



Surface Water Comprehensive Plan

Public Information Sheet

Developing a Comprehensive Plan for Surface Water Management in Everett

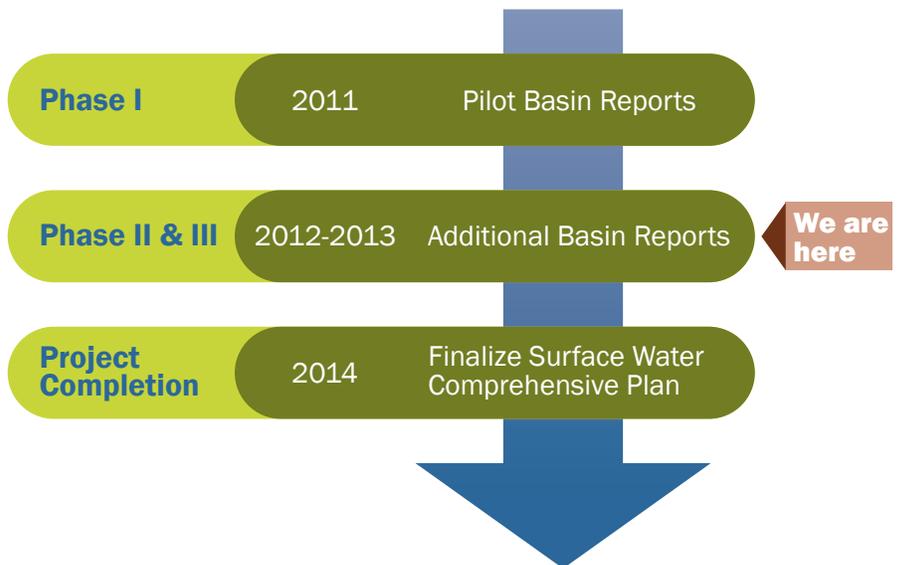
The City of Everett is beginning work to write a new Surface Water Comprehensive plan, which includes an analysis of the City's drainage basins. The original basin plans were completed more than 25 years ago. Since then, the City has annexed new areas so the boundaries of the City have become larger. In addition, the Washington State Department of Ecology regulations have changed significantly.

The City will create the new Surface Water Comprehensive Plan to replace the basin plans throughout the next three years. The process will include identifying projects and programs to manage the City's surface water including cost estimates, timelines and grant opportunities.



