



2026 LYNNWOOD

Annual Stormwater Management Program Plan

March 14, 2026



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If you need additional assistance in your primary language, please call 425-670-5000 and ask for an interpreter. One will be provided to you at no cost.

Spanish:

Si usted necesita asistencia adicional en su idioma principal, por favor llame al número: 425-670-5000 y solicite un intérprete. Se le proporcionará uno sin costo alguno.

Vietnamese:

Nếu cần hỗ trợ về ngôn ngữ, vui lòng gọi số 425-670-5000 và yêu cầu thông dịch viên. Bạn sẽ được trợ giúp miễn phí.

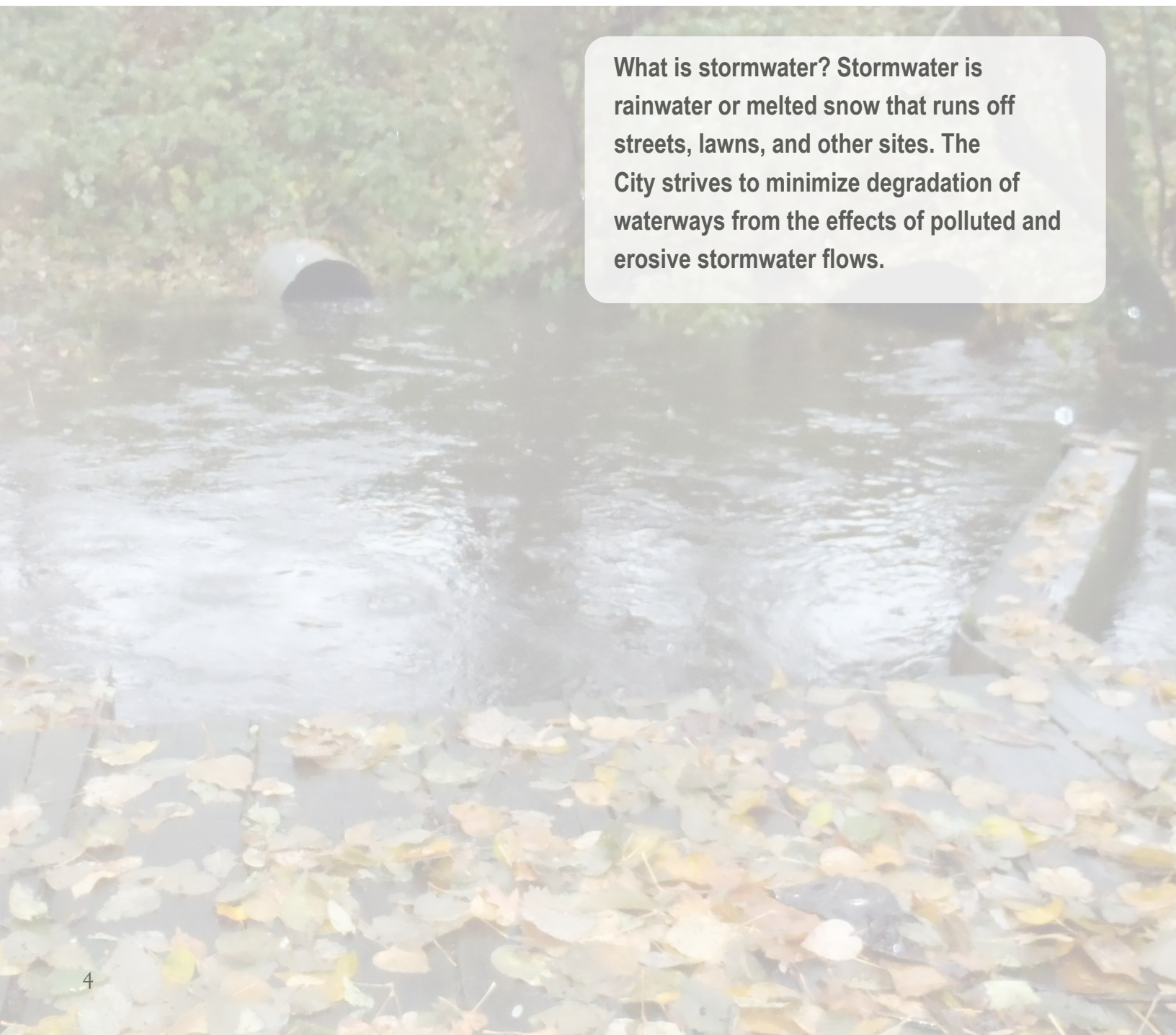
Korean:

만약 여러분이 여러분의 모국어로 도움이 필요하시면, 전화 425-670-5000 으로 전화 하셔서 통역을 요청하십시오. 무료로 통역을 제공해 드립니다.

Russian:

Если вам нужна дополнительная помощь на вашем родном языке, позвоните по номеру 425 670-5000 и попросите переводчика. Переводчик будет предоставлен вам бесплатно.

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND



What is stormwater? Stormwater is rainwater or melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, and other sites. The City strives to minimize degradation of waterways from the effects of polluted and erosive stormwater flows.

City Stormwater Program

The City of Lynnwood manages an extensive system of drainage pipes and ditches to transport stormwater runoff to streams, lakes, and the Puget Sound. This system minimizes damage to property, streets, and infrastructure. The landscape has been dramatically changed by building our homes, stores, roads, and schools, with the result that during larger storm events a variety of pollutants and high energy flows damage natural waterways. The City is challenged with transporting the runoff, meeting state and federal regulations, and minimizing the damaging effects to property and the environment.



As the utility works to implement programs, please think about your part in the solution to the stormwater problem. Look for local salmon during spawning season, plant native species in your yard or along the stream bank, identify opportunities to soak up runoff, and other actions to help keep our waters clean. Most importantly, reach out to the City with your ideas and suggestions to protect or restore our water resources. <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Contact-Us>

The Stormwater Permit

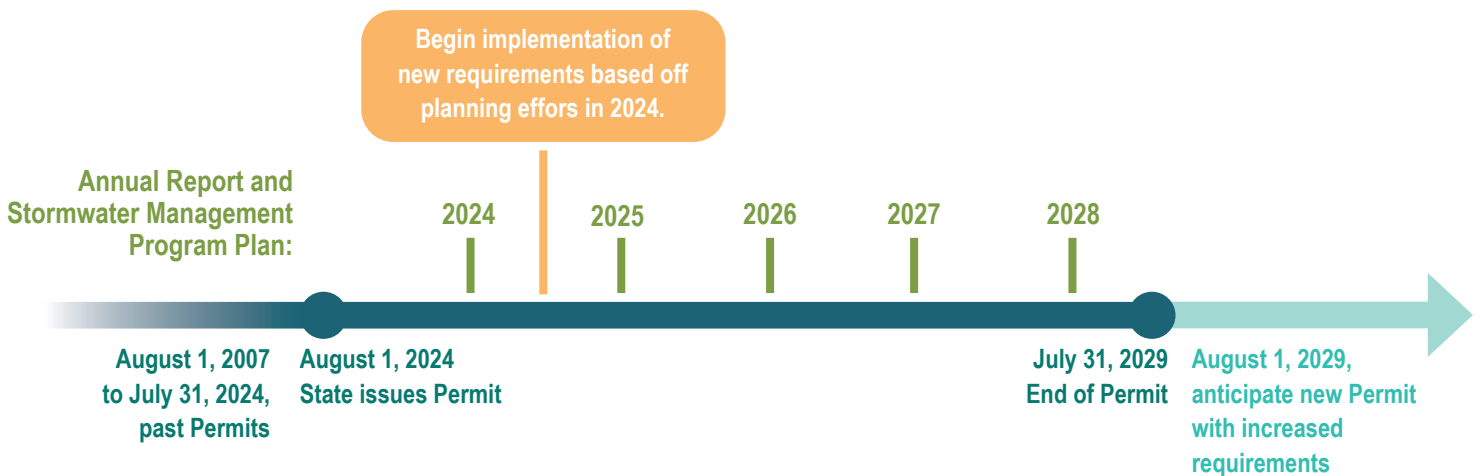
Lynnwood has a population of less than 100,000 (42,500 as of 2025) and is located in western Washington. Thus, our stormwater program must comply with conditions in the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (from here on referred to as “Permit”).

