2015 Stormwater Management Plan

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I. Introduction

This document has been prepared to meet the City of Mill Creek's Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit requirement for development of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

According to The Department of Ecology, the SWMP is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), meet Washington's State's All Known and Reasonable Treatment (AKART) requirements, and protect water quality. This goal is accomplished by the inclusion of all Permit SWMP components and implementation schedules in the SWMP. The EPA phase II regulations went into effect in early 2003 and apply to all regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems. Ecology first issued the Western Washington Phase II permit in 2007 and modified it in 2009. Ecology reissued it unmodified on August 1, 2012 to be effective through July 31, 2013. At the same time, Ecology also reissued an updated 2013 to 2018 permit on August 1, 2012.

For the calendar year 2015 the permit requires the permitee, The City of Mill Creek, to update the SWMP.

The City of Mill Creek Surface Water Utility is posting this document on the City of Mill Creek website, www.cityofmillcreek.com, so it can be viewed by the public. Comments on the City of Mill Creek's SWMP can be made by contacting the City's Director of Public Information by phone, 425-745-1891, or online at the City of Mill Creek website. www.cityofmillcreek.com

There is no deadline on comments. The City's business are Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm, excluding holidays.

The 6 (six) elements of the SWMP are as follows:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Development Runoff Controls
- Pollution Prevention and Municipal Operations and Maintenance
- Monitoring Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements
- Monitoring & Assessment

II. Public Education and Outreach

There are many preventative actions that residents who live in the City of Mill Creek can do to help keep contaminants out of storm drains. It can be more cost effective to change habits to prevent contaminants in the storm drain than it is to clean up the pollutants after they have reached our waterways.

Programs and activities the City has undertaken for public education include:

1. Educational programs, partnering with the Snohomish Conservation District, offering classes that cover stormwater topics at Mill Creek Elementary, Heatherwood Middle, and Jackson High Schools, all within the City limits. Lessons are presented in the classroom and are typically an hour long. Lesson titles include: Aquatic Adaptations, EcoSYSTEMS, Four Rain Drops, Incredible Journey, Let's Get to the Root of the Testable Question, MacroMania & Stream Water Quality, Meet Your Native Plant Neighbors, Salmon of Puget Sound, Sorting It Out, There is No Point to this Pollution, Watersheds of Snohomish County, Water Quality Monitoring with Test Kits, Ocean Acidification, and Wheat week.
2. Snohomish Conservation District Pilot program with Everett School District STEM program to educate on Surface Water education. Snohomish Conservation District held a workshop for Everett School District teachers in August 2015.
3. Portable pet waste dispensers and refill bags on rolls are given away to pet owners at events like the Mill Creek Festival in July 2015.
4. The City partnered with Snohomish County Surface Water Utility, to meet the February 2, 2016 requirement. to measure the understanding and adoption of the targeted behaviors for one target audience. The program implemented in greater Snohomish County (referred to as the North Sound program), consisted of a three-part evening lecture series, in seven locations across Snohomish County, covering a wide variety of natural yard care topics. The North Sound program's goal was to reduce pollutant runoff from yard care practices, including lawns and other areas of yards. Participants learned about six natural yard care topics during the series: Natural Lawn Care; Smart Watering; Building Healthy Soil; Sustainable Landscape Design; Right Plant, Right Place; and Natural Pest, Weed & Disease Control. In total, the North Sound program held 21 lecture workshops reaching a total of 451 households. Snohomish County provided a report on the behavior change results.
5. The City partnered with Snohomish Conservation District to offer a landscape workshop at Lil Sprout's Nursery on June 20, 2015. A booth was provided outside of Central Market on June 27, 2015 where people could ask gardening questions.
6. The City continues to work with the Snohomish Conservation District and the City Art & Beautification Board to promote the Sustainable Landscape Certificate. Those that fill out the application can be certified and can get a sustainable garden plaque

posted in their yards. This year we surveyed the City and sent sustainable landscape applications to 50+ homes that appeared to have a sustainable landscapes to promote the program. The City launched the program in 2015 and has thus far issued 4 certifications.