Wood Creek

Plan Development Schedule

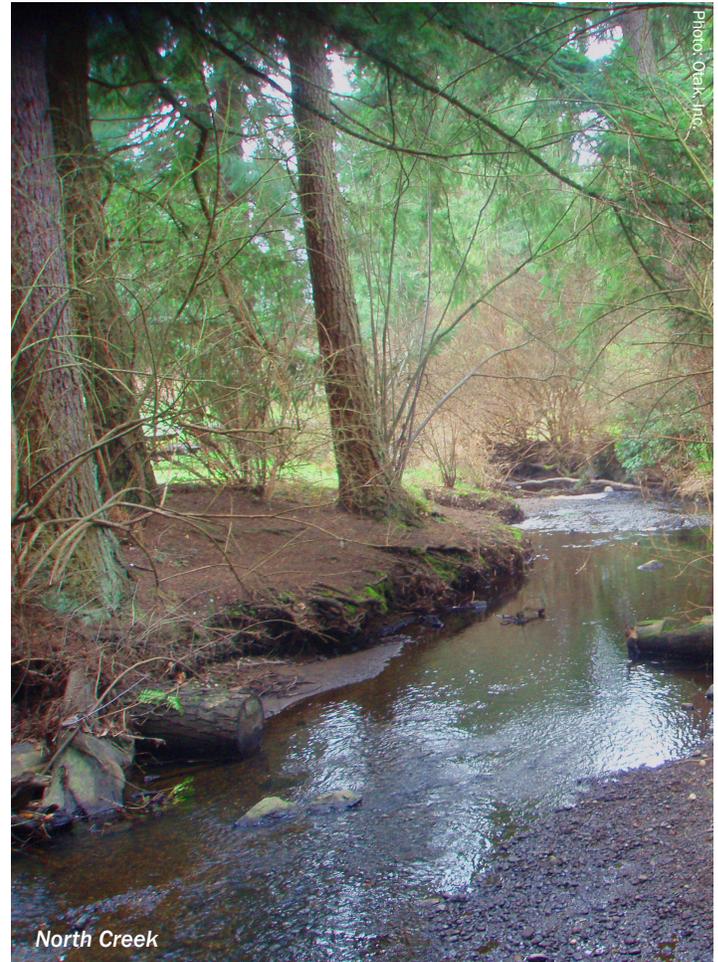


Everett Surface Water Comprehensive Plan to address important issues

Rain that hits our streets and parking lots is known as stormwater runoff. Surface water is the combination of stormwater, streams, lakes, creeks and wetlands. Managing surface water is an important task in the Pacific Northwest and affects the health of our environment. Surface water can pollute our lakes and streams and can lead to the erosion of wildlife habitat in some areas. The City of Everett, like most municipalities throughout the Puget Sound Region, was built primarily during a time when regulation of surface water and water quality was either limited or didn't exist. Now it's important that guidelines are in place and are kept up to date. The Surface Water Comprehensive Plan will provide recommendations for:

- Reducing and controlling flooding and drainage
- Mitigating, enhancing and restoring water quality and natural functions within our watersheds
- Natural drainage systems and low impact development techniques to better manage surface water flows and water quality as areas redevelop
- Improving wildlife habitat for upland, riparian and marine animals

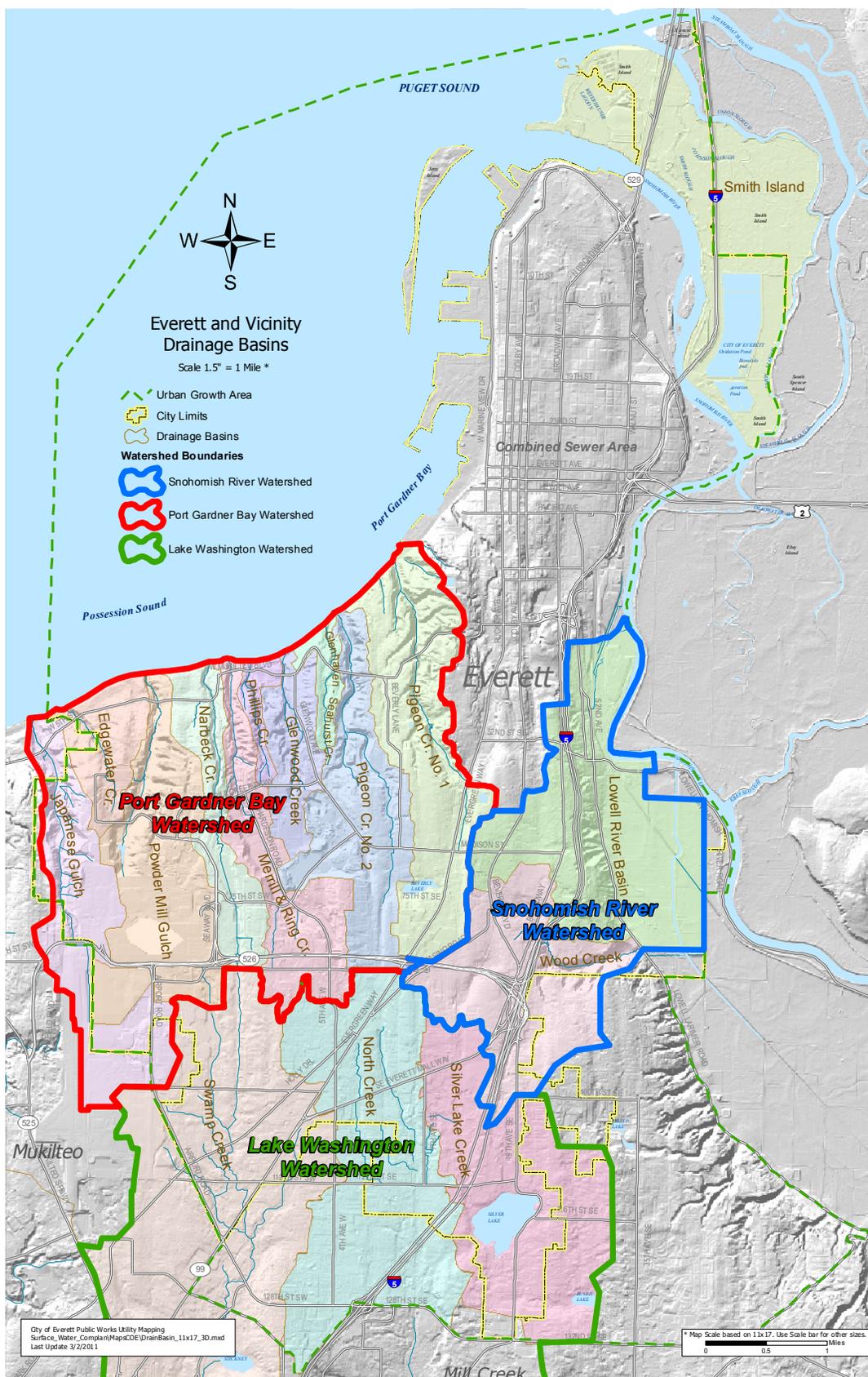
The City of Everett, like other cities, is required by the Washington State Department of Ecology to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit to regulate surface water to reduce and prevent pollution.



