# Stormwater Management Program Plan

MARCH 2026

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

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# Introduction

This Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP) has been prepared to document recent (2025) and future (2026) 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 reguates 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 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 implementing elements of the SWMP

The SWMP is submitted each year to Ecology 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. Comments are reviewed and considered in planning and development of future program priorities.

# 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 citywide Comprehensive Plan which will shape how the community looks and feels, and 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 to ensure stormwater management and watershed protection strategies have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan for formal adoption in June 2026.

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 management 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 continue to assess and document any newly identified administrative or regulatory barriers to implementation of LID principles or LID BMPs and the measures developed 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 has identified and prioritized specific stormwater retrofit projects in the basin for conceptual design for installation of water quality BMPs.

Columbia River Waterfront Trail

# Public Education & 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. The Water Center provides opportunities to the public, K-12 students, and other community groups to engage in activities and learn about local watersheds, drinking water, surface water, and stormwater management.

## General Awareness

Since 2024, the City has been 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 community groups. The partnership includes a five-year plan to select audiences and messaging throughout the permit term with consistency across six local 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 resolve practical methods to reduce and eliminate non-stormwater discharges to stormwater systems.

## Behavior Change

Vancouver has joined a regional education and outreach program through an interlocal agreement with the Stormwater Partners of SW Washington. This regional program has developed a behavior change campaign focused on dumpster maintenance and preventing stormwater contamination and leaching by closing the dumpster lid. A marketing firm was brought on board in 2025, and pilot testing began on messaging strategies to most effectively get behavior change.

## Stewardship Opportunities

The City contributed to the Watershed Stewardship Program through the Clark County Conservation District in 2025 as part of the Stormwater Partners of SW Washington. Building on past efforts, the program was able to recruit 24 participants in an intensive, six-week educational curriculum paired with volunteer opportunities throughout the region.

The Water Resources Education Center also 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 and volunteers to install markers at catch basins in their neighborhoods to reduce the risk of pollution entering water resources. Urban Forestry will host multiple events around the city for tree plantings, tree maintenance trainings and community festivals. Public Works continues to staff training events on recycling, composting and conscious consumption.

Other stewardship opportunities provided through City of Vancouver include Volunteer Programs and Litter Stewards with events targeting litter cleanup, ivy pulls, native plant installations, and adopt-a-park activities across the community. Vancouver also partners with local nonprofit groups and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership in multiple events for community tree plantings, public space clean-ups, and Vancouver Lake paddle trips.

# Public Involvement & Participation

A variety of platforms are available for the public to provide input on Vancouver's stormwater management plans, including comment opportunities 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. The City is actively implementing the Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) and will also provide opportunities for public comment on areas targeted for additional stormwater management.

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 on 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.

The City is currently operating under the 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Core values identified by City Council and the community include livability, equity and inclusion, innovation, sustainability and resiliency, community trust and relationships. These values guide how the City engages with the public to establish practices and policies related to transportation, economic opportunity, housing, community safety, climate and natural systems, vibrant neighborhoods. Extensive community engagement through workshops, interviews with community-based organizations and partners and advisory committees ensures alignment with future policies, programs, and investment in city services.

We are working on an update to our citywide Comprehensive Plan and the City provided opportunities for public comment 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 2026.

City Council Community Forum

# MS4 Mapping & Documentation

Vancouver maintains Geographic Information Services (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.

Stormwater Outfall

# Illicit Discharge Detection & 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.

## Enforcement

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.

## Site Visits

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

Field assessments and outfall inspections take place throughout the year with visual screening during 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 City field staff responsible for identification, investigation, and reporting of illicit discharges.

# Controlling Runoff from 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 requiring protective management measures to minimize 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, erosion control, and water resource protection 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.

All development sites that meet the minimum thresholds of the Stormwater Permit are inspected by the City prior to land clearing, during construction, and upon completion of construction. 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.

Plan Review Team

# 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 Maintained Systems

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 Maintained Systems

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 citywide 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. Monthly site inspections are performed to verify conditions and make adjustments or improvements to pollution prevention practices.

## Records Maintenance

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

Maintenance Crew

# 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 provided in Vancouver Municipal Code (14.26).

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

City staff conduct site visits equal to 20% of the inventory each year to ensure businesses are effectively implementing operational and/or structural BMPs to prevent illicit discharges and reduce the risk of pollutants reaching surface water or the stormwater drainage system. Initial site visits focus on providing information and technical assistance regarding appropriate pollution prevention strategies. Appropriate follow-up, education, and progressive enforcement actions are used to bring sites into compliance. Inspection 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 properties with industrial land use and operations. Each inspector has an assigned geographic area within the city to build working relationships with industry staff and ensure continuity establishing expectations. Building rapport with businesses and establishing trust is a priority for City staff to effectively implement this permit requirement and promote voluntary compliance to the greatest extent 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 Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). One site in the Burnt Bridge Creek watershed is included for annual sampling 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. Annual cost allocation calculations for stormwater permittees are population based.

## 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. Ten sites are currently monitored for a broad suite of parameters in twelve events each year. The stream continues to show impairment from elevated temperature and nutrients, low dissolved oxygen, and high bacteria concentrations. Occasional exceedances to dissolved metals criteria have been measured for zinc and copper. Monitoring data is submitted to the state Environmental Information Management (EIM) database. Links to the most recent technical monitoring reports can be found on the City's Stormwater webpage.

In addition, a microbial source tracking project in 2025 collected samples at all sites for DNA analysis to improve our understanding of fecal bacteria sources in the watershed. Samples were collected during six monitoring events and evaluated for presence of human, bird, dog and cow individual markers, and an all-source sum from warm blooded animal sources (humans, mammals, and birds). The all-source marker was several orders of magnitude higher than any individual marker, indicating greater bacteria loading from other sources such as beaver, racoon, rodents or other wildlife. Of the individual sources tracked, the bird marker was consistently the highest in both storm and base flow, with human and dog markers low and often below detection limits during dry base flow events. The cow marker was largely not detected across either storm or base flow sampling.

Ecology is finalizing elements of an Alternative 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, are not applicable until a formal TMDL plan has been completed by Ecology and approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

City departments and partners collaborate to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of these programs and activities. The results from effectiveness studies continue to 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 & Groundwater

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.

## Overlapping Regulations

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 Washington state all groundwater is considered a potential source of drinking water, and the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) administers the state 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.

