in the Lower Columbia River Basin pay into a collective fund to implement monitoring of urban streams across Clark and Cowlitz Counties. Vancouver supports this effort by annually contributing $65,208 towards the Lower Columbia urban streams monitoring administered by the Department of Ecology. One site in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed is included as a long-term trend site in the regional monitoring program.

Effectiveness studies and source identification:

Vancouver contributes annual payments of $73,112 into a collective fund to implement effectiveness studies undertaken by the Western Washington Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) program. The city provides information as requested for effectiveness and source identification studies that are under contract with Ecology as active SAM projects.

City stream monitoring:

Ongoing water quality monitoring in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed is undertaken by the City to maintain consistency with past monitoring efforts, identify stream reaches that show improvement, and provide feedback for adaptive strategies in stormwater management. Eleven sites are currently monitored for a broad suite of parameters in twelve events each year. In addition, a microbial source tracking project will collect samples at all sites over the six events in 2025 for DNA analysis to improve our understanding of fecal bacteria sources in the watershed. Samples will be evaluated for presence of human, bird, dog and cow markers to inform priority best management practices that reduce bacteria concentrations to Burnt Bridge Creek.

Washington Department of Ecology is finalizing development of an Advance Restoration Plan (ARP) to improve water quality in Burnt Bridge Creek. The ARP will identify water quality targets and activities needed to meet state standards before completion of a full Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. TMDL compliance requirements, identified in the stormwater permit (S7), are not applicable until a formal TMDL plan has been completed and approved by EPA.

Monitoring along the Columbia Slope watershed supported by grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was completed in 2024. This effort improved our understanding of stormwater contaminants that potentially reach the Columbia River.

City departments and partners collaborate to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of these programs and activities. The results from effectiveness studies inform the adoption of proactive and adaptive stormwater treatment measures as best available science is integrated into new water quality treatment options.

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Regulation and Groundwater Protection

Stormwater management and source water protection are integrally tied in the City of Vancouver. Infiltration to manage stormwater runoff has been extensively used through large portions of the city as the underlying geology allows water to easily be drained into the ground. Reliance on groundwater to supply the city's drinking water increases the need to protect all water resources from stormwater runoff that may carry contaminants to surface or groundwater resources.

The UIC program was created under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to regulate fluid discharges into subsurface areas through drywells and similar infiltration facilities. In the state of Washington all groundwater is considered a potential source of drinking water, and the state Department of Ecology administers the UIC program. Although the NPDES Stormwater Permit program was established under the Clean Water Act to protect water quality in surface waters, the state of Washington implements the permit and regulates discharges to all waters of the state, including groundwater. Washington State Department of Ecology regulates all UIC discharges through 173-218 WAC (Washington Administrative Code) and Stormwater Management Manual of Western Washington. All existing UICs operated and maintained by Surface Water Management are considered Class V injection wells. The City is directed to use all known, available, and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment to prevent and control pollution (AKART) to waters of the state. All new UICs are reviewed for compliance with both Ecology and City requirements and are registered with Ecology as required by the WAC. All UICs receive rule-authorization from Ecology prior to being placed into service.

Stormwater runoff that enters infiltration systems can combine with shallow groundwater that reaches surface water or eventually recharges deeper groundwater aquifers. Burnt Bridge Creek and springs along the Columbia Slope are fed by surface water and shallow groundwater that also carries stormwater from infiltration systems such as drywells. Vancouver inspects and maintains close to 3,800 drywells and nearly 60 miles of infiltration trenches, many in place for over 40 years. Stormwater Operations staff inspect UICs on a regular basis, and clean when sediment accumulates above the sump or when standing water is present for over 48 hours after a moderate rainfall event. Special attention is paid to systems that have shown signs of diminished functionality, and non-functioning systems are retrofit or rehabilitated in place where feasible. If a UIC needs a complete rehabilitation, additional BMPs such as pre-sedimentation manholes and catch basins with additional sediment capture capability are installed. If rehabilitation of a non-functioning UIC is considered infeasible, the City utilizes a Capital Improvement Program to design and construct new UICs which meet all current regulatory and functional requirements.

In addition to maintenance on specific UICs, Stormwater Operations conducts targeted rotational cleaning of drainage systems that

Underground Injection Control (UIC) Regulation and Groundwater Protection

flow into the UICs throughout the City. These supplemental maintenance activities include street sweeping, more frequent cleaning of catch basins, and line flushing to increase the longevity and functionality of the systems. Over time, and where feasible, the City has added water quality treatment to infiltration systems that are not providing removal of sediment and contaminants to bring them up to current standards. The City is currently prioritizing high-traffic corridors, as indicated in the SMAP, when planning Capital Improvements for UICs.

A primary source of Vancouver's drinking water is the Troutdale Aquifer which has been federally designated for protection as a Sole Source Aquifer, providing over 99% of the drinking water consumed in western Clark County. The entire City of Vancouver has also been designated as a Critical Aquifer Recharge Area (CARA) to protect groundwater that is the source of the city's drinking water supply. Vancouver enacted a Stormwater Control Ordinance in 1995 requiring water quality treatment for new development and redevelopment activities which create or replace impervious surfaces. The Water Resources Protection Program implements Vancouver Municipal Code Chapter 14.26 (VMC 14.26) which prohibits the discharge of contaminants to water resources and requires certain operations to utilize best management practices to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the city and the integrity of the city's water resources. VMC 14.26 also establishes greater standards of compliance for businesses and industries that manage hazardous materials and creates Special Wellhead Protection Areas around the City's water stations.

More Information

Webpage: www.cityofvancouver.us/stormwater
Email: surfacewater@cityofvancouver.us

City of Vancouver | Public Works
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Water Quality Program

Permit Submittal Electronic Certification

Permittee: VANCOUVER CITY

Permit Number: WAR045022 **Site Address:** 4500 SE COLUMBIA WAY VANCOUVER, WA 98661

Submittal Name: MS4 Annual Report Phase II Western

Version: 1 **Due Date:** 3/31/2025

Questionnaire

Number	Permit Section	Question	Answer
1	S9.D.6	Attach a map of any annexations, incorporations or boundary changes resulting in an increase or decrease in the Permittee's geographic area of permit coverage during the reporting period per S9.D.6.	OrdM-4491_Vancouver Housing Au_1_03212025150102
2	S5.A.2; S9.D.1	Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2; S9.D.1)	2025 Vancouver Stormwater Mana_2_032120251501 03
3	S5.A	Implemented an ongoing program to gather, track, and maintain information per S5.A.3, including costs or estimated costs of implementing the SWMP.	Yes
4	S5.A.5.b	Continued to coordinate among departments within the jurisdiction to eliminate barriers to permit compliance. (S5.A.5.b)	Yes
5	S9.D.4	If applicable, identify other entities relied on to satisfy any of the obligations under the Permit. (S9.D.4)	Not Applicable
6	S5.C.1.a	Continue to convene an interdisciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of the stormwater planning program? (S5.C.1.a.)	Yes
12	S5.C.1.c.i	Continue to design and implement local development-related codes, rules, standards, or other enforceable documents to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff, where feasible? See S5.C.1.c.i. (Required annually)	Yes
13	S5.C.1.c.i(a)	From the assessment described in S5.C.1.c.i (a), did you identify any administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID Principles or LID BMPs? (Required annually)	No
19	S5.C.2	Did you choose to adopt one or more elements of a regional program? (S5.C.2)	Yes
19a	S5.C.2	If yes, list the elements, and the regional program.	Behavior change, general awareness and stewardship, Stormwater Partners of Southwest Washington