We were issued our first Permit in 2007. With each subsequent Permit, requirements for compliance have increased. The Permit governing this reporting period was originally issued on August 1, 2019, and is set to expire on July 31, 2024. See the City’s permit and reporting timeline in Figure 1 below. This plan is a requirement of the 2024-2029 Permit.

The purpose of this plan is to detail ongoing actions and planned actions for 2026 and beyond to maintain compliance with conditions in the 2024-2029 Permit. This plan is an attachment to the Annual Compliance Report (a series of questions from Ecology with City responses) and due to Ecology on March 31, 2026.

The permit allows municipalities to discharge stormwater from municipal systems into “waters of the state” such as rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater, as long as we implement programs to reduce pollutants in stormwater to the “maximum extent possible”. These permit-required programs are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: City of Lynnwood Reporting and Stormwater Permit Timeline



Stormwater Utility Rate Structure

In 2019, the City completed an analysis of activities, projects and the funding needed to carry out Permit requirements as well as system improvements. The adopted rates are shown in Table 1.

Customer Classification	2023 Bimonthly Rate	2024 Bimonthly Rate	2025 Bimonthly Rate	2026 Bimonthly Rate	2027 Bimonthly Rate	2028 Bimonthly Rate
Residential Single/ Duplex Unit	\$29.90	\$31.17	\$32.49	\$33.87	\$35.31	\$36.81
Residential Multifamily and Mobile	\$29.90	\$31.17	\$32.49	\$33.87	\$35.31	\$36.81
Commercial Industrial Sites	\$29.90	\$31.17	\$32.49	\$33.87	\$35.31	\$36.81
Special Surface Water Rate, Income Level Status A*	\$11.96	\$12.47	\$13.00	\$13.55	\$14.12	\$14.72
Special Surface Water Rate, Income Level Status B*	\$13.46	\$14.03	\$14.52	\$15.24	\$15.89	\$16.56
Special Surface Water Rate, Income Level Status C*	\$14.95	\$15.59	\$16.25	\$16.94	\$17.66	\$18.41

* Income Label Status pursuant to the Snohomish County assessor's office real property taxes exemption process

Surface Water Utility Staffing

In 2018, the City of Lynnwood's Surface Water Management Division encountered staff turnover and understaffing.

In 2019, the draft City of Lynnwood 2020 Surface Water Management Comprehensive Plan was released, recommending phasing-in two Full-Time Employees. The Lynnwood City Council approved the staffing increase. On January 1, 2020, the Surface Water Management Division added a Senior Engineering Technician, and in 2021 the group added a second Senior Engineering Technician. As of 2021, the Surface Water Management Division is fully staffed at five full-time employee positions, with an occasional seasonal intern.



The City is issued a Permit to discharge stormwater. The Permit specifies eight specific programs and activities to implement (see Figure 2). The City works to comply with the Permit requirements and conducts activities considered to be in the best interest of property owners, the community, and aquatic life. This plan details ongoing actions and planned actions for 2026.



Figure 2: City of Lynnwood Permit-Required Stormwater Programs



Surface Water Utility Supplemental Activities

This report details activities that fall under the purview of the 2024-2029 Permit. Permit compliance is one part of the City's overall surface water management strategy. However, it is important to note that the Surface Water Utility conducts a suite of additional programs that reduce flooding, protect and improve water quality, and protect and restore aquatic habitat in streams and lakes. Although not directly permit required, flood reduction and aquatic habitat restoration efforts can often further Permit compliance goals. The City completed a comprehensive planning effort from 2018 to 2020. This planning work identified additional programs and projects benefitting the community and our local surface waters.

For details on Surface Water Utility activities not addressed in this report, please see the City of [Lynnwood 2020 Surface Water Management Comprehensive Plan](#) or contact the Public Works Department at 425-670-5200.



The City received its first stormwater Permit in 2007. The Permit is reissued every 5 to 6 years by Ecology. Increasing requirements in each new Permit necessitates staffing increases to comply with the Permit and to better serve the community.

City Coordination

Compliance with the Permit requires coordination and documentation of activities in several City departments. The Public Works Department Surface Water Utility staff leads coordination of City efforts and meets with staff from other departments regularly to ensure that ongoing and planned activities meet permit requirements. Activities required for permit compliance are carried out primarily by the following departments:

- Public Works
- Community Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Administrative Services
- Finance
- City Attorney
- Fire/Building and Police departments will be involved to a lesser extent

How this Document is Organized

For each 2024-2029 Permit-required program shown in Figure 2, the requirements are listed. Next, activities are presented in two sections:

- Current and Ongoing Activities
- Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond



This report will focus on activities accomplished in 2025 and planned activities for 2026 and beyond. To begin your exploration of the City of Lynnwood Environmental and Surface Water Management Program, visit our [webpage](#).

The screenshot shows the City of Lynnwood website. At the top, there is a language selector for "English (United States)" and a menu icon. The Lynnwood Washington logo is on the left. A search bar contains the text "Start here - find almost anything on our website!" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Government / Departments / Public Works / Environmental and Surface Water Management". The main heading is "Environmental and Surface Water Management". A paragraph below the heading reads: "We have some great educational opportunities for people of all ages. Whether you want a rain garden on your property or would like to volunteer you are in the right spot." The page features a grid of eight content cards, each with a title and a brief description:

- Critical Areas and Tree Regulations**: Find information on critical areas and tree regulations.
- National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)**: Use this page to view our management plans and reports related to NPDES requirements. Contractors can use this page to download templates for pollution prevention plans.
- Education Opportunities**: Learn about our environmental education opportunities.
- Spill Kit Outreach**: Learn about our spill kit outreach program.
- Rain Gardens**: Learn about and get involved with our rain garden program.
- Environmental Volunteer Opportunities**: Are you passionate about protecting our local watersheds?
- Stormwater Pollution Information**: Learn how to reduce stormwater pollution at your home, business, or school.
- Fish Hatchery and Environmental Education Center**: Learn about our salmon hatchery and environmental education center!

An upward-pointing arrow icon is located in the bottom right corner of the page.



1.0

STORMWATER

PLANNING

The City develops policies and strategies to protect streams, wetlands, and lakes. We are focused on viewing City water resources through the lens of the landscape on a watershed scale while continuing efforts to encourage the use of low-impact development.