Ecology regulates all UIC discharges through 173-218 WAC (Washington Administrative Code) and the Stormwater Management Manual of Western Washington. All existing UICs operated and maintained under the City's Surface Water Management Program 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 pollution (AKART) that could enter waters of the state. All new UICs are reviewed for compliance with both state 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.

## Maintenance of Municipal System

Vancouver inspects and maintains close to 4,800 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 out sediment when it 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. Non-functioning systems are retrofitted or rehabilitated in-place where feasible. If a UIC needs a complete rehabilitation, additional BMPs such as the addition of pre-sedimentation manholes and catch basins with additional sediment capture capacity are installed. If rehabilitation of a non-functioning UIC is considered infeasible, the City places the facility in the Capital Improvement Program schedule to design and construct new UICs which meet all current regulatory and functional requirements.

## City Operations

In addition to maintenance on specific UICs, Stormwater Operations conducts targeted rotational cleaning of drainage systems that flow into the UICs throughout Vancouver. 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 improvement projects for UICs.

## Water Resource Protection

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, created in 2003, implements Vancouver Municipal Code Chapter 14.26 (VMC 14.26) which prohibits the discharge of contaminants to water resources. This regulation requires certain operations 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 program 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.

Stormwater Drain

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

City Hall | 415 W. 6th St. | Vancouver, WA 98660 | cityofvancouver.us

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:** 3/31/2026

**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. | Not Applicable |
| 2 | S5.A.2; S9.D.1 | Attach updated annual Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan). (S5.A.2; S9.D.1) | ACCESSIBLE SWMP 2026_2_03252026151509 |
| 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 |
| 4a | S5.A.5.b | Attach a written description of internal coordination mechanisms. (S5.A.5.b) no later than March 31, 2026. | Attachement S5.A5.b Internal C_4a_03112026112922 |
| 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. | Stormwater Partners - Interlocal Agreement |

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| 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. | Q20 SWP Annual Report 2025_20_03252026143033 |
| 21 | S5.C.2.a.ii(b) | Developed a behavior change campaign that is tailored to the community in accordance with S5.C.2.a.ii(b)? (Required no later than July 1, 2025) | Yes |
| 21a | S5.C.2.a.ii(b) | Attach the strategy and schedule developed in accordance with S5.C.2.a.ii.(b). | Q21a Stormwater Partners Campa_21a_03122026103418 |
| 22 | S5.C.2.a.ii(c ) | Began implementing strategy outlined in S.5.C.2.a.ii(b). (S5.C.2.a.ii(c)) – Required by September 1, 2025) | Yes |
| 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_03122026103418 |
| 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 SWMP and SMAP are posted on the City website. The Capital Improvement Plan for structural retrofits is open to public comment through City Council meetings. Comments from the public are reviewed, and updates made as necessary. |
| 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 is finalizing the update of the Comprehensive Plan, which drives land use policy decisions Citywide. The SMAP and SWMP requirements have been incorporated into this plan. Significant public outreach has been undertaken as part of this Citywide process, including focusing on overburdened communities. |
| 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-program-plan/ |

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| 27 | S5.C.4. | Maintained an electronic map of the MS4 including the requirements listed in S5.C.4.? | Yes |
| 28 | S5.C.4.b.i | Attach file that lists all known outfall locations, sizes, and materials no later than March 31, 2026. The data shall be in one of the following formats, per S5.B.3.a.viii:<br>• ESRI file geodatabase template (feature class in a .gdb): https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.gdb.zip<br>• Shapefile template: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.shape.zip<br>• ArcGIS Online template (sharing template a or b via ArcGIS Online).<br>• Excel template: https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ezshare/wq/permits/MS4GP.Mapoutfall.prelim.excel.xlsx | Ecology_Outfall_COV.gdb_28_03192026090822 |
| 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 resources protection, and pollution prevention actions for businesses and homeowners. Added a new link to the Report an Issue general website, distributed information to businesses during source control site visits and attended Local Interagency Networking Cooperative (LINC) meetings regularly. |
| 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.) | 66 |

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| 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 2025, 115 of 175 outfalls were screened. 2 outfalls were removed in 2025 with the construction of a roadway project. |
| 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. | WAR045022-2025-ImportedIDDEs_03192026090832 |
| 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) | 0 |
| 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. | 311 |
| 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. | 586 |
| 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) | 45 |
| 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,) | S5.C.7.b Retrofit Projects_56_03192026091056 |
| 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. | 4532 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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_03112026112707 |
| 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. | 2025 Source Control Site Visit_59_03112026112707 |
| 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) | Contech 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) | 1894 |
| 68b | S5.C.9.c.i | Number of facilities inspected during the reporting period. | 1894 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 68c | S5.C.9.c.i | Number of facilities for which maintenance was performed during the reporting period. | 850 |
| 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? | 16745 |
| 71b | S5.C.9.c.iii | Number of catch basins and inlets inspected during the reporting period? | 10348 |
| 71c | S5.C.9.c.iii | Number of catch basins and inlets cleaned during the reporting period? | 9437 |
| 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 |
| 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 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| 88 | S8 | If conducting stormwater discharge monitoring in accordance with S8.C.1, attach a data and analysis report per S8.C.1. and Appendix 9. (Due annually beginning March 31, 2026.) | 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) | Yes |
| 90 | G3 | Took appropriate action to correct or minimize the threat to human health, welfare, and/or the environment per G3.A. | Yes |
| 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) | Not Applicable |
| 95 | G20 | Number of non-compliance notifications (G20) provided in reporting year. List permit conditions described in non-compliance notification(s) in Comments field. | 0 |

*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.*

Steven Wall — **Signature**

3/26/2026 8:08:00 AM — **Date**

# Urban Forestry 2025 Annual Report

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
PUBLIC WORKS
JANUARY 2026

CITY OF Vancouver WASHINGTON

Vancouver Waterfront

# Table of contents

Esther Short Park

# Introduction

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 2025, the City of Vancouver's estimated population was 205,100. 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 2025, the Urban Forestry Program employed six full-time staff, which equates to about one full-time employee per 34,183 community members. The program is also supported by seasonal staff members and interns.