20	S5.C.2	Attach a description of general awareness efforts conducted, including your target audiences and subject areas, per S5.C.2.a.i.	2024 Stormwater Partners Annua_20_032120251611139
24	S5.C.2.a.iii	Provided, partnered, or promoted stewardship opportunities to encourage resident participation in activities such as those described in S5.C.2.a.iii.	Yes
24a	S5.C.2.a.iii	Attach a list of stewardship opportunities provided.	Q24a Stewardship Opportunities_24a_03262025093906
25	S5.C.3.a	Describe in Comments field the opportunities created for the public to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and updates of the Permittee's SWMP and the SMAP.	The City's Stormwater Management Program plan is posted on the website and is open for public comment. Feedback was invited through a variety of communication channels including social media posts, newsletter distribution lists and the City website. The public may address stormwater issues through division budget approvals, stormwater rates and public hearings at City Council meetings. City Council meetings are open to in-person attendance; options for viewing/participating remotely are accommodated. All City Council meetings are broadcast (live closed captioning available) on www.cvtv.org, CVTV cable channels 23/HD323, and on the City's Facebook page.
25a	S5.C.3.a.i	Describe specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically, highly impacted communities. (S5.C.3.a.i)	The City has started the process to identify these communities for the December 2026 permit requirement.
26	S5.C.3.	Posted the updated SWMP Plan and latest annual report on your website no later than May 31. (S5.C.3.b)	Yes
26a	S5.C.3.	List the website address in Comments field.	https://www.cityofvancouver.us/government/department/public-works/water-sewer-and-stormwater/stormwater-management-plan/
27	S5.C.4.	Maintained an electronic map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.?	Yes

32	S5.C.5.b	Informed public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste. (S5.C.5.b)	Yes
32a	S5.C.5.b	Describe actions in Comments field. (S5.C.5.b)	Updated websites for spill reporting, water resource protection, and pollution prevention actions for businesses and homeowners. Distributed materials with updated illicit discharge information to neighborhoods and businesses during source control and private stormwater facility inspections. Attended Local Interagency Networking Cooperative (LINC) meetings to share information with enforcement staff from other public agencies.
33	S5.C.5.c	Implemented an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to effectively prohibit non-stormwater, illicit discharges as described in S5.C.5.c.	Yes
35	S5.C.5.d.i	Implemented procedures for conducting illicit discharge investigations in accordance with S5.C.5.d.i.	Yes
35a	S5.C.5.d.i	Cite field screening methodology in Comments field.	Herrera's 2013 Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracing Guidance Manual for ECY.
36	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Percentage of MS4 coverage area screened in the reporting year per S5.C.5.d.i. (Required to screen 12% on average each year.)	32
36a	S5.C.5.d.i(a)	Cite field screening techniques used to determine percent of MS4 screened.	The outfalls are screened annually by watershed, rotating between the Burnt Bridge Creek and Columbia Slope watershed. In 2024, 56 of 177 outfalls were screened.
37	S5.C.5.d.ii	Describe how you publicized a hotline telephone number for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges in the Comments field. (S5.C.5.d.ii)	Information is on the city website and on spill rack cards handed out to businesses.
38	S5.C.5.d.iii	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all municipal field staff per S5.C.5.d.iii.	Yes

39	S5.C.5.e	Implemented an ongoing program to characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4 per S5.C.5.e.	Yes
40	S5.C.5.f	Implemented an ongoing illicit discharge training program for all staff responsible for implementing the procedures and program described in S5.C.5.f.	Yes
41	S5.C.5.g	Attach a report with data describing the actions taken to characterize, trace, and eliminate each illicit discharge reported to, or investigated by, the Permittee as described in S5.C.5.g. The submittal must include all of the applicable information and must follow the instructions, timelines, and format described in Appendix 13.	WAR045022-2024-ImportedIDDEs_03262025105123
42	S5.C.6.b.i-iii	Continued to implement an ordinance or other enforceable mechanism to effectively address runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites per the requirements of S5.C.6.b.i-iii.	Yes
44		Does the ordinance or other enforceable mechanism follow a Phase I program approved by Ecology (S5.C.6.b.i)?	No
45	S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1	Number of adjustments granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i. and Section 5 of Appendix 1)	0
46	S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1	Number of exceptions granted to the minimum requirements in Appendix 1. (S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 1)	1
46a	S5.C.6.b.i., and Section 6 of Appendix 2	Number of exceptions granted to the Minimum Requirements #5?	Not Applicable
47	S5.C.6.c.i	Reviewed Stormwater Site Plans for all proposed development activities that meet the thresholds adopted pursuant to S5.C.6.b.i. (S5.C.6.c.i)	Yes
47a	S5.C.6.c.i	Number of site plans reviewed during the reporting period.	513
48	S5.C.6.c.ii	Inspected, prior to clearing and construction, permitted development sites per S5.C.6.c.ii?	Yes
49	S5.C.6.c.iii	Inspected permitted development sites during construction to verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls per S5.C.6.c.iii.	Yes
49a	S5.C.6.c.iii	Number of construction sites inspected per S5.C.6.c.iii.	685
49b	S5.C.6.c.iv	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities and catch basins in new residential developments at least twice per 12-month period with no less than 4 months between inspections, per S5.C.6.c.iv?	Yes
50	S5.C.6.	Inspected all permitted development sites upon completion of construction and prior to final approval or occupancy to ensure proper installation of permanent stormwater facilities. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes

51	S5.C.6.	Verified a maintenance plan is completed and responsibility for maintenance is assigned for projects prior to final approval and occupancy being granted. (S5.C.6.c.v)	Yes
52	S5.C.6.c.viii	Number of enforcement actions taken during the reporting period (based on construction phase inspections at new development and redevelopment projects, per S5.C.6.c.ii-iv). (S5.C.6.c.viii)	42
53	S5.C.6.c.vi	Achieved at least 80% of scheduled construction-related inspections. (S5.C.6.c.vi)	Yes
54	S5.C.6.d	Made online links to Ecology's Construction Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, the Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent, and the registration requirements for Underground Injection Control (UIC) available to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment? (S5.C.6.d)	Yes
55	S5.C.6.e	All staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to control stormwater runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement are trained to conduct these activities. (S5.C.6.e)	Yes
56	S5.C.7.b	Attach a list of projects that are fully funded, started, completed and/or scheduled for implementation during this permit term for the purpose of meeting S5.C.7.b, with the information and formatting specified in Appendix 12. Attach an updated list annually. (S5.C.7.b,)	Q56 Existing Development repor_56_03262025093302
57	S5.C.8.b	Updated inventory to identify institutional, commercial and industrial properties which have the potential to generate pollutants to the Permittee's MS4 per S5.C.8.b? (Required at least once every five years)	Yes
57a	S5.C.8.b	Number of total sites identified for the inventory.	4184
58	S5.C.8.a-d	Attach a summary of actions taken to implement the source control program, per S5.C.8.a-d.	Q58 Source Control Summary 202_58_03242025155250
59	S5.C.8.d	Attach a list of inspections, per S5.C.8.c.v, organized by the business category, noting the number of times each business was inspected and if enforcement actions were taken, per S5.C.8.d.	2024 Source Control Inspection_59_03242025154652
60	S5.C.8.e	Implemented an ongoing source control training program per S5.C.8.e?	Yes
61	S5.C.9.a	Implemented maintenance standards that are as protective, or more protective, of facility function than those specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington or a Phase I program approved by Ecology per S5.C.9.a?	Yes