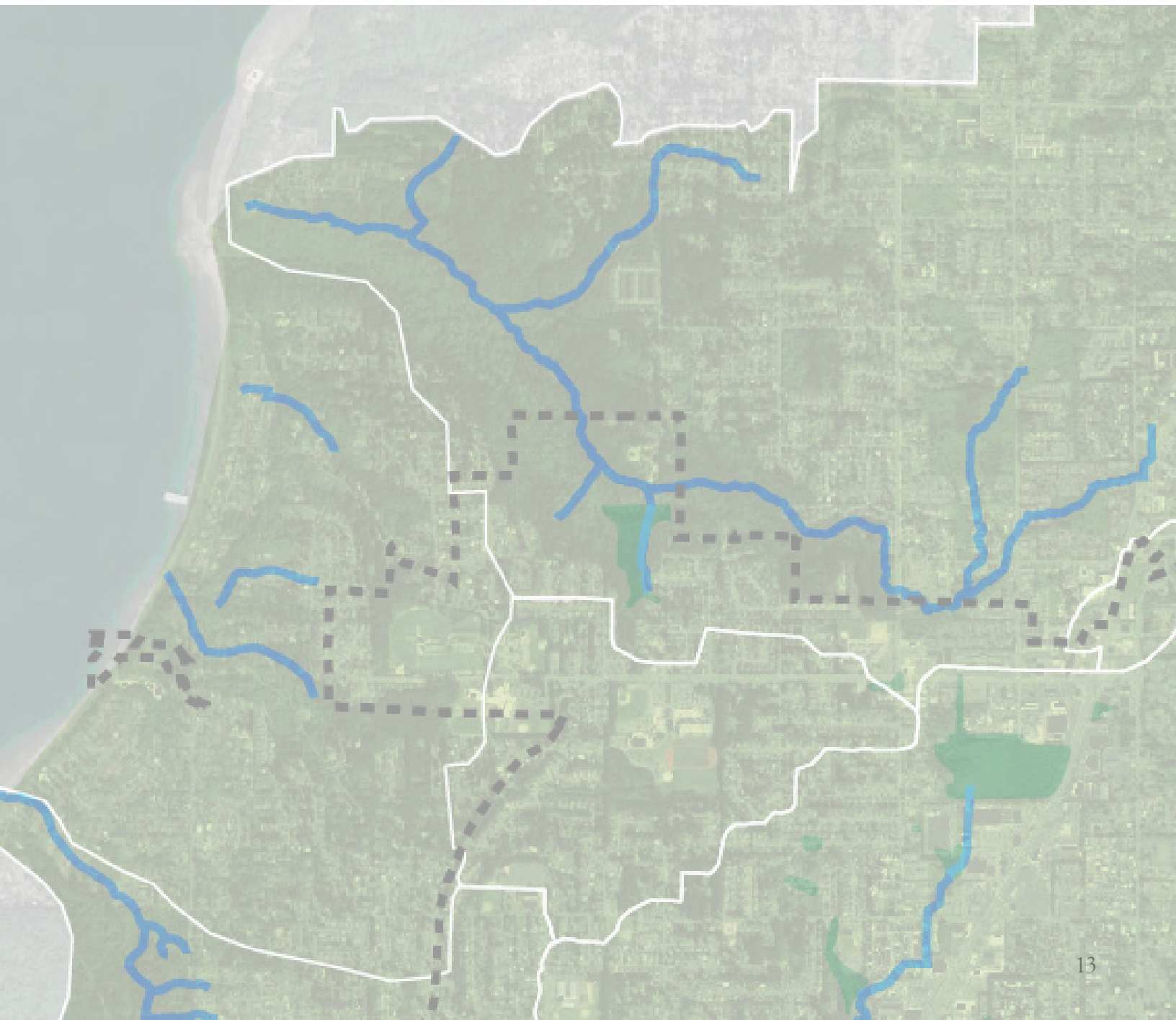


Figure 3. City of Lynnwood Watersheds



Legend

- Lynnwood City Limit
- ▬ Watershed Boundary
- Stream
- Roads
- Waterbody
- Wetland



A watershed is the area of land where surface water flows to a receiving water body: supporting salmon in a stream, where children play along the lake shore, or nourishing a wetland habitat. City of Lynnwood water bodies include Scriber Lake and Creek, Hall Lake and Creek, Tunnel Creek, Poplar Creek, Golde Creek, and Perrinville Creek (Figure 3). Visit the [Stormwater Planning website](#) to view the maps and story about the species of salmon found in Lynnwood streams, the relationship of development to waterway health, and much more.



Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.1 requires the City to implement a stormwater planning program to inform and assist in the development of policies and strategies as water quality management tools to protect receiving waters. The requirements include:

- Convene an inter-disciplinary team
- Coordinate with long-range plan updates
- Continue low-impact development-code-related requirements

Current and Ongoing Activities

The stormwater planning program was a new requirement for the 2019–2024 Permit cycle. Upon completion of the City of Lynnwood Surface Water Management 2020 Comprehensive Plan, a clear set of goals, priorities, projects, and programs were combined into one plan. This plan helps the City meet some of the Permit requirements while also committing to additional objectives for flood reduction and habitat enhancement, most notably in the Scriber Creek corridor.

The City worked with a consultant in 2021 to begin the process of Stormwater Management Action Planning. This planning resulted in an inventory of the waterways influenced by City lands. The inventory focused on salmon presence, community use in and near waterways, the level of development, potential future development, and social equity. The inventory and recommended prioritization scheme was presented to the public in the form of a [project website](#) and StoryMap. Input was solicited from the public, neighboring cities, and local tribes.

From this inventory, prioritization process and support from stakeholders, the City selected a subarea of the middle Scriber Creek basin for development of the Stormwater Management Action Plan.

In summary, the City met the Permit requirements by:

- Requiring low-impact development principles and low-impact development best management practices when updating, revising, and developing new local development-related codes, rules, standards, and other enforceable documents, when needed.
- Creating a watershed inventory map and described the relative conditions of the receiving waters.
- Creating an inter-disciplinary team to discuss development, progress, and influence of the City's Stormwater Management Program.
- Contracting with a consultant to update the City of Lynnwood's Stormwater Regulations. These updated regulations will continue to require low-impact development principles and low-impact development best management practices.
- Ranking City watersheds to identify the highest priority water body in order to develop an action plan in 2023.
- Posting the [watershed inventory](#) and [prioritization scheme](#) and results on the City's website.

Low-Impact Development is a variety of practices that mimic or preserve natural drainage processes to manage stormwater. These practices, such as rain gardens or pervious pavement, typically retain rainwater and encourage it to soak into the ground rather than allowing it to run off into ditches and storm drains where it could contribute to flooding and pollution problems.



Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City will focus on implementing the recommendations in the Stormwater Management Action Plan for the Middle Scriber Creek and Scriber Lake area. This plan focuses on actions to reduce bacterial contamination, sediment transport, and stream bank erosion. City staff from multiple disciplines, maintenance, education, inspection, and planning, contributed to identifying actions to address these priority water issues in Scriber Creek.

The City will use existing information available to implement tree canopy goals and policies to support stormwater management.

The City will also initiate planning efforts to determine if a new SMAP (Stormwater management action plan) priority catchment area is needed or addition actions for the existing SMAP are needed.

