

# City of Spokane Stormwater Management Program Plan

March 2023

Prepared by:  
City of Spokane  
Wastewater Management  
909 East Sprague Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99202



## CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES .....	iii
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1-1
1.1 Purpose .....	1-1
1.2 Regulatory Background .....	1-1
1.3 Stormwater Management in Spokane .....	1-2
2.0 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMPONENTS .....	2-1
2.1 Public Education & Outreach .....	2-1
2.1.1 Public Education and Outreach Permit Requirements (S5.B.1) .....	2-1
2.1.2 Outreach to the General Public .....	2-1
Spokane Stormwater Website .....	2-1
Social Marketing .....	2-2
Swale Education .....	2-2
Stormwater Permitting Educational Materials .....	2-3
City of Spokane Cable 5 .....	2-3
Stormwater Survey .....	2-3
Outreach Events .....	2-4
Spokane Indians Baseball .....	2-4
Adopt-a-Drain Program .....	2-4
Drain Rangers Curriculum .....	2-5
Don't Drip and Drive (Fix Car Leaks) Promotion .....	2-5
EnviroKids Club .....	2-6
Hazel's Creek Regional Stormwater Facility and LID Demonstration Site .....	2-6
Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative .....	2-6
Presentations at Conferences .....	2-7
Stormwater Publications .....	2-7
2.1.3 Outreach to Business Sectors .....	2-7
2.1.4 Outreach to Developers, Engineers, and Contractors .....	2-7
2.2 Public Involvement and Participation .....	2-8
2.2.1 Public Involvement and Participation Permit Requirements (S5.B.2) .....	2-8
2.2.2 Public Hearings and Rulemaking .....	2-8
2.2.3 Stormwater Management Program Plan Public Participation .....	2-9
2.2.4 Spokane Municipal Code Revisions .....	2-9
2.3 Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE) .....	2-9
2.3.1 IDDE Permit Requirements (S5.B.3) .....	2-9
2.3.2 Map of the MS4 .....	2-10

2.3.3	Adoption of IDDE Ordinance.....	2-10
2.3.4	Ongoing IDDE Program .....	2-10
2.3.5	IDDE Priority Areas.....	2-11
2.3.6	Field Inspections, Characterization and Tracing of Illicit Discharge .....	2-12
2.3.7	Elimination of Illicit Discharges .....	2-13
2.4	Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control .....	2-13
2.4.1	Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Permit Requirements .....	2-13
2.4.2	Guidance Manuals for Development and Re-development.....	2-14
2.4.3	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan .....	2-15
2.4.4	Construction Site Inspection and Enforcement.....	2-16
2.4.5	Construction Stormwater Training and Informational Materials.....	2-16
2.5	Post-Construction Stormwater Management .....	2-16
2.5.1	Post-Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Permit Requirements.....	2-16
2.5.2	Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinances.....	2-17
2.5.3	Encouragement of Low Impact Development.....	2-17
2.5.4	Procedures for Development Site Plan Review .....	2-17
2.5.5	Construction Site Inspection and Enforcement.....	2-18
2.5.6	Training for Staff and Stormwater Professionals.....	2-18
2.6	Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations .....	2-19
2.6.1	Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations Permit Requirements .....	2-19
2.6.2	Municipal Operations and Maintenance Program .....	2-21
2.6.3	Municipal Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan.....	2-21
	Stormwater Collection and Conveyance System.....	2-22
	Roads, Highways and Parking Lots.....	2-23
	Vehicle Fleets .....	2-23
	Municipal Buildings.....	2-24
	Parks and Open Space.....	2-24
	Construction Projects.....	2-24
	Industrial Activities .....	2-25
	Staff Training.....	2-25
2.6.4	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs).....	2-25
3.0	COMPLIANCE WITH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD .....	3-1
3.1	Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) .....	3-1
3.1.1	TMDL Permit Requirements .....	3-1
3.1.2	Monitoring Cochran Basin Discharges.....	3-1
4.0	MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT .....	4-1
4.1	Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Studies.....	4-1
4.1.1	Effectiveness Study Permit Requirements.....	4-1

4.1.2 Ongoing City of Spokane Effectiveness Studies.....	4-2
Sharp Avenue Sharp Avenue Permeable Pavement.....	4-2
Garland Avenue Biochar Amended Storm Garden.....	4-3
4.1.3 Additional Effectiveness Study (2019–2024 Permit Cycle).....	4-3
5.0 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	5-1
5.1 Annual Stormwater Report.....	5-1
5.1.1 Permit Requirements for Reporting .....	5-1
5.1.2 City of Spokane Annual Stormwater Report.....	5-1
6.0 ACRONYMS.....	6-1
7.0 DEFINITIONS .....	7-1
8.0 REFERENCES .....	8-1

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Typical Swale Design. ....	1-3
Figure 2. Map of stormwater management areas.....	1-4
Figure 3. Location of Illicit Discharge Responses 2021/2022. ....	2-11
Figure 4. IDDE Decision Tree.....	2-12

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

Stormwater in the City of Spokane is regulated by the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (the permit) issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The permit requires the development and implementation of a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that addresses permit Sections S5, S7, and S8. This Stormwater Management Program Plan (the plan) has been prepared to provide information to the public on the activities and means that the City of Spokane (the city) expects to implement in order to protect local water quality and satisfy the conditions of the permit.

The permit requires that a municipal Stormwater Management Program consist of six elements that, when implemented, will ensure that local water quality is protected. Section S5 of the permit, *Stormwater Management Program for Cities, Towns, and Counties*, details the six elements as:

- (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 and Redevelopment, and
- (6) Municipal Operations and Maintenance.

Section S7 of the permit, *Compliance with TMDL Requirements*, requires implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) monitoring detailed in Appendix 2 of the permit, and Section S8 of the permit, *Monitoring and Assessment*, details the requirements to implement stormwater management effectiveness studies.

The draft SWMP Plan is posted made available to the public annually via the city's stormwater website ([Spokanestormwater.org](http://Spokanestormwater.org)) on or before April 1st of each year. The draft plan is posted for 30 days, at which time the public may submit comments on the draft plan. After the 30 day draft period, the SWMP Plan will be finalized and posted to the website on or before May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Comments on the final SWMP Plan will be accepted anytime throughout the year and considered for inclusion during the next plan revision.

### 1.2 Regulatory Background

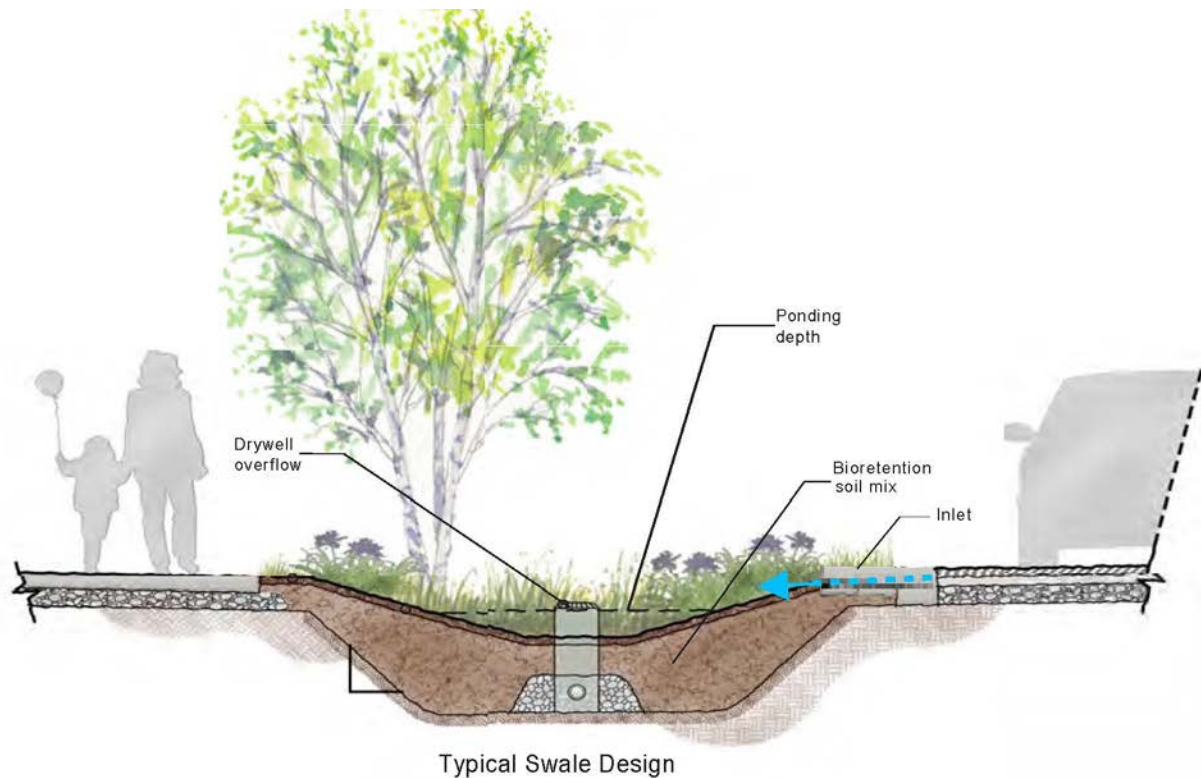
Created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a federal requirement that regulates stormwater and wastewater discharges to "Waters of the United States". The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes States to implement the NPDES program and perform many of its' permitting, administrative, and enforcement aspects. The regulatory authority in Washington State is the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), who regulates stormwater west of the Cascade mountains with the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater permit. The permit is a quasi-combination NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit for discharges from small municipal separate storm sewers in Eastern Washington.

Ecology first issued the permit to municipalities in 2007, and has reissued it three times since 2007 with revisions in 2014 and 2019. The current permit became effective on August 1, 2019 and is set to expire July 31, 2024. The city is authorized to discharge stormwater to surface waters and to groundwaters of the State from the city's Municipal Separated Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) in accordance with the permit. The entire incorporated area within the city's geographic boundary is considered the MS4 and stormwater is managed in accordance with the stormwater permit. There are several combined sewer overflow (CSO) basins within the regulated MS4 that collect and convey stormwater to the Riverside Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) for treatment. Surface waters that flow on hard surfaces and are collected and conveyed within infrastructure in the CSO basins are regulated under a NPDES waste discharge permit, and managed accordingly. Stormwater within CSO basins is, in large part managed in a combined sewer system, with exception of occasional structural treatment BMPs that manage stormwater locally and discharge to ground.

### **1.3 Stormwater Management in Spokane**

The city's MS4 system consists of catch basins, piping, structural BMPs, outfalls, and underground injection controls (UICs). Within the permitted MS4 boundary, but outside of the CSO Basins, stormwater is collected by the separated stormwater sewer system and conveyed to stormwater treatment facilities, and/or directly to outfalls that discharge to the river. The separated stormwater sewer system and stormwater treatment facilities manage stormwater separate from sanitary wastewater, and is generally located in the North/Northwest portion of the city.

Stormwater treatment facilities can be found throughout the city's MS4, and are used to manage stormwater as near as possible to where the runoff is generated. The treatment facilities are generally swales, bioretention cells, infiltration ponds, etc., which are structural stormwater BMPs designed to remove pollutants from runoff. The facilities are typically designed and constructed in accordance with the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual (SRSM), and consist of inlets, a vegetated retention area, subgrade bioretention soil media, and an outlet/overflow. They are designed to retain water to approximately six inches depth, and have drywells to serve as overflows. Treatment facilities range in size from a small roadside swale that receives drainage from a parking lot, to of a large dry pond that treats stormwater for an entire neighborhood, but the treatment processes are the same. Stormwater enters the treatment facility through an inlet, flows over vegetation slowing it down, and infiltrates into the ground through bioretention soil media. The vegetation, bioretention soil media, and microbes in the soil are providing treatment to the stormwater and removing any pollutants. Figure 1 shows a typical swale design.