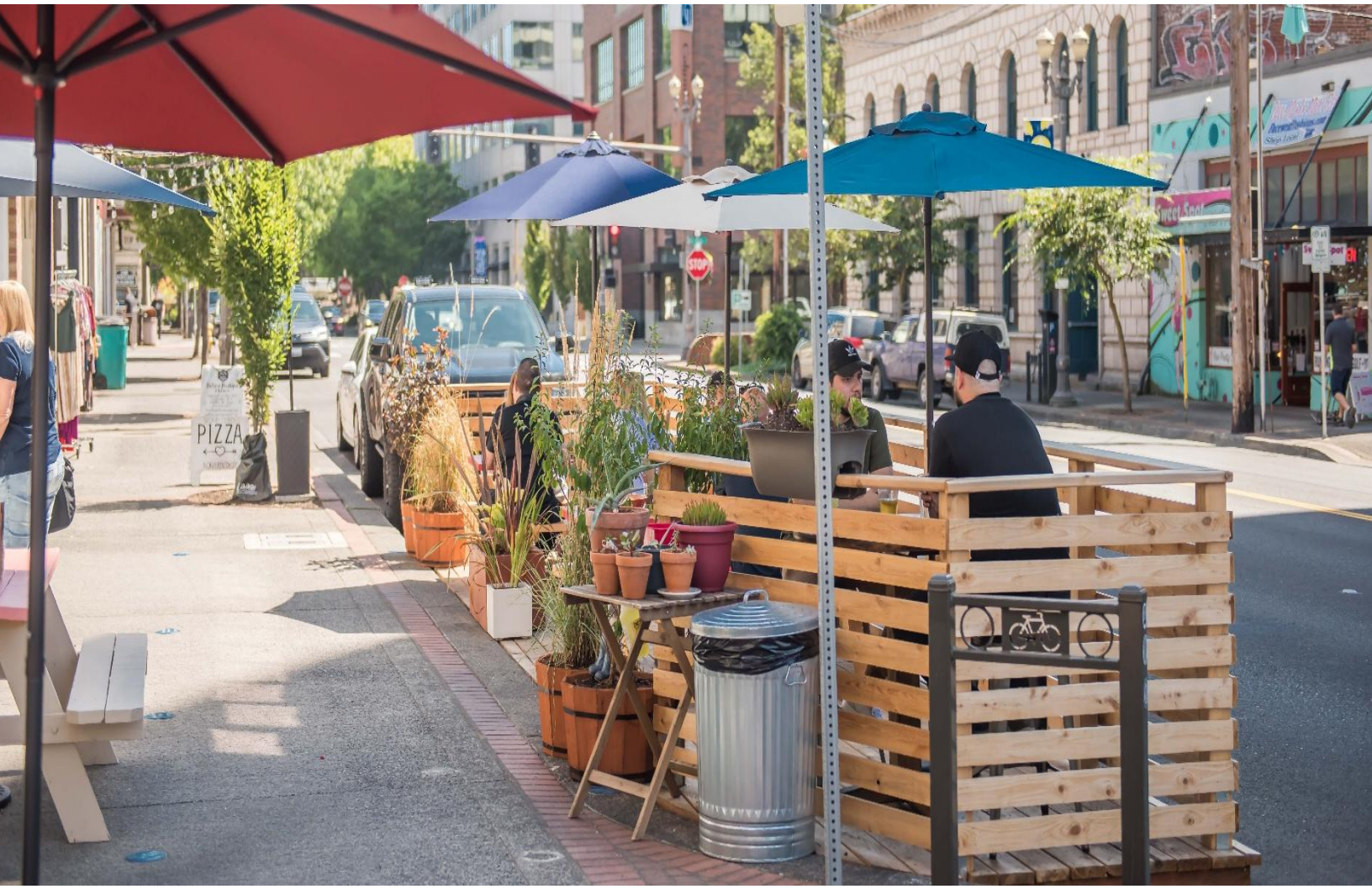
Vancouver's urban forest comprises all the trees in parks, in natural areas, along streets and on private property. In addition to improving the livability and vitality, our community's trees - quantified as tree canopy - provide numerous environmental benefits, including reductions in air pollution,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

# Acknowledgements

Vancouver City Council 2025

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

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



### 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.

# Vision, Mission and Goals

## Program 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 2025, these efforts have grown through the participation of volunteers donating more than 4,500 hours of service, the strong support of Urban Forestry's many partners and the continued interest and dedication of the community to improve Vancouver's tree canopy.

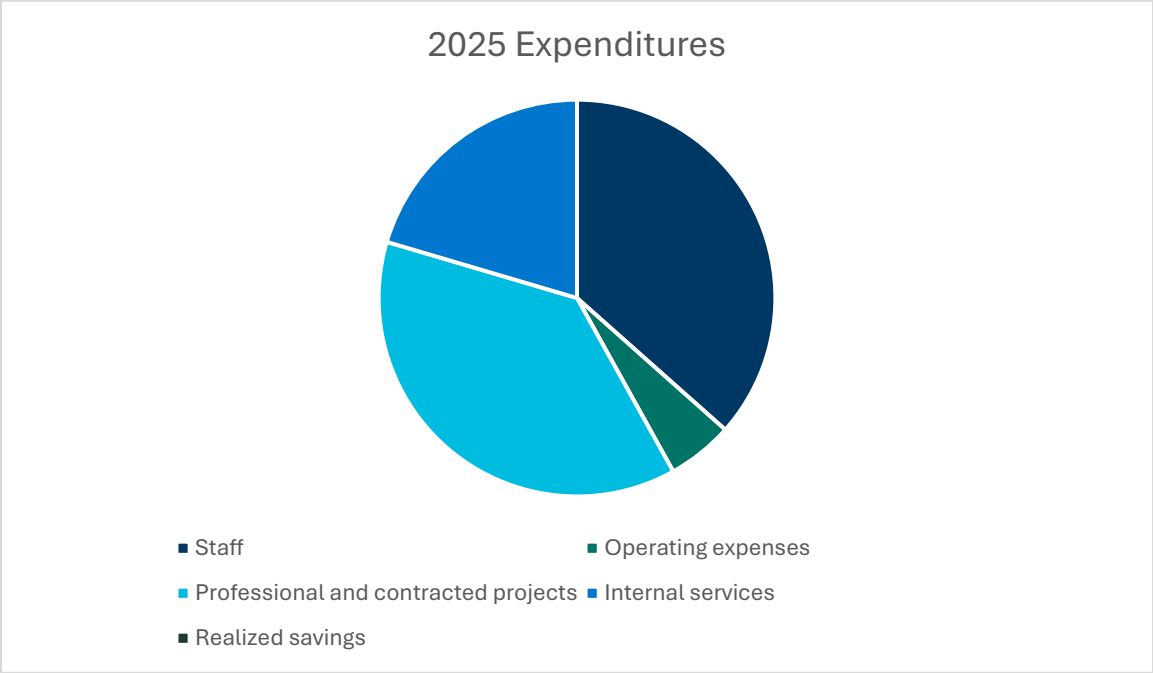
# Focused Funding

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 $2,441,759.00 in 2025. Funding sources and the expenditures for 2025 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). This support allows the program to accomplish much more through an active, integrated program that has grown from 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 2025, these in-kind contributions, along with grants and donations (including those for Witness Trees), totaled $237,907.00.

