
2021 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (SWMP)

MS4 AREAS – NPDES PERMIT



BIO-INFILTRATION SWALE AT 16TH & BURNS

City of Spokane Valley
Public Works Department
Stormwater Utility

MARCH 2021



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DOCUMENT PURPOSES

There are five main purposes of the City's Stormwater Management Program SWMP (SWMP) Plan:

1. Provide current status of the Municipal Stormwater Permit (NPDES) requirements.
2. Serve as guide to add improvement and/or value to current compliance mechanisms.
3. Suggest work or needs that should be considered in upcoming budget years.
4. Meet current regulatory requirements to have a comprehensive SWMP plan.
5. Educate the public on how Stormwater Utility meets regulatory requirements.

It is updated annually by City Stormwater Utility (Utility) staff, with input from the public and management for various activities and projects that the Utility performs.

The current year Plan and other related documents are available on the City's Stormwater website as required by State permit: <http://www.spokanevalley.org/stormwater>

KEY GOALS, AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

KEY GOALS FOR 2021 MS4 SWMP

- Submit to Ecology a brief description of the effectiveness study, with a list of project participants, and each participant's associated role(s) in the study, on or before June 30, 2021.
- Begin measuring and adoption of the targeted behavior for at least one target audience.
- Utilize internal Public Relation platforms to integrate new Public Education and Outreach efforts.
- Utilized internal Public Relation platforms to integrate new Public Involvement efforts.
- G20 Requirements - Absolve permit condition S5.B.4.a.iv and S5.B.4.C.
- Review existing ordinance language for improved NPDES MS4 compliance.
- Continue involvement with Eastern Washington Stormwater Group.

KEY COMBINATION GOALS FOR 2021 MS4 SWMP AND UIC SWMP

- Transition the program to operate under both the MS4 SWMP and the UIC SWMP.
- Mapping update to separate NPDES regulated facilities (MS4) from UIC regulated facilities.
- Update O&M plan and scheduling to complement both NPDES and UIC program.
- Continue inventory mapping of storm drain pipes and data collection of swale inventory.

OVERALL PROGRAM FUTURE NEEDS & CONSIDERATIONS

- Sunset of the Aquifer Protection Area funding in 2025 – reduction in capital improvements.
- Continue to integrate technology into work process to provide better program management, inspection data collation and monitoring of contractor performance (i.e. GIS field collection, GPS field tracking, asset management software, and QAlert).
- Long term plan to deal with maturing infrastructure needs.
- Continued development and implementation of swale modification permit.

- Comprehensive Program Plan and Study of the Stormwater Utility Fee: Is it too high, not high enough, or just right?
- Continual restructuring of stormwater program to create a more systematic, standardized, proactive, and transparent program.

BACKGROUND

Like many jurisdictions throughout the country, the City of Spokane Valley is required to comply with State and Federal stormwater regulations related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act to improve and protect water quality.

SURFACE WATER PROTECTION, CLEAN WATER ACT

- In 1972, Congress enacted the Clean Water Act (CWA) and charged the EPA with restoring the nation's waters to fishable and swimmable conditions. Under the CWA, point source discharges to the nation's waters require National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. In 1987, Congress broadened the CWA definition of "point source" to include municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).
- The 1987 expansion of the CWA was promulgated in two phases; the City of Spokane Valley fell under the second phase, and is regulated by Ecology on behalf of the EPA. On January 17, 2007 Ecology issued to the City the "Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit". The Permit requires the City to address the quality of its stormwater discharges through the 16 outfalls (as of August 2015) it owns to surface waters of the State.
- Seventeen other cities and six counties in eastern Washington are also covered under the Permit. The first Permit term became effective February 16, 2007 and expired July 31, 2014. The second Permit term became effective August 1, 2014 and expired July 31, 2019. City operations are currently authorized under the third Permit term that became effective August 1, 2019 and is scheduled to expire July 31, 2024
- The first Permit term was designed to give jurisdictions an opportunity to develop their stormwater management programs and prepare for the second and third permit terms which requires additional actions and an increased level of management and oversight. Since inception, the City has been developing its stormwater management program in accordance with the requirements of the Permits, including adoption of new ordinances, policies and procedures, contractor specifications, purchasing equipment, and training staff.