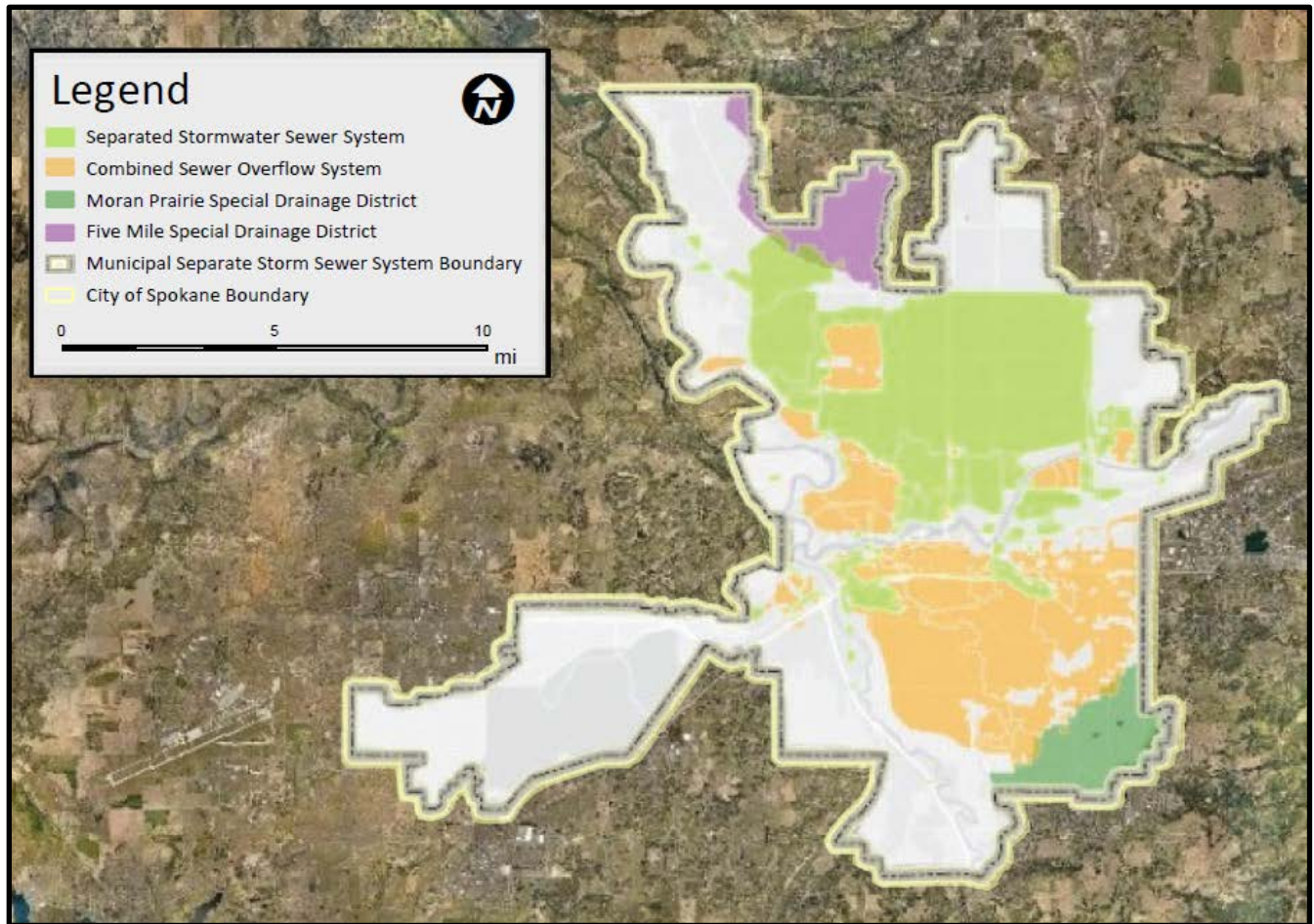


**Figure 1. Typical Swale Design.**

Special Drainage Districts (SDD's) have been established where typical stormwater treatment BMPs may not be effective because treatment via standard infiltration approaches is not practical. The Moran Prairie and Five Mile SDD's have been exist because of the challenges that managing stormwater in those areas presents due to shallow groundwater, intermittent standing water, or steep slopes.

Figure 2 is a map of the City of Spokane that shows the generalized locations of the stormwater infrastructure. On the south side of the city, where geology does not readily allow infiltration, stormwater in CSO basins is largely managed in a combined sewer that conveys stormwater and sanitary wastewater in the same infrastructure. The CSO systems consist of catch basins, piping, and storage tanks that are used to collect and convey the stormwater to RPWRF. The CSO facilities are used to minimize or eliminate discharges of the combined sewer and stormwater, and are regulated by the waste discharge permit that the RPWRF operates under. CSO basins also contain stormwater treatment BMPs, where practical, to manage stormwater that has not been combined with sanitary sewer locally and to minimize the amounts of stormwater that are conveyed to the wastewater treatment plant.





**Figure 2. Map of Stormwater Management Areas.**



## 2.0 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### 2.1 Public Education & Outreach

#### 2.1.1 Public Education and Outreach Permit Requirements (S5.B.1)

Section S5.B.1.a of the permit requires the city to implement a public education and outreach program designed to reach the general public, businesses, and engineers/developers to achieve improvements in the target audiences' understanding of stormwater and how they can contribute to water quality protection. The permit dictates that outreach to the general public should focus on water quality impacts and tangible actions that the general public can take to protect water quality, outreach to businesses should focus on education on preventing illicit discharges appropriate materials management, and outreach to engineers/developers should focus on technical standards, the use of BMPs and developing erosion control plans.

Additionally, Section S5.B.1.b of the permit requires the city to measure the understanding and adoption of targeted behaviors for at least one target audience in at least one subject area, and use the results to direct ongoing education and outreach resources most effectively.

#### 2.1.2 Outreach to the General Public

The objectives of outreach to the general public is to increase the stormwater knowledge base of the community with respect to the practice of source control, ownership and appreciation for stormwater treatment facilities, and an overall investment in stormwater stewardship. In order to affect change and realize behavior change for the general public, stormwater education and outreach resources were increased by the Wastewater Department in 2022. Specifically, a full time outreach coordinator position was created to continue to develop the stormwater program by developing outreach methods via social media messaging, the city's stormwater website, and at community events, among others.

#### Spokane Stormwater Website

Census data from 2021 indicate that there are approximately 228,989 residents and 94,748 housing units in the City of Spokane, where there is an average of 2.33 persons per household. There are approximately 91,159 households that have a computing device in the home, and approximately 88,048 households have an internet subscription. So, approximately 220,763 residents live in households, where approximately 93% of households in Spokane have internet access. The city could potentially reach 93%



of the population by targeting the general population that reside in households have the ability to engage online.

The City of Spokane stormwater website is located at [Spokanestormwater.org](https://spokanestormwater.org). An overhaul of the website began in 2022 to make it more interactive and link to the social media channels performing stormwater messaging. Currently, [Spokanestormwater.com](https://spokanestormwater.com) webpages contain a green infrastructure page that discusses structural BMPs, Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). The page provides links to the Eastern Washington LID manual and Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual (SRSW) for reference materials. Additionally, the city's

stormwater webpage houses videos that provide information on [Spokane Stormwater](#), [Hazels Creek](#) and [Green Area Maintenance](#). A webpage dedicated to the [Private Stormwater Facility Annual Certification Program](#) was recently created as a resource to private stormwater property owners. The Spokanestormwater.org website will continue to grow throughout 2023 to include a Pollution Prevention practices, stormwater educational materials, and detailed information on stormwater structural BMPs, among others.

### Social Marketing

In order to increase the knowledge base of the general public, where the ultimate goal is stormwater stewardship, stormwater messaging was delivered online via social media channels, videos, and information on the city's website in 2022. Specifically, stormwater messaging was cascaded outward through messaging by the Water Wise Spokane campaign, which has a large presence on social media and a dedicated webpage on the city's website (Waterwisespokane.org). Stormwater videos focusing on stormwater facilities and maintenance are available for viewing on the city's stormwater webpage (Spokanestormwater.org). An overview video can be found on the stormwater webpage, and additional videos can be accessed by following the links for Green Infrastructure and Hazels Creek. These videos also have a presence on Cable Channel 5 as filler between scheduled programs. Videos and posts can be found on Waterwise Spokane Facebook and Instagram pages.



- There were 675,045 Facebook impressions from stormwater ads January-December 2022.
- Video views increased from 25,378 in 2020 to 110,958 in 2022, an increase of 85,580.

Looking ahead, social channel messaging will continue through 2023, where the outreach will showcase established partnerships between the city and other agencies, as well as provide source control and treatment facility information, and the city is partnering with the Spokane River Toxics Task Force and Spokane River Forum with respect to stormwater outreach to ensure that messages will align and be consistent for the public to be able to clearly gain a better understanding of stormwater best practices.

### Swale Education

Swale education and restoration are both planned for 2023. Education includes updates to the City of Spokane website, Water Wise Spokane social media platforms, print materials, yard signs, and distribution of promotional items. The goal is to increase in knowledgebase and understanding of



benefits of swales. Social marketing will be tailored to swale education through posts containing content surrounding importance, care/maintenance, planting suggestions, soil layers, etc. The city is kicking off the Swale Yeah! Campaign, which will increasing awareness on the presence and function of swales, and benefits to the community. It will be implemented through both an online and physical promotion within the city as well as other local partners. The Swale Yeah! campaign effort is kicking off in 2023 and is likely to run through 2025, with the goal of bringing awareness of swales to foster swale stewardship in the community.

Stormwater Permitting Educational Materials

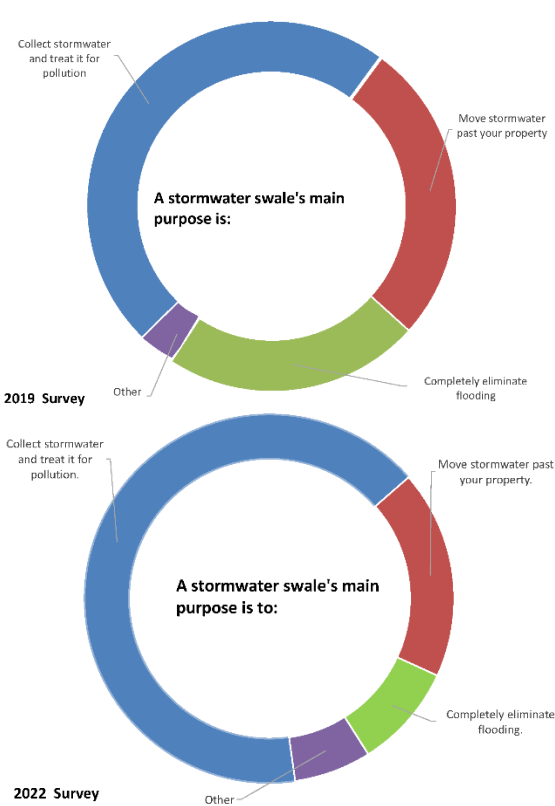
The city partnered with the Spokane River Forum and Spokane Riverkeeper to develop the guides [Understanding Stormwater Permitting in the City of Spokane](#) and [City of Spokane Stormwater Compliance Guide](#). These guides addresses stormwater-related building permit requirements, erosion and sediment control, and reference Ecology’s stormwater permit requirements. The guides are provided to development contractors during pre-construction meetings, and are also available on the [Spokane River Forum stormwater website](#). These materials have been available for a number of years, and will continue to be available in 2023.

City of Spokane Cable 5

City of Spokane Cable Channel 5 rotates stormwater pollution prevention tips on the reader board. A different seasonally relevant is used each week. An EPA video entitled “After the Storm” is shown throughout the year, highlighting the importance of stormwater management and individual citizen responsibility to help prevent stormwater pollution. Cable 5 also broadcasts stormwater outreach videos as filler between scheduled programming. These broadcasts will continue to occur in 2023.

Stormwater Survey

The portion of the general public that reside in households that receive a utility bill and have the ability to engage online were targeted for the measurement of the understanding of stormwater management.