63	S5.C.9.a	Applied a maintenance standard for a facility or facilities which do not have maintenance standards specified in the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington? (S5.C.9.a)	Yes
63a	S5.C.9.a.ii	If so, note in the Comments field what kinds of facilities are covered by this alternative standard. (S5.C.9.a)	Stormfilter O&M
64	S5.C.9.a.ii	Verified that maintenance was performed per the schedule in S5.C.9.a.ii when an inspection identified an exceedance of the maintenance standard.	Yes
64a	S5.C.9.a.ii	Attach documentation of maintenance time frame exceedances that were beyond the Permittee's control.	Not Applicable
65	S.5.C.9.b.i(a)	Implemented an ordinance or other enforceable mechanisms to verify long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the permittee per S.5.C.9.b.i(a)?	Yes
66	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Inspected stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the Permittee per S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Yes
66a	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	Are you using a reduced stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities inspection frequency?	No
66b	S5.C.9.b.i(b)	If using a reduced inspection frequency on stormwater facilities regulated by the Permittee for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.b.i.(b).	Not Applicable
67	S5.C.9.b.ii	Achieved at least 80% of required inspections to verify adequate long-term O&M. (S5.C.7.b.ii)	Yes
68	S5.C.9.c.i	Annually inspected municipally owned or operated permanent stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	Yes
68a	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of known municipally owned or operated stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. (S5.C.9.c.i)	1719
68b	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period.	1719
68c	S5.C.9.c.i	Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period.	826
69	S5.C.9.c.i	If using reduced inspection frequency for the first time during this permit cycle, attach documentation per S5.C.9.c.i.	Not Applicable
70	S5.C.9.c.ii	Conducted spot checks and inspections (if necessary) of potentially damaged stormwater facilities after major storms as per S5.C.7.c.ii.	Not Applicable
71	S5.C.9.c.iii	Inspected municipally owned or operated catch basins and inlets every two years or used an alternative approach? Cleaned as needed? (S.5.C.9.c.iii)	Yes
71a	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of known catch basins and inlets?	16446
71b	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets inspected during the reporting period?	11461
71c	S5.C.9.c.iii	Number of catch basins and inlets cleaned during the reporting period?	10917

72	S5.C.9.c.iii	Attach documentation of alternative catch basin inspection approach for those owned or operated by the Permittee, if used, per S5.C.9.c.iii.	Not Applicable
73	S5.C.9.d	Implemented practices, policies and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands owned or maintained by the Permittee, and road maintenance activities under the functional control of the Permittee. (S5.C.9.d)	Yes
79	S5.C.9.f	Implemented a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards, and material storage facilities owned or operated by the Permittee in areas subject to this Permit that are not required to have coverage under an NPDES permit that covers stormwater discharges associated with the activity. (S5.C.9.f)	Yes
80	S5.C.9.g	Implemented an ongoing training program for Permittee employees whose primary construction, operations or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality. (S5.C.9.g)	Yes
81	S7.A	Complied with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)-specific requirements identified in Appendix 2. (S7.A)	Not Applicable
82	S7.A	For TMDLs listed in Appendix 2: Attach a summary of relevant SWMP and Appendix 2 activities to address the applicable TMDL parameter(s). (S7.A)	Not Applicable
83	S8.A.1, S8.A.2.a	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) status and trends monitoring no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.A.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year? (S8.A.2.a.)	Yes
84	S8.A.2.a, S8.A.2.b	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.A.2.a, or S8.A.2.b.	Yes
85	S8.B.1, S5.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c	Submitted payment for cost-sharing for SAM effectiveness and source identification studies no later than December 1, 2024 (S8.B.1); and no later than August 15 of each subsequent year (S8.B.2.a or S8.B.2.c)?	Yes
86	S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Notified Ecology by December 1, 2024 which option you selected: S8.B.2.a, or S8.B.2.b.	Yes
87	S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9	If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, submitted a QAPP to Ecology no later than February 1, 2025? (S8.C.1.b and Appendix 9)	Not Applicable
89	G3	Notified Ecology in accordance with G3 of any discharge into or from the Permittees MS4 which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare or the environment. (G3)	Not Applicable
90	G3	Took appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and/or the environment per G3.A.	Not Applicable

91	Compliance with standards	Notified Ecology within 30 days of becoming aware that a discharge from the Permittee's MS4 caused or contributed to a known or likely violation of water quality standards in the receiving water. (S4.F.1)	Yes
92	Compliance with standards	If requested, submitted an Adaptive Management Response report in accordance with S4.F.3.a.	Not Applicable
93	Compliance with standards	Attach a summary of the status of implementation of any actions taken pursuant to S4.F.3 and the status of any monitoring, assessment, or evaluation efforts conducted during the reporting period. (S4.F.3.d)	Not Applicable
94	G20	Notified Ecology of the failure to comply with the permit terms and conditions within 30 days of becoming aware of the non-compliance. (G20)	Yes
95	G20	Number of non-compliance notifications (G20) provided in reporting year. List permit conditions described in non-compliance notification(s) in Comments field.	1

I certify under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Steve Worley

Signature

3/28/2025 11:24:49 AM

Date

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Urban Forestry 2024 Annual Report

Environmental Services | Public Works

January 2025

Acknowledgements

Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Councilmember Kim D. Harless
Mayor Pro Tem Erik Paulsen
Councilmember Diana H. Perez
Councilmember Bart Hansen
Councilmember Ty Stober
Councilmember Sarah J. Fox
Vancouver City Council 2024

City Manager Lon Pluckhahn
Deputy City Manager Lisa Brandl
Deputy City Manager vacant
Director of Public Works Steve Worley
Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services David Perlick

Table of Contents

Vision, Mission and Goals

Introduction

Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program is part of the City's Department of Public Works and works closely across all departments.

Urban Forestry seeks to improve the quality of life in our city by enhancing tree canopy to provide clean air and water for current residents, visitors and future generations. Aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits associated with a healthy tree canopy significantly influence overall community health. Tomorrow's community vitality is closely linked with today's prudent management of the urban tree canopy, or green infrastructure.

Vancouver Urban Forestry continues to improve both the level and quality of service it provides to the community. In 2024, these efforts have grown through the participation of volunteers donating more than 3,000 hours of service, the strong support of Urban Forestry's many partners and the continued interest and dedication of the community to improving Vancouver's tree canopy.

Vision

Vancouver's urban forest is a healthy, dynamic, diverse and cohesive ecosystem that is valued and cared for through community stewardship because it balances economic vitality with the conservation of natural resources now and for future generations.

Mission

The mission of Vancouver's Urban Forestry Program is to maximize the aesthetic, environmental and economic benefits that trees provide to City residents and visitors by preserving, managing and enhancing existing trees and other vegetation and promoting the reforestation of the urban area through an active integrated program with community support and participation.

Goals

Preserve existing trees and continue planning, maintenance and operating principles that improve canopy health. Restore canopy-deficient areas through tree planting to provide equitable distribution of urban forest benefits to all Vancouver residents. Promote an urban forest stewardship ethic within the community. Adhere to the City of Vancouver's Operating Principles and establish Vancouver Urban Forestry as a leader in Pacific Northwest municipal forest management.

Program Information

Vancouver Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry is supported by the Urban Forestry Commission, a seven-member volunteer commission appointed by the Vancouver City Council. The Commission helps the City to develop good management practices to conserve the community's trees and forests, organizes tree plantings, and educates community members on the importance of urban trees and proper tree care.

In 2024, the City of Vancouver's estimated population was 202,600. Increasing urbanization presents ongoing impacts to the health of Vancouver's tree canopy, as well as opportunities to enhance, expand, and appreciate our urban forest benefits.

In 2024, the Urban Forestry Program employed six full-time staff, which equates to about one full-time employee per 33,767 community members. The program is also supported by two AmeriCorps members, seasonal staff members and interns.

