

PORT OF BENTON

2026 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRAM UPDATE

Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit No. WAR04-6203



3250 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354



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A. Introduction

This Stormwater Management Program is a living document, updated annually and applicable to the City of Richland (City) and Port of Benton (Port). The 2025 edition is built on the foundation of previous program documents and has been revised to reflect new activities and program requirements. The program is required by the Washington State Department of Ecology's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II Permit for Eastern Washington (Permit). In 2007 the Port of Benton and the City of Richland entered into an Interlocal agreement to become Co-Permittees, in accordance with section S6.A.4 of the Permit. As long as the City and Port continue to have this written agreement in place, the City assumes the permit compliance activities of the Port that are listed in S6.

The Permit is comprised of six elements and the implementation and enforcement of the six elements is collectively referred to as a Permittee's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). The six elements are:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment
6. Municipal Operations and Maintenance

In addition to these six minimum elements, Ecology requires three additional elements:

1. Compliance with Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements
2. Monitoring and Program Evaluation
3. Reporting and Recordkeeping

The SWMP is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the City and Port Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to the maximum extent practicable to satisfy the state requirement to apply "All Known, Available, and Reasonable Methods of Prevention, Control and Treatment" (AKART) prior to discharge. The Permit requires that specified activities from Permit elements be completed each year in order to achieve full compliance by the end of each Permit term.

Within this SWMP document, a description of the jointly executed permit compliance activities can be found. This includes information about the activities that took place during the previous year along with schedules for activities in the upcoming year. In 2025 the Port's SWMP will continue to be implemented in accordance with S6 of the 2024-2029 permit, and the Interlocal agreement with the City. Joint planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the 2024-2029, to meet all requirements therein.

B. Public Education and Outreach

Permit Requirement Summary (S5.B.1)

Implement a public education and outreach program for the general public, including home owners, teachers, school-age children, or overburdened communities that addresses:

- The importance of improving water quality and protecting beneficial uses of waters of the state. The potential impacts from stormwater discharges. Methods for avoiding, minimizing, reducing and/or eliminating the adverse impacts of stormwater discharges.
- Provide information to businesses and the general public about: preventing illicit discharges, including what constitutes illicit discharges, the impacts of illicit discharges, and promoting the proper management and disposal of waste. Management of dumpsters and wash water. The use and storage of automotive chemicals, hazardous cleaning supplies, carwash soaps, and other hazardous materials.
- Provide information to engineers, construction contractors, developers, development review staff, and land use planners about: technical standards, the development of stormwater site plans and erosion control plans. Low impact development (LID) and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) for reducing adverse impacts from stormwater runoff from development sites. Municipal stormwater requirements.

In an effort to promote discussion and awareness about stormwater amongst the target audiences, the City and Port continue to provide education and outreach activities throughout the year. Descriptions of the outreach activities that took place during 2024 and a schedule of the planned activities for 2025 are below.

HBA Home and Garden Show & Riverfest

The City helped sponsor and staff booths at the Regional Home and Garden Show and Riverfest. These booths are a joint effort between West Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, and the Franklin Conservation District. Booth visitors answer stormwater related questions to receive stormwater themed prizes. Educational brochures and handouts are also handed out.

Drain Rangers and Wheat Weeks

The City of Richland entered into an agreement with Pasco, Kennewick, West Richland and the Franklin County Conservation district in 2010 to provide educational programs to local school children in the Tri-Cities area. These programs have continued on an annual basis. The Drain Rangers and Wheat Weeks programs are focused on educating children about the environment. Topics include the water cycle, watersheds, and stormwater runoff, including the impacts that it can have on the environment. 2025 data on total number of students and teachers involved in these programs is located in Appendix 5.



City Fair and National Night Out

In 2025, the City of Richland held their annual City Fair event which provides outreach and exhibitions of the multiple departments that make up the City’s operations. A booth promoting awareness of the Stormwater and Wastewater departments was held at this event.