The current Permit can be viewed in its entirety on Ecology's website below.

[HTTPS://ECOLOGY.WA.GOV/REGULATIONS-PERMITS/PERMITS-CERTIFICATIONS/STORMWATER-GENERAL-PERMITS/MUNICIPAL-STORMWATER-GENERAL-PERMITS/EASTERN-WASHINGTON-PHASE-II-MUNICIPAL-STORMWAT-\(1\)](https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/permits-certifications/stormwater-general-permits/municipal-stormwater-general-permits/eastern-washington-phase-ii-municipal-stormwat-(1))

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION, SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

- Congress enacted the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's drinking water supply through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under the SDWA, the EPA designated the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie as one of the nation's first Sole Source Aquifers.
- The SDWA established the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program to safeguard underground sources of drinking water. The EPA delegated UIC authority in 1984 to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

- Most of the City’s streets discharge runoff through drywells, which are underground drain fields considered by Ecology to be UIC’s, therefore most all of the City of Spokane Valley falls under regulations administered by Ecology’s UIC program.
- Owners of underground drain fields are required to implement a Stormwater Management Program. The City intends to investigate this opportunity.
- Jurisdictions that have a current Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit (protecting surface waters) and apply their stormwater management program to their entire City, also meet Ecology’s UIC requirements to provide a Stormwater Management Program. This is what the City currently provides.

WATER QUALITY

Precipitation and runoff from approximately 98.5% of the area inside City limits either evaporates, is taken up by plants, or infiltrates into the ground. Precipitation that infiltrates into the ground eventually filters down to the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, the sole source of drinking water for over 400,000 people in the Spokane and North Idaho area. The type of storm drain facilities that the City owns are classified by the EPA as municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The City’s systems are deemed separate as it does not convey flows to publicly owned wastewater treatment plants.

Stormwater runoff has been identified by Ecology as “the number one water pollution problem in the urban areas of our state” (Ecology, 2007). Pollutants commonly found in stormwater include fertilizers, pesticides, vehicle fluids, trash, sediment and pet waste. Of course, stormwater may also contribute to problems associated with flooding.

Keeping our drinking water clean and protecting it from runoff that could be carrying pollutants is very important, which are the very reasons why the City engages in and updates an annual Stormwater Management Program Plan.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A STORM AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Spokane Valley area has been managing drainage and stormwater runoff for a long time because of public trepidations regarding protection of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer, meeting regulations, flood mitigation, and the long term protection and preservation of public drainage infrastructure. Because of these concerns and issues, the community supported projects and activities that eventually formed into and became the City’s Storm and Surface Water Management Program.

STORM AND SURFACE WATER UTILITY & FUND

In order to support the activities of the City’s Storm and Surface Water Management Program and to track associated costs, City Council formed a Storm and Surface Water Utility and corresponding enterprise fund. Subsequently, the name of the utility was shortened, and is referred to today as simply Stormwater Utility (Utility). The Utility was founded with the creation of the City on March 31, 2003. The SVMC [Chapter 3.80](#) outlines the establishment of the Utility. This provides a permanent tracking and financial planning mechanism as part of the city's overall budget development process. The annual budget is typically adopted by City Council annually in the fall months for the following calendar year.

Utility fees are collected based on the amount of hard surface area on developed properties within the City. Residential units pay \$21.00/year. Commercial properties are charged \$21.00 per 3,160 square feet of hard surfacing on the property. See [Stormwater Utility Funding](#) for more information.

CITY ORDINANCES, CODES, AND ADOPTED STANDARDS

The City enacted ordinances and codes that address runoff pollution protection in Permit required areas such as: illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), runoff from construction sites, and post-construction stormwater management. The City adopted Stormwater Management Regulations which can be found in the Spokane Valley Municipal Code (SVMC) [Chapter 22.150](#). The City also adopted the [Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual](#) which communicates what professionals should design and construct to meet runoff treatment standards and receive approvals for their projects. [City of Spokane Valley Street Standards and Plans](#) also establish the minimum design and construction of all street related improvements in the City that includes features that convey, collect, store, and treat stormwater runoff.