Vancouver's urban forest comprises all the trees in parks, in natural areas, along streets and on private property. In addition to improving the livability and vitality, our community's trees - quantified as tree canopy - provide numerous environmental benefits, including reductions in air pollution, greenhouse gases and stormwater runoff.

In 2024, Vancouver's tree canopy covered approximately 20 percent of the City, helping to preserve watershed health and reduce runoff, while improving the livability of our neighborhoods.

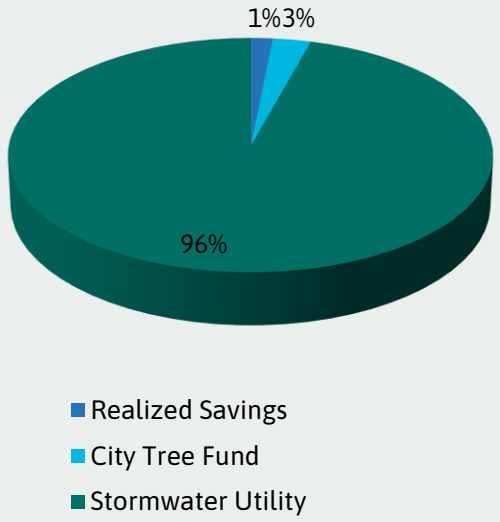
Focused Funding

Vancouver's Urban Forestry benefits from a mix of revenues. These include the City's Department of Public Works Stormwater Utility Fund and the City's Tree Fund, for a total budget of $2,070,887.00 in 2024. Funding sources and the expenditures for 2024 are summarized in the following charts.

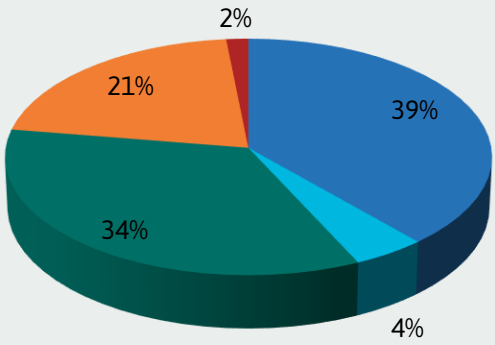
Including Urban Forestry in the City's Surface Water (stormwater) Management Plan represents a comprehensive watershed approach to improving water quality. These dedicated funding sources are vital to the success of Urban Forestry. The sound public investment will pay dividends for many years to come by effectively improving water quality, decreasing runoff and flooding, improving fish and wildlife habitat and assisting the municipality in meeting state and federal regulations.

In addition to these dedicated funding sources, Urban Forestry receives thousands of hours of volunteer time and in-kind contributions from our many partners (see page 19). These factors allow the program to be much more accomplished through an active, integrated program that has grown with support and participation at all levels within the community. The in-kind dollars do not include contributions from other City programs based on their impacts related to the urban forest. Without such strong support, the City's Urban Forestry Program would not be able to accomplish its mission. In 2024, these in-kind contributions, along with grants and donations (including those for Witness Trees), totaled $237,907.00.

2024 Funding



2024 Expenditures



Accomplishments

Program Developments

- The new **Hazard/Invasive Tree Assistance Program** supported 5 property owners to remove 8 hazardous trees and replant with quality long lived trees. This income-based tree care assistance program addresses hazards and long-term needs including invasive species, hazard abatement and planting of new, quality trees on both public and private property.
- With community support, staff began to implement Vancouver's 2023 Urban Forestry Management Plan. The plan recommends directions and actions for Vancouver to optimize the benefits of trees. The plan incorporates an integrated, equitable and sustainable approach to preserving and enhancing the City's urban forest resources over the next 25 years.
- As part of the ambitious goals set by the Climate Action Framework (CAF), in 2024 Urban Forestry increased tree planting, community engagement and tree maintenance goals to ensure an equitable urban forest for all community members.
- Urban Forestry developed the **Environmental Youth Corps**, a workforce development program that provides paid job training for youth 16 – 18 years old. The grant-funded project improves the health of Vancouver's urban natural systems, creates green job opportunities, addresses climate change impacts and environmental justice and enhances community health, safety and quality of life. 20 youth participated in one of four 60-hour crews throughout the year.
- Urban Forestry completed the second year of the **Proactive Street Tree Management Program** to address city priorities of climate, equity and safety.
- Urban Forestry supported Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Volunteer Program to implement the **Naturespaces Program**. Naturespaces brings the community together to help restore and enhance select sites within the Vancouver parks system with a focus on preserving and expanding native habitat.
- Urban Forestry was awarded a grant from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to conduct a street tree inventory. This comprehensive inventory will be completed in 2025 and provide data on the health, structure, diversity and stocking levels of street trees for better management.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Very grateful for the response time and the professionalism from not just Jesse with City, but everyone that has touched this project. Jesse was kind enough to meet on site and discuss the project. This city truly cares not just about its green canopy but about its community and its members."

Accomplishments

Program Developments (Cont.)

- Urban Forestry hosted the **Pop-Up Arboretum** series at six parks during the summer and two parks during Arbor Month celebrations in April. Our parks have wonderful collections of trees, the arboretum series showcases specimen trees with fun, informative signs in multiple languages. Community members were encouraged to explore and learn about the trees in our urban forest.
- Urban Forestry coordinated **educational workshops** to educate property owners, homeowners, and landscapers on how what they do in their landscapes has a direct impact on water quality and watershed health. Urban Forestry coordinated 51 presentations and workshops in 2024 and one month-long comprehensive volunteer training, Tree Stewards, annually. Participants learn about how actions in their landscapes can improve water quality, such as removing high maintenance lawns, planting native trees and shrubs, using organic mulch and fertilizers, preserving existing trees, reducing pesticide use and picking up pet waste.
- **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**, an invasive beetle, was detected in nearby Forest Grove, Oregon in June 2022, the first detection on the West Coast. EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America since it's arrival in 2002. EAB has not been detected in Vancouver yet. Staff continued to implement Vancouver's EAB management plan to guide the response which included developing a website and outreach materials, presentations to stakeholders, inventory of ash trees, treating priority ash trees with an insecticide and removing and replacing declining ash trees.
- Urban Forestry received funding from the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist with **implementation of the EAB Management Plan**. Staff purchased treatment supplies, removed 28 ash trees, and replanted with 40 quality replacement trees, presented two EAB awareness workshops to community groups, hosted a trap tree workshop with DNR for tree care providers, and created EAB treatment and removal signs.

Accomplishments

Program Developments (Cont.)

- The Urban Forestry Commission's corridor subcommittee continues to identify and implement a 'corridor planting' program. The subcommittee collaborates with Transportation Planning to identify locations. In 2024, the group identified the **NE 39th Street Corridor** to plant 26 street and yard trees for property owners along the corridor.
- Partnered with Friends of Trees to host an intern through their **Adult Urban Forestry Internship program,** that trains individuals from underserved communities in the green jobs sector. After the successful internship, they continue to work with Urban Forestry and the City's Naturespaces Program.
- The City celebrated Arbor Month in April and was **recognized as Tree City USA for the 35th year and received the Growth Award for the 24th year.** The entire month of April was dedicated to celebrating our communities' trees with Pop-Up Arboretums at two parks, family-friendly online activities and an Arbor Day celebration at Hough Elementary School. The celebration was planned in collaboration with the Hough Student Equity Team. The event began with a school-wide assembly on the many benefits of trees and included a ceremony to recognize Vancouver's Tree City USA achievements, presented the annual **Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award** (Mac Award) to dedicated community volunteer Jane Tesner-Kleiner, and a school tree planting. The Mac Award honors longtime, dedicated volunteers who have contributed significantly to Vancouver's urban forest, planting and nurturing trees for the next generation.