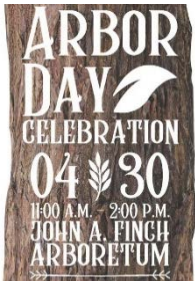
In 2019, the city sent out a mailer with utility bills that offered a rebate on a water bill to complete an online stormwater survey. The survey established a baseline measurement of the stormwater knowledge base, and the results indicated that there is room to improve the knowledge base on illicit discharges and the function, and maintenance responsibilities, of stormwater treatment facilities. The survey had nearly 1400 respondents, and the information received from the survey was used to tailor outreach for the years 2020 and 2021. In 2022, social messaging focused on illicit discharges and stormwater treatment facilities.

A follow-up to the 2019 survey was performed in fall of 2022. The follow-up survey was promoted through the City of Spokane website and social media, Water Wise Spokane social media, and other partners sharing content, and was made available online. The 2022 survey received responses from 712 participants, and the results were evaluated against the 2019 survey results. The results from 2022 look very similar to the results from 2019, but indicate that the general knowledge on stormwater behavior and

management has slightly improved, but that there is still an opportunity to increase knowledge of the general public around stormwater.

### Outreach Events

The City of Spokane plans to attend or present at 12-15 community events during the 2023 year and will provide education, interactive activities, and promotional items surrounding stormwater education. Events include but aren't limited to: Earth Day, Arbor Day, School Science Nights, Touch-a Truck events, Library events, Spokane Indians baseball games, Spokane Chiefs hockey games, school presentations, and others. The city will participate by what is requested at each event, either presenting, providing interactive activities such as pollution prevention games or permeable pavement demonstrations, or being present to pass out educational materials. Brochures will be handed out where appropriate and include the [Stormwater Treatment Areas Information](#) and [Stormwater Pollution Guide](#) brochures, among others that are planned to be developed. The city hopes to measure impressions based on number of attendees at events as well as materials given out to track impact of outreach at events. The desired goal is for attendees of all ages to understand stormwater and create behavior change to keep our waterways cleaner and safer.



### Spokane Indians Baseball

The city partners with the Spokane Indians Baseball Club to champion campaigns designed to connect citizens to the Spokane River, educate about stormwater and work being done to clean up the River, and support local organizations devoted to River protection. Advertisements include prints, radio, television, billboards, social media, and promotion during live baseball games. The effort has been dubbed the [Redband Rally Campaign](#), which gets its name from the native redband trout. The Spokane Indians Baseball partnership continued through 2022 with promotion of Ribby the redband trout as a local mascot. Headbands with educational information on the inside that were offered to every attendee as well as an educational video that played before every game highlighting the importance of pollution prevention. The Spokane Indians Baseball team hosted 66 home games last year, creating a reach of up to 448,998 ticket holders. The city hosted a pre-game table at the stadium to promote stormwater and give out educational information. Attendees from all over the region attend these games and the partnership will continue in 2023.



### Adopt-a-Drain Program

The storm drain adoption concept is a growing movement with active programs in approximately 170 communities across the country. At the core of this movement is community engagement and action towards preserving local waterways. This project has now grown into the largest and most successfully implemented program in the nation with 86 programs and counting. Benefits include detailed sub-watershed reports that meet MS4 reporting needs and documentation that quantifies the cumulative amount





and type of priority pollutants removed from the waterway. The City of Spokane plans on adopting this model across the City of Spokane as well and will coincide with a social marketing campaign to promote and spread awareness. The target population is any resident in Spokane of any age able to assist in the maintenance of storm drains. The City of Spokane will receive MS4 compliant reporting, data tracking, marketing/outreach tools, and implementation and program support. Participation with residents will lead to deeper community engagement and cleaner water. This will be accomplished through keeping debris clear on a schedule that works for them. The desired outcome is to engage residents to adopt storm drains to keep neighborhoods clean and protect waterways. Aligned with best practices in social science, this MS4-compliant program partners with cities to inspire stewardship and behavior change to prevent run-off pollution and reduce localized flooding.

### Drain Rangers Curriculum



The City of Spokane is still developing the best approach to educate children in the classroom. The Wastewater Department has increased personnel to re-establish a stormwater education presence in the classrooms, and is currently determining the methods and frequencies of outreach that will provide the most benefit. Currently, the city is providing access to Drain

Rangers learning materials specific to stormwater for school age children for teachers and schools to implement fully developed curriculums in their classrooms. The purpose of the Drain Rangers Elementary Stormwater Curriculum is to develop an understanding of the serious issues facing our community from stormwater runoff and to share specific actions we can take to improve the quality of our water. In this curriculum, students will be introduced to a problem-solving model where they think like an engineer and explore ways to solve the problem of polluted stormwater runoff. The lessons are specifically designed to meet classroom requirements of the Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Content about polluted stormwater runoff, engineering design, and literacy skills are integrated. The city has the Drain Ranger curriculum posted on the stormwater website available to Spokane area teachers to implement in their classrooms. The city hopes to increase the presence of the Drain Rangers program in Spokane Area schools in 2023.

### Don't Drip and Drive (Fix Car Leaks) Promotion

The city is discussing with neighboring municipalities the potential to coordinate a Don't Drip and Drive workshop in 2023, dependent on support from Ecology. The city has reached out to Ecology and Spokane County to determine if there is administrative and partnering opportunities to re-implement the Don't Drip and Drive Promotion. A workshop may become available in the near future as part of the Fixcarleaks.com campaign, to be provided to the community in support source control practices with respect to car fluids. The program is being evaluated to confirm that the rebates are valid and local automotive shop participants continue to be supportive.



### EnviroKids Club

Spokane EnviroKids' Club is a way for kids to team up with other kids in Spokane County to explore all parts of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals, and the environment. Members receive quarterly newsletters with fun facts and activities, invitations to local events, and the opportunity to earn points and win prizes. Children in grades K-6 in Spokane County are eligible. The City of Spokane participate in planning, content, and participation at local events EnviroKids put on throughout the year (~6 events). This aligns with stormwater education because it gives a chance to educate kids and their parents/guardians around pollution prevention, permeable pavement, swales, and more in a fun engaging environment. It also allows the City of Spokane to have a presence in the community.



### Hazel's Creek Regional Stormwater Facility and LID Demonstration Site

In Fall of 2012, construction was completed, and the facility began receiving stormwater from properties within a specified up-gradient boundary. The site also contains publicly used walking trails. This system was utilized as an LID educational opportunity, hosting various LID demonstrations throughout the trail system. Visitors can download a brochure from the Public Works & Utilities website and take a self-guided tour. In 2021 the city supported science education at Ferris High School by supplying tools and plantings for the students to establish additional vegetation at the site. The students planted approximately 600 starts of native species of shrubs and bushes, and will measure the success of the starts in 2022. The survival rate of the plantings will be evaluated in 2023 to determine if this activity is something that should be pursued again in the future.

An informational video showcasing Hazels Creek was created in 2020 to reinvigorate curiosity and interest from the public and is provided on the [Hazels Creek](#) link at [Spokanestormwater.org](http://Spokanestormwater.org). To complement the video, Wastewater Department is assessing the Hazels Creek area in 2023, specifically the information kiosks and site vegetation, to determine how improvements can be administered to increase the visitation of the public to the site.



### Idaho Washington Aquifer Collaborative

Is a non-profit organization that is made up of Idaho and Washington water purveyors, and the city is a member of the organization. IWAC developed an educational video for the public that is an overview of the Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, its importance to our region, the impact stormwater has on river and aquifer water quality, sources of pollution, and things that residents can do to protect and preserve our water for the public to understand the importance of stormwater pollution and water. The video is currently aired on Cable 5 in continuous rotation on its air and will continue to be aired in 2023.



## Presentations at Conferences

The City of Spokane generally presents at a couple conferences aimed at stormwater professionals each year. In 2022, the city gave two presentations at the PNWCA conference held in Spokane, and presented to the Eastern Washington Stormwater Group twice. Presenting to professional conferences and regional stormwater advocacy groups is anticipated to continue in the current and upcoming years. The Cochran Basin project is the focus of presentations in the year 2023, and will be provided at the 2023 Municon and the Spokane River Forum conferences. Additionally, the Lincoln Storm Projects and the Trent Erie Swale project will also be presented at the 2023 Municon conference.



## Stormwater Publications

Integrated Capital Management and Wastewater Management Department personnel co-authored an article in the January 2021 edition of Stormwater Magazine titled [Infiltration Avenue](#). The article showcases The Sharp Avenue permeable pavement study by discussing the integrated approach to design, collaborative efforts with the Gonzaga University, and goes into the data and information collected as part of the study. The Infiltration Avenue article can be found on the [Stormwater Magazine webpage](#). The Sharp Avenue project is still ongoing, and the article is still relevant and currently available.



### **2.1.3 Outreach to Business Sectors**

The city has established a partnership with the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) to perform outreach with the business community. SRHD receives funding from Ecology as part of the Pollution Prevention Program with the goal of educating businesses to increase pollution prevention behaviors. The city does not compete with SRHD for the limited Ecology funding to perform outreach to the community SRHD currently reaches. In addition, the city writes letters of recommendation to Ecology in support of SRHD receiving funding. SRHD generally focuses on the restaurant, lodging/hospitality, automotive, and property management business sectors. The SRHD Pollution Prevention Program inspector will follow up with the city if there are areas of concern pertaining to illicit discharges identified during inspections. Likewise, during illicit discharge investigations, city stormwater



inspectors will recommend visits from SRHD to businesses who would benefit. In 2022, SRHD visited businesses in the City of Spokane, and performed 15 screenings, 49 initial site visits, and 33 follow-up visits with 22 spill kits provided to businesses in need. The city will continue to partner with SRHD to affect behavior change in local businesses with respect to stormwater.

### **2.1.4 Outreach to Developers, Engineers, and Contractors**

The City of Spokane Developer Services Center works with developers from the design phase through permitting and issuance of Certificates of Occupancy. Throughout that process the Center provides verbal guidance and support materials for appropriate stormwater management that is necessary to



receive city permits to construct. For example, Project proponents are provided access to the two guidance documents by Developer Services Center during the permitting process: *The City of Spokane Stormwater Compliance Guide*, and the informational guide document *Understanding Stormwater Permitting in the City of Spokane* guide. Each contain helpful information on the local permitting process with respect to stormwater, as well as numerous links to additional educational stormwater materials.

Construction stormwater guidance materials have been cooperatively developed by the Developer Services Center and the Wastewater Department to assist development contractors and engineers navigate the requirements of the Construction Stormwater General Permit issued by Ecology, and to understand the expectations for the implementation of Best Management Practices on an active site. Also, training opportunities for development contractors and engineers have been identified on a flyer that is housed in the online toolbox for permit requestors.

Additionally, pre-development meetings with project proponents' area standard practice, where during the meetings, city engineers meet with developers, their engineers, and contractors to discuss the scope of the project, to establish stormwater requirements, and identify improvement opportunities. Pre-development meeting notes are provided to the project proponents, and detail the guidance provided during the discussions. The Center will continue to review stormwater plans, hold pre-construction meetings, and provided guidance on stormwater for development projects in 2023 and onward.

The city will continue to provide outreach to the development community through the Developer Services Center, and develop guidance materials as needed in order to affect behavior change with respect to stormwater.

## **2.2 Public Involvement and Participation**

### **2.2.1 Public Involvement and Participation Permit Requirements (S5.B.2)**

The permit requires the city to provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement and participation such as at public hearings or on advisory panels or committees during rule-making, or other similar activities. Section S5.B.2.a requires the city to implement a program or policy to create opportunities for the public, to provide input during the decision-making processes, including development and adoption of all required ordinances and regulatory mechanisms. Also, to provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement through various councils, committees, programs, and activities. In addition, develop and implement a process for consideration of public comments on the SWMP, including required ordinances and regulatory mechanisms.

