



## Healthy Neighborhoods Watershed Management Plan

### What is the challenge of stormwater?

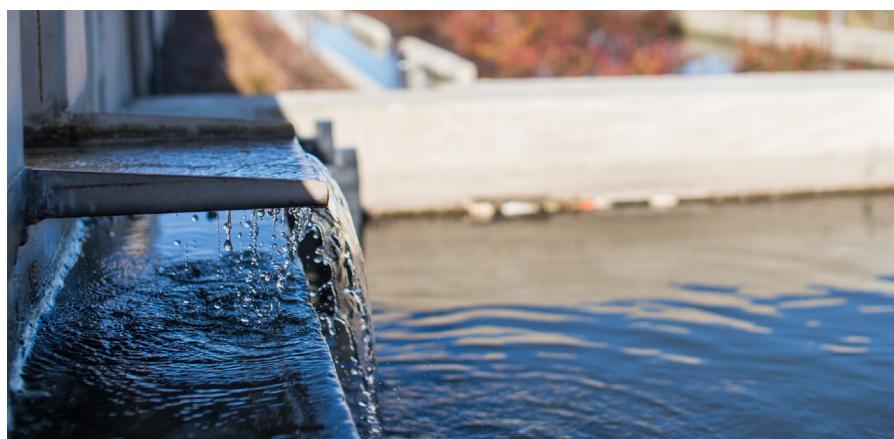
Rain falling on hard surfaces like roofs, streets and parking lots picks up oil, trash and other pollutants. This “stormwater” is a leading cause of water pollution, threatening wildlife and damaging critical habitat. Each action we take individually and on a city-wide scale to reduce the impacts of stormwater pollution improves the health of our watersheds and protects the ecosystem services we need.



### Changing Directions of Stormwater Management

For decades, Tacoma's Environmental Services Department has been a regional leader in developing stormwater management programs including pollution source control inspections, green stormwater infrastructure projects, and stormwater quality testing. However, we recognize the need to partner with our community members to develop a watershed-based approach to meet the diverse needs of our neighborhoods. A Watershed Management Plan will help us prioritize the most effective stormwater actions and projects, at the most important locations, to build a more healthy and resilient Tacoma and a thriving Puget Sound.

A watershed data mapping tool will create heatmaps to target key locations in the watershed for stormwater actions and projects. The tool will help track the benefits of these stormwater investments.



**We believe everything we do supports healthy neighborhoods and a thriving Puget Sound, leaving a better Tacoma for all.**



SURFACEWATER SOLIDWASTE WASTEWATER  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



'L' Street Rain Garden Installation



## Developing Watershed Priorities

The City of Tacoma was awarded grant funding from the Department of Ecology to develop a watershed data mapping tool to provide a street-by-street assessment of watershed needs. The tool will also provide reports and graphics designed to clearly reveal the intersections between watershed and community needs and help engage a diverse group of key partners in decision-making including the most impacted community members.

## Future Actions

The watershed assessment and prioritization will produce a list of actions designed to reduce stormwater pollution of Tacoma's lakes, streams, and marine waters. These actions will be selected to respond to community priorities, future development and housing needs, and anticipated climate change impacts. The locations of these activities will be selected to provide more equitable service throughout Tacoma.

## Watershed Project Planning Timeline

### Sept. 2019 - Nov. 2020

#### Research & Watershed Characterization

Review City plans and regulations, existing environmental conditions, and community needs and priorities in each watershed.

### Nov. 2020 - July 2022

#### Watershed Prioritization

Build a prioritization tool using a GIS spatial model to rank key watershed locations and potential actions.

### July 2022 - Jan. 2023

#### Action Plan

Identify priority actions, target outcomes, and timeframes. Collaborate with partners and stakeholders.

### Jan. 2024

#### Begin Implementation

Measure progress, review with partners and stakeholders, and adjust priorities.



## For More Information Contact:

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