

Lacey Storm and Surface Water Utility Services



The City of Lacey created a stormwater utility in January 1985 due to the increasing importance of managing stormwater and surface water. This utility performs the duties necessary to comply with [State and Federal regulations](#) associated with surface water drainage.

Lacey's Stormwater Utility plans, constructs, improves, operates and maintains an extensive system of public [stormwater facilities](#) located throughout our community. City crews currently maintain a drainage system of more than 4,900 catch basins and more than 90 miles of storm drain pipe. These facilities, which are typically located within the City streets we all use, require continual maintenance and improvement. The storm system drains to more than 50 regional stormwater ponds, which also require regular maintenance and periodic renovation.

Many other public services are provided by Lacey's Storm and Surface Water Utility through the Water Resources and Operations divisions of the City of Lacey Public Works Department. Some examples:

- ◆ We support capital improvement projects to construct or improve facilities for runoff collection, conveyance, water quality treatment and flood control.
- ◆ We respond to [hazardous spill response](#). During 2012, Lacey stormwater personnel responded to more than 100 spills of potentially harmful materials.
- ◆ We construct [stormwater drainage facilities](#) to reduce water pollution and prevent flooding.
- ◆ We create and administer programs designed to address water quality issues and comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ([NPDES](#)) [Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit](#)
- ◆ We conduct street sweeping for clean roads and to keep debris out of the drain system.
- ◆ We provide environmental and [resource conservation education](#) to Lacey youth and adults.
- ◆ We work with other [local jurisdictions](#) to monitor water quality in our local streams and lakes to protect animals and people from polluted runoff.
- ◆ We develop and implement [policies and regulations](#) to control erosion and runoff at development sites.
- ◆ We inspect private, commercial and municipal [stormwater facilities](#) to ensure that they are maintained in functional condition.
- ◆ We conduct [workshops](#) to assist residents with understanding and upkeep of storm ponds.
- ◆ We respond to [flooding issues](#) and strive to protect property and public safety.
- ◆ We provide [technical assistance and on-site consultations](#) for City residents with drainage concerns.
- ◆ We maintain up-to-date maps of the entire City-wide drainage system and inventories of various drainage features.
- ◆ We find and eliminate illicit discharges, to keep pollution out of drainage systems and surface waters.
- ◆ We provide pet waste stations, storm pond signs, storm drain markers and other materials for water resource protection to [Lacey Homeowner Associations](#).
- ◆ We support and participate in programs and activities for public involvement and education, such as [Stream Team](#).
- ◆ We work diligently to protect our water resources, and to preserve and enhance aquatic habitats.

To fund these various programs and activities, storm and surface water [utility fees](#) are imposed on every developed parcel of land within the City of Lacey.