### **2.2.2 Public Hearings and Rulemaking**

The city provides many opportunities for public involvement and participation in its rule-making processes. Public involvement is a required component of the ordinance process, and involvement of any interested member of the public is encouraged through workshops, open houses, dedicated testimonial times, and a formal public comment period. Information on how to participate at City Council meetings and meeting agendas are provided on the city's [City Council website](#) prior to the occurrence of the meeting. Additionally, the public may attend City Council briefings, City Council hearings; Planning Commission workshops, Planning Commission hearings, and any of the several Council Committee

meetings (e.g. [Finance and Administration Committee](#); [Public Infrastructure, Environment, & Sustainability](#); and [Public Safety & Community Health Committee](#)). The city publishes the [City Council Official Gazettes - City of Spokane, Washington \(spokanecity.org\)](#), which contains the meeting minutes from the City Council hearings, and includes calls for bids for stormwater management, infrastructure, and funding projects that the public can participate with. Typical examples of opportunities for public involvement include rate structure discussions, stormwater mitigation grants and projects; stormwater infrastructure improvements; joint planning of the stormwater management plans; and, ordinance creation or revision, among others

### **2.2.3 Stormwater Management Program Plan Public Participation**

The city posts the SWMP Plan at [Spokanestormwater.org](#) annually. The public may provide comment on this plan at any time during the year by emailing the Wastewater Department Environmental Analyst at [jgeorge@spokanecity.org](mailto:jgeorge@spokanecity.org). The city solicits online comments on the draft plan from the public for a 30-day period when the SWMP Plan is posted. After the 30-day period, the city will review the comments and update the plan as applicable, and post the final version of the plan at [Stormwater Management webpage](#) at [Spokanestormwater.org](#).

### **2.2.4 Spokane Municipal Code Revisions**

The City of Spokane Wastewater and Planning Departments are preparing to cooperatively perform a thorough assessment of Chapter 17D of the Spokane Municipal Code, which is where the stormwater related code is located, to determine the best approach to streamline the code and make it more user friendly. A preliminary draft is anticipated by the winter 2023 to have proposed changes to the code developed in draft form. The final draft of the proposed changes will be announced to the public in order to solicit comments in preparation of a final draft that will undergo City Council process for approval. Ordinances may be proposed to City Council in late 2023 to early 2024 specific to Spokane Municipal Code.

## **2.3 Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDDE)**

### **2.3.1 IDDE Permit Requirements (S5.B.3)**

The permit requires the city to implement and enforce a program designed to prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and illicit discharges into the MS4. Specifically, Section S5.B.3.a of the permit requires the city to maintain and periodically update a map of the MS4 to include:

- Known outfalls and known discharge points,
- Size and material of construction for known outfalls,
- Receiving waters other than ground,
- Areas served by the MS4 that discharge to ground,
- Permanent stormwater facilities owned or operated by the city,
- All connections to the MS4 authorized or approved by the city after August 1, 2019,
- All known connections from the MS4 to a privately owned stormwater system, and
- Connections between the MS4 owned and operated by the city and other municipalities or public entities.

Additionally, Section S5.B.3.b of the permit requires the city to effectively prohibit, through ordinance or other regulatory mechanism, non-stormwater discharges into the MS4 to include:

- An ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that prohibits illicit discharges and authorizes enforcement actions, including on private property, and
- A compliance strategy that includes informal compliance actions such as public education and technical assistance, as well as the enforcement provisions of the ordinance or other regulatory mechanism.

Section S5.B.3.c of the permit requires the city to implement an ongoing program designed to detect and identify illicit discharges and illicit connections into the Permittee's MS4 to include:

- Procedures for conducting investigations of the Permittee's MS4, including field screening to identify potential sources, and
- Procedures for locating priority areas likely to have illicit discharges.

### **2.3.2 Map of the MS4**

The city maintains an accurate and up-to-date map of the stormwater drainage system, which enables response to illicit discharge notifications to be efficient and timely. The permit outlines the information that should be included in the city's MS4 map to include:

- Location of all known municipal storm sewer outfalls, receiving waters, and structural BMPs owned, operated, or maintained by the city,
- Location of all known outfalls and known discharge points,
- Receiving waters,
- Areas served by the MS4 that discharge to ground,
- Permanent stormwater facilities owned or operated by the city,
- All connections to the MS4 authorized or approved by the city,
- All known connections from the MS4 to a privately owned stormwater system, and
- Connections between the MS4 owned and operated by the city and other municipalities or public entities.

In order to comply with Section S5.B.3.a, the Wastewater Management Department maintains an up-to-date Global Information System (GIS) map of the MS4 utilizing a Esri computer software program. GIS layers are updated frequently to reflect changes to the system.

### **2.3.3 Adoption of IDDE Ordinance**

Section 17D.060.190 of the Spokane Municipal Code defines discharges to the MS4 that are allowable, and discharges that are unlawful, as well as identifying the enforcement track. The IDDE ordinances are included in the scope to evaluate and improve the stormwater sections of the Spokane Municipal Code in 2023/2024 as described in Section 2.2.4 - Spokane Municipal Code Revisions.

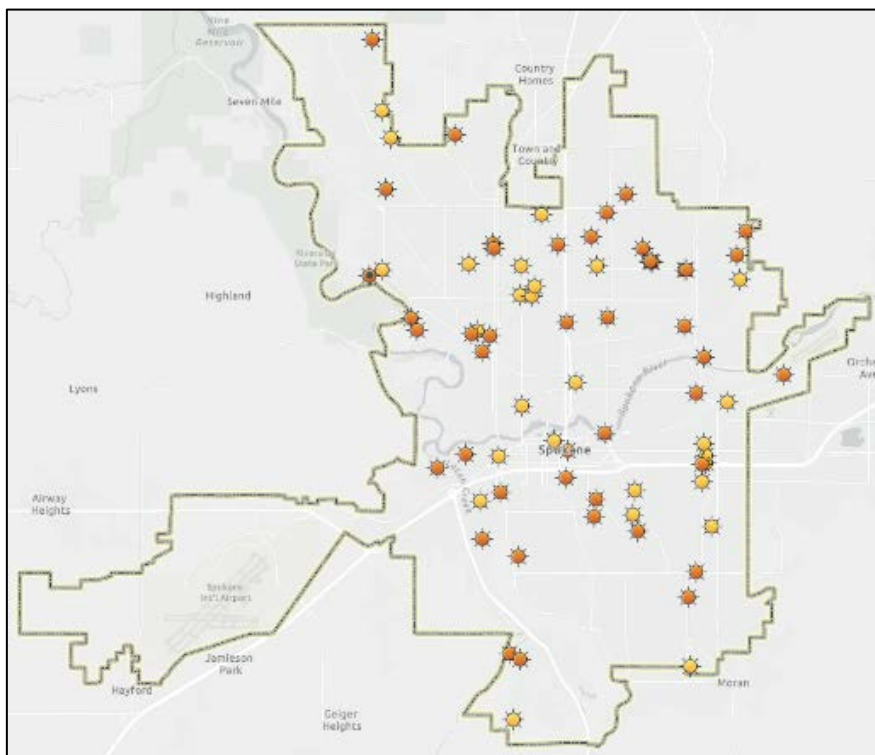
### **2.3.4 Ongoing IDDE Program**

The Wastewater Management department manages an ongoing program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges and connections. The IDDE program utilizes the Wastewater Management storm sewer field

crews to identify potential illicit discharges by incorporating illicit discharge field inspections into the operation and maintenance routines performed on the stormwater infrastructure. Additionally, responses to notifications from the public of a potential illicit discharge via the Illicit Discharge Hotline (625-7999), MySpokane 311, Ecology's ERTS reporting system, and/or the Spokane Regional Health District Pollution Prevention Program are a component of the IDDE program. The city's stormwater inspectors are notified of field observations of illicit discharges to the MS4 observed by the field crews, and notifications from the public, where the inspectors investigate potential illicit discharges, and mitigate where necessary. The inspectors log their findings and observations into a database that tracks and retains response activities. See Section 2.3.6 for further discussion of field inspections, characterization and tracing of illicit discharges.

### 2.3.5 IDDE Priority Areas

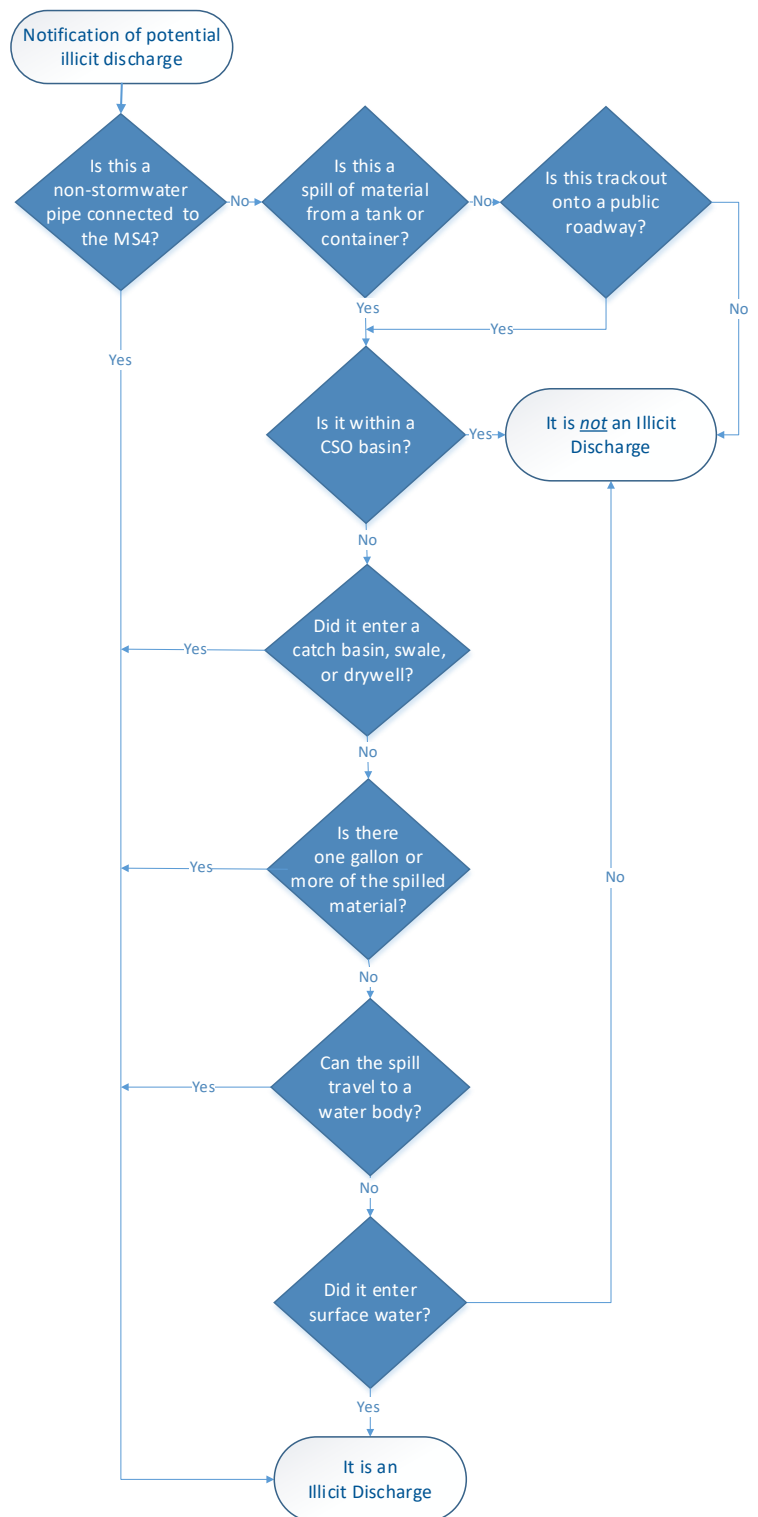
In order to identify priority areas, illicit discharges from the years 2021 and 2022 were mapped to identify and any geographic illicit discharge trends. Figure 3 illustrates the locations of illicit discharges for 2021 and 2022, and demonstrates that illicit discharge notifications occur throughout the city somewhat equally. Industrial zoning areas adjacent to the river are assumed to have higher potential significant illicit discharges, where the Union Basin has the highest potential for illicit discharges associated with industrial activities.