Developer, Contractor, and Engineer Outreach

Information for developers, contractors, engineers and other consultants involved with land development is always available on the City’s website and at City Hall. An informational handout provided to the development community through the development department covers the erosion control measure during construction and post-construction. Along with explaining the requirements that must be met, this document provides examples and information about where to find further guidance.

Schedule of Public Education and Outreach Activities for 2025

Date	Activity
Ongoing	Drain Rangers and Wheat Weeks Programs
February 2026	HBA Regional Home and Garden Show
April 2026	Salmon Summit
August 2026	City Fair and National Night Out
October 2026	Riverfest
January 2026	Stormwater Utility Billing Insert

In 2025, the existing program for Public Education and Outreach will continue in accordance with S5. B.1 of the 2024-2029 permit. Planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the new 2024-2029 permit began when the new permit was issued in July 2024, to meet all requirements therein.

C. Public Involvement and Participation

Permit Requirements Summary (S5.B.2)

- Provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement and participation such as advisory panels, public hearings, watershed committees, participation in developing rate-structures, or other similar activities.
- Implement a program or policy directive to create opportunities for the public to provide input during the decision-making processes involving the development, implementation and update of the SWMP.
- Post the updated SWMP and annual report on the City's website by May 31.

The Port of Benton and City of Richland are always open to comments from the public. The stormwater utility webpage on the City's website has contact information for both the Stormwater Manager and the Stormwater Maintenance Supervisor.

Public Comment Period for SWMP Update

To garner comments on the 2025 SWMP Update, the Port of Benton uploaded it to its website for a period of review. There were no comments received.

Program Elements For 2026

In 2025, the City and Port will continue to provide opportunities for citizens to provide feedback on stormwater issues. In April a draft version of the SWMP Plan Update will be posted on the Port's website and a notification requesting public comments will be publicized. The Port will coordinate with the City if they receive any questions or comments. At that time it will be determined if an open house should be held to provide a chance for the public to ask additional questions and provide input to City and Ports staff about the SWMP Plan Update. After collecting and discussing the Public's comments and suggestions, Port staff will provide the information to the City to make any necessary changes to the SWMP Plan and the Port will post the final SWMP by May 31.

In 2026, the existing program for Public Involvement and Participation will continue in accordance with S5.B.2 of the 2024-2029 Permit. Planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the new 2024-2029 Permit began when the new permit was issued in July 2024, in order to meet all requirements therein.

D. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Permit Requirements Summary (S5.B.3)

- Continue to maintain and update a map of the MS4, showing the location of all known and new connections to the MS4 authorized or approved by the Permittee; all known outfalls; the names and locations of all waters of the state that receive discharges from those outfalls; and areas served by discharges to ground.
- Implement an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that prohibits illicit discharges and authorizes enforcement actions, including on private property. The ordinance shall include escalating enforcement procedures and actions.
- Implement an ongoing program designed to detect and identify illicit discharges and illicit connections into the Permittee's MS4.
- Publicize a hotline for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges.
- Implement an ongoing program designed to address illicit discharges, including spills, and illicit connections into the MS4.
- Provide training to staff who are responsible for the identification, investigation, termination, cleanup, and reporting of illicit discharges, including spills, and illicit connections to conduct these activities.
- Track and maintain records of the activities conducted to meet the IDDE requirements.

Since the City maintains the Port of Benton's stormwater system the City has an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program in place to detect, investigate, and eliminate all illicit connections and discharges to the Port MS4. This program is implemented through the coordination of City staff in multiple departments. The general public also plays an important contributing role through their use of the illicit discharge hotline. The phone number for the Illicit Discharge Hotline is posted on the Port's website.

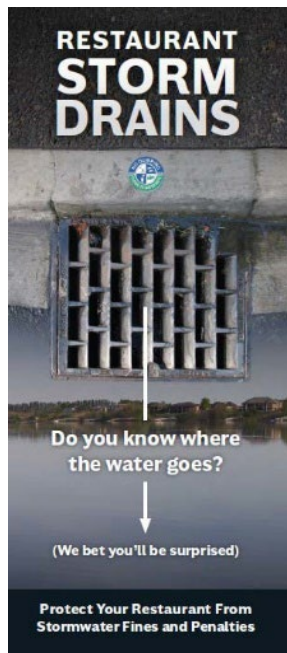
The City tracks the system components of the MS4 through a continuously updated GIS system. This City's system provides information such as pipe size, length, and location. It also provides information about outfall locations to the waters of the state. The GIS Analyst works with the Maintenance Supervisor and Maintenance Staff to track information about all stormwater maintenance activities that are performed, including screening and cleaning.