Passive enforcement of these regulations is conveyed through City issued permits, staff reviews & inspections, and through citizens reporting issues. When necessary, the City actively utilizes its Compliance and Enforcement rules that are found in SVMC [Chapter 17.100](#) to assist in conformity with City stormwater regulations.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SWMP) PLAN

GENERAL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING S5.A. AND S9)

The City of Spokane Valley has developed and implements this Stormwater Management Program as it pertains to regulated MS4 areas. The SWMP is a set of actions and activities comprising the components listed in S5 of the Phase II Municipal Stormwater permit (NPDES). The 2021 actions and activities will include:

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Complete 2021 SWMP by March 31.
- Continue implementation of the SWMP to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the regulated small MS4 to satisfy Water Pollution Control per RCW 90.48.
- Continue ongoing program of gathering, tracking, maintaining, and using information to evaluate SWMP.
- Continue internal coordination mechanisms to assure compliance with permit requirements.
- Coordinate with Ecology on permit implementation.
- Coordinate with other permittees thru participation in the Eastern Washington Stormwater Group.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Continue to integrate technology into work process to provide better program management, inspection data collation and monitoring of contractor performance (i.e. GIS field collection, GPS field tracking, asset management software, and QAlert).
- Develop additional coordination mechanisms and efforts with other jurisdictions where MS4 are interconnected.
- Transition the Stormwater Utility program to operate under both the MS4 SWMP and the UIC SWMP.
- Update O&M plan and scheduling to complement both NPDES and UIC program SWMPs.
- Continue the update of the MS4 SWMP to better measure and define each area of the program to see what is needed for continuous improvement, which may include increases or decreases in service levels.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (S5.B.1.)

The City of Spokane Valley implements a public education and outreach program to educate the community and target audiences about the impacts of stormwater discharge to surface waters and the steps to take to reduce pollutants to stormwater.

The City of Spokane Valley has a variety of education and outreach efforts targeted at students, the general public, and businesses. These efforts resulted in thousands of people hearing and learning about the effects on/of stormwater and the water bodies around us.

Student efforts includes but is not limited to participation by City of Spokane Valley Stormwater Utility, Spokane County Water Resources, Central Valley School District, West Valley Outdoor Learning Center, and Spokane Aquifer Joint Board. Activities include community events, classroom education, student field trips, “Aqua Duck” aquifer education & awareness, “Storm Drain Dan” costume and activity books, brochures, posterboards, watershed model discussion, aquifer atlas, and short sketches.

General public efforts include but in not limited to participation by Spokane Valley Stormwater Utility, Spokane County Water Resources, and Spokane Aquifer Joint Board. Activities include community events, meetings and education, billboards, City media releases, websites, citizen inquiries, and construction project neighborhood meetings.

Business efforts include participation by Spokane Valley Stormwater Utility and Spokane Regional Health District. Activities include Local Source Control visits and Fats, Oils, and Grease outreach. These activities include educational and enforcement discussion.

City staff, on a continual basis, educates property owners, developers, engineers, and contractors on requirements of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual, communicates upcoming training events, notifies applicants of the need to obtain Washington State Construction Stormwater General Permits, and notifies applicants of the 60-day registration requirement for new Underground Injection Control (UIC) drywells.

Local groups such as the Inland Northwest Associated General Contractors (AGC) provide additional education and training to design and construction professionals including a 2-day Certified Erosion Control Lead (CESCL) Training and 1-day CESCL refresher training courses.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue partnering with multi-jurisdictional efforts to educate about aquifer protection and stormwater discharge:
 - Central Valley School District
 - Spokane County Water Resources
 - Spokane Regional Health District
- Continue programs and visits as invited by local schools
- Continue educational training on the requirements of the SRSW to technical entities.
- Continue staff attendance of:

- Idaho-Washington Aquifer Collaborative meetings
- Spokane River Forum meetings such as the H2O Breakfast, and the Conference, if offered
- Spokane Aquifer Joint Board meetings as needed
- Attend the following conferences:
 - Washington State Municipal Stormwater Conference - if offered.
 - StormCon (National Stormwater Conference) -if offered
 - GIS Conference
- Continue participation in the 5th Edition update of the Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Utilize internal Public Relations platforms (including multimedia) to integrate new Public Education and Outreach efforts.
- Develop a more coordinated plan between COSV and Spokane Regional Health District to provide education and outreach to targeted businesses regarding bmp management and source control of discharge to surface water.
- Acquire consultant services to measure the understanding and adoption of the targeted behaviors of one target group.
- Financial contribution to Central Valley School District 5th Grade Environmental Education Field trip.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION (S5.B.2.)

