

## Low Impact Development for Stormwater Management



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Stormwater is rain and snow melt that runs off land and impervious (hard surfaces that absorb little or no water) surfaces such as rooftops, highways, and parking lots. Stormwater collects pollutants such as oil, pesticides and garbage, and then flows into storm drains, rivers, streams, and other waterways. Our rivers, streams, lakes – and ultimately Puget Sound – receive polluted stormwater posing health risks to humans and harming fish, wildlife and our natural ecosystems.

The County's stormwater management regulations are a key to promoting clean water entering our water bodies including Puget Sound. A primary component of the county's 2015 stormwater management regulations is the requirement for the use of low impact development best management practices (LID BMPs), where feasible. LID BMPs are distributed stormwater management practices, integrated into a project design, that emphasize pre-disturbance hydrologic processes of filtration, storage, evaporation, infiltration and transpiration. LID BMPs include, but are not limited to, bioretention/rain gardens, permeable pavements, roof downspout controls, dispersion, soil quality and depth, minimal excavation foundations, vegetated roofs, and water re-use.

In regards to its stormwater management regulations, the Department of Planning and Development Services (PDS) reviews permit applications to ensure that the proposed project is consistent with the stormwater regulations and will incorporate LID BMPs, where feasible. PDS also inspects the construction site to assess whether the LID BMPs and other stormwater management requirements are properly installed or constructed.

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/201/Planning-Development-Services>

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