Ongoing outreach activities are completed each year to increase awareness about what constitutes an illicit discharge and the actions that can be taken to notify the stormwater utility of suspected illicit discharges. The outreach activities are covered in more detail in the Public Education and Outreach section above. During these outreach activities, the prevention of illicit discharges and the promotion of the illicit discharge hotline is a topic of focus.

When necessary, the Public Works Department relies upon Title 16 of the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) to provide escalating enforcement actions including fines of up to \$100-\$5000/day.

Title 16 of the RMC can be found at <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Richland/>. A summary of illicit discharge investigations completed during 2025 can be found in Appendix 3. In 2025, the City received 15 complaints for potential illicit discharges.

In 2025, the City created a new stormwater brochure for outreach. The creation and handout of this brochure completed continues to meet the permit goals. By actively communicating with the public in the community about the importance of Stormwater, a greater appreciation for water quality is fostered. Brochures will continue to be handed out in 2026



Program Elements For 2026

In 2025 the existing program for Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination will continue in accordance with S5.B.3 of the 2024-2029 Permit. Planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the new 2024-2029 Permit began when the new permit was issued in July 2024, in order to meet all requirements therein.

E. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Permit Requirements Summary (S5.B.4)

- Implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in any stormwater runoff to the MS4 from construction activities that disturb one acre or more, and from construction projects of less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale.
- The Permittee shall implement an ongoing process for ensuring proper project review, inspection, and compliance by its own department and agencies. This process should incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts.
- Implement an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to require erosion and sediment controls, and other construction-phase stormwater pollution controls at new development and redevelopment projects.
- Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of construction stormwater pollution control measures.
- Provide adequate training for all staff involved in permitting, planning, and review.
- Provide information to construction site operators about training available on how to install and effectively maintain effective erosion and sediment controls.

As part of the Port's SWMP, an ongoing program is in place to ensure that construction site stormwater runoff is being controlled at both public and privately funded construction projects by the City's stormwater program. The City has adopted regulations, located in the Richland Municipal Code (RMC), which require construction sites to comply with City of Richland Standard Design Guidelines and the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington. Furthermore, all projects that meet the criteria are required to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared prior to construction commencing. The portion of the RMC which applies to construction site stormwater runoff is found in Title 16, Chapter 16.06 and is published at this website, <http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Richland/>.

Privately funded construction projects require a City of Richland issued construction permit. This permit is granted after members of the Public Works department reviews and approves the construction plans, including the SWPPP when the project meets the criteria. Information for consultants/contractors about construction and post construction stormwater requirements is provided in a handout posted online and available in the Public Works Department.

Program Elements For 2025

In 2025, the existing program for construction site stormwater runoff control will continue in accordance with S5.B.4 of the 2024-2029 Permit. Planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the new 2024-2029 Permit began when the new permit was issued in July 2024, in order to meet all requirements therein.

F. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment

Permit Requirements Summary (S5.B.5)

- Implement an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that requires post-construction stormwater controls at new development and redevelopment projects.
- Implement procedures for site plan review which incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts.
- Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of post-construction stormwater control measures.
- Provide adequate training for all staff involved in permitting, planning, review, inspection, and enforcement.
- Provide information to design professionals about training available on how to comply with the requirements of Appendix 1 and apply the BMPs described in the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington
- Keep records of projects, training, and information provided to design professionals.