Accomplishments

Awards and Recognitions

Vancouver was named “Tree City USA” for the 35th year and received the prestigious Tree City USA Growth Award for the 24th year

All six full-time staff members achieved 100 percent arborist re-certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Four staff members hold Tree Risk Assessor Qualification and three hold Urban Forest Professional certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

Vancouver hosted the first Emerald Ash Borer Trap Tree Workshop in conjunction with the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

“Jesse Batty showed excellent professionalism as well as knowledge about all things tree-related. Did not know about how good of service we get from the city of Vancouver for protecting our trees and making sure we replant the ones that have reached the end of their life cycle.”

Accomplishments

Urban Forestry in the Headlines

- 'Should you shake the ice off those trees and shrubs? WSU Master Gardener, other experts weigh in,' The Columbian, January 17, 2024.
- 'City of Vancouver prepares for pavement projects across 20 neighborhoods,' The Columbian, April 29, 2024. The Pavement Management Program and Urban Forestry staff will prepare for construction by trimming trees and vegetation throughout the designated areas.
- 'Vancouver parks to feature pop-up arboretums,' The Columbian, July 26, 2024. Program showcases fun facts about city's urban canopy.
- 'OSU study compares ways to manage forest regrowth for climate migration,' The Columbian, August 6, 2024. Vancouver reports tree canopy increase.
- 'Old Apple Tree Festival,' PDX Parent, August 27, 2024. Providing fun, food, music and history of Vancouver's Old Apple Tree.
- 'Emerald Ash Borer Trap Tree Creation Workshop,' DNR Tree Link News, October 2, 2024. This workshop was designed for municipalities and urban foresters to learn the process of trap tree creation.
- 'Should you leave leaves? In the Northwest, there are are much better options than bagging them for landfills,' The Columbian, October 29, 2024. Experts offer advice on how to find happy middle ground.

Accomplishments

Education & Outreach

- Responded to more than 1,793 requests for service and completed more than 929 site visits for residents with **99% customer satisfaction.**
- **795 adults and 257 youth volunteers** contributed a total of **4,133 volunteer hours** at tree planting and restoration events.
- The Urban Forestry Commission volunteered a total of 296 hours to further Urban Forestry's mission.
- Hosted eight TreeTalk workshops on tree planting and pruning, tree walks, Heritage Tree tours, and Emerald Ash Borer workshops attended by 149 individuals devoting 253 hours to tree education.
- Hosted 51 educational presentations or events throughout the community on proper tree care, tree benefits, tree pests and diseases and more reaching 1,183 people.
- Incorporated Community Based Social Marketing strategies into outreach and education programs to promote sustainable behavior change and increase public tree stewardship.
- Continued an outreach strategy to raise awareness of tree permit requirements and proper tree care. The strategy included ads in The Columbian and The Messenger, media releases, social media posts and articles in neighborhood newsletters.
- 14 community members completed the Neighborhood Tree Stewards educational program. Stewards received free education from professionals on tree-related topics with the goal to empower them to be liaisons to their communities. The series took a hybrid approach, with virtual presentations and in-person field days.
- Surveys at Tree Stewards workshops showed 33 percent of participants reported an increased awareness of the role trees have in improving our water quality the active steps they can take to improve watershed health.
- The AmeriCorps team partnered with Fourth Plain Forward and Vancouver Bee Project to host an Earth Day festival at the Grandmother Camus site along Fourth Plain Blvd.
- Staff tabled at the Vancouver Farmers Market and the annual Eastside National Night Out to share information on tree planting and benefits of trees.
- Hosted the annual Heritage Tree Bike Ride and two Heritage Tree walking tours along the five-mile loop through downtown highlighting 12 trees and their historical and arboricultural significance.
- Partnered with Cascade Park Library to host a display at the library entrance highlighting the benefits of trees in our watersheds.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"I appreciate that Drew not only came to my home and inspected the trees that were in question but he personally called me and explained his findings. I found him to be extremely helpful!"

Accomplishments

Tree Planting

In 2024, Urban Forestry planted 2,038 trees at more than 65 sites throughout the Vancouver community to ensure equitable benefits of our urban forest. Urban Forestry utilized the 2021 Tree Canopy Report and GIS data to identify low canopy and under resourced communities to prioritize for tree plantings. Following is a snapshot of tree plantings throughout the Vancouver community, in partnership with volunteers, contractors, partner programs and neighborhood associations:

- **Partnered with Friends of Trees** and 48 Neighborhoods to plant 533 street and yard trees at six large-scale neighborhood plantings (crew leader training, central-north, central-south, westside, northeast and southeast).
- Planted 26 trees at the campus of **Washington State School for the Blind** with volunteers; the new trees represent a variety of species, providing ongoing educational opportunities for engaging students and teachers.
- Planted seven trees at the **Volunteer Grove** in partnership with the Volunteer Program to recognize dedicated volunteers who have given their time serving with the City of Vancouver.
- Planted 22 new trees and 303 pollinator plants at Sam Brown natural area with community volunteers as part of **Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service** event.
- Planted 21 trees at the East Evergreen stormwater facility with community volunteers to provide shade and manage stormwater.

Accomplishments

Tree Planting (Continued)

- **Partnered with Vancouver School District** to plant 36 new trees at the Vancouver Tennis Center and Fort Vancouver High School with students from Fort Vancouver High School.
- **Partnered with Fourth Plain Forward** to plant free street and yard trees to residential property owners, planting 24 new trees in Rose Village and Meadow Homes Neighborhoods.
- Planted 10 new trees at **Hough Elementary School** with students as part of Arbor Day celebrations.
- Planted 26 new trees at **Marrion Elementary School** with volunteers to provide shade to the playground and track for students.
- Planted 95 trees along **SE 34th St** to replace ash trees with pest and climate tolerant trees over three days with support from Master Gardeners and community volunteers.
- Through the **Proactive Street Tree Management Program** staff, volunteers and contractors planted 397 trees along 16 recent Pavement Management projects.
- Planted a **Witness Tree** at Bella Vista Park with neighbors to recognize Bob Rowe and his many years of service to the neighborhoods.
- Hosted a **Yard Tree Giveaway** to distribute 85 native and climate-adaptive trees to residential property owners to plant in their yards to grow the urban forest and improve air and water quality, increase shade and provide habitat.
- 18 new street and yard trees were planted through the **Treefund Program**, which incentivizes planting on private property through a dedicated fund. Property owners who qualify for the Utility e-billing program and purchase and plant an approved tree on their residential properties are eligible to apply for a refund toward a portion of the tree cost.
- **Partnered with multiple local private contractors** to plant 254 trees at ten project sites, including McGillivray Blvd, Hudson's Bay High School, and Vancouver Mall. Worked closely with contractors to ensure quality standards are met on all urban forestry projects.
- Conducted an opt-out project with outreach to **rental properties in Rose Village** to plant and maintain 46 trees for renters.

Accomplishments

Tree Maintenance and Monitoring

- Achieved **98 percent survival** of newly-planted large caliper trees through the critical first summer. The region continues to endure unprecedented drought summers impacting trees.
- Maintained and monitored all 2019 through 2024 plantings to ensure survival rates.
- After five years of monitoring, the tree survival rate was 93 percent for 2019 planting projects, which was down from the survival rate of 96 percent for 2018 planting projects.
- Partnered with volunteers from 10 community groups, resulting in 204 donated hours on Urban Forestry tree maintenance and restoration projects.
- Pruned 408 young trees with staff, interns, AmeriCorps members and volunteers to improve structure, provide clearance, reduce storm damage and improve the health of trees as they mature.
- Urban Forestry continued partnership with Friends of Trees on the street tree pruning program in Vancouver. Volunteers are trained on proper pruning practices of young trees, then work in groups to prune trees in identified neighborhoods.
- Urban Forestry continued the partnership with the Parks Department and Public Works' Operations department on the proactive park pruning program. This program has moved the City from reactively to proactively maintaining public trees to increase longevity, reduce hazards and emergency care and maximize the many benefits of this public asset.