The City of Spokane Valley provides for ongoing public involvement and participation thru several documented opportunities.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Post Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan on website by May 31.
- Post Phase II Municipal SW Permit Annual Report on website by May 31.
- Prepare for and attend City Council Meetings.
- Continue direct contact with City staff to discuss needs, concerns and questions the general public may have regarding City's stormwater programs.
- Continue to respond to Public records request.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Consider implementing the use of the "View" quarterly mailing to inform public of location of SWMP and develop or set up a method of receiving input.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION (S5.B.3.)

Spills are a very common form of illicit discharge in Spokane Valley. Spills are unplanned releases of materials on or along City of Spokane Valley roadways. Reporting procedures are determined by the type of spill and relationship to the City. Spills can be categorized four ways:

1. Emergency or Hazardous Spills to Ground – **See Below.**
2. Emergency or Hazardous Spills to Water – **See Below.**
3. Non-Emergency Spills and Illicit Discharges/Connections that can reach COSV Stormwater System. **See Below.**
4. Non-Emergency Spill and Illicit Discharges/Connections that Do Not reach COSV Stormwater System. **See Below.**

Emergency or hazardous spills to ground could include spills related to vehicle collisions, fires, unknown chemicals, or explosive hazards. Emergency or hazardous spills on City roadways or properties that may impact the safety of the traveling public or the environment **Call 911**. Response to this type of spill includes multi regional agencies. The level of the response is dependent on the nature of the spill. See figure 8 for a full response description.

Emergency or hazardous spill to water posing an immediate threat to human health or the environment could include a tank truck leaking into a water body. If a spill of oil or hazardous substance is observed in water call immediately:

1. 1-800-258-5990 (Department of Emergency Management)
2. 1-800-424-8802 (National Response Center)
3. (509) 329-3400 (Regional Department of Ecology)

Non-Emergency spills and illicit discharges or connections that can reach the City stormwater system (MS4) should be reported to the Regional Department of Ecology.

Non-Emergency spills and illicit discharges or connections that do not reach the City stormwater system (MS4) should be reported to the City of Spokane Valley. Contacts are available during normal business hours only. Leave a message if contacting outside business hours.

Another common form of illicit discharge in the City of Spokane Valley is illicit dumping. These discharges are most often identified thru citizen complaint or call received, or found through routine inspections. The City maintains an Illicit Discharge Plan specific to these situations. **See Figure 14.**

Illicit connections are any unauthorized pipe, ditch, or other manmade structure that is physically connected to City property or stormwater drainage system.

Some Illicit connections to existing UIC's may be deemed authorized. These connections existed most often before incorporation of the City. Authorization is determined on a case by case basis. Evaluation of the connection is based on water quality standards and the impact the connection has to the capacity of the system (UIC).



FUEL SPILL ON BROADWAY AVENUE CONTAINED BY SPOKANE VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Stormwater Staff provides Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination incident-specific information thru the Department of Ecology WQwebIDDE Incident Reporting portal. See **Table 21** for the number of reports documented per year.