7. The City worked with the Snohomish Conservation District to provide the 76 gas station on 164th and Bothell Everett Highway a custom charity car wash kit for their site. The business signed an agreement with the City. The gas station is to store the kit and show charity organizations on how to use the kit at their site. The City determined that this was the best place for charity car washes.
8. During the year citizens were encouraged to take a car washing survey, on Survey Monkey, and a pledge in order to receive a free professional car wash coupon or a free waterless car wash kit. The results showed that most residents already know about not washing cars in driveways or the street.
9. The City's Surface Water Utility uses Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) promotional items to help educate residents. We have posted PSSH car wash and pet waste posters in the lobby of City Hall. Puget Sound Starts Here pencils were also given away at the Mill Creek Festival in July 2015.
10. The City installed two permanent educational signs along North Creek Trail. One sign shows the importance of woody debris in the stream for habitat. The other sign shows the fish that live in North Creek.
11. Snohomish County Surface Water Utility partnered with the Beach Watchers to educate veterinary offices throughout Snohomish County about the importance of picking up pet waste. Veterinary offices in the City of Mill Creek were included in this program.
12. The City mailed brochures to businesses that have a City business license about general impacts on surface waters, best management practices to prevent illicit discharges and how to report illicit discharges.
13. On Earth Day, April 22, 2015, the Snohomish County/Camano Association of Realtors planted 29 plants, which included an Incense Cedar tree, Cedar trees, evergreen huckleberry bushes, and salal groundcover plants, at the City's Library Park. Compost was incorporated into the existing soil and mulch was placed on top to help retain moisture in the soil.
14. The Snohomish Health District visited 65 businesses in the Mill Creek city limits as part of their Local Source Control program and educated businesses about hazardous waste handling, storage and disposal, storm water pollution prevention and general solid waste.
15. Stewardship Opportunities were offered for volunteer groups to affix storm drain markers next to storm drains indicating "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain".

III. **Public Participation**

The public is encouraged to participate in the development, revisions, updates, implementation, and funding of the Surface Water Management program. Comments on the City of Mill Creek's Surface Water Program can be made by contacting the City's Director of Public Information by phone or on-line at the City of Mill Creek website or participating in a Council meeting.

The City has also posted this SWMP on the City's Surface Water webpage for the public to review.

This document is posted on the City website at www.cityofmillcreek.com , as well as, the annual report for review from the public.

IV. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

The City is responsible for preventing, detecting and eliminating illicit connections and illicit discharges into the City storm drainage system. The following is what the City is doing to comply.

1. The City has developed an ongoing program to detect and remove illicit discharges and has a program for improper disposal including spills into the City storm drainage system.
2. The City hired a contractor to video camera 36,850 linear feet of storm pipes to help detect illicit discharges. The City has completed 41.2% of the illicit connection videos throughout the City since 2012.
3. Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.200 requires a permit and construction plan review by the City Engineer before connecting to or modifying the storm drainage system.
4. The City has and maintains a municipal storm drainage system map in GIS. In addition the City keeps all development and commercial storm water as-builts for all properties in the City.
5. The City has ordinances prohibiting non-stormwater discharges and dumping into the storm drain system. Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.230 "Discharge of Polluting Matter Prohibited" lists 23 (twenty three) materials that are deemed to be pollutants. Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.260 covers Violations and Penalties.
6. The City encourages the public to contact City Hall to report spills and illicit discharge into the storm drainage system during office hours (M-F 9am – 5pm). If a spill or illicit discharge occurs outside of office hours the public can call 911 or make a report on the Surface Water Utility webpage at www.cityofmillcreek.com.
7. Planning Department, Building Department and Public Works Departments staff have been trained at a combined IDDE (Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination) and SWPPP (Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan) training. The most recent training on this topic was held on December 11, 2014. The City tracks and maintains records of

illicit discharges, spills and comments and concerns received from the public about illicit discharges and spills.

V. **Development Regulations and Runoff Controls**

The City is responsible to implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to a regulated small MS4 from new development, redevelopment and construction site activities. The program applies to private and public development, including roads. The following is what the City is doing to comply.

1. The City of Mill Creek Surface Water Utility has a program that meets all the required permit requirements for controlling runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction sites.
2. The City has an ordinance (MCMC 15.14.180 and MCMC 15.14.070(1) that addresses runoff from new development, redevelopment and construction sites.
3. The City has adopted the Ecology's manual for stormwater construction. Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.060. The Thresholds, Definitions, Minimum Requirements and Exceptions, Adjustment and Variance Criteria found in Appendix I of the 2012 NPDES Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (effective September 1, 2012) and the 2005 Edition of the State Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (hereinafter referred to as the "Ecology Manual") are hereby adopted and incorporated by this reference. The city clerk shall at all times maintain and make available for public inspection Appendix I of the 2012 NPDES Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit and the Ecology Manual.
4. Through the City's permitting process of reviewing plans, inspecting sites during construction, and enforcement action for failing to follow approved guidelines or to provide required facilities.
5. The City has adopted codes and standards and developed practices to allow for non-structural preventative actions and source reduction practices such as, Low Impact Development Techniques, (LID) that use amended or native soils and vegetation to minimize runoff and remove pollutants from stormwater. Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.095 encourages LID.
6. In Mill Creek Municipal Code 15.14.110 the Surface Water Utility has adopted ordinances, maintenance standards, inspection procedures and enforcement provisions to verify long-term operation and maintenance of permanent stormwater control facilities.
7. The City's Surface Water Utility has provided training to staff on new/revised regulations, standards, processes, and procedures.