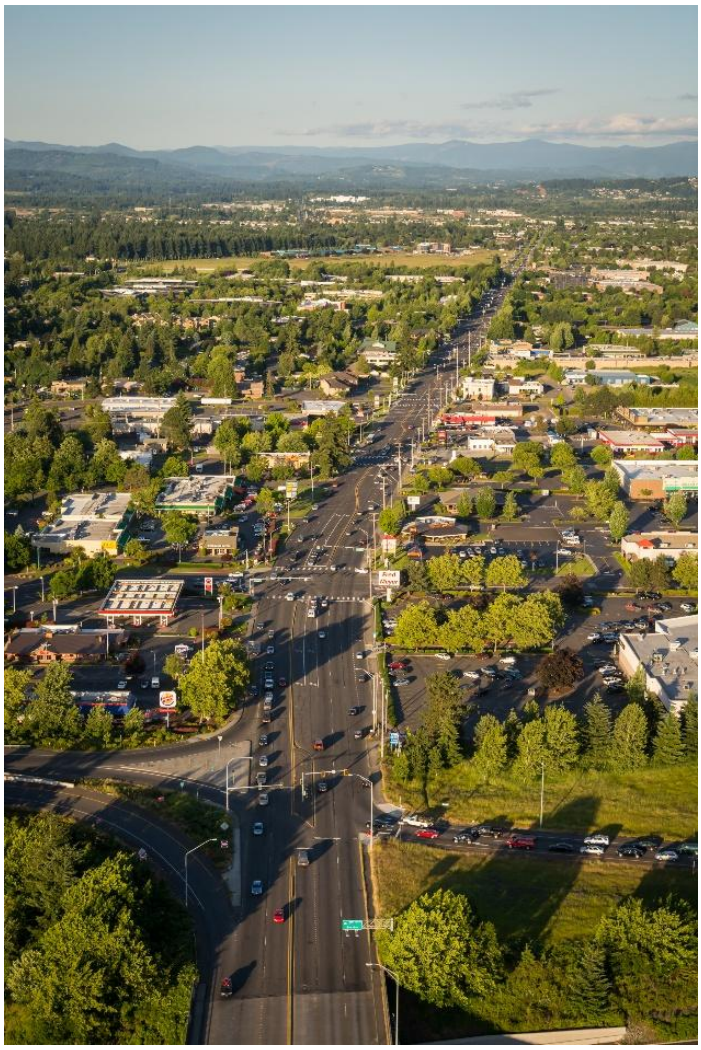
Performance Measures

		2023 Actual	2024 Goal	2024 Actual
Outcome:	The public is involved in environmental stewardship			
Intermediate Outcome:	Urban Forestry is responsive to community needs			
Output:	Calls for assistance & information	2159	Workload	1793
Output:	Site inspections	979	Workload	929
Output:	Average response time (site inspections)	13 days	10 days	11 days
Output:	Customer satisfaction as rated by program participants (new)	90%	75%	99%
Output:	Presentations and educational events	43	25	51
Intermediate Outcome:	Urban Forestry administers a viable volunteer program			
Output:	Volunteers trained (unique)	14	10	14
Output:	Volunteers participating (adults)	907	300	795
Output:	Youth participating (youth)	233	200	257
Outcome:	The public trees management program is effective			
Intermediate Outcome:	The existing mature tree canopy is preserved			
Output:	Total tree canopy acres in latest GIS Report (2023)	6,604	6,066	6,604
Output:	Technical reviews projects completed on time	651	500	794
Intermediate Outcome:	Young tree survival is improving			
Output:	Trees monitored (all projects)	7452	3,750	7975
Output:	Survival rate of new trees	96%	≥ 95%	98%
Output:	Trees pruned to improve health	731	≥ 500	408
Output:	Estimated acres of canopy at maturity	121	60	129
Intermediate Outcome:	New trees are added to the existing canopy			
Output:	Restoration projects (contractor, volunteer, youth)	50	10	65
Output:	Trees planted	1817	1700	2038
Output:	Tree seedlings and shrubs planted	170	500	253
Output:	Other plants distributed or planted	0	500	0
Output:	Native species composition of new plants	>50%	50%	>50%
Output:	Estimated increase in tree canopy this year in feet	22,713.00	21,250	25,475.00
Outcome:	Urban Forestry is a good investment			
Output:	Value of grants/donations/sponsorships and reductions	$180,660	$35,000	$237,907
Output:	Estimated value of benefits provided by newly planted trees over 40 years*	$3.6m	$1.6m	$4.1m
Output:	Value of program per tree cost (planted and maintained for 5 years)	$1,047	$700	$1,016

*based on data from Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting

**due to increase tree costs and program costs

Benefits of Trees



A healthy urban forest in Vancouver builds a strong sense of community and improves quality of life for all community members.

Urban trees can help the City manage stormwater as part of an integrated stormwater management plan to improve water quality, reduce pollutants and enhance wildlife habitat. Increased tree canopy aids in Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act compliance.

Other benefits of urban trees include city beautification, downtown revitalization, increased civic pride, outdoor recreation opportunities, natural resource education, air quality improvement, energy conservation, shading and cooling and many other environmental, social and economic benefits. Tree benefits can be optimized by reversing the trend of declining tree canopy within the city.

The 2,038 new trees planted in 2024 can be expected at maturity to intercept approximately 1,548,880 gallons of stormwater annually, equal to more than eight Marshall Center swimming pools, and absorb more than 20,380 lbs. of pollutants each year from the air we breathe.

Overall, these 2,030 new trees as they mature will provide greater than $3 million worth of benefits, a 250 percent return on this wise investment.

Benefits of Trees

Did You Know These Tree Facts?

The average tree absorbs 10 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.

Trees reduce the energy needed to heat and cool our homes by 15 to 35 percent nationwide.

The leaves of a mature tree intercept an average of 760 gallons of rainfall a year, reducing flooding, erosion and pollution from runoff.

A typical tree produces about 260 pounds of oxygen each year; two trees can supply a person’s oxygen needs each year.

An average tree reduces greenhouse gases by absorbing 26 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

Trees contribute to neighborhood livability by reducing noise, heat and by calming traffic.

Trees improve habitat for endangered fish, migratory birds and other wildlife.

Trees stabilize soil, reduce erosion and mitigate flooding.

For every dollar spent on Vancouver's urban forest, $2.50 in value is returned in benefits such as energy conservation, stormwater abatement and pollution reduction.

Unlike many other investments that depreciate, a tree's value increases with each passing year. Houses on tree-lined streets can sell for up to 20 percent higher than houses in like neighborhoods without trees.

Visit www.naturewithin.info for more information on the environmental, social, economic and human health benefits of trees.

Partners

Urban Forestry strongly values our relationships with our community partners. We recognize volunteers and partners to help us achieve our mission.