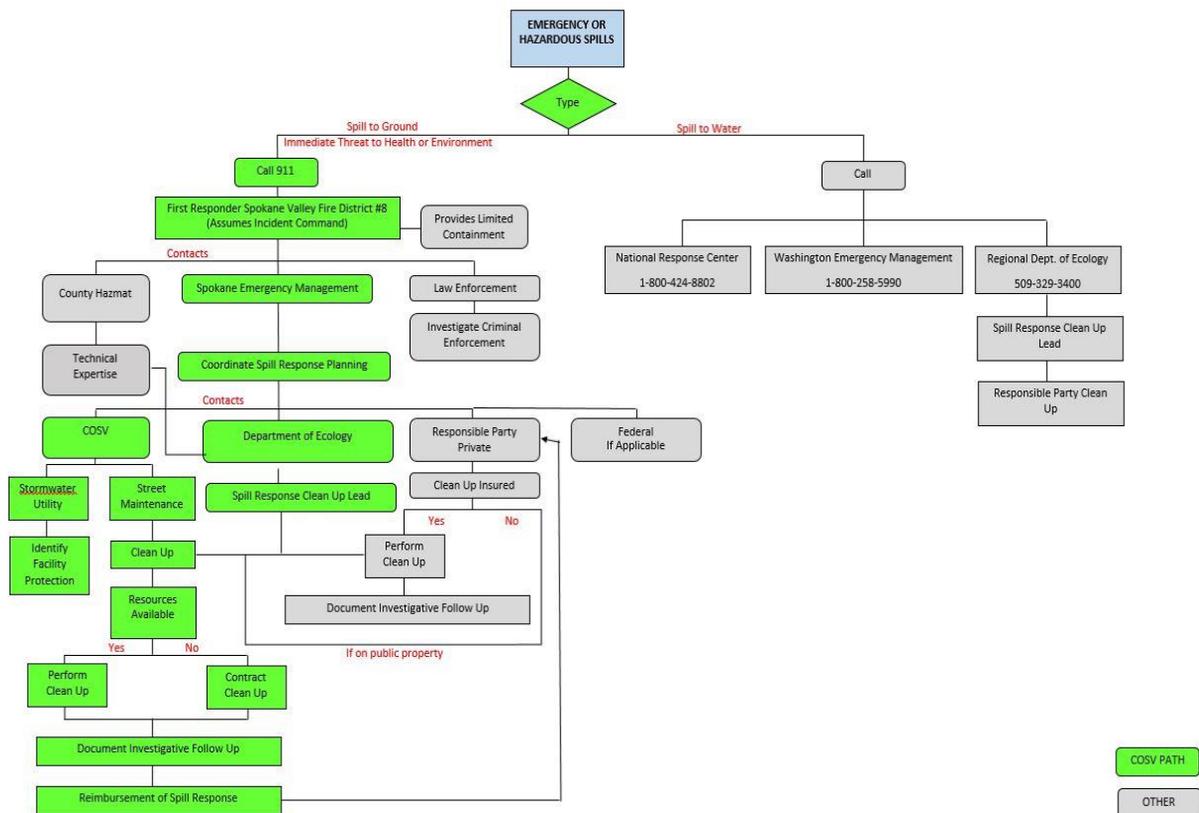
2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue implementing and enforcing SVMC 22.150.110 to prohibit illicit discharge.
- Continue documenting thru the WQwebIDDE portal all calls staff responds too in regards to Illicit Discharge and connection.
- Continue implementing compliance strategy per illicit discharge response plan and spill plans shown below.
- Continue investigations of illicit discharge thru facility inspections, outfall inspections, storm drain cleaning program, and thru public involvement. Per illicit discharge response plan.
- Continue field of assessment of known outfalls.
- Continue current IDDE training to municipal staff.
- Continue to apply enforcement strategies per SVMC 17.100.
- Continue informing of IDDE thru mechanism documented and described.
- Continue procedures for response, investigation, tracing, notification, providing technical assistance, and follow up inspections per illicit discharge response plan and spill plans.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Mapping update to separate NPDES regulated facilities (MS4) from UIC regulated facilities.

- Mapping update to format for standards and capture added elements (declared MS4 areas).
- Begin reviewing current SVMC illicit discharge ordinances for opportunity to amend. Required by Feb. 2023.
- Develop a more coordinated plan between COSV and Spokane Regional Health District to provide education and outreach to targeted businesses regarding illicit discharge to MS4.
- Consider updating current IDDE enforcement strategies in concert with erosion and sediment control enforcement strategies.
- Implement documented procedures to further locate priority areas for illicit discharge of declared MS4 areas.
- Assess current training programs for opportunity to add value.
- Identify opportunity for improvements to procedures used to identify, contain, and dispose of illicit discharges.