2.0

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The City implements programs promoting understanding of the sources of pollution, actions to reduce pollution, and fostering behavior change. We strive to engage the community in participating as good stewards of local waterways.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.2 requires the City to provide stormwater education and outreach programs that will:

- Build general awareness and educate target audiences about stormwater problems and provide specific actions and subject area information to reduce impacts.
 - Target audiences include the general public, children, businesses, engineers, contractors, developers, and land-use planners.
 - Educational subject areas include general stormwater impacts, impacts of impervious surfaces, impacts of illicit discharges and how to report them, low-impact development principles, stewardship opportunities, erosion control and technical standards, and stormwater treatment and flow control.
- Create stewardship opportunities to encourage community engagement.
- Measure the understanding and adoption of targeted behaviors.
- Maintain records of public education and outreach activities.



How can you help reduce stormwater pollution and flooding? Simple actions you take make a difference.

- ***Pick up pet waste.***
- ***Wash your car at a car wash or on grass.***
- ***Clean up fuel or oil spills promptly from paved surfaces.***
- ***Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly.***
- ***Consider adding a rain garden or rain barrel to your landscape.***
- ***Go native! Plants, that is. They require less maintenance.***
- ***Cover soil piles with a tarp to prevent silt from entering rain water.***
- ***Learn where your local drains are located and keep them clear of debris.***
- ***Report pollution problems to the City using the website form: <https://www.lynnwoodwa.gov/Government/Departments/Public-Works/PW-Services/Reporting-a-Spill>***

Current and Ongoing Activities

The City implements outreach programs targeting multiple audiences and behaviors, including:

General Stormwater Awareness Campaigns:

Understanding that all storm drains send untreated runoff to local water bodies is a basic lesson. Citizens have the opportunity to make this connection. First, they may “adopt” a storm drain keeping it clear of debris and leaves. Second, they can flag a problematic storm drain to alert the storm maintenance staff. The City participates in the “Puget Sound Starts Here” regional campaign promoting behavior change such as improved car maintenance and leak checks and other practices to prevent stormwater pollution. City funds help sponsor the regional digital campaign placing advertisements through various social media outlets: YouTube, Facebook, Google, and Spotify.

Pet Waste Pick Up in Public Places and Backyards:

Pet waste left on the ground can be a significant contributor to polluted runoff. The City encourages picking up pet waste by providing the materials needed to adopt this behavior and by public education at local community events. Pet-waste bag dispensers and dispenser refills are available free upon request at the front counter at City Hall and at community events. Visit our education display at events, including the Fair on 44th and Meet Me at the Park. Play the Poop Toss Game, a fun and engaging way to learn about this issue, and learn what pet owners can do to help.

Salmon in the Classroom Program and Hall Lake Fish Hatchery Tours:

As a Pacific Northwest icon, our local salmon and their amazing life cycle provide the opportunity to learn about and celebrate their resilience. The City provides multiple opportunities for students, teachers, and the community to acquire this knowledge. Each year the City helps schools expressing an interest to raise salmon in the classroom from eggs to their frye stage. Students learn about salmon’s need for pollution-free water. Classrooms that choose to may release their salmon hatchlings at the City Fish Hatchery and receive educational programming during the visit. The City partners with Nature Vision making science

learning materials available to teachers, as well as field trips and classroom presentations. The public can schedule tours and educational programming at the Hall Lake Fish Hatchery and Environmental Education Center. Young salmon hatched by City staff can be viewed in various life-cycle stages, and can be released by hand to Hall Lake in the spring. Visitors can see examples of low-impact development and green stormwater infrastructure on the hatchery grounds. Educational programs focus on stormwater, impervious surfaces, sources of pollution, salmon life cycle, and salmon habitat needs.

Construction and Contractor’s Meetings:

The City’s Erosion and Control Inspector attends preconstruction meetings to help increase awareness among engineers, contractors, developers, review staff, and land-use planners of the technical standards for stormwater site and erosion control plans and low-impact development techniques and tools. These meetings occur as needed throughout the year.

Dumpster Outreach Campaign:

Overflowing and leaking dumpsters can pollute. The City is an active member of the regional [Dumpster Outreach Group](#). Using social marketing principles, the regional group created a strategy, materials and timeline to meet the permit requirements. The targeted behavior change is to keep dumpster lids closed. The City completed a pilot program in 2021, and has rolled out a fully implemented program in 2022. The program will continue until early 2028, when a report on the success of the campaign will be submitted to Ecology.

Rain Garden Program:

The City partners with the Snohomish Conservation District to help install low-impact development projects in the community. Rain gardens and rain barrels are the most common installation; they are provided to property owners at a reduced cost. By soaking in runoff (rain gardens) or collecting runoff for later use (rain barrels), storm flows and water quality are improved. Simultaneously, providing these tools to property owners provides a hands-on education tool about the benefits of these development methods. This is an annual program; in 2022, four rain gardens were installed in Lynnwood.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City will continue to implement the programs listed above, with the following activities:

- **General Awareness Campaigns:** Puget Sound Starts Here, Social Media postings, educational displays at local fairs and events, Adopt-a-Drain, and articles in the City newsletter
- **Pet Waste Pick Up:** Bags and dispenser giveaway at City Hall and events
- **Salmon in the Classroom Program:** Operating our fish hatchery to assist local students to raise salmon, host groups at the Environmental Education Center, support local classroom field trips and classroom presentations
- **Construction and Contractor's Meetings:** Attend preconstruction meetings
- **Dumpster Outreach Campaign:** Outreach and data collection
- **Rain Garden Program:** Rain barrel event and work with property owners to install rain gardens

2025 Public Outreach Engaging Lynnwood Citizens: By the Numbers

- **45 catch basins adopted**
- **6 schools raised salmon in the classroom**
- **2,533 students visited the hatchery from 18 schools**
- **200 adults and families visited the hatchery**

Salmon Education: Each year the City acquires up to 30,000 fertilized coho salmon eggs from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's hatchery in Issaquah. City staff then bring them back to our hatchery on Hall Lake to raise them until they are big enough to release.

Interested in a tour of our facility? Contact Environmental@LynnwoodWA.gov or 425-670-5245



3.0

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The City encourages public involvement and participation through posting stormwater documents on their website and inviting the public to community events and meetings.



Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.3 requires the City to create opportunities for public involvement and participation.

The requirements include:

- Create opportunities for public involvement and participation through advisory councils, public hearings, watershed committees, participation in developing rate structures, stewardship programs, and environmental activities of other similar activities. At a minimum, the public must be able to participate in the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation, and update of this plan. Methods of identifying overburdened communities will be documented by December 31, 2026.
- Make this plan and Annual Compliance Report available to the public, including posting on the City's website no later than May 31 each year.



Those that live, work or play in Lynnwood can get involved in the stormwater program. Learn about the program as we strive to protect and improve waterways. Visit our [website](#), comment on this plan, attend an Open House or City Council Meeting, or reach out to our staff. We want to hear your ideas and views on how to improve the program.

Current and Ongoing Activities

The City provides opportunities to comment and provide feedback through multiple methods. This plan is posted on our website (www.LynnwoodWA.gov). To address a wide variety of community members, contact information and translation services are available. Via the City listserv notification system, the City website, and social media postings about open houses, the public is invited to comment on capital construction system improvement projects. These open houses allow for the public to weigh in on the project and any associated elements of the City's stormwater program. In 2020, the City added a virtual attendance option.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City is revised this plan to be more public friendly in 2023 and will continue these practices into the future. This new plan is reader-friendly and includes captions targeting the public and how they can get involved. The City will continue to post the plan on the website, inviting comments through social media and other advertising efforts. This document and link will be available at public events. The City will continue to conduct outreach about City Council Meetings and Open Houses. The City will hold more stormwater planning workshops from 2025-2029 seeking public input about the stormwater management action plan.