## 2025 Expenditures

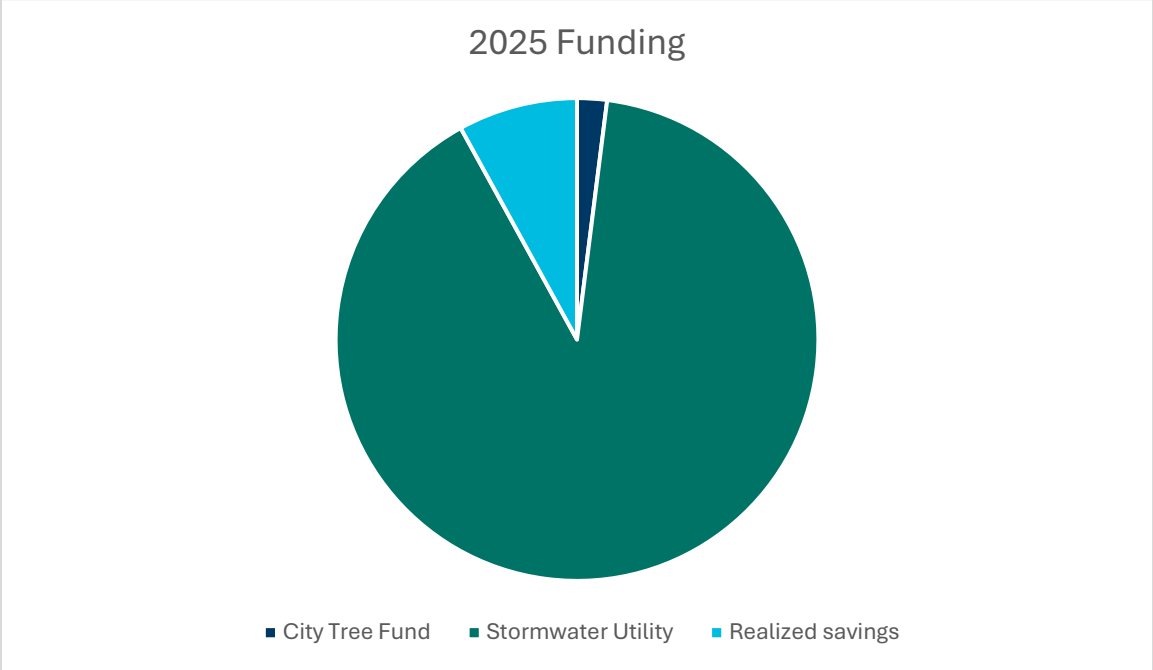



**2025 EXPENDITURES**

| Category | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Staff | 34% |
| Professional and contracted projects | 35% |

| | |
|---|---|
| Operating expenses | 5% |
| Internal services | 19% |
| Realized savings | 7% |

# 2025 Funding




**2025 FUNDING**

| Category | Percentage |
|---|---|
| City Tree Fund | 2% |
| Stormwater Utility | 90% |
| Realized savings | 8% |

# Accomplishments

## Program Developments

With community support, staff continued to implement Vancouver's **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 2025 Urban Forestry increased tree planting, community engagement and tree maintenance goals to ensure an equitable urban forest for all community members.

The City of Vancouver is working with programs and across the community to create an updated **comprehensive plan** that will guide the city's growth and development over the next 20 years. Urban Forestry staff supported Long Range Planning with this project. As part of this process, the City's zoning code is also being updated. The zoning code outlines specific rules for what can be built and where.

The **Hazard/Invasive Tree Assistance Program** supported 5 property owners to remove 11 hazardous trees and replant 13 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.

Urban Forestry continues the **Proactive Street Tree Management Program** to address city priorities of climate, equity and safety. Urban Forestry partners with the Pavement Management Program to run concurrent to the city's annual pavement management projects. Trees along these corridors are identified for pruning or replacement and locations are identified for new planting projects. Goals of this program include reducing storm damage in the right-of-way, addressing social and environmental justice and improving climate resilience.

Urban Forestry was awarded a grant from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to conduct a **street tree inventory**. Phase 1 of this comprehensive inventory was completed in 2025, with the contractor gathering data on 47,537 street trees in 50 neighborhoods. Phase 2 will be completed in 2026. The inventory provides data on health, structure, diversity and stocking levels of street trees for better management.

**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 its arrival in 2002. EAB has not been detected in Vancouver yet. Staff continue to implement Vancouver's EAB management plan to guide the response which include presentations to stakeholders, inventory of ash trees, treating 15 priority ash trees with an insecticide and removing and replacing 27 young or declining ash trees.

Urban Forestry hosted the **Pop-Up Arboretum** series at three community 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 continued a scaled back **Environmental Youth Corps program (EYC)** in 2025 due to federal funding being eliminated. EYS is a workforce development program that provides paid job training for youth 16 – 18 years old. The 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. Five youth participated in the program in 2025. Two young adults that graduated the program in previous years returned to work as summer temporary staff with increased responsibilities.

The Urban Forestry Commission held a joint meeting with the **Clark County Clean Water Commission** to learn more about each other's work and discuss partnerships and collaboration related to improving watershed health.

Due to uncertainties with federal funding, the Environmental Services Programs will not be hosting AmeriCorps members for the 2025-2026 program years.

Continued partnership with ELSO, Inc and **Nature Play Designs** to identify schools located in disadvantaged communities to engage with education and tree planting. In 2025, staff coordinated and planted at Marrion Elementary and Fruit Valley Elementary schools.

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 2025, the group identified the Emerald Landing Neighborhood Corridor to plant 42 street trees for property owners along the corridor.