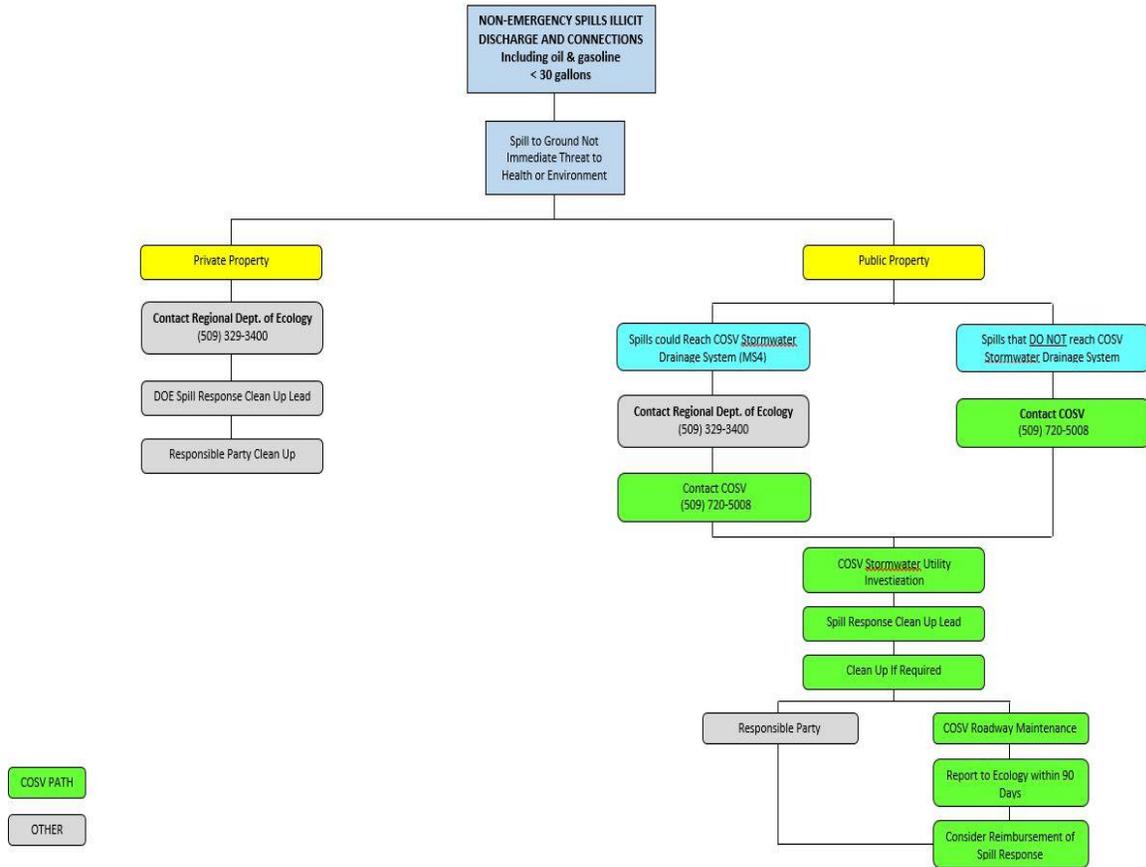