The City's Municipal Code outlines the regulations for construction and post-construction stormwater management in Chapter 16.06. These regulations give the City the authority to:

- Require construction activities to comply with the City of Richland Design Guidelines and Construction Details and the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington.
- Require all projects to submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Require the property owner to be responsible for continual performance, operation, and maintenance of private stormwater facilities.
- Require an Operations and Maintenance plan for new, permanent stormwater facilities.
- Notifies that all permanent stormwater facilities, BMPs, O&M plans and records shall be subject to inspection by the City.
- Allows the Director, and his designee, the authority to conduct inspections, issues notices of violations, and implement other actions under this title.

City staff will continue to review site plans and stormwater pollution prevention plans (SWPPP) when a Construction Stormwater General Permit is required for all construction projects. An ongoing inspection program to determine which facilities need to be cleaned and/or repaired will continue. This inspection program will further be reinforced by the IDDE investigations and the post storm spot checks, which may provide an awareness of issues before the scheduled

inspection takes place.

In 2017 the City adopted a new requirement to retain the 25-year storm event on site. This requirement is more stringent than the 10-year requirement required in the stormwater permit. In 2020, the City adopted a new design requirement of the 3-hour, 50-year storm at sag points, and the 3-hour, 25-year short duration storm for all other locations to adequately size pipes and inlets.

Program Elements For 2025

In 2025, the existing program for Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment will continue in accordance with S5.B.5 of the 2024-2029 Permit. Planning and implementation of compliance strategies for the new 2024-2029 Permit began when the new permit was issued in July 2024, in order to meet all requirements therein.

G. Municipal Operations and Maintenance

Permit Requirements Summary (S5.B.6)

- Implement a schedule of municipal Operation and Maintenance activities (an O&M Plan). The O&M Plan is to be updated by August 1, 2017.
- The O&M Plan shall include appropriate pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures for all of the following types of facilities:
 - Stormwater Collection System
 - Roads, Highways, and Parking
 - Vehicle Fleets
 - Municipal Buildings
 - Parks and Open Space
 - Construction Projects
 - Industrial Activities
 - Material, Equipment, and Maintenance Storage Areas
 - Flood Management Projects
 - Other Facilities Expected to Discharge Contaminated Runoff
- The O&M Plan shall include a schedule of inspections and requirements for record keeping pursuant to S9 Reporting and Recordkeeping.
- Provide training for all employees who have primary construction, operations, or maintenance job functions that are likely to impact stormwater quality.

The City's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan was written in 2013. The implementation of this plan requires the coordination of multiple City departments. This coordination is outlined in the Internal Coordination Procedures document (Appendix 1).

In 2026 the stormwater maintenance crew will continue their screening and cleaning activities to ensure a fully functional MS4 and to meet the O&M Plan requirements.

Training for all staff who have construction, operations, or maintenance job functions will continue in 2026. The City staff will continue their efforts to keep documents and records update facility specific O&M plans per the 2024-2029 permit and reference the Port's facilities.

H. Compliance with Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements

Permit Requirements Summary (S7)

- For applicable TMDLs listed in Appendix 2, affected Permittees shall comply with the specific requirements identified in Appendix 2.

As the City and Port do not outfall to any of the water bodies covered in Appendix 2 of the Permit, there are not any requirements to meet.

I. Monitoring and Assessment

Permit Requirements Summary (S8)

- All Permittees shall provide, in each annual report, a description of any stormwater monitoring or stormwater-related studies conducted by the Permittee during the reporting period.
- Each city and county shall collaborate with other Permittees to select, propose, develop, and conduct Ecology-approved studies to assess, on a regional or sub-regional basis, effectiveness of permit-required stormwater management program activities and best management practices.

In 2024, the City of Richland notified the Department of Ecology in November 2024, to remain in compliance with the permit requirements of section S8.B.2 and S8.B.3. The City of Richland made the choice to make annual payments in the Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) collective fund to implement Stormwater Management Program effectiveness and Source Identifications Studies.

During 2025, the City continued to participate in the Drain Rangers Education and Outreach Study, the City of Richland entered into another agreement with Franklin Conservation District and will continue to be involved in the program in 2026.