The City celebrated Arbor Month in April and was recognized as **Tree City USA for the 36th year and received the Growth Award for the 25th year**. The entire month of April was dedicated to celebrating our communities' trees with Pop-Up Arboretums at three parks, family-friendly online activities and an Arbor Day celebration at the Jane Weber Evergreen Arboretum. The celebration was planned in collaboration with the Arboretum's dedicated volunteers. The event included a ceremony to recognize Vancouver's Tree City USA achievements, then staff presented the annual **Gordon and Sylvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award (Mac Award)** to dedicated community members and concluded with planting an Oregon White Oak tree (Quercus garryana) and several native shrubs. The Mac Award honors longtime dedicated volunteers who have contributed significantly to Vancouver's urban forest, planting and nurturing trees for the next generation. 2025 recipients included the Vancouver Career Technical Education Program, the Environmental Youth Corps Program and Vancouver Bee Project.

Staff updated the **Witness Tree Program** to enhance engagement and accessibility. Outreach materials, an online tree map, and a pricing guide were refreshed. Over the past three decades, more than 130 Witness Trees have been planted across Vancouver. The program offers a meaningful way to honor a loved one or commemorate a special event by adopting an existing tree or planting a new one.

The Urban Forestry office relocated from City Hall to Public Works Marine Park Engineering in Spring 2025 to bring the Environmental Service Programs to one campus.

Staff developed new short term maintenance contracts to support increased tree establishment goals.

Staff worked with the residents at **Safe Stay Communities** to care for and grow out 41 trees that were planted the following planting season. Safe Stays are temporary communities offering

residents greater access to services, increased stability and safe living conditions to transition out of homelessness.

Staff partnered with **Clark Public Utilities** to update utility-friendly tree list for climate resilience.

# Awards and Recognitions

Vancouver was named “Tree City USA” for the 36th year and received the prestigious Tree City USA Growth Award for the 25th 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.

One staff member graduated from the Municipal Forestry Institute.

# Urban Forestry in the Headlines

"After tree falls on his house, this Clark County man is urging a proactive approach," The Columbian, January 25, 2025

"Building a Buzz: Vancouver Bee Project's journey toward Bee City USA certification," Lower Columbia Nature Network, January 29, 2025

"In Our View" Boost, protect Evergreen State's tree canopy," The Columbian, February 13, 2025

"Clark County man wants Vancouver and the county to do more to protect disappearing tree-lined ridgelines," The Columbian, April 2, 2025

"Vancouver named a Tree City USA for 36th consecutive year," The Columbian, April 4, 2025

"Vancouver celebrates Arbor Month and 36th year as a Tree City USA," Clark County Today, May 1, 2025

"How does the tree canopy rate in your Clark County neighborhood? Check this map," The Columbian, September 9, 2025

"'A matter of time': Invasive emerald as borer likely on its way to Clark County," The Columbian, September 18, 2025

"Hotter, drier Pacific Northwest summers are killing our native trees," The Columbian, October 8, 2025

"Overnight storm wallops Clark County; forecasters say another is on the way," The Columbian, December 17, 2025

# Education and Outreach

Responded to more than 1,546 requests for service and completed more than 972 site visits for residents with 87% customer satisfaction.

1078 adults and 201 youth volunteers contributed more than 4,400 volunteer hours at tree planting and restoration events.

The Urban Forestry Commission volunteered a total of 392 hours to further Urban Forestry's mission.

In 2024, Vancouver's tree canopy covered about 20 percent of the city, helping preserve watershed health, reduce runoff, and improve neighborhood livability.

Hosted nine **TreeTalk workshops** on tree planting and pruning, tree walks, Heritage Tree tours, and Emerald Ash Borer workshops attended by 194 individuals devoting 346 hours to tree education.

Hosted 28 **educational presentations and events** throughout the community on proper tree care, tree benefits, tree pests and diseases and more reaching 678 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, including ads in The Columbian and The Messenger, social media posts and neighborhood newsletter articles.

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 28 presentations and workshops in 2025 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.

Five 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 the city's Greenway Sensitive Lands Team to host an **Earth Day planting** and event at the Water Resources Education Center.

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 one Heritage Tree walking tour along the five-mile loop downtown highlighting 12 trees and their historical and arboricultural significance.

Partnered with Cascade Park Library to post a display at the library entrance highlighting the benefits of trees in our watersheds.

Partnered with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to lead interactive tree activities with youth attending the **Summer Playground Events** at Hough Elementary School and Evergreen Park.

Surface Water and Urban Forestry staff **developed a new brochure**, "Become Stormwater Savvy" which Building Inspectors provide as part of their final inspection to new residential property owners to educate them about the importance of and how to care for trees and stormwater facilities on their properties.

# Tree Planting

In 2025, Urban Forestry **planted 2,056** trees at more than 75 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 tree plantings.

Following is a snapshot of tree plantings throughout the Vancouver community, in partnership with volunteers, contractors, schools, partner programs and neighborhood associations

Partnered with **Friends of Trees** and neighborhood associations citywide to plant 492 street and yard trees at five large-scale planting events (central-north, central-south, westside, northeast and southeast).

Partnered with Vancouver School District to plant 18 trees at **Fruit Valley Elementary** School with the fifth-grade students.

Partnered with Evergreen School District to plant 21 new trees at **Vita Elementary** and **Marrion Elementary** schools.

Planted 23 trees at the campus of **Washington State School for the Blind** with students; 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 19 trees at 4 sites across the city to **replace ash trees** with pest and climate tolerant trees.

Through the **Proactive Street Tree Management Program** staff, volunteers and contractors planted 403 trees along 25 recent Pavement Management projects.

Planted 18 new **Witness Trees** at parks and public spaces across Vancouver to either remember a loved one or celebrate a special event.

Hosted a **Yard Tree Giveaway** to distribute 71 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.

Planted 15 new trees through the **Treefund Program**, which encourages tree planting on private property. Residential property owners enrolled in Utility e-billing who purchase and plant an approved tree apply for a partial refund of the tree cost.

Partnered with multiple local private contractors to plant 260 trees at 12 project sites, including Mill Plain, Fourth Plain Blvd, SE 192nd Ave, and SE 164th Ave. Worked closely with contractors to ensure quality standards are met on all urban forestry projects.

# Tree Maintenance and Monitoring

Achieved **99 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 2020 through 2025 plantings to ensure survival rates.

After five years of monitoring, the tree survival rate was **95 percent** for 2020 planting projects, which was up from the survival rate of 93 percent for 2019 planting projects

Partnered with volunteers from 10 community groups, resulting in 204 donated hours on Urban Forestry tree maintenance and restoration projects.