Neighborhood Associations

Airport Green Neighborhood Association

Arnada Neighborhood Association

Bagley Downs Neighborhood Association

Bella Vista Neighborhood Association

Bennington Neighborhood Association

Burnt Bridge Creek Neighborhood Association

Burton Evergreen Neighborhood Association

Carter Park Neighborhood Association

Cascade Highlands Neighborhood Association

Cascade SE Neighborhood Association

Central Park Neighborhood Association

Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

Countryside Woods Neighborhood Association

Dubois Park Neighborhood Association

East Old Evergreen Neighborhood Association

Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association

Ellsworth Springs Neighborhood Association

Emerald Landing Neighborhood Association

Father Blanchet Park Neighborhood Association

Fircrest Neighborhood Association

First Place Neighborhood Association

Fisher's Creek Neighborhood Association

Fisher's Landing East Neighborhood Association

Forest Ridge Neighborhood Association

Fourth Plain Village Neighborhood Association

Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association

Green Meadows Neighborhood Association

Harney Heights Neighborhood Association

Hearthwood Neighborhood Association

Hough Neighborhood Association

Hudson's Bay Neighborhood Association

Image Neighborhood Association

Kevanna Park Neighborhood Association

Landover-Sharmel Neighborhood Association

Lewis and Clark Woods Neighborhood Association

Lincoln Neighborhood Association

Maplewood Neighborhood Association

Marrion Neighborhood Association

Meadow Homes Neighborhood Association

Mountainview Neighborhood Association

North Garrison Heights Neighborhood Association

North Image Neighborhood Association

Northcrest Neighborhood Association

Northwest Neighborhood Association

Northwood Neighborhood Association

Oakbrook Neighborhood Association

Ogden Neighborhood Association

Old Evergreen Highway Neighborhood Association

Parkway East Neighborhood Association

Riverridge Neighborhood Association

Partners

Neighborhood Associations (Continued)

Rose Village Neighborhood Association
Shumway Neighborhood Association
Vancouver Heights Neighborhood Association
VanMall Neighborhood Association
Village at Fishers Landing Neighborhood Association
Walnut Grove Neighborhood Association
West Minnehaha Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Neighborhood Association

Non-Profit and Community Organizations

Americans Building Community
Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Washington
Cascadia Montessori School
Clark County Parks Foundation
Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center
ELSO, Inc
Fort Vancouver Lions Club
Fort Vancouver Historic Trust
Fourth Plain Forward
Friends of the Carpenter
Friends of Trees
Hardy Plant Society of Clark County
International Society of Arboriculture
Latino Leadership Northwest
Lower Columbia Nature Network
Master Gardner Foundation of Clark County
NAACP Vancouver Branch
National Arbor Day Foundation
Nature Play Designs
Pacific Education Institute
Parks Foundation of Clark County
Portland Vancouver Canopy Collective
The Confluence
The Corps Network
Urban Abundance
Vancouver Bee Project
Vancouver Ridge Garden Club
Vancouver Dawn Lions Club
Vancouver Downtown
Vancouver Farmers Market
Washington Community Forestry Council
Watersheds Alliance of SW Washington

Faith-Based Organizations

First United Methodist Church
Saint Andrews Church
Mill Plain United Methodist Church
Unitarian Church

Partners

Public Agencies

Bonneville Power Administration

City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services

City of Vancouver, City Manager's Office

City of Vancouver, Community and Economic Development Department

City of Vancouver Fire Department

City of Vancouver Neighborhood Traffic Safety Alliance

City of Vancouver, Office of Neighborhoods

City of Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Commission

City of Vancouver Planning Commission

City of Vancouver, Public Works

City of Vancouver, Water Resources Education Center

Clark College

Clark County Public Health

Clark Public Utilities

Clark/Vancouver Television (CVTV)

Evergreen School District

Fort Vancouver Regional Library District

National Parks Service

USDA Forest Service

Vancouver School District

Washington Department of Agriculture

Washington Department of Natural Resources, Urban & Community Forestry

Washington Department of Transportation

Washington Service Corps (AmeriCorps)

Washington State School for the Blind

Washington State University

Washington State University Clark County Extension Service, Master Gardeners

Private Organizations/ Business

Arborscape LTD

Bartlett Tree Experts

Cistus Nursery

Columbia Tech Center

Crumbl Cookie Co

Donut Nook

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co

Joe's Farm

Paper Tiger Coffee

Seize the Bagel

Dennis' 7 Dees

Starbucks Corporation

The Columbian

TreeWise, LLC

Urban Forestry Commission

Established for the purpose of preserving, managing, and increasing the City's urban forest thereby protecting a vital environmental, social and economic resource that benefits all residents and visitors, and for the purpose of assisting property owners and public agencies in improving and maintaining the urban forest in a manner consistent with adopted City policies. Seven members are appointed by City Council to four-year terms.

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. at Vancouver City Hall, 415 W. Sixth Street and virtually. For information, to submit comments, or attend, email urbanforestry@cityofvancouver.us.

Current membership of the Commission

Melissa Johnston, Chair
Clif Barnes, Vice-Chair
Susan Law, past Chair
Jamie Beyer
Khanh Tran
Jess Durfee
Lucius Shields

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

For more information
www.cityofvancouver.us/trees
trees@cityofvancouver.us
360-487-8733

City of Vancouver Public Works
PO Box 1995 Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Water Resources Education Center 2024 Accomplishments

Water Resources Education Center

The Water Resources Education Center serves to connect people to water through education, exploration, and stewardship of the natural world. We accomplish this through hands-on, educational programs for visitors of all ages at the Center and throughout the community in addition to engaging exhibits including aquaria with Pacific lamprey and salmon, volunteer stewardship opportunities, and community room rentals. Highlights from 2024 include the following:

- Worked with Yakama Nation Fisheries to add 10 adult, Pacific Lamprey to our 450-gallon aquarium in the exhibit hall.
- Continued partnership with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Washougal Fish Hatchery to raise 150 coho salmon eggs to fry in spring and house 25 additional coho salmon fingerlings in fall.
- Kicked off and completed the concept and schematic design phases as part of the $703,825 Water Center Exhibit Improvement Project in collaboration with external consultants, The Exhibits Department.
- Worked with nonprofit, Confluence Project, to install a new "Voices of the River" interactive, touch screen exhibit to connect visitors with the history, living culture and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices.
- Engaged more than 1,900 students during the 2023 – 2024 school year in K-12 school field trip programs to the Water Center on the topics of water quality, macroinvertebrates, and the science and sustainability of wastewater treatment.
- Engaged more than 1,500 students during the 2023-2024 school year in the county-wide, Student Watershed Monitoring Network (SWMN) program supported in part by a $60,000 annual grant from Clark County's Clean Water Program. SWMN provides teachers, chaperones and students in 3rd – 12th grades with the skills and tools to monitor and investigate water quality and support habitat health in creeks, lakes, wetlands and via stormwater facilities.
- Offered 26 volunteer stewardship events with more than 340 participants that removed ivy, picked up litter along our Columbia River beaches, and cared for the Water Center's outdoor, educational gardens.
- Offered 35 nature education programs, guided hikes, tours and events engaging more than 580 participants in a variety of topics that included birds and bird language, bats, pollinators, animal tracking, Burnt Bridge Creek, and wastewater treatment.

- Welcomed nearly 3,300 walk-in visitors to explore exhibits, outdoor gardens, and the Center during open hours, Monday – Friday, 10am to 5pm.
- Hosted 134 rentals, meetings or events in the Bruce E. Hagensen Community Room for nearly 8,000 attendees.

In 2024, Water Center programs, events, and exhibits were offered in collaboration or coordination with a variety of partners including: Clark College, Clark Conservation District, Clark County (Public Works & Public Health), Columbia Springs, Fourth Plain Forward, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Northwest Ecological Research Institute, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Vancouver Audubon, Vancouver Bee Project, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - Washougal Fish Hatchery, Watershed Alliance and Yakama Nation Fisheries.