J. Reporting and Recordkeeping

Permit Requirements Summary (S9)

- No later than March 31 of each year beginning in 2016, each Permittee shall submit an annual report.
- Each Permittee is required to keep all records related to this permit for at least five years.
- Each Permittee shall make all records related to this permit and the Permittee's SWMP available to the public at reasonable times during business hours.

This SWMP Plan will be submitted along with the annual report questions. The annual report and this Plan will also be posted to the Port's website by May 31. The Port will continue keep records to ensure permit compliance.

Appendix 1

Stormwater Management Plan Inter- Departmental Coordination Procedures



City of Richland Stormwater Management Plan Inter-Departmental Coordination Procedures

The City of Richland has implemented a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) to increase awareness of stormwater related issues, protect nearby rivers, and meet the permit requirements of the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (Permit). This Permit is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology. In an effort to fully implement the SWMP throughout the City's multiple departments, this internal coordination document has been created to provide structure and definition to the roles that each department will fulfill. This document is intended to satisfy permit requirements as described in Section S5.A.5.b.

Full descriptions of the program components can be found in the SWMP Plan, but a basic outline is as follows:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment
6. Municipal Operations and Maintenance

Public Education and Outreach

Continually working to educate the general public, including businesses and students, about how the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) functions is an important component of the SWMP. Creating awareness that anything put into the City's MS4 could ultimately end up in the nearby Columbia and Yakima rivers is a foundational part of this outreach. Outreach activities include annual booths at local events, billing inserts, business outreach, news announcements, and website updates. In order to provide these activities, coordination is needed amongst the following positions.

Public Education and Outreach	
Public Works Department	Assistant City Manager Department
Public Works Director	Assistant City Manager
Stormwater Manager	Communications & Marketing Manager
Public Works Executive Assistant	Environmental Education Coordinator
Civil Engineer I	Communications and Marketing Specialist

Public Involvement and Participation

Providing opportunities for the public to have input on the development of the SWMP is a requirement of the Permit. Each year the City will post a draft version of the SWMP Plan on its website and provide an opportunity for comments electronically. An open house event may also be held during this comment period to allow an opportunity for individuals to ask questions and provide feedback directly to City staff. The procedure for completing this process will require coordination with the Communications and Marketing Manager and the Public Works Executive Assistant to update the website and to inform the public of their opportunity to comment on the program. The Civil Engineer I will collect and analyze the comments and coordinate with the Stormwater Manager and the Public Works Director to determine how best to address the comments.

Public Involvement and Participation	
Public Works Department	Assistant City Manager Department
Public Works Director	Assistant City Manager
Stormwater Manager	Communications & Marketing Manager
Public Works Executive Assistant	Support Specialist
Civil Engineer I	