**Pruned 423 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

## Outcome: The public is involved in environmental stewardship

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: URBAN FORESTRY IS RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMUNITIE'S NEEDS

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Calls for assistance and information** | 1793 | Work load | 1546 |
| **Site inspections** | 929 | Work load | 1011 |
| **Average response time (site inspections)** | 11 days | 10 days | 8 days |
| **Customer satisfaction as rated by program participants (new)** | 99% | 75% | 87% |
| **Presentations and educational events** | 51 | 25 | 27 |

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: URBAN FORESTRY ADMINISTERS A VIABLE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Volunteers trained (unique)** | 14 | 10 | 5 |
| **Volunteers participating (adults)** | 795 | 300 | 869 |
| **Volunteers participating (youth)** | 257 | 200 | 187 |

## Outcome: The public trees management program is effective

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: THE EXISTING MATURE TREE CANOPY IS PRESERVED

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Acres of total tree canopy based on latest GIS report (2023)** | 6,604 | 6,066 | 6,604 |
| **Technical reviews projects completed on time** | 794 | 500 | 849 |

**INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: YOUNG TREE SURVIVAL IS IMPROVING**

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Trees monitored (all projects)** | 7,975 | 3,750 | 8,535 |
| **Survival rate of new trees** | 98% | 95% | 99% |
| **Trees pruned to improve health** | 408 | 500 | 423 |
| **Estimated acres of canopy at maturity** | 129 | 60 | 138 |

**INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME: NEW TREES ARE ADDED TO THE EXISITNG CANOPY**

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Restoration projects (contracted, volunteer and youth)** | 65 | 10 | 75 |
| **Trees planted** | 2,038 | 1,700 | 2,056 |
| **Tree seedlings and shrubs planted** | 253 | 500 | 0 |
| **Other plants distributed or planted** | 0 | 500 | 0 |
| **Native and climate adaptive species composition of new** | >50% | 50% | >50% |
| **Estimated increase in tree canopy this year in feet** | 25,475 | 21,250 | 25,700 |

# Outcome: Urban Forestry is a good investment

| Output | 2024 actual | 2025 goal | 2025 actual |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Value of grants/ donations/ sponsorships and reeducations** | $237,907 | $35,000 | $453,318 |
| **Estimated value of benefits provided by newly planted trees over 40 years*** | 4.1 million | 1.6 million | 4.2 million |
| **Value of program per tree cost (planted and maintained for 5 years)** | $1,016 | $700 | $1,188 |

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

**Due to increased 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 2,056 new trees planted in 2025 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 20,560 lbs. of pollutants each year from the air we breathe.

Overall, these 2,056 new trees as they mature will provide greater than $3 million worth of benefits, a 250 percent return on this wise investment.

## 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 more 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 highly values our relationships with community partners. We recognize that volunteers and partners play a vital role in helping 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
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
Riverridge Neighborhood Association

# Non-Profit and Community Organizations

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
Jane Weber Evergreen Arboretum
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 Dawn Lions Club
Vancouver Downtown Association
Vancouver Farmers Market
Washington Community Forestry Council
Watersheds Alliance of SW Washington

# Faith-Based Organizations

First United Methodist Church

Saint Andrews Church

Unitarian Church

# 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 Clean Water Commission

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/ Businesses

Arborscape LTD

Bartlett Tree Experts

Cistus Nursery

Columbia Tech Center

Crumbl Cookie Co

Donut Nook

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co

Joe's Farm

Mr Maple Donuts

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.

## Commission Membership in 2025

Clif Barnes, Chair
Jamie Beyer, Vice-Chair
Jess Durfee
Lucius Shields
Ammaar Akhtar
Lauren Danner

Past Commissioners
Melissa Johnston, past Chair
Susan Law, past Chair


City Hall | 415 W. 6th St. | Vancouver, WA 98660 | cityofvancouver.us

# Water Resources Education Center 2025 Metrics

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.

## 2025 Annual Numbers

| Metric | 2025 (and the 2024-2025 school year) | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Water Center Visitors | 3652 | Represents a 10% increase over 2024 attendance. |
| K-12 School Students (Sept - June) | 2231 | Represents a 17% increase over 2024 |
| K-12 School Classes (Sept - June) | 103 | N/A |
| Reading in the Wild | 0 | Numbers included in nature programs below |
| Water Center Events | 1 | World Water Day |
| Event Participants | 62 | N/A |
| Student Watershed Monitoring Network Participants (Sept - June) | 2077 | N/A |
| Student Watershed Monitoring Network Classes (Sept - June) | 77 | N/A |
| Community Room Rentals | 121 | N/A |
| Community Nature Programs | 62 | Includes 5, Reading in the Wild (RIW) programs |
| Community Nature Programs Participants | 1016 | Includes 223 participants for RIW |

**To request other formats, please contact:**
Surface Water Management | 360-487-7130 | surfacewater@cityofvancouver.us
P.O. Box 1995 | Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 | cityofvancouver.us

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Community Volunteer Programs | 15 | N/A |
| Community Volunteer Program Participants | 176 | N/A |
| Community Room Attendees | 7337 | N/A |
| Total Walk-in Visitors, Education Participants and Community Room Rentals | 16,551 | N/A |
| Total Water Center Walk-in Visitors | 3,652 | Represents a 10% increase over last year |
| Total Education Program Participants | 5,562 | Represents an 8% increase over last year |
| Total Community Room Rental Attendees | 7,337 | N/A |

stormwater PARTNERS
SW WASHINGTON

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Prepared February 2026

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stormwater Partners of Southwest Washington (Partners) collaborated to develop a workplan that delivered education and outreach programs to meet all requirements in section S5.C.2. of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (Permit) and some of the requirements in S5.11. of the Phase I Permit. The following report summarizes 2025 workplan activities.

Partners implemented a variety of activities and strategies to deliver a regional education and outreach program. Notable highlights include:

- Provided outreach and classroom presentations to local colleges and universities to increase general awareness on impacts of stormwater and other related topics.
- Piloted a dumpster maintenance behavior change campaign encouraging businesses to keep dumpster lids closed when not in use.
- Funded a Watershed Stewardship course in partnership with the Clark Conservation District that educated residents about watershed health topics and shared stewardship opportunities.
- Engaged 54 students in the creation of 17 videos that received more than 23,000 views for the Students for Clean Water Video Contest.

These efforts helped Partners meet education and outreach Permit requirements efficiently and with consistent messaging.

## 2.0 GENERAL AWARENESS

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

### 2.1 College, University and Trade Students

Clark County contracted with the Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington to conduct outreach and coordinate educational presentations in local colleges and universities. The goal of these efforts was to raise general awareness about 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.