**Figure 3. Location of Illicit Discharge Responses 2021/2022.**

### 2.3.6 Field Inspections, Characterization and Tracing of Illicit Discharge

Illicit discharge investigations are generally initiated from notifications received on the Illicit Discharge Hotline (625-7999), the MySpokane 311 hotline, or from Ecology relaying an ERTS report. The Illicit Discharge Hotline is publicized on storm drain markers throughout the city, in brochures handed out to the public, and at [Spokanestormwater.org](http://Spokanestormwater.org). Notifications are conveyed to the city Stormwater Inspectors, who investigate, mitigate where necessary, and generate a report. In addition to the stormwater hotline, Wastewater Management storm sewer staff continually checks for illicit discharges as a part of normal day-to-day operations and maintenance of stormwater assets, and often inform the public about illicit discharges as they observe behaviors conducive to illicit discharges in the field. Figure 4 is a decision tree procedural aid for determining if a released material is a reportable illicit discharge. Records of inspections and enforcement actions by the stormwater inspectors are maintained with the Illicit Discharge program, which retains records of inspection reports and notices of violations. The illicit discharge program is ongoing and will continue in 2023.



**Figure 4. IDDE Decision Tree.**

### 2.3.7 Elimination of Illicit Discharges

Several approaches have been implemented and are continually underway to minimize or eliminate illicit discharges to the MS4 including, but not limited to, curb markers, participation with the Spokane River Toxic Task Force, and partnering with the Spokane River Forum to promote the EnviroCertified Program.

#### Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

The city is currently a contributing member of the Spokane River Toxics Task Force (SRTTF), which has a large focus on PCBs in our region. The city will continue to be a contributing member of the SRTTF. Additionally, the city is partnering with the SRTTF to develop stormwater messaging to the general public. The city is providing support to the task force and Ecology by providing access and coordinating sampling in the Union Basin and Mission Reach areas.

#### EnviroCertified Program

The Spokane River Forum administers the EnviroCertified program in Spokane, a small business certification program to provide assistance and incentives for reducing hazardous materials and waste. Businesses and households can use this resource to understand their waste and learn how to properly dispose of it. The city is a member of the forum, and is currently partnering with the forum to develop stormwater messaging for 2023 that aligns with the city's outreach for illicit discharge elimination.



## 2.4 Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

### 2.4.1 Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Permit Requirements

Permit Section S5.B.4 requires several conditions to implement ordinances and procedures regarding construction stormwater:

- Section S5.B.4 of the permit requires the city to implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in any stormwater runoff to the MS4 from construction activities.
- Section S5.B.4.a requires the city to implement an ordinance that applies to construction sites disturbing one acre or more, and to construction projects of less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale.

The ordinance shall include:

- Provisions to review site plans,
- Provisions to inspect sites with high potential for sediment transport prior to clearing or grading,
- Provision for access by qualified personnel to inspect construction-phase stormwater BMPs on private properties that discharge to the MS4, and
- Sanctions to ensure compliance with escalating enforcement procedures and actions.

The ordinance shall require:

- Erosion and Sediment Controls, among others, at new development and redevelopment projects,
- Construction operators to:
  - Adhere to the Core Elements, which include preparation of Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans,
  - Implement appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs, and
  - Control waste materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site.
- Section S5.B.4.b of the permit requires the city to implement procedures for site plan review which incorporates consideration of potential water quality impacts.
- Section S5.B.4.c requires the city to implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of construction stormwater pollution control measures prior to clearing and grading for high potential sites, and during construction to verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls.
- Section S5.B.4.d requires the city to ensure that all staff who are implementing construction stormwater program are trained accordingly.
- Section S5.B.4.e requires the city to provide information to construction site operators about available training opportunities.
- Section S5.B.4.f requires the city to keep records of all projects disturbing one acre or more, and all projects of any size that are part of a common plan of development or sale that is one acre or more.

#### **2.4.2 Guidance Manuals for Development and Re-development**

The *Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual (SRSW)* was developed in joint cooperation by the Cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley and Spokane County. The manual establishes standards for stormwater design and management to protect water quality, natural drainage systems and down-gradient properties as urban development (and redevelopment) occurs. The permit requires that the city use the BMPs from the Washington State Department of Ecology's *Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington (SWMMEW)*, or another technically equivalent manual approved by Ecology. The SRSW was updated to reflect the 2019 revisions of the SWMMEW and provided to Ecology for approval in 2021. The SRSW is currently under review by Ecology and will continue to be required for development until Ecology's review is finalized.

The SRSW outlines the development and re-development requirements of the stormwater program. Chapter 2, Basic Requirements, defines the eight basic requirements for stormwater management for new development and redevelopment projects. Within the City, the threshold for requiring compliance with the Basic Requirements is the "addition or replacement of any impervious surfaces."

Basic Requirements include:

No. 1 – Drainage Submittal,



- No. 2 – Geotechnical Site Characterization,
- No. 3 – Water Quality Treatment,
- No. 4 – Flow Control,
- No. 5 – Natural and Constructed Conveyance Systems,
- No. 6 – Erosion and Sediment Control,
- No. 7 – Source Control; and
- No. 8 – Operation and Maintenance.

The Stormwater Site Plan referenced in the municipal stormwater permit (S5.B.5.b) is analogous to the drainage submittal in the SRS (2.2.1 Basic Requirement No. 1). A concept drainage report, a requirement of a drainage submittal, is generally required for large projects or those located in environmentally sensitive areas to preliminarily assess drainage requirements and potential impacts. A drainage report, another requirement of a drainage submittal, is required for most projects and is used to identify drainage impacts from the project as well as determine necessary stormwater runoff treatment and controls. The drainage report also assesses operation and maintenance requirements, inspection requirements, and erosion and sediment control.

#### **2.4.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan**

The SRS outlines erosion and sediment control requirements, which are equivalent to Core Element #2, Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention, in Appendix 1 of the Permit. An Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan is a requirement of the construction permit process and is equivalent to the Permit's Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Construction SWPPP). Controlling erosion and preventing sediment and other pollutants from leaving the project site during the construction phase is achievable through implementation and selection of BMPs that are appropriate both to the site and to the season during which construction occurs.

The SRS highlights four objectives of the ESC Plan:

- Protect existing or proposed stormwater management infrastructure,
- Minimize the impacts of erosion, sedimentation and increased runoff caused by land-disturbing activities on private property, public roads and rights-of-way, and water bodies,
- Protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and
- Protect water quality.

[Section 17D.090.070](#) of the Spokane Municipal Code, requires the generation of an ESC for projects that disturb 5000 square feet, or are a special site. Special sites are defined in [SMC 17D.090.080](#) and may include sites with greater than 10 percent slope, highly erosive soils, slope lengths greater than 300 feet, or disturbance of natural vegetative buffer within 50 feet of a wetland or water body. If an ESC Plan is not required, the proponent would still be responsible to control erosion and sediment during construction. Section 17D.090.070 was updated in 2021 to include the requirement of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, where applicable per the Construction Stormwater General Permit issued by Ecology.

In accordance with city permitting processes and review procedures, Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plans are reviewed by the Development Services Center to ensure the proposed project will control erosion and keep pollutants from leaving the project site during construction. An ESC Plan is prescribed as one of the minimum application elements for the commercial development application. Application submittal requirements are provided on the city's [Business & Development Commercial Services](#) website.

#### **2.4.4 Construction Site Inspection and Enforcement**

The City of Spokane Field Engineering Department provides construction oversight for public capital improvement projects on City-owned land. The Engineering Services inspectors verify proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment controls for NPDES Construction Stormwater General permitted development sites and capital improvement projects prior to clearing and grading for construction if a high potential for sediment transport is determined, and during construction. Inspectors and field engineers from the City of Spokane Developer Services Center, and the Field Engineering, and Wastewater Management Departments inspect privately constructed infrastructure prior to the Planning Department issuing a Certificate of Occupancy. Records of inspections and enforcement actions completed by Engineering Services and the Development Services Center are maintained in daily inspection logs as well as digitally in the Accela computer software program.

#### **2.4.5 Construction Stormwater Training and Informational Materials**

Informational materials regarding erosion and sediment control are available to construction site operators, design professionals, and other members of the public in the Development Services Center lobby at City Hall and online at the [Business and Development Resources web page](#). In addition to highlighting erosion and sediment control requirements, brochures direct the target audience to the SRSM, and the SRSM details erosion and sediment control requirements equivalent to Appendix 1 of the Permit and BMPs in Department of Ecology's SWMMEW.

### **2.5 Post-Construction Stormwater Management**

#### **2.5.1 Post-Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Permit Requirements**

Permit Section S5.B.5 requires several conditions to implement ordinances and procedures regarding construction stormwater:

- Section S5.B.5 of the permit requires the city to implement a program to address post-construction stormwater runoff for development and redevelopment projects to ensure that controls are in place to prevent or minimize water quality impacts.
- Section S5.B.5.a requires the city to implement an ordinance that requires post-construction stormwater controls for development and redevelopment projects that disturb one acre or more or, are less than one acre and are part of a larger common plan of development or sale. The ordinance must include mechanisms to ensure compliance, and require projects to adhere

to the Core Elements. The ordinance must also include requirements to ensure adequate ongoing long-term operation and maintenance of the constructed BMPs.

- Section S5.B.5.b.ii of the permit details that the ordinance should require development and redevelopment projects to adhere to the Core Elements and encourage Low Impact Development of green stormwater infrastructure.
- Section S5.B.5.b.ii(c) of the permit requires the ordinance to include requirements to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of the BMPs occurs.
- Section S5.B.5.b.iii of the permit requires that the ordinance include provisions for both construction-phase and post-construction access for the city to inspect stormwater BMPs on private properties that discharge to the MS4. In lieu of requiring post-construction access to private properties for city inspectors in perpetuity, Section S5.B.5.b.iii allows for the city to require annual certifications of stormwater facilities by a qualified third party to meet the conditions of S5.B.5.b.ii(c) of the permit.
- Section S5.B.5.b.iv of the permit requires that the ordinance include enforcement procedures with the ability to escalate.
- Section S5.B.5.b.v of the permit requires the ordinance to include enforcement provisions, and for the city to implement an enforcement strategy for the conditions of Section S5.B.5 of the permit.

### **2.5.2 Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinances**

Post-construction stormwater management is addressed in [Chapter 17D.060](#) of the Spokane Municipal Code. Chapter 17D.060 identifies the post-construction stormwater requirements such as duties of property owners, prohibition of illicit discharges, inspection requirements, and enforcement measures, among others. Chapter 17D.060 of the code became effective in March of 2010, and the ordinance references relevant standards that are protective of stormwater, such as the SRSM, SWMMEW, City of Spokane design standards and specifications, among others.

### **2.5.3 Encouragement of Low Impact Development**

Low Impact Development (LID) is encourage, but optional in Eastern Washington. The City of Spokane encourages the Eastern Washington LID Guidance Manual through adoption of [Chapter 17D.060.300](#). of the Spokane Municipal Code. The LID Manual was adopted as supplemental guidance for the design, construction, and maintenance of LID stormwater best management practices, and it provides background on LID practices applicable in Eastern Washington. The regional LID manual focuses on the practices of stormwater pollution prevention, flow control, and treatment by promoting the use of natural features and managing stormwater as close to where it falls as possible. The LID guidance manual is available from the Spokane Stormwater [Green Infrastructure](#) website.

### **2.5.4 Procedures for Development Site Plan Review**

The city requires developers to submit a maintenance plan for all facilities during the plan review. A draft copy of the Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for the homeowners' association in charge of operating and maintaining the drainage facilities is required.

Drainage submittals are reviewed by the Planning department for code requirements such as critical areas of management, buffers, impervious area creation, building and landscape design and building setbacks. Then, Development Services Center reviews Drainage Submittals for civil plan requirements as described in City Engineering Design Standards and the SRSM.

Engineering Services reviews plans for city Capital Improvement Projects and stormwater plans for the public right-of-way to ensure consistency with Design Standards.