In collaboration with the City Manager's Office staff and community partners, Water Center staff helped coordinate the City's first Youth Climate Leadership Program (YCLP) with 10 high school students. Over 10 weekly sessions and three, half-day field trips, students learned about leadership skills, teamwork, and worked on projects to address climate change. As one participant noted, "At first I didn't really think I could have done as much as we did towards climate change and we ended up creating something useful and helped educate people on things they could do". In reflecting on the impact of the program, another student commented, "I believe some of the most important things this program can teach is leadership, time management, and that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it".

stormwater PARTNERS
SW WASHINGTON

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Prepared February 2025

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stormwater Partners collaborated to develop a workplan that would deliver and develop education and outreach programs to meet permit requirements for each partner. The following report summarizes 2024 workplan activities.

Partners engaged hundreds of students and community members in their fourth annual Students for Clean Water Video Contest, an activity recognized statewide. Partners made progress on meeting the behavior change requirement by selecting dumpster maintenance as the topic and engaging key stakeholders throughout the planning process. Canines for Clean Water, an established behavior change campaign continued to be implemented throughout partner jurisdictions. Partners contracted with the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington to build general awareness with a new priority audience – college, university and trade students. Partners also developed a contract with the Clark Conservation District to implement their popular Watershed Stewardship program. The program promotes stewardship opportunities and builds a cohort of residents educated about the importance of watershed stewardship, ready to engage their communities. Perhaps the greatest achievement for the Stormwater Partners is the development of an interlocal agreement (ILA) signed in early Q2, that formalizes and funds collaborative efforts to meet permit requirements for education and outreach moving forward. It was an achievement made possible by more than seven years of demonstrating the value and success of collaboration on various outreach grants and public education projects, and by recognition that the sum of partnership is greater than its individual parts.

2.0 BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.11.a.ii.
Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.C.2.a.ii.

2.1 Dumpster Maintenance

In Q4, Stormwater Partners began planning for a collaborative behavior change campaign to meet Municipal Stormwater Permits requirements to implement a behavior change campaign. Clark County contracted with a consulting firm called C+C and worked with renowned social marketing practitioner Nancy Lee on developing the initial components of a social marketing plan.

Partners deliberated on multiple ideas and topics for a behavior change campaign and ultimately agreed to move forward with a campaign for dumpster maintenance focused on closing the lid. During the previous permit cycle, jurisdictions in the Puget Sound region developed a similar behavior change campaign and leaders from that effort generously shared experiences, research and resources they had developed.

Partners identified key local collaborators including agency solid waste staff, the Pollution Prevention Assistance program , regional source control staff and Waste Connections' commercial outreach specialist and invited them to four scheduled social marketing planning sessions. Three of the planning sessions took place in Q4 where partners contributed to a shared planning worksheet that included identifying our purpose and focus, situation analysis, priority and secondary audiences, objectives and target goals and positioning statement. The fourth and final session was scheduled for early January where marketing intervention strategies would be identified.

2.2 Canines for Clean Water

Stormwater Partners continued to implement the Canines for Clean Water behavior change campaign from the previous permit cycle. In 2024, 92 residents took the Canines for Clean Water Pledge and 14 requested signs to address pet waste issues near their home. Clark County promoted Canines for Clean Water at seven community events.

3.0 GENERAL AWARENESS

Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.11.a.i.(a.)
Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.C.2.a.i.(a.)

3.1 College, University and Trade Students

To meet the Municipal Stormwater Permit's general awareness requirements, Stormwater Partners chose college/university, or trade students as the priority audience. The awareness subject area will include general impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including those from impervious surfaces, hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste, LID principles and LID BMPs.

In Q4, Clark County contracted with the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington to identify priority audiences and opportunities to reach them, table at events, coordinate classroom presentations, develop and share outreach resources and report on activities. County staff drafted a PowerPoint slide deck to use during classroom presentations that incorporated input from partners. Partners will share presentation responsibilities coordinated by the Watershed Alliance.

3.2 Stormwater Partners Digital Marketing

The County also maintains the Stormwater Partners' website (www.stormwaterpartners.com), which is a primary resource for building general awareness on a variety of stormwater topics. In 2024, the website received 17,988 pageviews from US users.

Videos on the Stormwater Partners YouTube channel were viewed more than 58,000 times. Ninety-two percent of the views were of videos related to the Students for Clean Water Video Contest promotional video. The remaining 8% of views were of videos about stormwater facility maintenance in English, Spanish and Russian.

4.0 STEWARDSHIP

Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.11.a.iii.
Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit – S5.C.2.a.iii.

4.1 Students for Clean Water Video Contest

Stormwater Partners held their fourth annual Students for Clean Water Video Contest in 2024. One-hundred students from 12 schools submitted 65 videos about protecting water, their personal or cultural connection to water and environmental justice. City of Battle Ground staff helped revise the topics to improve clarity and direction for participants. Thirty-five of the video submissions advanced to the finalist stage to contend for the People's Choice Award where students promote their video to get the most views and engagement. In total, the community viewed student's videos more than 9,300 times.

City of Washougal staff solicited sponsorships for cash prizes from local engineering firms and nonprofit organizations who also helped judge the videos. Nine students were awarded five $500 first place prizes and five $100 honorable mention cash awards. Clark County, City of Camas and Vancouver staff promoted the contest directly to schools, via YouTube and through local businesses.

County and City of Vancouver staff presented the winning videos at a Movies in the Park event attended by more than 300 residents. Staff conducted outreach with stormwater trivia and demonstration activities for 90 minutes before presenting the videos. Winning videos can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLj22tBo_8BDtcNojIQXaeaO3Bw9CJFyNY

4.2 Watershed Stewards

Stormwater Partners included funding for the Clark Conservation District's Watershed Stewardship program. Clark County contracted with the Conservation District in late Q4 to implement the learn and serve course in 2025.

Watershed Stewards had been a long-standing program funded by the County and administered by WSU Extension until 2012 when funding was cut. In 2019, Clark Conservation District received local grant funding to revive the program which ran intermittently, due to Covid-19, through 2023. The most recent class was a hybrid format with virtual and in-person classes and included 32 participants. Partners choose to fund this program to meet stewardship requirements, build general awareness and support the education of residents who can amplify the importance of protecting water throughout our community.

The six-week course covers local watersheds, surface and groundwater, plants, fish and wildlife, and policies and regulations. Local speakers, including Stormwater Partners, present on the various topics and local organizations offering volunteering opportunities share ways participants can get involved. To complete the program, participants attend all six classes, record stewardship commitments and are encouraged to volunteer with organizations who presented opportunities. hours of community service.

5.0 SYMPOSIUM

Stormwater Partners hosted the sixth annual Stormwater Partners Symposium at Lacamas Lake Lodge on November 20. Forty-six people attended, representing state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations working to protect water in our region. Another six participants joined online.

Morgan Maupin, Ecology's Southwest Regional municipal permit manager, presented on updates in the new Municipal Stormwater Permit with a focus on education, outreach, outreach and engagement. Rapid report-outs included presentations on Adopt-a-Drain, the county's Legacy Lands program, updates on the Water Resources Education Center and the Level Up Your Lawn behavior change campaign being rolled out in 2025.

In response to past symposium surveys, Stormwater Partners organized an optional networking event at the nearby Oak Tree Station food cart pod. The event was open to all participants and anyone they wanted to invite. Approximately 30 people attended, including staff from several local engineering firms and consultants.

6.0 ADMINISTRATION

In 2024, Stormwater Partners developed an interlocal agreement that provided a framework and funding to collaborate on meeting municipal stormwater permit requirements related to education and outreach. The ILA was signed in early Q2 and will run through the current permit cycle in July 2029. Each partner, Clark County and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, Vancouver and Washougal, appoint a representative to participate in workgroup planning and implementation. The workgroup meets monthly to develop and adaptively manage annual workplans. This annual report, required under the ILA, summarizes the activities undertaken by Stormwater Partners and is meant to support documentation for municipal permit compliance.