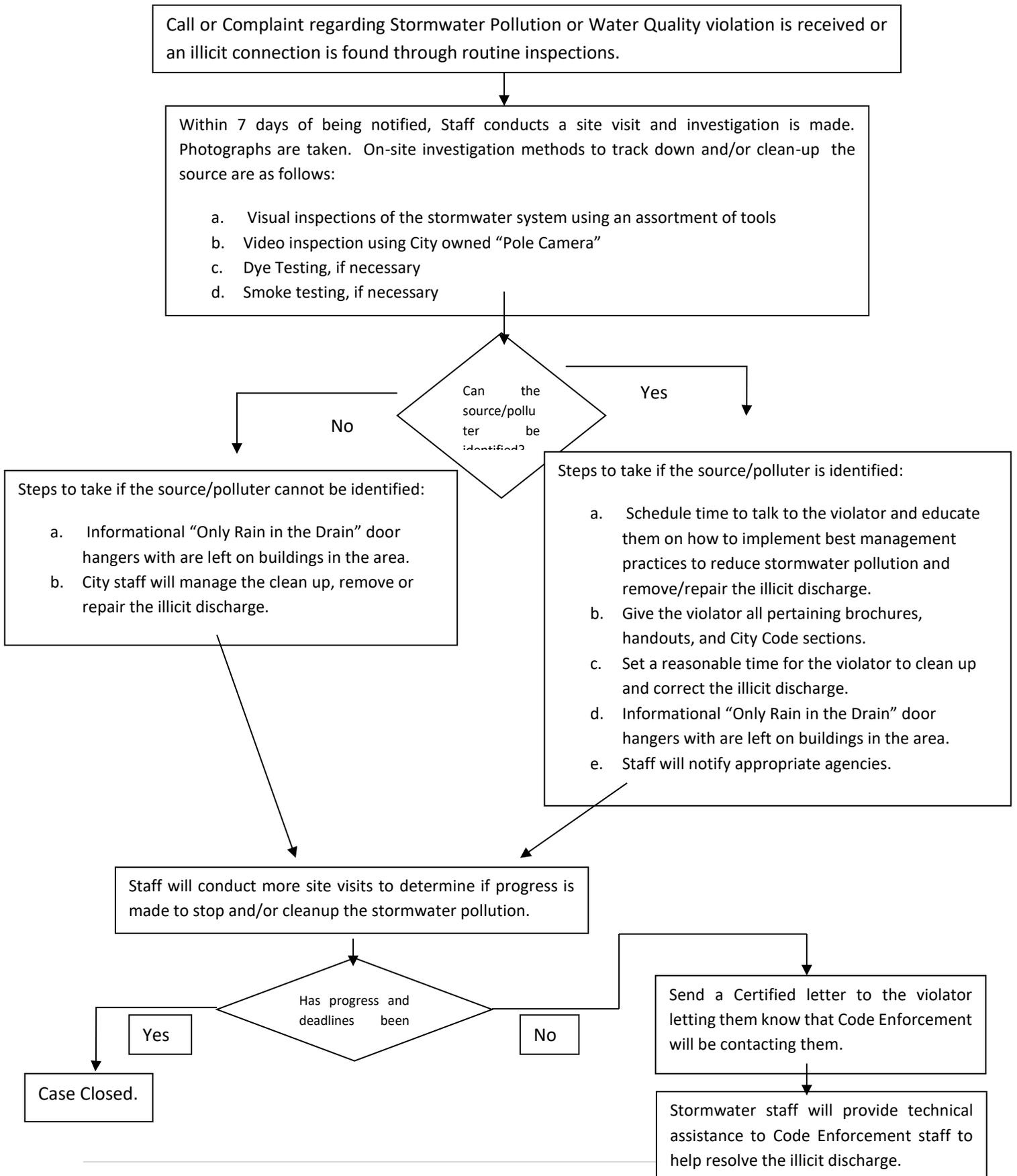


