

WHATCOM COUNTY  
PROPERTY AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR POLLUTION REDUCTION

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Prepared for  
Whatcom County, Washington  
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# WHATCOM COUNTY PROPERTY AND FACILITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR POLLUTION REDUCTION

## 1. Plan Purpose

This Whatcom County Property and Facility Management Plan for Pollution Reduction is intended to establish operating policies to achieve the following objectives:

- Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- Protect water resources and help meet the requirements of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit, Section S5.C5.g
- Provide efficient, cost-effective maintenance of the County's facilities

## 2. Existing County Operating Policies

Whatcom County has a number of other documents relating to pollution reduction efforts associated with property and facility management in addition to this plan. In general, the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, Volume IV, Source Control BMPs is a good source for information on pollution reducing measures for municipal operations.

County facilities presenting opportunities for pollution-reducing maintenance efforts include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parks and open space: Pollution-reducing measures can be found in the Whatcom County Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient Control Plan for Parks and Open Spaces.
- Road right-of-way maintenance: Pollution-reducing measures followed by the County are contained in the Whatcom County Plan for Reducing Stormwater Impacts from Road Maintenance Activities, and the Whatcom County Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient Control Plan for Parks and Open Spaces. Additional information can be found in the Regional Road Maintenance Endangered Species Act Program Guidelines.
- Maintenance yards: Pollution-reducing measures can be found in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for those individual County facilities.
- Stormwater treatment and flow control facilities: Pollution-reducing measures followed by the County are contained in the Whatcom County Plan for Reducing Stormwater Impacts from Road Maintenance Activities and the Whatcom County Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient Control Plan for Parks and Open Spaces. Additional information can be found in the Regional Road Maintenance Endangered Species Act Program Guidelines.
- Buildings, driveways, and parking lots: Pollution-reducing measures followed by the County are contained in this Property and Facility Management Plan for Pollution Reduction and Whatcom County Plan for Reducing Stormwater Impacts from Road Maintenance Activities.

The above-noted documents establish operating policies to reduce pollutants discharged from all lands owned or maintained by the County through a variety of activities including the following:

- Application of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides: See the Whatcom County Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient Control Plan for Parks and Open Spaces.
- Sediment and erosion control: See the applicable sections of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (as adopted by Whatcom County) and the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (as adopted by Whatcom County).
- Landscape maintenance and vegetation disposal: See the Whatcom County Integrated Pest Management Plan for Parks and Open Spaces.
- Driveways and parking lots maintenance: See the Whatcom County Plan for Reducing Stormwater Impacts from Road Maintenance Activities.
- Trash management: The pollution-reducing measures followed by the County are contained in this Property and Facility Management Plan for Pollution Reduction.
- Building exterior cleaning and maintenance: The pollution-reducing measures followed by the County are contained in this Property and Facility Management Plan for Pollution Reduction.

In general, the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, Volume IV, Source Control BMPs is a good source of information on pollution-reducing measures for municipal operations.

### 3. Trash Management

To reduce pollutant discharges from municipal facilities, the following guidelines should be followed:

- Monitor trash bins, dumpsters, and other receptacles to ensure that they have sufficient volume to accommodate trash between pickups.
- Assess the appropriateness of the receptacles for the conditions in which, and purposes for which, they are used.
- Ensure that receptacles are located so as to facilitate their intended uses.
- Monitor receptacle condition and ensure proper functioning, including appropriate lids and no leakage.
- Perform routine good housekeeping to protect public health, prolong the usability of trash receptacles, curtail pollutant discharge, and minimize pest attractants.
- Monitor pests and take pest management actions in accordance with the County Integrated Pest Management and Nutrient Control Plan for Parks and Open Spaces.

### 4. Building Exterior Cleaning and Maintenance

To reduce pollutant discharges from building repair, maintenance, and cleaning activities, a good strategy is to ensure that storm drains accept only uncontaminated runoff. It is generally easier and more cost-effective to keep pollutants out of storm drains than it is to remove them from stormwater runoff.

Actions to protect the stormwater system and reduce pollution in streams, wetlands, rivers, and other waters include the following:

- Washing and cleaning up with as little water as possible
- Minimizing use of cleaners, chemicals, and other potentially polluting materials
- Discharging wash water to areas other than to storm drains (e.g., discharging to a sanitary sewer with permission of County sewer staff, or discharging to lawns or other vegetated areas, etc.)
- Blowing materials away from gutters or drains during cleanup operations
- Using ground cloths when painting, sandblasting, scraping, etc.
- Using ground cloths or oversize tubs for mixing paints, cleaners, etc. and for tool cleaning

- Preventing spills and immediately cleaning up any spills that may occur (refer to County Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan).
- Ensuring that all contractors performing maintenance and repairs for the County follow all County pollution reduction and prevention plans

For pollution-reducing measures for specific facilities, see the SWPPP for that facility.

## 5. Definitions

**Permit:** The Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit as adopted by Whatcom County

**Manual:** The Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington as adopted by Whatcom County (see particularly Volume IV, Source Control BMPs)

## 6. References and Further Information

This Property and Facility Management Plan for Pollution Reduction was developed relying on information from the following sources:

Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington Volume IV, Source Control BMPs, prepared by Washington State Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, February 2005, Publication 05-10-32 (a revised portion of Publication 91-75)

Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and State Waste Discharge Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewers in Western Washington