The Development Services Center reviews and approves drainage submittals for private commercial and residential developments. A Stormwater Intake Checklist was added to the city's Engineering Services website to ease the review process. The drainage submittal requires a Drainage Report, Drainage Plan, Grading Plan, Swale Details, and Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and Details.

The developer must address any comments resulting from city staff review and submit revised plans to the city. After confirming that staff comments have been adequately addressed, the Development Services Center will send the developer a letter accepting the design and permitting construction.

#### **2.5.5 Construction Site Inspection and Enforcement**

There are three inspectors and a field engineer from the Development Services Center who inspect privately constructed infrastructure. Two stormwater inspectors from the Wastewater Management Department inspect privately constructed stormwater controls. Engineering Services provides construction oversight for public capital improvement projects on city-owned land.

Private development sites are inspected during installation and upon completion of construction. If there are deficiencies, a punch list is created by the Engineering Services inspectors to be completed by the developer. Final acceptance does not occur until all deficiencies have been remedied.

#### **2.5.6 Training for Staff and Stormwater Professionals**

The Development Services Center is responsible for providing information to construction site operators and design professionals about training available regarding how to (1) install and maintain effective erosion and sediment controls, (2) comply with the requirements of Appendix 1 of the Permit and (3) apply the BMPs described in the SRSM. Copies of information provided to construction site operators are kept. If information is distributed to a large number of design professionals at once, the dates of the mailings and lists of recipients should also be kept.

Staff and professional training is provided for employees and design professionals to aid in reaching water quality goals, ensure permit compliance, and reduce pollution to stormwater runoff. Five training modules were developed, including NPDES Overview, Operations and Maintenance, Facility Inspections, Site Plan Review, and Illicit Discharge. Training was provided for LID and records should be kept including training materials, the date of training, and attendees.

## 2.6 Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

### 2.6.1 Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations Permit Requirements

The permit requires several pollution prevention and good housekeeping conditions for municipal operations and maintenance activities:

- Section S5.B6 of the permit requires the city to implement an operation and maintenance program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations.
- Section S5.B.6.a of the permit requires the city to develop an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan that details a schedule of the city's Operation and Maintenance activities by December 31, 2022. The O&M Plan must include BMPs that will reduce the discharge of pollutants and protect water quality.
- Section S5.B6.a.i of the permit details that the O&M Plan must include appropriate pollution prevention procedures for the following types of facilities and/or activities that must be implemented by the city:
  - Inspections and cleaning of stormwater collection and conveyance system assets to include<sup>♦</sup>:
    - Catch basins
    - Stormwater sewer pipes
    - Open channels
    - Culverts
    - Structural stormwater treatment
    - Structural stormwater treatment flow control facilities
  - Maintenance of roads, highways, and parking lots owned or operated by the city that are pollutant generating impervious surface  $\geq 5,000$  square feet to include:
    - Street cleaning
    - Deicing
    - Snow removal
    - Managing runoff from snow storage areas
    - Managing material storage areas (e.g. salt, sand, or other chemical storage)
    - All-season BMPs to reduce road and parking lot debris and other pollutants
  - Management of fleet vehicles fleets to include<sup>♦</sup>:
    - Storage
    - Washing
    - Maintenance
    - Repair
    - Fueling

- Maintenance and pollution prevention activities for municipal buildings owned and/or operated by the city to include:
  - Cleaning
  - Washing
  - Painting
  - Other maintenance activities
- Maintenance and pollution prevention activities for parks and open spaces to include:
  - Application of fertilizer
  - Application of pesticides, and herbicides
  - Pet waste BMPs
  - Sediment and erosion control BMPs
  - BMPs for landscape maintenance and vegetation disposal
  - Trash and dumpster management
  - Building exterior cleaning and maintenance BMPs
- Implementing construction projects owned or operated by the city to include:
  - Adhering to the Construction Stormwater General Permit
  - Adhering to the construction and post-construction controls detailed in the Core Elements
- Implementing industrial activities owned or operated by the city to include:
  - Adhering to the conditions of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit
- Implementing and updating Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for material storage areas, heavy equipment storage areas, and maintenance owned or operated by the city to include♥:
  - Site map showing the facility's stormwater drainage, discharge points, and potential pollutant areas
  - Inventory of the materials and equipment stored on-site, and the activities conducted at the facility which may be exposed to precipitation or runoff
  - Spill prevention and mitigation plan for illicit discharges
  - Description and schedule of facility BMPs (operational and structural)♦
  - Annual inspections of the facility to evaluate the effectiveness of the BMPs, identify maintenance needs, and determine if additional or different BMPs are needed.
  - Record keeping of inspection results (report or checklist)
- Implementation of flood management projects to include:
  - Controls that minimize impacts to site hydrology
- Implementation of BMPs at other facilities in order to protect water quality

Notes:

- ♦ Waste materials generated must be properly managed, and adequate records kept of all cleaning inspection, and disposal activities.
  - ♦ All vehicle and equipment washing and maintenance must be performed in a self-contained covered building, or in designated wash and/or maintenance area that separates wash water from stormwater.
  - ♥ Unless required to have coverage under the Industrial Stormwater General Permit.
  - ♦ BMPs shall be consistent with the Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington, or other Ecology-approved technical manual.
- Section S5.B6.a.ii of the permit requires the O&M Plan to include schedule of inspections and requirements for recordkeeping pursuant to permit Section S9 – Reporting and Record Keeping. The schedule of inspections must include:
    - Requirement to inspect a minimum of 95% of all known stormwater treatment and flow control facilities (except catch basins) owned, operated, or maintained by the city shall be inspected at least once every two years. Problem facilities identified during inspections should be inspected more frequently.
    - Requirement to inspect all catch basins and inlets owned or operated by the city every two years. Catch basins should be cleaned as needed in accordance with permit section S5.B.6.a.
    - Requirement to conduct spot of stormwater treatment and flow control facilities after major storm events for damage. Maintenance and repairs should be performed as soon as practicable.
  - Section S5.B6.a.iii of the permit requires the city to identify the responsible departments or roles for performing each activity in the O&M Plan.
  - Section S5.B6.a.iii of the permit requires that all city employees with primary construction, operations, or maintenance job functions that are likely to impact stormwater quality to have training that addresses trained: protection of water quality, operation and maintenance requirements, relevant SWPPPs, inspection procedures, and pollution prevention methods to use during job activities.

## **2.6.2 Municipal Operations and Maintenance Program**

An operation and maintenance (O&M) program has been developed and implemented that includes a citywide Operation and Maintenance Plan for typical municipal activities, site specific SWPPPs for applicable municipal properties, and a recurring training component, where the ultimate goal is reducing or preventing pollutant runoff from municipal operations in order to protect water quality.

## **2.6.3 Municipal Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan**

The permit requires the implementation of an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for municipal activities with the potential to impact stormwater.



The O&M Plan must include appropriate pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures for the following facilities and/or activities:

- Stormwater collection and conveyance system,
- Roads, highways and parking lots,
- Vehicle fleets,
- Municipal buildings,
- Parks and open space,
- Construction projects,
- Industrial activities, and
- A schedule of O&M activities that includes the identification of the responsible department for the performance of the activity.

The Wastewater Management Department generated a citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan in 2022. The citywide O&M Plan replaces several O&M Plans that were written in 2010 that were specific to a department, which also included a SWPPP as a component of the respective plan. The 2022 citywide O&M Plan is a comprehensive document applicable to all departments that contains pertinent Best Management Practices (BMPs) for typical municipal activities that have the potential to impact stormwater. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans were developed as separate documents for the applicable municipal properties that overlap, but are independent of the O&M Plan. The citywide O&M Plan contains guidance on pollution prevention and good housekeeping measures, in addition to activity specific BMPs adopted directly from the SWMMEW.

### Stormwater Collection and Conveyance System

The City of Spokane storm sewer system consists of catch basins, storm sewer pipes, open channels, culverts, stormwater treatment and flow control facilities, which collectively capture runoff to minimize flooding and convey to a treatment and/or infiltration feature or to an outfall that discharges to the river. The Sewer Maintenance Division of the City's Wastewater Management Department is responsible for managing the storm sewer infrastructure which includes regular inspections and cleaning of components of the system, and maintenance and/or replacement of components, as necessary. BMP documents for inspecting and maintaining the storm sewer system are provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan.

The Water Department is responsible for maintaining the vegetation in city owned stormwater facilities on city properties, which includes keeping vegetation healthy and cut back, and removing the cuttings from the facility to dispose of appropriately. The green area maintenance crew shall maintain healthy vegetation with regular mowing or trimming during the late spring and summer seasons. BMP documents for landscaping and vegetation management are provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan.

The citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan documents the frequencies that the storm sewer components shall be inspected, cleaned, and maintenance performed, if necessary, and the department responsible for performing the inspections and maintenance activities. BMPs for managing

the physical components and associated vegetation of the storm sewer system, are provided in the O&M Plan.

The city operates a vector waste decant facility located at 2401 E. Ferry, in Spokane, Washington. Waste generated from cleaning catch basins and other stormwater management and treatment facilities are transferred to the decant facility. The liquids are separated from solids, and conveyed to an evaporation pond, and solids are dried with subsequent transport to a permitted solid waste landfill. Procedures for using the decant facility are incorporated into the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan and a site Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

### Roads, Highways and Parking Lots

The City of Spokane roadway system consists of residential streets, major and minor arterials, highways, and parking lots, all of which accumulate petroleum hydrocarbons, toxic chemicals, heavy metals, salts, and sediment and debris, among others pollutants, which become stormwater pollution during a rain event. Stormwater runoff from roadway and parking lot pavements must be managed appropriately in order to minimize the amount of pollutants that enter local waterways by collecting sediment, debris, and other pollutants before they can enter the stormwater collection and conveyance system.

All City Departments are responsible for maintaining the parking lots and parking areas owned the respective department, which includes good housekeeping, clearing the pavements, removing snow, and protecting stormwater.

The Streets Department is responsible for maintaining the city's streets, roads, and highways in order to ensure they are able to be traveled and safe to use, which includes performing maintenance activities, completing maintenance projects, clearing obstructions, managing snow removal, adding sand and/or deicer, and performing street sweeping to recover accumulated pollutants before they are transported downstream by runoff.

BMP documents on good housekeeping practices, management of bulk materials, application of pesticides, and maintenance of roadways, among others, that are applicable to all city departments are, provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan.

### Vehicle Fleets

Motor vehicles are located at most city department office buildings and work sites. Spills and/or leaks of motor fluids, fuels, and oil from motor vehicles, and the soap and debris inherently contained in vehicle washwaters, have the potential to enter into the stormwater collection and conveyance system during rain and/or snow melt events. The city departments that own city vehicles are responsible for operating, fueling, storing, and washing their city vehicles, as well as maintaining the vehicle parking areas go be protective of stormwater. Maintenance and repair of city vehicles is the responsibility of Fleet Services, and is performed upon request of the vehicle owning departments, as necessary.

All vehicle and equipment washing and maintenance should be performed in self-contained, covered buildings, or in designated wash and/or maintenance areas that are operated to keep washwater and stormwater separated, where washwaters are discharged to the sanitary sewer. Stormwater BMPs applicable to storing, washing, fueling, and maintaining city vehicles are provided in citywide Municipal

Stormwater O&M Plan and are applicable to all city departments who own vehicles and/or parking lots or vehicle storage areas.

Maintenance and repair of city owned vehicles and equipment should be performed by Fleet Services at the Central Services Center. The Central Services Center manages stormwater under a site specific SWPPP. Stormwater BMPs pertinent to the maintenance and repair vehicle and equipment are provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan.

### Municipal Buildings

Municipal building maintenance includes cleaning, washing, painting, and landscape maintenance. Potential pollutants from these activities include organic compounds, oil and grease, soap, heavy metals, and particulate matter. Each department is responsible for the maintenance of its municipal buildings in a manner protective of stormwater, which includes implementing stormwater BMPs when performing cleaning and maintenance activities in order to reduce the potential for pollutants to enter the storm sewer, and ultimately the Spokane River. Stormwater BMP documents provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan, which contains pollution mitigation measures for activities typically performed at municipal buildings that are applicable to all City departments.

