

STORMWATER

Did you know that.....

Stormwater is the number one water pollution problem in urban areas of Washington?

Here's how you can help improve stormwater management and water quality in our Port Angeles creeks and harbor

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater or snowmelt that does not soak into the ground or evaporate following a storm. Stormwater runs off of surfaces such as roofs, lawns, paved streets, and parking lots.

Stormwater can become polluted by litter, dirt, bacteria, chemicals, and oils that it picks up along its journey. When polluted stormwater reaches a water body it can have a harmful impact on the plants and animals in and around the water. It can also affect people who swim or fish in the water.



YOU CAN HELP! →

Impacts of some common stormwater pollutants:

Trash and litter

- Litter that reaches creeks and harbors can choke or suffocate birds and fish.
- Litter may also clog the storm drain system, leading to street flooding

Bacteria and disease-causing organisms

- These organisms can cause health hazards for animals and people.

Chemicals and oil

- Aquatic animals can be poisoned by chemicals and oils. People can be at risk if they eat contaminated fish or drink polluted water.

Nutrients

- Nutrients from fertilizers or detergents can cause algae to grow in water. This algae uses up oxygen that native organisms need to survive.

What can citizens do about stormwater?

Citizens play an important role in improving stormwater quality in Port Angeles:

- *Don't litter or dump trash illegally.*
- *Never dump oils or chemicals into catchbasins.*
- *Check your vehicles for leaks that may be running onto pavement.*
- *Use non-toxic, phosphate-free, biodegradable cleaners when washing cars and boats - or go to a carwash.*
- *Avoid using chemicals on your lawn.*
- *Plant bare and graded areas to reduce erosion.*
- *Clean up after your pet.*
- *Check your plumbing and/or septic tank to make sure aren't leaking or discharging into storm drains.*
- *Report any illegal discharges or other harmful activities to the City.*

Stormwater hotline: (360) 417-4830

Email: stormwater@cityofpa.us

- *Educate yourself, your family, and your neighbors to be good stewards of the unique environment of Port Angeles.*

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How is stormwater regulated in Washington?

In 1987, Congress changed the Clean Water Act to include stormwater discharges in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed rules to apply the new stormwater requirements in two phases.



The Washington Department of Ecology implements the stormwater rules through municipal stormwater permits.

What is the City of Port Angeles doing about stormwater?

The City is developing a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to improve stormwater quality. The plan must address six minimum control measures, as identified by EPA:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation/Involvement
3. Illicit (illegal) Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

The City also implements projects and performs ongoing maintenance designed to reduce flooding and improve stormwater collection within the City.

Why does Port Angeles have a stormwater fee?

A monthly stormwater fee is charged to all property owners in Port Angeles. This fee supports the City's public stormwater utility. The fee for all residential properties is the same. The fee for commercial properties is based on the size of the facility.

The stormwater fee provides funding for activities required to construct new stormwater infrastructure, maintain existing facilities, improve water quality, and protect the environment. The stormwater utility is operated by the City's Department of Public Works and Utilities.



City of Port Angeles

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~ In Partnership with the Community ~

**For more information on
stormwater in Port Angeles,
please visit the
City's stormwater web page:
www.cityofpa.us/Stormwater.htm**

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