The City continues to identify overburdened communities and conduct education and outreach to these areas. We are working to connect local community members to our salmon education and other place-based environmental education programs.



4.0

STORM SYSTEM

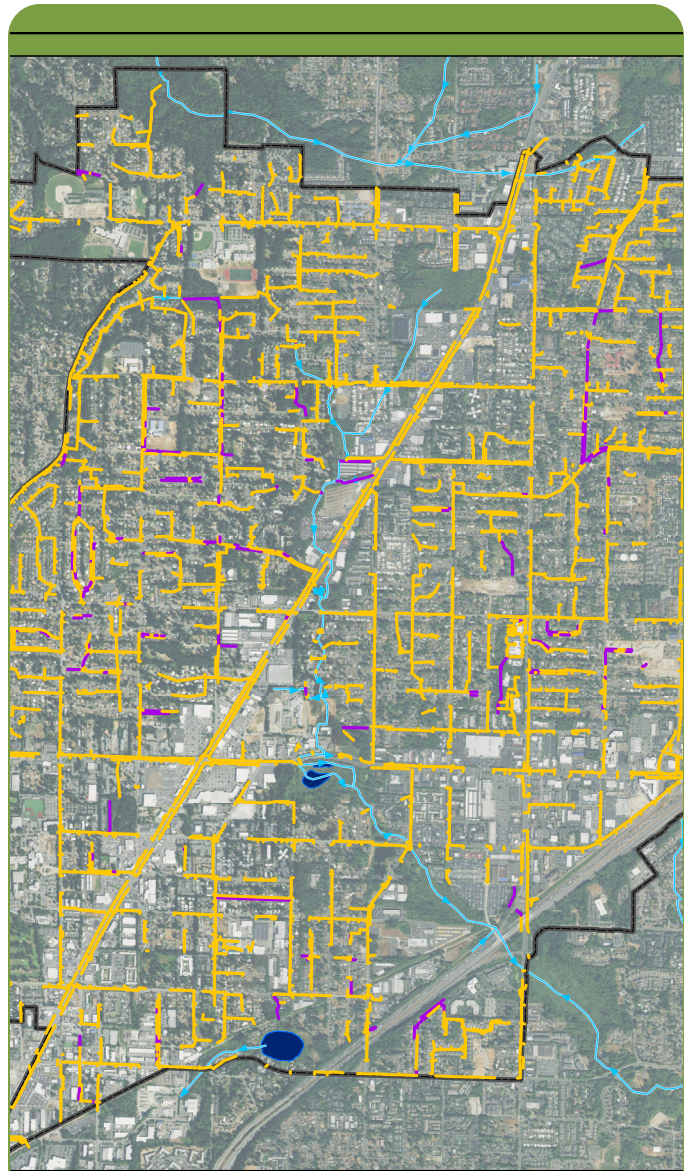
MAPPING

The City is continuously updating and improving their storm system maps.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.4 requires the City to continually improve and update mapping the storm system to inform location and type of infrastructure. The requirements include:

- Continue collecting map information.
- Submit new mapping information.
- Adopt the correct format for all mapping.
- Upon request, make maps available to the Department of Ecology, federally recognized Indian Tribes, municipalities, and other Permittees.



Accurate maps help the City and others locate and verify the locations of storm pipes, ditches, facilities, and other structures. These systems ultimately discharge stormwater through outfalls to local streams, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater. When conducting field inspections, Operations and Maintenance crews document inaccurate or missing features to be updated either by the City's Asset Manager or the Streets and Stormwater Supervisor. View the City storm map [here](#). Maps are provided "as is". See full disclaimer [here](#).






Current and Ongoing Activities

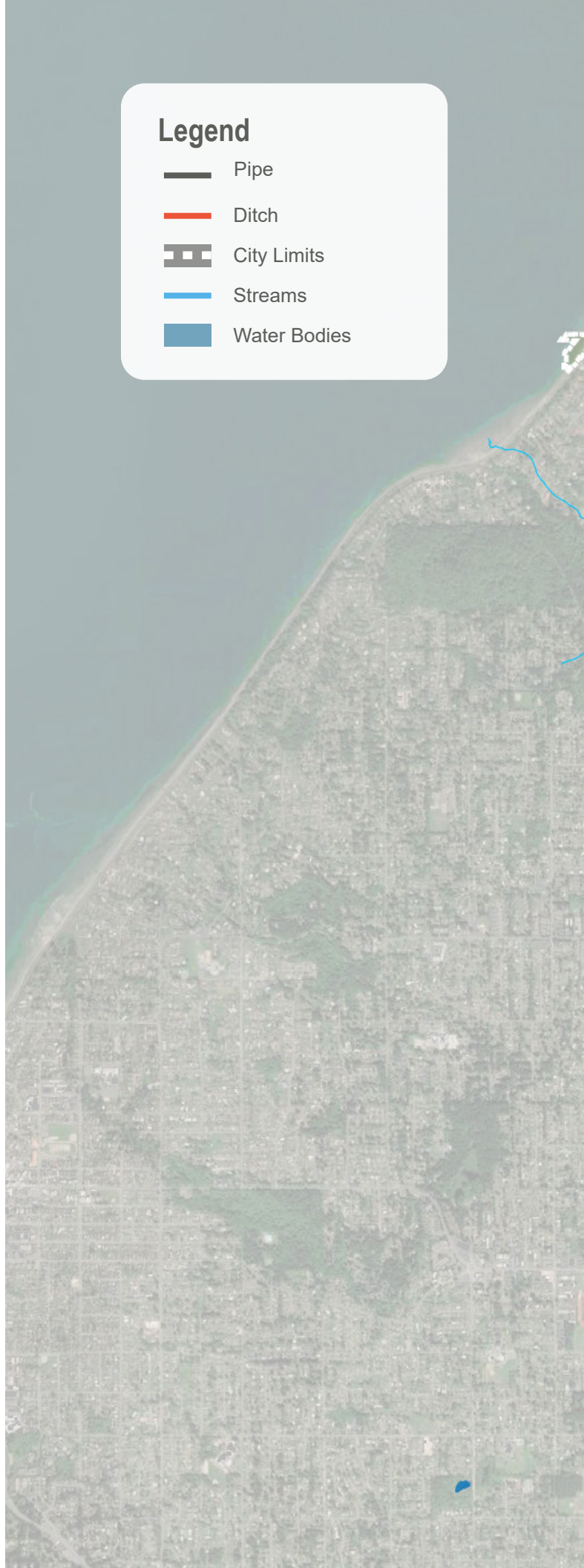
The City has met the Permit requirements by having crews continuously update and verify connections and structures. As new stormwater connections and facilities are completed, the Asset Manager for the City of Lynnwood adds the new infrastructure to the geographical information system and the mapping program, Cartegraph®. This is extremely helpful for scheduling facility inspections and writing work orders for facilities in need of maintenance. In 2023 the City completed mapping of all known connections from the City stormwater system to a privately owned stormwater system.