Everett's Watersheds

Everett's three watersheds include the Port Gardner Bay Watershed, the Lake Washington Watershed and the Snohomish River Watershed. Basins within each watershed are defined by streams, creeks or lakes that drain into the larger bodies of water in the watershed. Surface water management includes managing stormwater runoff, streams, wetlands and lakes. Stormwater is often collected and treated separately than sewage. This is true for the watersheds in the south Everett area. However, in north Everett, stormwater and sewage is collected together and is treated at the City of Everett Water Pollution Control Facility before being released into Puget Sound waters. The north Everett combined system is addressed in the City's Comprehensive Sewer Plan and not in the Surface Water Comprehensive Plan.





Phase 2 focuses on study

Work in the second phase of developing the Surface Water Comprehensive Plan will include studying the Port Gardner Bay Watershed. To accomplish this, City staff and surface water experts will work near the water's edge in these areas to collect information about nearby vegetation, stream bed sediment, channel bank condition, number and health of fish, barriers to fish passage and water temperature. Staff and experts will review this information and use it as the basis for the Surface Water Comprehensive Plan, which will include identifying projects and programs to manage the City's surface water including cost estimates, timelines and grant opportunities.

PUGET SOUND STARTS HERE

The three watersheds in Everett vicinity are just a few of the many watersheds in our region that drain through a network of streams, rivers, and underground pipes, eventually flowing into Puget Sound.

- On an average day, it is estimated that thousands of pounds of pollutants—including petroleum, oil, copper, lead, zinc, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from yard chemicals, soap, and bacteria from pet waste—enter Puget Sound waters.
- Approximately 75 percent of this pollution comes from stormwater runoff that starts in neighborhoods (runoff from roads, driveways, rooftops, and yards).
- 549 streams, rivers, and lakes across the Puget Sound Region suffer from poor water quality—some of those streams are in our City.
- Pollution carried in untreated stormwater and from other sources affects the health of our region's waters, wildlife, fisheries, and the general environment. It also impacts our recreation and tourism industries, and the quality of life we enjoy in the Pacific Northwest.
- More than 28,000 dogs live in Everett, and they produce 4.6 tons of waste every day. Pet waste is raw sewage that threatens public health and our community's water quality. The City has regulations requiring pet owners to pick up after pets.

Source: City of Everett, 2007 edition of the U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, and Puget Sound Starts Here, for more information please visit www.pugetsoundstartshere.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the project webpage at the City of Everett's website—information will be posted online, including updates on the planning process and other ways to participate.

Here's how:

- Navigate to www.everettwa.org/pw
- Select Surface/Stormwater on the left
- Select Surface Water Comprehensive Plan

For questions or to send information, please contact:

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