### Parks and Open Space

The maintenance of parks and open space areas inherently includes fertilization, mowing, pesticide application, and supplemental irrigation, and has significant potential to impact stormwater and ultimately the Spokane River. Potential pollutants from these activities include nutrients (ammonia and phosphorous), chemicals (pesticides), organic debris, and sediment, among others, which must be mitigated with appropriate stormwater BMPs. Stormwater treatment facilities and green stormwater infrastructure are often incorporated into parks and open spaces to provide multi-use facilities for the public. Green areas used to manage stormwater have additional maintenance requirements beyond those for parks and open spaces alone.

The Parks Department is responsible for maintaining city owned parks and many open spaces, and the Water Department is responsible for maintaining the remaining open spaces and stormwater treatment facilities. Stormwater BMPs applicable to the maintenance activities that are performed at parks and open spaces, as well as BMPs for stormwater bioinfiltration facilities, are provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan as guidance resources for the department responsible for maintenance.

### Construction Projects

Public and private construction projects are required to comply with Appendix 1 of the stormwater permit, which details the requirements of seven core elements for the protection of stormwater. In addition, larger construction projects are also required to obtain a project specific Construction General Stormwater Permit from the Department of Ecology.

Construction projects have significant potential to impact stormwater from soil particles derived from exposed soils, and from the materials and chemicals used for the construction project. Stormwater pollution prevention BMPs are required to be implemented for construction projects performed by the

city. BMPs for both large and small construction sites are provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan

### Industrial Activities

Industrial activities inherently have a significant potential to impact stormwater with pollutants that are specific to industrial sector. The City of Spokane municipal operations activities that may typically qualify for an industrial stormwater permit are the Northside Landfill and the Waste to Energy Facility.

The Northside Landfill is closed to the public and no longer accepts municipal solid waste for disposal. The Waste to Energy Facility is active, and conducts all waste transfer and processing of materials indoors under a building roof. In lieu of an industrial stormwater permit, the Northside Landfill and the Waste to Energy Facility sites manage stormwater onsite in accordance with a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), as required for municipal operations by the municipal stormwater permit.

The Northside Landfill and Waste to Energy Facility are each responsible to keep the site-specific SWPPPs for the respective facility current for the activities of its' operations, and continue to perform the responsibilities identified in the SWPPP for the site. In addition to performing the responsibilities of the SWPPP, the Northside Landfill and Waste to Energy Facility should implement the applicable stormwater BMPs that are not provided in the site specific SWPPP, specifically BMPs for good housekeeping and the BMPs for non-routine maintenance activities that are occasionally performed, provided in the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan.

The Riverside State Park Water Reclamation Facility (RPWRF) is a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant that operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that is specific to the facility. RPWRF is responsible to operate in accordance with the conditions of its' NPDES permit, and the requirements of the municipal stormwater facility do not regulate the activities at RPWRF.

### Staff Training

The city provides training for employees with primary construction, operation, or maintenance job functions likely to impact stormwater quality. Training is typically performed by each department for the applicable personnel, which addresses the importance of protecting water quality, the requirements of the Permit, operation and maintenance requirements, inspection procedures, ways to perform job activities to prevent or minimize impacts to water quality, and procedures for reporting such water quality concerns as potential illicit discharges. The city is currently implementing a training program that is part of the long-term strategy of the implementation of the citywide Municipal Stormwater O&M Plan. Every employee will receive annual training on the O&M Plan by department stormwater focal points, who will have been trained as trainers on the O&M Plan.

#### **2.6.4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs)**

Site specific SWPPPs have been developed for the municipal properties that have material storage areas, heavy equipment storage areas, and outdoor maintenance areas. The SWPPP documents contain a site map, inventories of equipment and materials, a description of the operations activities, spill

mitigation procedures, and inspection criteria to identify site conditions water quality protection practices specific to each respective site.

The following properties have had site specific SWPPPs developed for their operations:

Sewer Maintenance Operations  
909 E. Sprague Avenue  
December 2022

Central Services Center  
915 N. Nelson Street  
October 2019

Water Department Operations  
914 E. Foothills Drive  
December 2022

Parks Operations Complex  
2304 E. Mallon Street  
December 2022

Vactor Waste Facility  
2401 E. Ferry Road  
August 2019

Riverfront Park  
610 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard  
December 2022

Northside Landfill  
7202 N. Nine Mile Road  
March 2021

Manito Park  
2406 S. Tekoa Street  
December 2022

Waste to Energy Facility  
8125 W. Pilot Drive  
December 2022

## 3.0 COMPLIANCE WITH TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

### 3.1 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

#### 3.1.1 TMDL Permit Requirements

Section S7 of the permit requires the city to apply the conditions of the Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL) applied to the Spokane River and Lake Spokane (Long Lake), which are detailed in Appendix 2 of the permit. Appendix 2 states that the city must:

- Continue to monitor Cochran Basin for phosphorus, ammonia, CBOD, and flow rates in accordance with the Cochran Basin DO TMDL Stormwater Sampling Quality Assurance Project Plan (April 2016),
- Continue to implement the monitoring program throughout the duration of the Eastern Washington Phase II Permit issued on August 1, 2019, and expires on July 31, 2024,
- Enter the results of monitoring for each calendar year into Ecology's EIM database by January 31st of the following year, and
- Evaluate and report the results of the monitoring program on an annual basis with respect to the city's share of the stormwater Waste Load Allocations in the TMDL.

#### 3.1.2 Monitoring Cochran Basin Discharges

Stormwater from the Cochran Basin in the northwest portion of the City of Spokane was monitored from 2016 – 2019. Continuous flow rates were recorded, and analyses were performed on stormwater samples for temperature, pH, total suspended solids (TSS), carbonaceous biological oxygen demand (CBOD), phosphorus, ammonia, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The city submitted the Cochran Basin Dissolved Oxygen (DO) TMDL Stormwater Monitoring Report to Ecology in June 2020, which presented the monitoring results for the basin for the years 2016 – 2019 in accordance with Appendix 2 of the permit.

The monitoring data indicated that the city exceeded the assumptive modeled Waste Load Allocations in 2016 and 2017 for CBOD, and 2019 for ammonia. Given the WLA exceedances, the Stormwater TMDL Waste Load Reduction Action Plan was submitted to Ecology on August 6, 2020, which detailed the construction of stormwater infrastructure that will ultimately eliminate discharges from Cochran Basin into the river for storms up to the size of the 6-month design storm. In support of treatment for Cochran Basin stormwater runoff, the city evaluated treatment facility design options at properties near or within the basin. The evaluation determined that the preferred design option would be to construct three separate treatment facilities near the current Cochran Basin stormwater outfall. The three bioretention facility locations will be at TJ Meenach Drive and Northwest Boulevard, the Disc Golf Course at Downriver, and the Boat Launch facility near the TJ Meenach Bridge. Flows to each facility will be managed from a single common flow control vault in Cochran Street between Cleveland and Grace Avenues. The flow control vault will distribute prescribed flows to each of the facilities, and will bypass flows in excess of the 6-month design storm to the existing outfall which discharges to the Spokane River.

Monitoring continued to be conducted in 2020 in accordance with the protocols established in the Cochran Basin DO TMDL Stormwater Sampling Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Six qualifying storm events were monitored and sampled for phosphorus, ammonia, CBOD, and flow rates, among other parameters, in 2020. Monitoring for phosphorus, ammonia, CBOD, and flow rates, among others, will continue to be conducted in accordance with the QAPP through the end of the permit cycle in July 2024. Monitoring results were tabulated and uploaded into Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database for the data from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Upon receipt of comments back from Ecology on the Cochran Basin Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Stormwater Monitoring Report, the city will evaluate and create a report of the results of the annual monitoring performed in 2022.



## 4.0 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Stormwater Management Program Effectiveness Studies

#### 4.1.1 Effectiveness Study Permit Requirements

Section S8 of the permit requires the city perform and/or participate in effectiveness studies. Section S8.A.1 requires the city to continue to implement the effectiveness studies that are ongoing from 2014-2019 permit cycle in accordance with the applicable Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

- Section S8.A.1 requires the city to continue to participate in implementation of the eight Ecology-approved studies that were selected pursuant to Section S8.B in the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (2014-2019) in accordance with the QAPP.
- Section S8.A.2 requires the city to coordinate with other Permittees to plan and begin an additional Stormwater Management Program effectiveness study.
- Section S8.A.2.a requires the city to:
  - Participate in an effectiveness study by serving as the Lead Entity, contributing staff time or other in-kind services, and/or providing funding,
  - Submit to Ecology a brief description of the study, with a list of project participants and each participant's associated role(s) in the study, on or before June 30, 2021,
  - Submit a detailed study design proposal to Ecology on or before September 30, 2022 following the instructions in Eastern Washington Stormwater Effectiveness Studies, Detailed Study Design Proposal & QAPP template (July, 1, 2019, v.1),
  - Submit a completed QAPP on or before July 31, 2023,
  - Begin to conduct the study on or before December 1, 2023, or within three months of receiving Ecology's approval of the QAPP (whichever is later), and
  - Include effectiveness study activities (e.g. assigned duties; participation in meetings, proposal development, project reviews; and study implementation) in the Permittee's updated SWMP.
- Section S8.B.2.1 of the permit requires the city to follow the reporting requirements and timelines in the approved QAPP for the study, including:
  - Entering all applicable data collected for the study into Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database.
  - Publishing a final report within 60 days with the results of the study and recommended future actions based on the findings.
  - Producing a fact sheet summarizing the findings and recommendations with 90 days of completing the study and sharing it with other Permittees. The target audience for the fact sheet is stormwater managers and local government elected officials.

- Section S8.B.2.2 of the permit requires the city to track assigned duties and record participation in effectiveness study meetings, proposal development, project reviews, and study implementation, and include a summary in the Permittee's Annual Report.

#### **4.1.2 Ongoing City of Spokane Effectiveness Studies**

Two effectiveness studies have been initiated by the City of Spokane: 1) Sharp Avenue Sharp Avenue Permeable Pavement Pollutant Removal Efficacy Study, and 2) Garland Avenue Biochar Amended Storm Garden Pollutant Removal Efficacy Study.

##### **Sharp Avenue Sharp Avenue Permeable Pavement**

Permeable pavement in the forms of pervious concrete and porous hot mix asphalt was constructed on Sharp Avenue in order to satisfy the effectiveness studies requirements of Section 8 of the permit. The project was funded in part by Ecology grant WQC-2016-Spokane-000016, and construction was completed in 2018. The intent of permeable pavement is to allow for precipitation and stormwater runoff to infiltrate into the subsurface. Therefore, the location of this study is its own catchment area or drainage basin. This drainage basin includes a portion of a minor arterial with Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count of 7,500 that is surrounded by residential and campus land use. The approach of this study is to collect stormwater infiltrated into the permeable pavements and associated sub-base via underdrains and piping conveyance systems to separate monitoring locations.

Two different types of permeable pavements have been constructed on Sharp Avenue: porous hot mix asphalt (HMA) and pervious concrete. Pervious concrete with associated sub-base materials was constructed on Sharp Avenue between the side streets of Lidgerwood Street and Astor Street, where a liner and underdrain were installed on the south side of Sharp Avenue to collect infiltrated stormwater for sampling. Porous HMA with associated sub-base materials was constructed on Sharp Avenue between the side streets of Addison Street and Dakota Street, where a liner and underdrain were installed on the south side of Sharp Avenue between Addison Street and Standard Street to collect infiltrated stormwater for sampling. In order to collect a background stormwater sample to determine the efficacy of pollutant removal by the permeable pavements, catch basins and conveyance piping were installed to the west of the permeable pavement areas in order to collect un-infiltrated stormwater runoff.