1. CLARK COUNTY STAFF SHOW HOW POLLUTION ENTERS WATERWAYS USING AN ENVIROSCAPE WATERSHED MODEL.

The Watershed Alliance compiled a list of contacts from Clark College, Washington State University Vancouver and organizations that provide education or apprenticeships to trade students. They offered instructors in-class presentations that could be tailored, within the general awareness topics listed above, to fit class needs. County staff developed a PowerPoint slide deck with input from Partners that

could be customized to focus on specific topics to use during classroom presentations. After the Watershed Alliance coordinated presentations, Partners gave the presentation.

Four instructors accepted the offer for presentations allowing Partners to reach at least 40 students (Table 1). Although organizations that serve trade students, such as unions and trades training programs, did not accept the offer, the Watershed Alliance and county shared the Stormwater Partners website as a resource where students could learn more about the topics covered in the presentation. The county intends to continue offering these presentations moving forward.

***Table 1. 2025 College, University and Trade Student Outreach***

| Date | Location | Event | Attendees/Contacts |
|---|---|---|---|
| February 25 | Clark College | Career Fair tabling | 15 |
| April 24 | WSUV | Classroom presentation | 12 |
| April 25 | WSUV | Environmental Fair tabling | 9 |
| May 6 | Clark College | Classroom presentation | 9 |
| August 28 | WSUV | Classroom presentation | 12 |
| December 4 | Clark College | Classroom presentation | 7 |

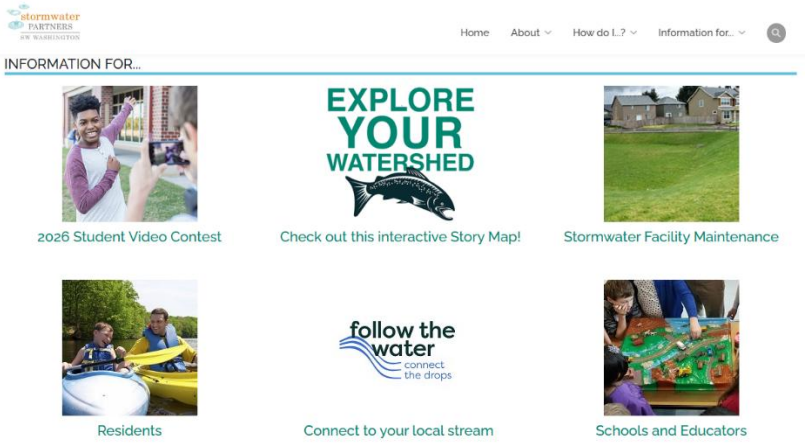
Outreach efforts also resulted in two tabling events that reached approximately 24 students. The Watershed Alliance developed outreach materials that illustrate key stormwater infrastructure features, how stormwater moves through our community and things students can do to help prevent pollution. These resources supplemented other Stormwater Partner materials promoting the website, Follow the Water and the Explore Your Watershed story map, including the Clark County Stream Health Report. Gaining access to campus events proved especially challenging with both higher education institutions restricting outside organizations.

The Watershed Alliance also added a "stormwater minute" article in each of their monthly newsletters. Though exact numbers are not known, many college students have volunteered with the Watershed Alliance's stewardship events and likely subscribe. The email was available in both English and Spanish. See appendix A for the Watershed Alliance's annual report.

## 2.2 Stormwater Partners Digital Marketing

The County maintains the Stormwater Partners' website (www.stormwaterpartners.com), which is a primary resource for building general awareness on a variety of stormwater topics. The website is structured so users can find relevant information based on the audience segment they identify with, topic of interest or program. Audience segments include residents, businesses, schools, contractors and a newly added section for property managers. Topics of interest include stormwater facilities and construction and erosion, and programs include the student video contest, Explore Your Watershed story map, Follow the Water, Don't Drip and Drive and Canines for Clean Water. Partners also added information related to PCBs in building materials including links and graphics from Ecology to the contractors and property managers pages. In 2025, the website received 16,379 pageviews from US users.

Videos on the Stormwater Partners YouTube channel were viewed more than 64,000 times. Ninety-one percent of the views were of videos related to the Students for Clean Water Video Contest promotional video. The remaining 9% of views were of videos about stormwater facility maintenance in English, Russian and Spanish.




2. THE STORMWATER PARTNERS HOMEPAGE IS NAVIGABLE BY PROGRAM OR AUDIENCE AND ACCESSIBLE

Clark County also maintains a Facebook page for Stormwater Partners. The county shares posts related to SW Washington from the Follow the Water page and other Stormwater Partners' content that promotes healthy watershed behaviors and stormwater awareness. In 2025, content was viewed 8,463 times.

## 3.0 BEHAVIOR CHANGE

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

### 3.1 Dumpster Maintenance

In Q1 and Q2, Stormwater Partners continued developing a behavior change campaign plan for dumpster maintenance focused on closing the lid. Partners, municipal solid waste staff and Waste Connections staff met independently, and with behavior change consultant Nancy Lee, to develop a campaign plan that included a situation analysis, priority audiences, objectives and goals, audience insights, behavior change strategies and evaluation (Appendix B). The priority audience for the campaign was identified as "people taking out the trash at commercial businesses with lidded dumpsters". Secondary audiences include business managers and supervisors, and Waste Connections haulers. The behavior objective is to keep dumpster lids closed when not in active use. Partners created a list of behavior change strategies, many of which were inspired by the dumpster campaign developed in the Puget Sound region.

Partners collaborated on the development and review of a request for quotes (RFQ) to select a marketing consultant to refine the plan and implement the campaign. The City of Washougal led the procurement process issuing the RFQ and contracting with the selected vendor, Point North Consulting.


3. DUMPSTER STICKER USED FOR GROUP A PILOT

Point North began with a review of campaign resources from the efforts in the Puget Sound and refined campaign materials for the SW Washington region. Partners compiled their list of dumpster locations and made the decision to focus on businesses with shared dumpsters. Following best practices for behavior change campaigns, Point North developed a pilot campaign plan to implement prior to broad implementation (Appendix C). The pilot campaign

incorporated A/B testing of materials, pre and mid-point observations and included in-person business visits to sites from each jurisdiction (Table 2).