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

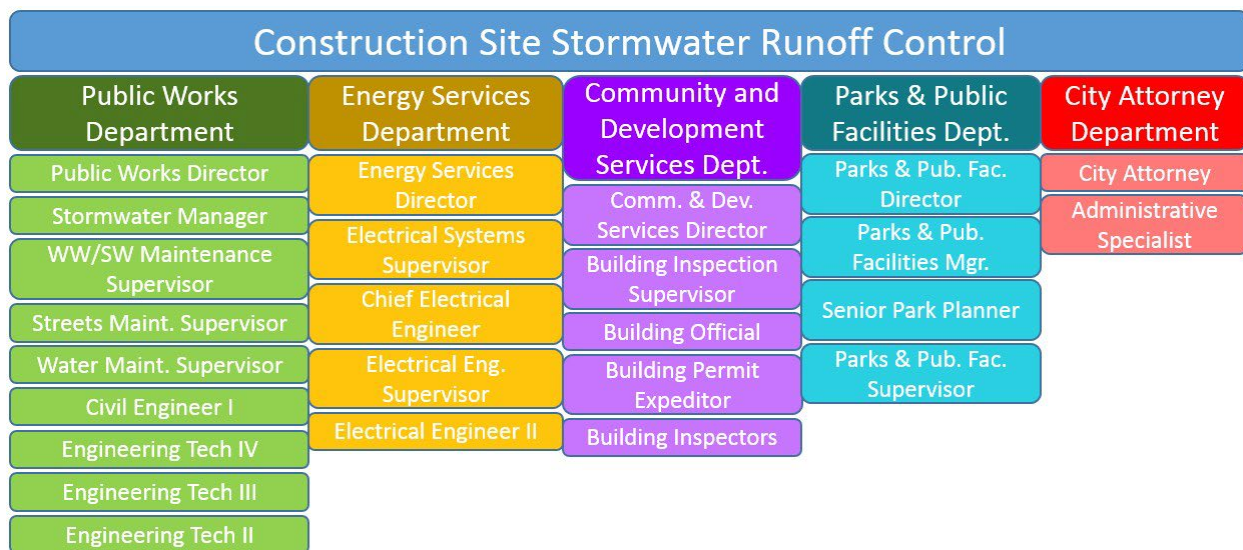
Detecting and eliminating illicit discharges is an important process needed to protect the MS4. The detection of illicit discharges is a shared responsibility of all city staff members who spend time in the field. The general public can also report illicit discharges through the illicit discharge hotline. All suspected illicit discharges reported by City employees and the general public are forwarded to the Public Works department. The investigation and resolution of these suspected illicit discharges is the responsibility of the Public Works department. In cases of continued non-compliance the City Attorney may need to participate when escalated enforcement is needed. The Public Works department is also responsible for ongoing programs to detect and identify illicit discharges, provide training to staff, and track and maintain records, including maps of the MS4.

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

The Permit requires that all permittees “implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in any stormwater runoff to the MS4 from construction activities.” This requirement applies to both public and

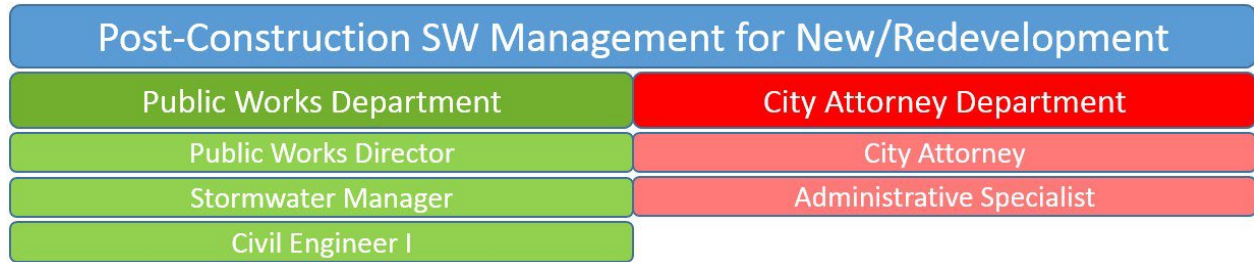
Private projects. Regulatory authority for this program is found in the City’s Municipal Code, Chapter 16.6. This chapter requires that all construction activities, except for small scale maintenance work, comply with the standards found in the City of Richland Standard Design Guidelines and Construction Details and the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington. Furthermore, all projects are required to submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Before issuing a construction permit, City staff complete a full plan review to ensure that the developer/contractor has a plan in place to meet all stormwater management requirements. After the construction permit has been issued and construction begins, members of City staff provide recurring project inspections. These staff members are Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) certified. When staff encounter extreme cases of continued non-compliance, the City Attorney may need to get involved to provide elevated enforcement.

To ensure that City staff are fully prepared for their duties, the City provides ongoing stormwater training to all team members who are, or have the potential to be, involved in construction projects with stormwater runoff. Furthermore, members of City staff who work in plan review and/or complete site inspections maintain their CESCL certification. The Construction Stormwater General Permit requires that site inspections for projects one acre or larger be completed by a staff member who is CESCL certified.



Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment

Post-construction stormwater management is achieved through internal coordination within the Public Works department. Continued inspection of stormwater facilities in the post-construction phase is the responsibility of Public Works staff. The maintenance of publicly owned stormwater facilities is also the responsibility of the Public Works department. However, the maintenance of privately owned stormwater facilities is the responsibility of the land owner per chapter 16.06.050 of the Richland Municipal Code. In the event that the owner of a private facility refuses to address deficiencies, then coordination with the City Attorney may be needed.