A Quality Assurance Program Plan detailing the monitoring to be conducted was submitted to Ecology and approved in 2019. Monitoring began in 2019 and will be ongoing for 5 consecutive years to include observations of the pavements through the changes in season and in response to maintenance activities such as street sweeping and snow removal. Stormwater sampling at 3 distinct locations began in 2019 and the data continues to be evaluated. Infiltration tests at various locations is being performed before and after certain street sweeping events to monitor changes in the permeability of the pavements after sweeping and over time.

The Sharp Ave effectiveness study was ongoing in 2021. Sampling equipment has been installed in manholes on Sharp Ave. between Pearl St. and Dakota St., and sampling and analysis is performed in accordance with the Ecology approved QAPP, as storm events allow, and sampling will be ongoing through 2024. However, 2021 was a very dry year and there was also equipment malfunctions. Only

two qualifying events were sampled in 2021. The equipment has been troubleshot and returned to service and is currently functioning. Data will be summarized at the end of the study in the year 2024 and published in accordance with the QAPP. The Sharp Avenue project was summarized in an article in Stormwater Magazine in January 2021 and can be found online at [Infiltration Avenue | Storm Water \(stormh2o.com\)](https://stormh2o.com). Monitoring continued through 2022, and continues in 2023. A final report will be completed for Sharp Avenue Effectiveness study in late 2024 to early 2025.

#### Garland Avenue Biochar Amended Storm Garden

Storm gardens were installed on Garland Avenue in order to satisfy the effectiveness studies requirements of Section 8 of the permit. The City of Spokane and University of Idaho funded a laboratory research study to develop a soil/biochar design mix for application in the storm gardens. The study used bench-scale laboratory testing of two different types of biochar available in the Spokane Region: 1) wood, and 2) Kentucky bluegrass stubble. The laboratory study conducted at Gonzaga University included bench scale laboratory testing to identify a soil mixture for field application. Results from the study determined that the wood biochar with loamy sand (and no other additives) removed the most pollutants. As a result, it was selected for use in the storm garden field application phase.

The goal of this study is to measure the percent reduction of monitored pollutant concentrations between the influent and effluent at the storm garden. To achieve this, the city will sample the influent (pre-infiltration) and effluent (post-infiltration) stormwater concentrations. Influent sample concentrations will be measured prior to infiltration, and effluent sample concentrations will be measured after infiltration through the storm garden comprised of the amended soil. A Quality Assurance Program Plan detailing the monitoring to be conducted was submitted to Ecology and approved in 2019. Monitoring began in 2019 and will be ongoing for 5 consecutive years to include observations of water quality over time.

The Garland Ave effectiveness study was ongoing in 2021. Monitoring continued through 2022, and continues in 2023. Monitoring equipment has been installed at the corner of Garland Ave and Belt St., and sampling and analysis is performed in accordance with the Ecology approved QAPP, as storm events allow, and sampling will be ongoing through 2024. Data will be summarized at the end of the study in late 2024 to early 2025 and published in accordance with the QAPP.

#### **4.1.3 Additional Effectiveness Study (2019–2024 Permit Cycle)**

The City of Spokane, the City of Spokane Valley, and Spokane County have partnered to perform a study that will evaluate the treatment performance of two non-vegetated bioretention soil media (BSM) Best Management Practices in Eastern Washington through the TAPE process. The media tested will include the high performance BSM and the 60 sand: 40 compost (60:40) BSM. A rock mulch will be used to protect the surface from erosion.

Pollutant removal efficacies will be determined from data collected on stormwater pre- and post- swale for each swale co-located in a university parking lot. Dependent on the results, local stormwater management guidelines may be revised and municipal management strategies modified. The study will be implemented by a consultant on behalf of all municipal partners, and the City of Spokane will be the

lead entity. The details for this non-vegetated swale study were provided to Ecology in June 2021. The non-vegetated bioretention soil media effectiveness study was being designed in 2022, and a detailed design study proposal was submitted to Ecology in September 2022. The effectiveness study will be kicked off in 2023.

## 5.0 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### 5.1 Annual Stormwater Report

#### 5.1.1 Permit Requirements for Reporting

Section S9 of the permit requires the city to submit an annual report electronically using Ecology's WQWebPortal program no later than March 31st each year.

Section S9.A requires the city to keep all records related to the permit for at least five years.

Section S9.B requires the city to make all records related to the permit and this SWMP available to the public at reasonable times during business hours, and provide a copy of the most recent Annual Report to any individual or entity, upon request.

Section S9.C of the permit requires the city to include in the following:

- Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP Plan),
- Annual Report form describing the status of implementation of the requirements of the permit for the reporting period,
- Attachments to the Annual Report form including summaries, descriptions, reports, and other information, as required or as applicable, to meet the conditions of this Permit during the reporting period.
- Certification and signature of the report by principal executive officer or ranking elected official, and
- Notification of any annexations, incorporations or jurisdictional boundary changes resulting in an increase or decrease in permit coverage during the reporting period.

#### 5.1.2 City of Spokane Annual Stormwater Report

The city completes the Annual Report and submits by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline on an annual basis. The annual report is submitted using Ecology's WQWebPortal in SecureAccess Washington. Copies of the annual report can be found on the city's website at [www.Spokanestormwater.org](http://www.Spokanestormwater.org).

## 6.0 ACRONYMS

BMP:	Best Management Practice
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulation
CSO:	Combined Sewer Overflow
CWA:	Clean Water Act
ESC:	Erosion and Sedimentation Control
GIS:	Geographic Information System
LID:	Low Impact Development
MS4:	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NPDES:	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O&M:	Operation and Maintenance
RCW:	Revised Code of Washington
SRSM:	Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual
SMC:	Spokane Municipal Code
SMP:	Stormwater Management Plan
SWMP:	Stormwater Management Program
SWPPP:	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TMDL:	Total Maximum Daily Load
UIC:	Underground Injection Control
WAC:	Washington Administrative Code

## 7.0 DEFINITIONS

**Best Management Practice:** The utilization of methods, techniques and/or products that have been demonstrated to be the most effective and reliable in minimizing environmental impacts.

**CWA:** The federal Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Pub. L. 92-500, as amended in Pub. L. 95-217, Pub. L. 95-576, pub. L. 96-483, and Pub. L 97-117, 33 U.S.C 1251 *et seq.*

**Development:** Any proposed land use, zoning, or rezoning, comprehensive plan amendment, annexation, subdivision, short subdivision, planned unit development, planned area development, conditional use permit, special use permit, shoreline development permit, or any other property development action permitted or regulated by the Spokane Municipal Code (SMC).

**Discharge (v):** Disposal, injections, dumping, spilling, pumping, emitting, emptying, leaching or placing of any material so that material enters and exits from the MS4 or from any other publicly owned or operated drainage system that convey storm water. The term includes other verb forms where applicable.

**Discharge (n):** Runoff, excluding offsite flows, leaving the proposed development through overland flow, built conveyance systems or infiltration facilities.

**Discharger:** When used in the context of stormwater management and the SMC of 17D.060 and 17D.090, means any person who discharges to the City's MS4 or any other publicly owned or operated drainage system that conveys, manages or disposes of stormwater flows.

**Drainage:** (1) The process of removing surplus ground or surface water by artificial means, (2) the manner in which the waters of an area are removed, or (3) the area from which waters are drained; a drainage basin.

**Erosion and Sedimentation Control:** Any temporary or permanent measures taken to reduce erosion, control siltation and sedimentation, and ensure that sediment-laden water does not leave a site.

**Groundwater:** Water in a saturated zone or stratum beneath the surface of the land or below a surface water body.

**Heavy Equipment Maintenance or Storage Yard:** An uncovered area where heavy equipment (e.g. mowers, excavators, dump trucks, backhoes, or bulldozers) is washed or maintained, or where at least five pieces of heavy equipment are stored regularly or on a long term basis.

**Illicit Connection(s):** Any man-made conveyance connected to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4 system) in violation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

**Illicit Discharge:** The introduction or discharge of anything into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4 system) in violation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.

**Impervious Surface:** A hard surface area that either prevents or retards the entry of water into the soil mantle. Common impervious surfaces include, but are not limited to, rooftops, walkways, patios,

driveways, parking lots, storage areas, concrete, or surfaces that impede the natural infiltration of stormwater.

**Industrial Activity:** Manufacturing, processing or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant. These activities may be required to have Department of Ecology's NPDES permit coverage in accordance with 40 CFR 122.26.

**Low Impact Development:** A stormwater management and land development strategy applied at the parcel and/or subdivision scale that emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small-scale hydrologic controls to more closely mimic pre-development hydrologic conditions.

**Material Storage Facilities:** An uncovered area where bulk materials (liquid, solid, granular, etc.) are stored in piles, barrels, tanks, bins, crates, or other means.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4):** A conveyance or system of conveyances, including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains, (1) owned or operated by a state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State Law) having jurisdiction over disposal of wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State Law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States, (2) designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, (3) which is not a combined sewer, and (4) which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):** The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking, and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the Federal Clean Water Act, for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters of the state from point sources. These permits are referred to as NPDES permits and, in Washington State, are administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

**NPDES Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (WAR04-6505):** A permit issued to the City of Spokane from the Washington State Department of Ecology, granting authority to discharge stormwater into state surface waters. Permit also addresses water quality issues.

**Outfall:** A point source as defined by 40 CFR 122.2 at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the State and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers, or pipes, tunnels, or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the State and are used to convey waters of the State.

**Permittee:** Any Primary Permittee, Co-Permittee, or Secondary Permittee unless specifically stated otherwise for a particular section of permit WAR04-6505.

**Pollutant:** (1) Any substance prohibited or limited by federal, state or local regulations, released or discharged in conjunction with development. (2) Any substance, released or discharged, that causes or contributes to violation of water quality standards.



**Runoff:** Water that travels across the land surface, or laterally through the ground near the land surface, and discharges to water bodies either directly or through a collection and conveyance system, includes stormwater and water that travels across the land surface from other sources.

**Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual:** A technical document establishing standards for stormwater design and management to protect water quality, natural drainage systems, and down-gradient properties as urban development occurs.

**Stormwater:** Any runoff flow occurring during or after any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation, including snowmelt. Stormwater further includes any locally accumulating ground or surface waters, even if not directly associated with natural precipitation events, where such waters contribute or have potential to contribute to runoff onto the public right-of-way, public storm or sanitary sewers, or flooding or erosion on public or private property.

**Stormwater Management Program (SWMP):** A set of actions and activities designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated small MS4 to the MEP, and to protect water quality; it comprises the components listed in S5 or S6 of permit WAR04-6505 and any additional actions necessary to meet the requirements of applicable TMDLs.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** A water cleanup plan. A TMDL is both a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. A TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and non-point sources. The calculation includes a margin of safety to ensure that the water body can be used for its state-designated purposes. The calculation also accounts for seasonable variation in water quality. Water quality standards are set by states, territories, and tribes. They identify the uses for each water body—such as drinking water supply, contact recreation (swimming), and aquatic life support (fishing)—and the scientific criteria to support that use. The Clean Water Act, Section 303, establishes the water quality standards and TMDL programs.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

- Brown, E., D. Caraco, and R. Pitt. 2004. *Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: A Guidance Manual for Program Development and Technical Assessments*. Center for Watershed Protection, Ellicott City, MD. [<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/illicit.cfm>]
- Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP). *Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures: For Stormwater Phase II Communities in Maine*. [<http://www.cascobay.usm.maine.edu/publications.html>].
- City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, and Spokane County. (2008). *Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual*.  
[http://www.spokanewastewater.org/Docs/Stormwater/Spokane\\_Regional\\_Stormwater\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.spokanewastewater.org/Docs/Stormwater/Spokane_Regional_Stormwater_Manual.pdf).
- Mays, L.W. (Ed.). 2001. *Stormwater collection systems design handbook*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Washington State Department of Ecology, AHBL, and HDR. (2013). *Eastern Washington Low Impact Development Guidance Manual*.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. (2007). *Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit*.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. (2006). *Guidance for UIC Wells that Manage Stormwater*. Publication No. 05-10-067.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. (2008). *Municipal stormwater general permit: Guidance for cities and counties*.
- Washington State Department of Ecology. (2004). *Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington*. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/tech.html>.