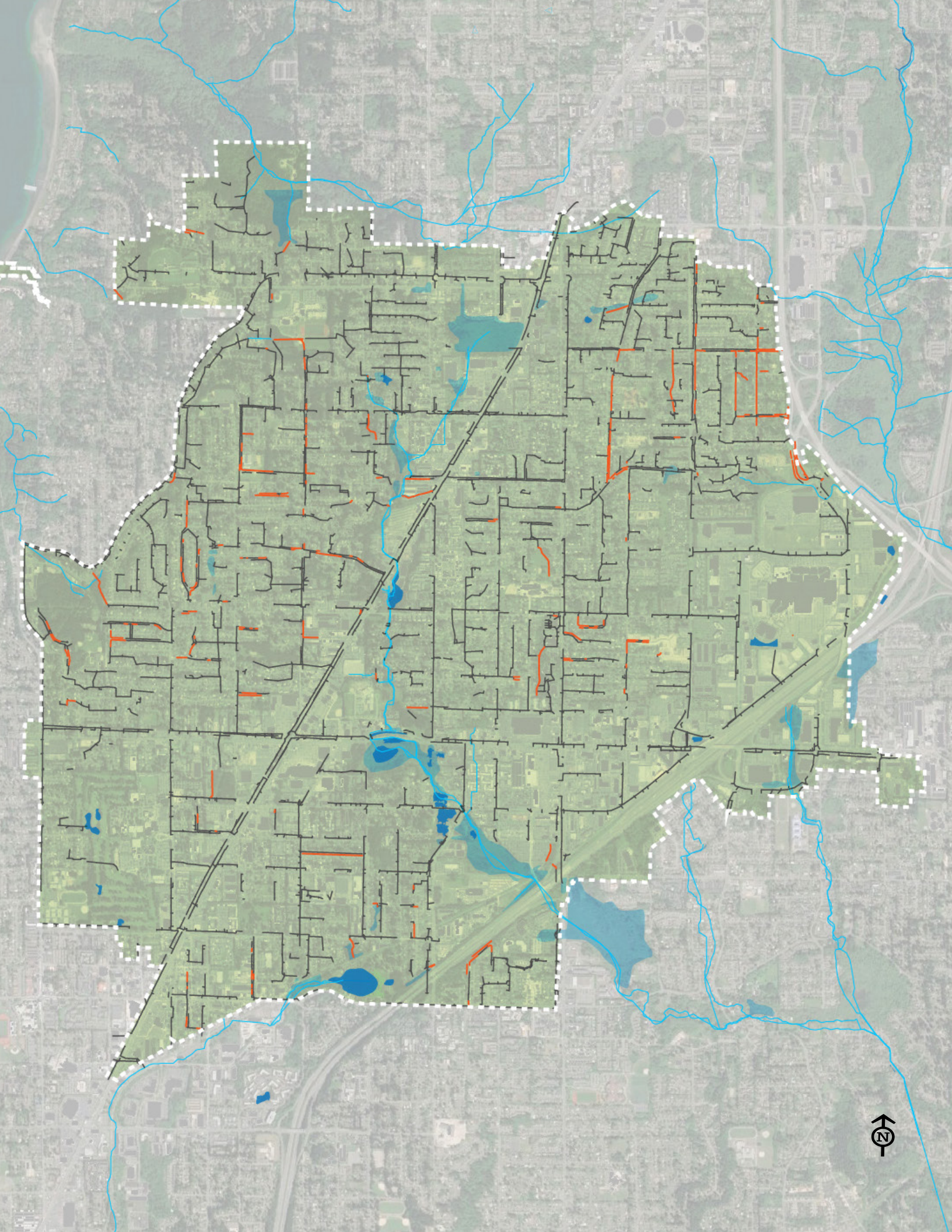
Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City will continue maintaining the mapping of all known connections from the City stormwater system to a privately owned stormwater system. The City will continue to collect other relevant mapping data and update maps such as tree canopy data, tributary basins to outfalls and overburdened communities in relation to stormwater treatment, in a timely manner. The City will provide maps upon request.

Legend

-  Pipe
-  Ditch
-  City Limits
-  Streams
-  Water Bodies





5.0

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

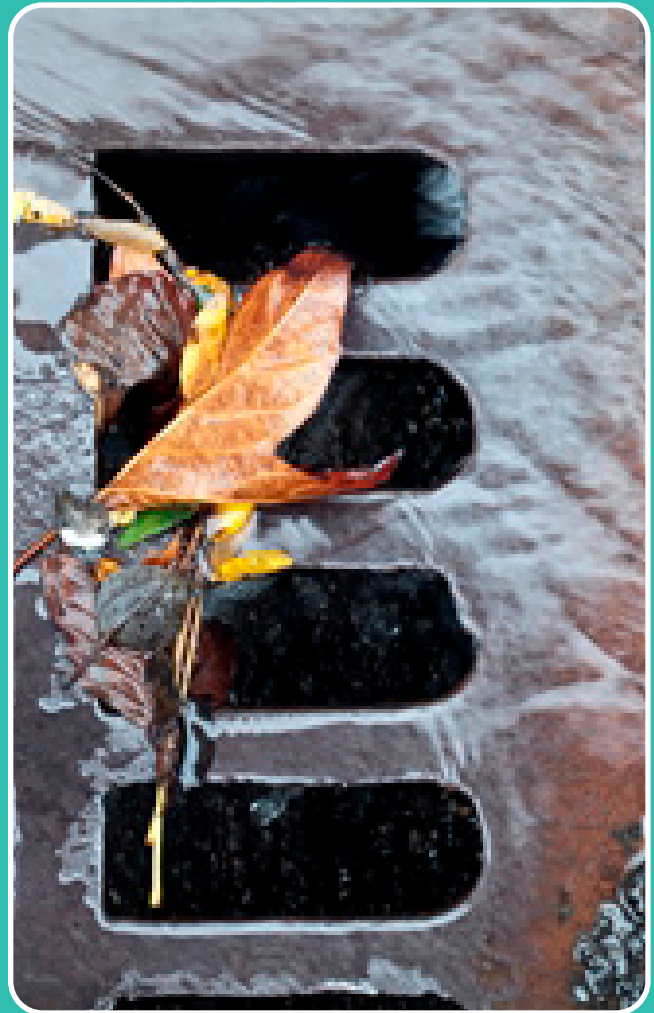
The City conducts activities to minimize the entry of non-stormwater runoff pollution into the system.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.5 requires the City to reduce non-stormwater discharges into or from the storm system.

The City is required to:

- Have an ongoing program to report, detect and remove illicit connections, discharges, and dumping into the municipal stormwater system.
- Develop a City storm system map that includes information about outfalls and receiving waters.
- Have an ordinance to prohibit non-stormwater discharges and dumping into the stormwater system to the allowable extent under state and federal law.
- List and publicize a hotline number for public reporting.
- Track reports of discharges and actions taken to address reported problems.
- Train City field staff on how to identify and report pollution discharges into the stormwater system.
- Have an ongoing program to detect, address and eliminate illicit discharges, spills, and connections.
- Track and maintain records of all related activities.



Remember, only rain down the drain! Unnatural materials including paint, soap, fuels, sediment, and fertilizers are harmful to aquatic life and people. Even small amounts pollute.

If you see pollution entering the storm system or waterways, report immediately either by calling 1-425-670-KRUD (5783) or filling out the [form](#) on our website. If it is after hours or urgent, please call 1-425-329-6205.

Current and Ongoing Activities

Every year the City conducts training of all field staff on how to identify and report illicit discharges. Usually, Environmental and Surface Water staff follow up on reports, and work to identify the type of illicit discharge and trace the discharge. Staff follow the Lynnwood Program procedures developed in 2011.