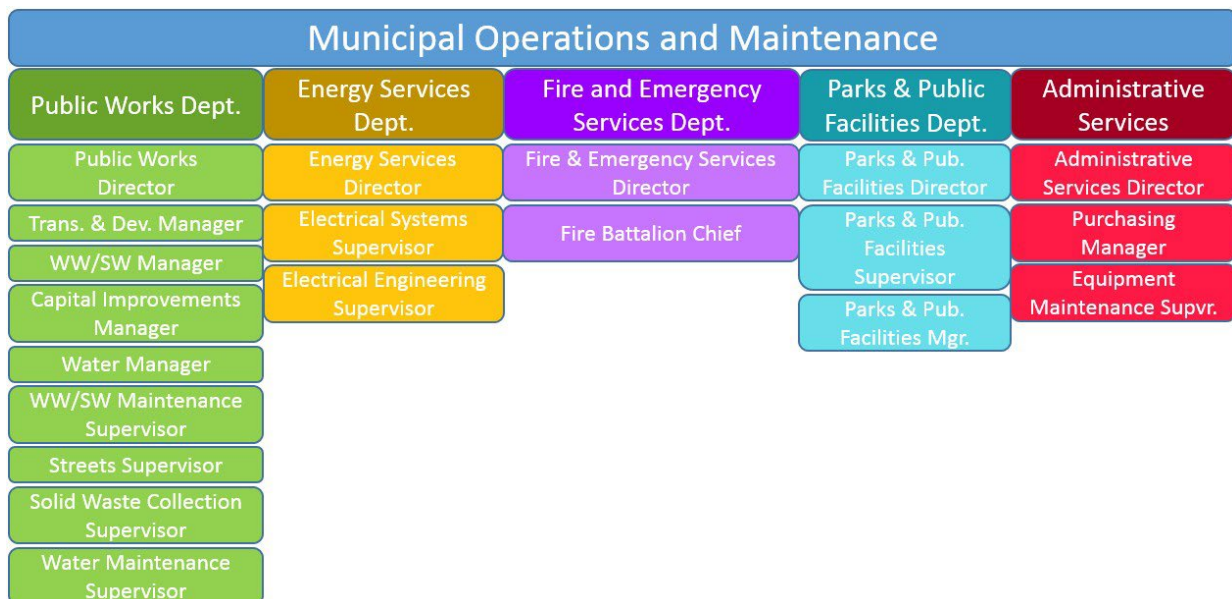


Municipal Operations and Maintenance

Maintenance operations include ongoing training for City staff, MS4 maintenance, and the implementation of the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan. This plan includes pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures that must be implemented for:

1. Stormwater collection and conveyance system
2. Roads, highways, and parking lots
3. Vehicle fleets
4. Municipal buildings
5. Parks and open space
6. Construction projects
7. Industrial activities
8. Material storage areas, heavy equipment storage areas and maintenance areas
9. Flood management projects
10. Other facilities that would reasonably be expected to discharge contaminated runoff

Implementation of the O&M plan requires participation by multiple City departments. Provided below is an outline of the departments and managerial positions that need to participate to fully implement the O&M plan.



Also required is an ongoing maintenance program that focuses on screening and cleaning the MS4. This requires the Maintenance Supervisor to set a schedule for the maintenance team to ensure that the inspection and cleaning requirements of the Permit are met.

Summary

In summary, this document has been created to provide a general outline of the positions and departments that must collaborate in order to fully implement the SWMP. As necessary, other City staff members, not listed in this document, may need to participate to increase the program's effectiveness and implementation

Appendix 2

Utility Billing Stormwater Insert

Appendix 3

2025 Illicit Discharge Investigations

Appendix 4

Port of Benton Interlocal Agreement

Appendix 5

2024 Franklin Conservation District Education Report

Appendix 6-Not used

2021 Quad-City Stormwater Group
Construction Survey