8. The City's Surface Water Utility has developed a process for centralized recordkeeping of activities associated with regulation of new development, redevelopment, and construction sites as required in the Permit.
9. The City of Mill Creek Planning Department has posted the "Notice of Intent for Construction Activity" and the "Notice of Intent for Industrial Activity" on the City's Planning webpages where developers get instructions on the City processes for proposed new development and redevelopment.

VI. Pollution Prevention and Municipal Operations and Maintenance

The City is required to implement an operations and maintenance (O&M) program that includes a training component and has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. The following is what the City is doing to comply.

1. The Surface Water Utility has a program that meets all the required permit requirements for Pollution Prevention and Operation and Maintenance for Municipal Operations. The City has a responsibility to prevent and eliminate polluted stormwater runoff from City maintenance procedures.
2. Stormwater treatment and flow control facilities are inspected yearly by the Utility. Facility owners are notified of needed maintenance actions and are given a timeline for completion.
3. The Utility spot checks stormwater treatment and flow control facilities during every major storm or rain event.
4. All catch basins in the City right-of-way are cleaned once every other year. This meets the catch basin inspection alternative requirements in the NPDES permit.
5. The City is a member of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Regional Road Maintenance Forum and all Public Works maintenance staff and the Stormwater Specialist have received specialized training. The ESA Regional Road Maintenance Forum sets policies and practices that will meet the goals of conserving endangered species, while maintaining roadway drainage systems.
6. The City prepared a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that takes steps to minimize pollutants in runoff from City activities. The City inspects the City Hall parking lot quarterly and reports any pollutants or contaminants in the storm drain system. The City follows guidelines for recommended maintenance activities by the ESA Regional Road Maintenance Forum.
7. The City partnered with the Snohomish Conservation District to design sustainable landscaping and efficient irrigation plans for right-of-ways and parks that are high maintenance.
8. The Facilities/Parks & Recreation Department minimizes the use of pesticides and chemicals to minimize pollutant discharge from landscaped areas on City property.

9. The City has two street sweepers, which will sweep 106 lane miles of streets are at least twice each year, playing an important role in keeping pollutants and other particles out of the storm drainage system.
10. The City budgets money for catch basin repairs.
11. The City replaced 2,994 linear feet of failing pipes and 16 failing catch basins in the spring of 2015.

VII. Monitoring Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements

North Creek is polluted due to excessive levels of bacterial pollution. Although the specific sources have not been identified is thought that pet waste, bacteria regrowth in storm sewers, failing septic tanks, areas of concentrated wildlife and illegal discharges are the likely suspects. As a result of the bacterial pollution problem, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) worked with local municipalities to develop the North Creek Fecal Coliform Total Maximum Daily Load Detailed Implementation Plan, (Svrjcek 2003). In this plan, Ecology established water quality monitoring requirements for local municipalities that collect, treat, and/or convey stormwater. The following is what the City is doing to comply.

1. Annually the City gives away portable pet waste bag dispensers to dog owners at the Mill Creek Festival.
2. There are Mutt Mitt pet waste bag dispensers at every City and Mill Creek Community Association park in the City. There are also Mutt Mitt pet waste bag dispensers along North Creek Trail.
3. The City takes samples, monthly, at Upper Penny Creek, Lower Penny Creek, North Creek, Mill Creek and Nickel Creek for fecal coliform. This information is shared with other agencies that have a TMDL on North Creek, as well as Ecology.

VIII. Monitoring and Assessment

Ecology requires NPDES Phase 2 permit holders to conduct extensive monitoring of stormwater/streams for flow weighted composite sampling, grab sampling and sediment sampling. Since the City does not have the resources to conduct the sampling on its own the City pays into a regionally run monitoring program that is organized by cities and counties that are NPDES Phase 2 permit holders. This program looks at the following.

1. Status & Trends in Receiving Waters. The goal is to measure whether things are getting better or worse and identify patterns in healthy and impaired Puget Sound Lowland streams and Puget Sound urban shoreline areas.
2. Effectiveness Monitoring of Stormwater Management Program Activities. To provide widely applicable information about what works and what doesn't work in certain situations and how to improve stormwater management.

3. Source Identification Information Repository. Information about source identification and elimination methods as well as identifying opportunities for regional solutions to common illicit discharges and pollution problems.