Both field staff and the public are provided with multiple methods to report spills including the spill hotline (1-425-670-KRUD), an emergency after-hours phone number (1-425-329-6205), and an online reporting form.

Another activity the City conducts to identify potential dumping is inspecting an average of 12% (12% is the 2019–2024 Permit requirement) of the storm system catch basins during routine maintenance activities. If an unnatural odor or visual sign of pollution is detected, crews notify Environmental and Surface Water staff, who will follow up on the report to track the spill or discharge.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City will conduct the annual field staff training, advertise spill reporting using social media, utility bills, and other City publications, and continue to inspect catch basins for signs of pollution. All reports will be investigated and the results documented.


Illicit discharges will continue to be identified through, but not limited to, field screening, inspections, reports and monitoring procedures.

The City will coordinate with firefighting agencies to monitor discharges during emergency services by then end of 2026, and update and implement procedures to minimize discharges to the MS4 during post-emergency clean-up and disposal activities.



6.0

CONTROLLING RUNOFF FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION SITES



The City implements codes, programs, and activities to ensure that runoff from new construction and lands undergoing redevelopment is designed and managed to reduce polluted runoff. Design standards and the permitting process encourage the use of low-impact development techniques, the inspection of sites during construction, and that new facilities meet water quality and flow control standards.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.6 requires the City to develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction site activities.

The requirements include:

- Adopting an ordinance that addresses runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction sites.
- Adopting minimum stormwater design standards that are equivalent to the minimum technical requirements in the 2024-2029 Permit, Appendix 1.
- Implementing a permitting process to review plans, to inspect sites during construction, and to take enforcement action against those failing to follow approved guidelines or to provide facilities as required during plan review.
- Ensuring that sites include provisions to verify the long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities.
- Ensuring the “Notice of Intent for Construction Activity” is available for proposed new development and redevelopment.
- Providing training to staff on new/ revised regulations, standards, processes, and procedures.
- Ensuring all City development regulations allow for the use of low-impact development techniques.
- Tracking and maintaining records of inspections and development permits.



If you are considering a remodel or new project, reach out to our Development & Business Services Department for the most recent regulations. Some helpful tips include checking your address to ensure your project is in the City, learning about electronic submittal of your project, and seeing our estimated plan review times to better understand how long your project may take.

Current and Ongoing Activities

Review and inspection of private and public projects must meet certain guidelines, and involved staff are trained in those guidelines. City inspectors and reviewers are Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Leads. The Environmental and Surface Water Division has a dedicated Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector for active construction sites. By meeting these requirements, projects are ensured that their contribution of polluted runoff is minimized.

The City reviews and inspects projects that meet the minimum threshold within the Washington Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington. Projects are required to submit and seek approval of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a Stormwater Pollution Control and Countermeasures plan for all construction activities. The City conducts inspections during various phases of construction: pre-clearing, active construction, 6-months following construction in residential developments, and prior to final approval to ensure these systems are installed properly and a long-term operations and maintenance plan is in place.

For projects greater than 1 acre in size, the City has adopted and enforces the same standards as the Washington Department of Ecology. Lynnwood provides developers copies of the Notice of Intent for Construction Activity and Notice of Intent for Industrial Activity during the predevelopment review phase and keeps records of all inspections and notices.

To coincide with the adoption of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, the City contracted the services of a consultant to assist in the update of Lynnwood Municipal Code 13.40. The purpose of this update was to update definitions, to clarify confusing language, and to ensure there are no conflicts between Lynnwood regulations and the 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

Plan to implement a program to control or reduce stormwater discharges to local waterways from areas of existing development.

Begin efforts to educate staff and community on the City's plan to adopt the 2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington in 2027.



7.0

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The City conducts activities to ensure that runoff from City operations and the City-managed storm systems, as well as public systems built (generally) after 2007 is as clean as possible. Well-maintained storm systems discharge cleaner water and perform flow control functions at a higher level, helping downstream waterways.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.7 sets out how to conduct maintenance for existing development actions for clean runoff that meet the criteria described in Appendix 12.

The requirements include:

- Implementing a municipal operations and maintenance program with SWMP actions that have the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.
- Adopting maintenance standards that are as protective as those noted in Chapter 4 of Volume V of the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.
- Provide a formatted list of planned projects scheduled during this permit term for acreage assigned in Appendix 12.
- Spot checking potentially damaged stormwater infrastructure after major storms, to repair and improve SMAP if necessary.
- Inspect all catch basins in the City every 2 years (or as needed, with adequate documentation).
- Establish and implement policies and practices to reduce stormwater impacts and pollutants associated with maintenance operations from all lands owned or maintained by the City.
- Developing and providing staff training to implement practices and policies to reduce pollutants in runoff from maintenance operations.
- Developing and implementing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan for all maintenance and storage facilities owned or operated by the City.
- Maintaining records of all activities required by the Permit. The City will initiate projects and submit in the annual report, to include the amount of acres managed for the next permit term by March 31, 2028.
- Inspect public facilities permitted in accordance with requirements adopted pursuant to the 2024-2029 Ecology municipal stormwater permits.



Do you live in a neighborhood where your community is responsible for maintaining the stormwater system? Reach out to the [City Public Works Department](#), or call 425-670-5200 for guidance on how to best preserve and maintain the system for cleaner runoff and reduced flooding.

Current and Ongoing Activities

The City recognizes that operating and maintaining the storm drainage system at the highest levels results in a system that transports runoff that is cleaner and better controlled. For example, removing excess sediment (which pollutants generated by vehicles and exhaust bind to), maintaining clean and orderly maintenance facilities, and preparing for the clean up of fuel or oil spills, all contribute to good maintenance actions.

To begin with, the City adopted an updated Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan in August 2020, a large portion of which is dedicated to Surface Water Operations and Maintenance. The City continues to implement key maintenance recommendations.

Well-trained City staff conduct inspection and maintenance for the City system and selected public systems. Operations and maintenance staff in stormwater, sewer, and water have attended training associated with maintenance and pollutant reduction. Annual training continues. Environmental and Surface Water staff also conduct trainings for field staff on illicit discharge screening during catch basin inspections. City-owned water quality treatment and flow control facilities are inspected annually and are maintained on a timeline based on requirements in the Permit. All catch basins are inspected at least every two years. Inspections are performed to determine if maintenance thresholds are exceeded. If there is a maintenance threshold exceeded, the catch basin will be maintained within six months of the inspection that identified the need for maintenance.

Public water quality and flow control facilities that were installed pursuant to Ecology’s 2007–2019 NPDES Phase II permit requirements are inspected annually. The City has a dedicated inspector for private and public stormwater facilities. The City developed a Stormwater Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Lynnwood Operations and Maintenance Center and the Parks Maintenance Center in June 2009. In 2019, the City invited staff from Ecology to visit and walk through the sites to determine if any deficiencies could be identified. The visit identified several items, which have been addressed. The City annually updates and verifies all information on the SWPPP for both facilities.

The City has implemented multiple plans to reduce polluted runoff. In 2014, Public Works adopted, and currently implements, a vegetation-management Integrated Pest Management Plan. This plan addresses requirements and processes for herbicide application on streets and sidewalks in the community. The City maintains an opt-out list and publicly advertises one week prior to spraying of herbicides.

The City will develop and implement a street sweeping program to focus on priority areas and timing, disposal, and operational procedures to maintain and obtain proper street sweeping equipment for stormwater management best practice no later than July 1, 2027 and report no later than March 31, 2028.