***Table 2. Pilot Dumpster Campaign Sites***

| Jurisdiction | Test Group A Sites/Businesses | Test Group B Sites/Businesses | Total Sites/Businesses |
|---|---|---|---|
| City of Battle Ground | 2/17 | 2/13 | 4/30 |
| City of Camas | 1/27 | 1/11 | 2/38 |
| City of Ridgefield | 2/14 | 2/12 | 4/26 |
| City of Vancouver | 5/42 | 5/46 | 10/88 |
| City of Washougal | 2/13 | 2/11 | 4/24 |
| Clark County | 5/23 | 5/27 | 10/50 |

Implementation of the pilot campaign began in late August and concluded in January 2026. Pilot materials and strategies include "lid champion" recruitment, a business outreach letter, a pledge sheet, a dumpster sticker and indoor and outdoor posters reminding staff to shut the lid. The pilot evaluation report is expected in February 2026, after which Partners will determine which set of materials and strategies will be used for broad campaign implementation.

## 3.2 Canines for Clean Water

Stormwater Partners continued to implement the Canines for Clean Water behavior change campaign from the previous permit cycle with less focus on trail outreach. Partners offered resources like signs, bag holders and digital resources as incentives and tools to improve proper pet waste disposal. At tabling events and through digital marketing, residents were encouraged to take the Canines for Clean Water pledge. In 2025, at least 20 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 five community events.

# 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 fifth annual Students for Clean Water Video Contest in 2025. One-hundred students from eight schools submitted 32 videos about protecting water, their personal or cultural connection to water and environmental justice. Clark County and City of Vancouver staff created two short videos with video creation and interviewing tips intended to support student success. This year a new animation category replaced the previous "protecting water in our community" short video.

Seventeen 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 students' videos more than 23,000 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 Battle Ground, Camas and Vancouver staff promoted the contest directly to schools, via YouTube and through local businesses.

Clark County staff presented the winning videos at a City of Vancouver Movies in the Park event attended by more than 150 residents. Partners had planned to table at the event before showing the videos, but decided against that due to a heat advisory that was in effect. Winning videos can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFt-9loRdC0&list=PLj22tBo_8BDuFyO85HeNocefxAdjTyrtf

## 4.2 Watershed Stewards

Stormwater Partners funded the Clark Conservation District's (Clark CD) Watershed Stewardship program, through an interlocal agreement with Clark County. The "learn and serve"-style program teaches participants about local watershed topics and introduces volunteering opportunities throughout our region. Over six weeks, the course covers local watersheds, surface and groundwater, plants, fish and wildlife, and policies and regulations. Local subject matter experts, including Stormwater Partners, present on the topics. Local organizations join classes to share local stewardship volunteering opportunities. To complete the program, participants attend all six classes, record stewardship commitments and are encouraged to volunteer with organizations that shared opportunities.

4. CLASS OF 2025 WATERSHED STEWARDS

In 2025, Clark CD offered classes in-person which attracted 24 registrants. Of those 24, only 11 participants attended a class, a 66% decrease compared to a hybrid model implemented in 2024. Building a stronger network of Watershed Steward volunteers is one benefit of the in-person model, though Clark CD does recognize additional recruitment strategies are needed to improve participation.

Clark CD administered pre and post-course surveys to understand knowledge gained by participants, their volunteer participation and their likelihood to make behavior changes as a result of taking the course. Participants are asked to rate their knowledge from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent) on topics presented in the course. Overall, the class gained knowledge on each of the topics in the survey with the topic of how we impact Clark County's watersheds showing the largest change among the aggregated class average (Table 3). The post-survey also asked if participants plan to do anything differently as a result of taking the class. Seven of the nine respondents indicated they were "very likely" and two said they were "likely" to make a change.

### Table 3. 2025 Watershed Stewardship Knowledge Change*

| Topic | Pre | Post | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Knowledge of federal, state and local policies and regulations concerning water | 1.89 | 3.78 | 1.89 |
| Knowledge of the definition, role and function of stormwater and groundwater | 2.78 | 4.22 | 1.44 |
| Knowledge of native and non-native plants | 3.00 | 4.22 | 1.22 |
| Knowledge of local resources for restoration efforts and supporting watershed health | 2.00 | 4.11 | 2.11 |
| Knowledge of what you can do to keep our water clean | 3.22 | 4.67 | 1.44 |
| Knowledge of Clark County's watersheds and how we impact them | 2.00 | 4.56 | 2.56 |
| Knowledge of the relationship between fish and wildlife and watershed health | 2.89 | 4.33 | 1.44 |

*Values are aggregated averages from all class participants.

Clark CD also sent a six-month follow-up survey to ask about volunteer activities. Six participants responded, four of whom indicated they had volunteered since taking the class. See appendix D for the full Watershed Stewardship report from Clark CD.

## 5.0 SYMPOSIUM

Stormwater Partners hosted the seventh annual Stormwater Partners Symposium at the Battle Ground Event Center on November 20. Fifty people attended, representing state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations working to protect water in our region. Another five participants joined online.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership staff presented on various activities they do in Clark County including the Experience Vancouver Lake, in-school programs and the East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project. Rapid report-outs included presentations on Vancouver's Bee City USA designation, the Lower Columbia Urban Streams Monitoring Project, the Student Watershed Monitoring Network and connecting community to water through art from the lead artist of the Salmon Creek mural project.

Stormwater Partners also organized an optional networking event at the nearby Everybody's Brewing location. The event was open to all participants and anyone they wanted to invite. Approximately 15 people attended, including staff from local engineering firms and consultants.

## 6.0 ADMINISTRATION

Each Stormwater Partner contributed to the 2025 efforts. Clark County acted as the financial and digital resource lead. They also managed contracts with the Watershed Alliance, Clark CD and C+C, the consulting firm employing behavior change specialist Nancy Lee. The City of Washougal managed the procurement and contract with Point North. In 2025, Partners spent $92,794.04 of the $120,000 available budget. A main reason for underspending the budget was the unknown costs of the behavior change project. The contractor selected for that project proposed expenses on the low end of the anticipated budget. The Watershed Alliance also did not spend down their contract amount as projected, partly due to challenges accessing

campus events for tabling and the trade student audience. Partners spent only $429 of the $2000 contingency budget to purchase tabling supplies.

Clark County staff facilitated meetings and the Washington Stormwater Center's statewide education and outreach coordinator helped with notetaking and meeting coordination. This report was compiled by Clark County with input from Partners.

## Table 4. 2025 Budget and Actual Spending

| | Administration | General Awareness | Behavior Change | Stewardship | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Budgeted** | $4,500 | $8,386 | $80,750 | $22,800 | $116,436 |
| **Actual** | $2,952 | $5,459 | $61,595 | $22,788 | $92,794 |

## 7.0 APPENDICES