DRAINAGE FACILITY
INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

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Snohomish County Public Works
Surface Water Management
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

• Drainage Facility Program Overview
• Funding Sources
• Inspection Process
• Resources
• Challenges
• Outcomes
• Case Study-Policy Alternatives
• Phase I WW Municipal Stormwater Permittee
  • S5. C9 Operations & Maintenance
• SWM provides services to ~100,000 rate payers
• 2,100 sq. miles
• 2 major river watersheds
• 1,700 road miles
• 5 Council Districts
2019 NPDES Facility Breakdowns

- **Public**: 463, 35%
- **Residential**: 311, 24%
- **Commercial**: 544, 41%

**Program Metrics**

- **1,381**: Total NPDES drainage facilities
  - 1007 Regulated Facilities
  - 311 Owned and Operated

- **12 FTEs**: Inspectors, Lead, RM staff & Admin

- **$360** cost per inspection

- **$1,300** annual maintenance cost

- **1,318** Non-NPDES facilities
SERVICES & FUNDING

Public Facilities:
- SWM Fund in tracts and easements
- Road Fund in county row

- Residential Facilities:
  - Inspection & maintenance services
  - Paid by SWM service charges

- Commercial Facilities:
  - Inspection Services ONLY
  - Maintenance is paid by owner
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

- **Businesses** (local, family owned and corporations)
- **Multifamily Housing** (apartments, condos and townhomes)
- **Non Residential** (schools, fire stations, hospitals and places of worship)

Each group has varying capabilities and resources for completing facility maintenance. Multi-family sector presents the most challenge.
INSPECTION PROCESS:
PRE-INSPECTION

1. Select drainage facility in Cartegraph OMS (asset management system)
2. Review facility information: past inspection data, access rights, plans, drainage reports & contact info
3. Load facilities to the I-Pad.
INSPECTION PROCESS:
FIELD INSPECTIONS

1. Make contact with owners and or occupants.

2. Conduct inspection- evaluate condition of assets per maintenance standards

3. Onsite visit with owner or contractor as needed.
INSPECTION PROCESS: OFFICE FOLLOW UP

1. Inspection Report, Response card & Site Map
2. 6-month Reminder Postcard
3. 10-month Reminder Letter
4. Perform a validation inspection
Let us Know When Maintenance is Completed...
Simply fill out this card and drop it in the mail.

| Maintenance on the drainage facility is completed |
| Maintenance on the drainage facility is partially completed |

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Phone number: ______________________

Date of maintenance completed: ____________

If partially completed, please list remaining items to be completed, date of expected completion and explanation for delay:

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Name: (print) ____________________________
Signature: ____________________________

Questions?
Call: 425-388-3464
Email: SPW-ContactSurfaceWater@snoco.org
(Please include Facility ID in subject)

For additional resources, visit:
snohomishcountywa.gov/DrainageProgram
snohomishcountywa.gov/DrainageGuide

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 34 EVERETT, WA
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

ATTN: DRAINAGE PROGRAM
SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT M/S 607
3000 ROCKEFELLER AVE
EVERETT WA 98201

Response Card
Customized Resources

Reminder:
Drainage Facility Maintenance Required
Notify Snohomish County Surface Water Management after work is completed.

To comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), required by the Federal Clean Water Act and administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology, Snohomish County is required to take steps to monitor, control and prevent pollution from entering streams and creeks. Under RCW 90.74 and the Snohomish County Drainage Manual, owners of shared drainage facilities are legally responsible for performing maintenance and repairs on their facilities to ensure they continue to function properly.

A detailed, step-by-step guide on how to perform these maintenance tasks can be found in the Snohomish County Drainage Manual. The manual is available online at www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Drainage.

Reminder:
Maintenance is Required for your Drainage Vault, Detention Pond or Other Engineered Drainage Feature

Locations Name:  
Facility ID: 

Approximately six months has passed since Snohomish County Drainage Facility Inspector visited your facility and identified required maintenance. Corrective actions are due within one year of the initial visit. If corrective action is not taken, you are subject to penalties listed in Snohomish County Code 7.54 Drainage Facility Maintenance.

Maybe you've already completed the maintenance?
If so, please let us know via the following:

• Call 425-388-2644
• Email: PWS-D-Drainage@co.sno.wa.us

Return the postcard that was included in your initial letter.

If you have questions or need technical assistance, please contact us via phone or email listed above.

Snohomish County
Public Works
Surface Water Management

If you've already certified Snohomish County Surface Water Management of the completion of maintenance, please disregard this notice.
Customized Resources

Guide:
- Understandable terms
- Pictures and diagrams
- Descriptions of the systems

Drainage Manual:
- Approved equivalent to Ecology Manual
Challenges

- Ownership and responsible parties changes frequently
- Shortage of qualified vendors doing this type of work
- Lack of willingness or inability to spend money
- Language and cultural barriers
PROMOTING VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

• Professional, well-trained staff
• Excellent customer service
• Use an education and outreach approach
• Provide owners with useful resources

95% compliance rate!
Positive Outcomes

- Improves water quality
- Reduces flooding and property damage downstream
- Promotes public health and recreation
- Meets NPDES compliance requirements
- Fosters environmental stewardship
- Improves aesthetics
FUTURE PROGRAM CHANGES

WHAT?
• Residential maintenance service

WHEN?
• SFH Owners will become responsible for maintenance costs in 2021

WHY?
• SWM revenues have not changed since 2009
• Operational costs continue to rise (inflation, salaries, benefits, OH)
• Support for Rate increases are challenging
• SWM programs and services must reduce to balance budget
WHO IS AFFECTED?

• Single family home owners with private drainage systems
• Upwards of 16,000 households → 40% are affiliated with an HOA
• Stormwater maintenance service providers
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<tr>
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<th>Commercial Approach</th>
<th>Surcharge</th>
<th>Dedicate to Public Billing</th>
<th>Individual Billing</th>
<th>Rate Increase</th>
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<td><strong>PROS</strong></td>
<td>Saves SWM funds</td>
<td>Provides dedicated revenue</td>
<td>Conforms with other jurisdictions</td>
<td>Responsive on an as needed basis</td>
<td>Allows status quo program to continue</td>
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<td>Privately funded</td>
<td>Creates more equity</td>
<td>More control over systems</td>
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<td>Continues to meet public expectations</td>
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<td>Ensures compliance with NPDES</td>
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<td><strong>CONS</strong></td>
<td>Increase in code violations</td>
<td>Complicated fee structure</td>
<td>Increases County responsibility and liability</td>
<td>Logistically and legally cumbersome</td>
<td>Difficult to generate support</td>
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<td>Uses more code enforcement resources</td>
<td>Increases administrative burden</td>
<td>Costly over long term for CIP work</td>
<td>Creates operational hurdles</td>
<td>Requires political capital</td>
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<td>Does not include CIP costs</td>
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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

**Strive to:**
- Use objective methods to evaluate policies alternatives
- Be inclusive, rational, thorough and consistent
- Provide relevant information
- Learn from other municipalities

**Recognize that:**
- Policy decisions are difficult
- Public response is hard to predict
- Elected Officials priorities change
- Complex stakeholders with conflicting interests
- Managing expectations is important
1. Evaluate residential policy alternatives
2. Present them to County Council
3. Implement a policy option
4. Monitor public response
5. Track costs and compliance rates
6. Evaluate policy impacts
CONCLUSION

• Commercial program is successful
• Multi-family compliance challenges
• Clear communication and resources
• Pending SWM service cuts
• Policy change effective in 2021
QUESTIONS?

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