Table 2. Summary of Key Assets of the City of Lynnwood’s Stormwater System.

ASSETS	QUANTITY
Pipe	531,451 Linear feet
Ditch	66,876 Linear feet
Catch Basins, manholes, and inlets	5,
Vaults	58
Detention Ponds	12



8.0

SOURCE CONTROL PROGRAM FOR FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

The City is implementing a new requirement where businesses and/or business sites are visited to evaluate and provide technical assistance to reduce polluted runoff.

Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.C.8 requires the City to implement a business source control inspection program to identify site and sources and implement an inspection and response plan.

The requirements include:

- Implementing a program to prevent and reduce pollutants in runoff from areas that discharge to the City storm system.
- Applying operational and structural source-control best management practices to pollution-generating sources associated with existing land uses and activities.
- Inspecting pollutant-generating sources at publicly and privately owned institutional, commercial, and industrial sites to enforce implementation of required best management practices to control pollution discharging into the City storm system.
- Applying and enforcing local ordinances for source control BMPs for pollutant generating sources at sites.



Do you own or operate a business in the City of Lynnwood? Walk your site and look for locations where rainwater can pick up pollution and carry it to the storm drains. Some of the most common pollution problems are wash water from vehicles or other operations entering drains (remember, all soap kills fish), lack of proper spill clean-up kits, leaking garbage dumpsters, and sediment from stockpiles or muddy vehicles entering drains. To better understand what you can do to reduce polluted runoff from your business, contact us at 1-425-670-5200 or email us at PWRequest@LynnwoodWA.gov.

Current and Ongoing Activities

The City has been preparing since 2021 to develop and implement the Business Source Control Inspection Program. The City added one employee in 2021 to manage the City's Source Control Program. That same year the business inventory list was created, with the City identifying over 500 businesses. The inspector attended a regional training in October 2022, and will continue attending training and regional meetings of the Business Inspection Group to continue to learn about how best to work with businesses to provide technical assistance and education. With the help of the regional Business Inspection Group and the City's Asset Manager, a digital inspection form was created. Inspections will be tracked using the City Cartegraph® program.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

Source Control inspections began in 2023 and will continue through the 2024-2029 permit. Effective ordinances will be updated as necessary no later than August 1, 2027. All identified sites will be provided with information regarding activities that may generate pollutants and source control requirements.

Annually, a minimum of 111 site visits will be completed and the business inventory list updated (20% of the businesses and/or sites identified, to include follow-up compliance inspections). All sites identified through credible complaints will be inspected by qualified inspectors.

The City will add clarifying language to existing ordinances which allow inspection and enforcement of sites. The City shall implement a progressive enforcement policy for site compliance within a reasonable timeperiod. Inspectors shall maintain record of inspections, reports, violations and other enforcement documents.



9.0

CONTRIBUTING TO REGIONAL WATER CLEANUP PLANS

The City is one of several jurisdictions working together to address bacterial pollution in Swamp Creek.

Permit Requirements

Permit Appendix 2 (Water Resources Inventory Area 8 – Swamp Creek) requires the City to conduct actions to monitor and address fecal pollution sources from lands within the City.

The requirements include:

- Inspecting and implementing a SWPPP for all commercial animal-handling areas, commercial composting facilities, and maintenance storage yards to ensure the implementation of source control best management practices for bacteria.
- Conducting public education and outreach activities to increase awareness of bacterial pollution problems and promote proper pet waste management behavior.
- Installing and maintaining animal waste collection and/or education stations at municipal parks and other City-owned and operated lands with substantial dog and horse use and high potential to pollute stormwater.
- Screening for bacteria sources in any screened storm drainage subbasins that discharge to surface waters in the TMDL area.
- Identifying a high-priority area that will be the focus of source identification and elimination efforts for the current permit cycle.
- Implementing source-control identification and elimination efforts in the storm drainage subbasins discharging to the identified high-priority area. Maintain established inspection program, achieving at least 95% of required inspections.
- Monitoring for fecal coliform in at least one location monthly. Annual inspections of all stormwater treatment and flow control facilities.
- Maintain records of all activities that meet requirements.



Three creeks flow into Swamp Creek from the City of Lynnwood: Tunnel Creek, Golde Creek, and Scriber Creek. Through specialized testing, the City learned that the majority of bacterial pollution is from birds. Humans and dogs produce bacterial pollution to a lesser degree. The City is planning to implement education and action programs to address these pollution sources in the future.

Current and Ongoing Activities

The City addresses fecal pollution in the Swamp Creek subbasin through site inspections, public education and outreach campaigns, and water quality monitoring.

Bacterial pollution is often attributed to multiple sources including birds, other wildlife, pets, and people. The City conducted special testing (called “DNA testing”) in 2021 to identify the sources of bacterial pollution. The samples collected in Scriber Creek (which flows into Swamp Creek) during the summer dry-season months showed that the primary source of bacteria was birds, and that to a lesser degree, human and dogs were also sources. The results from February 2022 were inconclusive.

Implemented and will continue ongoing training for staff whose construction, operations, or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality.

Planned Activities for 2026 and Beyond

The City will continue to conduct site inspections, public education and outreach campaigns, and water quality monitoring. Based upon the DNA testing results, the City is considering an outreach campaign focused on reducing bacteria from bird sources.

The City will update maintenance standards as necessary to meet requirements in this section by June 30, 2027 and implement policies and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from City owned or maintained lands no later than December 31, 2027. Activities within this permit will be addressed and recorded for all maintenance including but not limited to applying street sweeping to at least 90% of identified priority areas at least once between July and September each year and at least two additional times a year as needed for water quality benefits.



10.0

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES



The City follows all provisions of the permit. In addition to continuing the programs developed in previous years, the major activities due in 2024 required by Ecology and completed by the City are:

Table 3: Summary of Major Activities Completed in Last Permit Cycle

Completed the Annual Compliance Report for activities conducted in 2023; due March 31.

Completed the annual written update of Permittee’s Stormwater Management Program Plan attached to the Annual Compliance Report; placed on the City website prior to May 31.

Submitted a watershed inventory table and indicate which receiving waters will be included in the prioritization process; due March 31.

Documented the prioritized and ranked list of receiving waters for the SMAP; due June 30.

Participated in the development and implementation of an educational campaign that uses methods similar to community-based social marketing.

Convened an inter-disciplinary team of managers and selected staff involved in the stormwater program to develop, progress, and influence this program.

Created public involvement opportunities to influence this stormwater program.

Continuously updated the storm drainage system map of outfall (discharge points) locations, material, size, and other information.

Completed field screening of at least 12% of the storm drainage system for potential pollution discharges into or from the storm drainage system.

Performed annual inspections of storm system treatment and flow control facilities constructed after 2010.

Adopted and made effective the Washington State Department of Ecology’s 2019 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington; due June 30.

Implemented a “Standard of Procedures” for maintenance activities listed in Permit Section S5.C.7.d; due December 31.

Inspected at least 50% of the City’s catch basins and inlets.

11.0

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Resources



Washington State Department of Ecology

[General Water & Shorelines Landing Page](#)

[Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit](#)

[What You Can Do](#)



City of Lynnwood

[Welcome Page](#)

[Report a Problem](#)

[Environmental and Surface Water Management](#)



We want to hear from you. Please contact Derek Fada with your comments, questions, and suggestions about this document or the stormwater program.

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