Figure 14 – City of Spokane Valley – Illicit Discharge Response Plan



CONSTRUCTION SITE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONTROL (S5.B.4.)

The City of Spokane Valley implements and enforces a program to reduce pollutants in any stormwater runoff to the MS4 from construction activities that disturb one acre or more. Both public and private projects shall be included in this program.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue requiring erosion and sediment controls at new development and redevelopment projects per the requirements of SVMC 22.130, 22.150, 24.50 and Spokane Valley Street Standards 4.9.
- Continue to adhere to SVMC 22.150.040, 24.50 and basic requirement No. 6 of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual to meet appendix 1, core element #2 of the NPDES permit.
- Continue to enforce qualified (CESCL trained) personnel inspection of construction phase bmps on properties greater than 1 acre that discharge to the MS4.
- Continue site plan review for potential water quality impacts per SVMC 22.150 and Spokane Valley Street Standards chapter 4.8.
- Continue to provide information of available training thru pre-application letter and stormwater website.
- Continue to keep records per DE and Building inspection and CIP inspection reports.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- G20 Requirements - Absolve permit condition S5.B.4.a.iv and S5.B.4.C
- All applicable staff receiving CESCL training – 12 additional.

POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT (S5.B.5.)

The City of Spokane Valley implements and enforces a program to address post-construction stormwater runoff to the MS4 from new development and redevelopment projects, that disturb one acre or more. Both public and private projects shall be included in this program.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue to ensure that the prevention of water quality impacts is in place on private projects thru compliance of SVMC 22.150 and Spokane Valley Street Standards chapter 4.
- Continue to ensure that the prevention of water quality impacts is in place on public projects thru compliance of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual.
- Continue to ensure compliance of post-construction stormwater control on private projects per compliance with SVMC 22.150.060 and the condition of approval.
- Continue to ensure compliance of post-construction stormwater control on public projects per compliance with the jurisdictional inspection and operation and maintenance plan.
- Continue to adhere to SVMC 22.150.040 and the basic requirements of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual to meet requirements of appendix 1, NPDES permit.
- Continue to encourage the maintaining of natural locations of drainage systems per chapter 8.3.4 of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual.
- Continue to allow LID techniques per conditions outlined in chapter 2 and 6 of the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual.
- Continue to ensure thru SVMC 22.150 and the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual the proper implementation, operation and maintenance, and inspection of water quality impact BMPs
- Continue to apply enforcement strategies per SVMC 17.100.
- Continue to implement procedures for site plan review per SVMC 22.150.
- Continue to implement procedures for bmp inspection per SVMC 22.150.090 and Spokane Valley Street Standards chapter 9.
- Continue to provide information to design professionals thru process and procedural references to the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual.
- Continue to maintain records of projects disturbing one acre or more.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Consider updating current Post-Construction enforcement strategies in concert with erosion and sediment control enforcement strategies.
- Identify structural BMPs on private property within the declared MS4 areas.
- Assess current training programs for opportunity to add value.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (S5.B.6.)

The City of Spokane Valley implements a operation and maintenance program to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue implementation of the City's Stormwater Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan.
- Continue current inspection cycle of City treatment and flow control facilities.
- Continue to spot-check City stormwater treatment and flow control facilities after major events (10-yr, 24-hr or larger)
- Continue to perform maintenance on City stormwater facilities.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Develop separate O&M plans and inspection scheduling to serve both the NPDES and UIC programs.

COMPLIANCE WITH TMDLS (S7)

In 2011, Utility staff applied for and received \$250,000 in grant funding to eliminate the last of stormwater outfalls to the Spokane River. In 2015, the last of drains from City-owned roadway that dropped into the Spokane River were disconnected and new lines that took the water to new bio-infiltration swales were attached. This project ensured that the City would not be included in current and future TMDL regulation discussions or allocations, bypassing additional regulatory requirements. It is estimated that this one project saved the City \$50,000 a year in continued fees and staff time attending meetings regarding Dissolved Oxygen, Phosphorous, Heavy Metals, and PCB's as well as dealing with additional reporting requirements in the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit.

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT (S8)

Monitoring and assessment has been replaced with continued involvement and implementation of effectiveness studies. Eight Ecology-approved studies were selected pursuant to S8.B in the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (2014-2019). A number of these studies are completed while others are in the final stages of development. The City of Spokane Valley participated in four of these effectiveness studies. Two are complete 1.) Mobile Contractor E&O (Wenatchee), and 2.) Drain Rangers Elementary School Children Program (Kennewick). Two are nearing completion 1.) Bioretention Soil Media Study (Spokane County), and 2.) Street Cleaning and Catch Basin Cleaning (Ellensburg). Participating role was that of reviewer.

Additional effectiveness studies are associated with the 2019-2024 permit. These most often include coordination and participation with permittees in the Urban Area. The City of Spokane Valley has partnered with the City of Spokane and Spokane County to meet these requirements. A soil mix, TBD, will be studied for effectiveness of treatment and seasonal variability of treatment. The study will be cooperatively performed and funded by the City of Spokane, City of Spokane County, and Spokane County, and most likely implemented through Osborn Consulting. Costs will be split equally among permittees. Lead, reviewer, and auditor roles will be determined by June 30, 2021, when the brief description of the study will be submitted.

2021 CONTINUED ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Complete, if any, the remaining task for the 2014-2019 effectiveness studies.

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- 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.

FINANCIAL

This section deals with how the Stormwater Management program is paid for and annual budgeting.

NEED BASED

The last change in revenue requests were based on projected program needs over a decade ago. The new Utility faced a number of unknowns at the time including:

- new water quality regulations
- newly incorporated City
- an uncompleted drainage structure inventory
- and an unknown maintenance backlog

Since City incorporation, Utility staff has responded to immediate needs, while closing the knowledge gap about regulations, system inventory, and maintenance backlog. The Utility is at a point to become more proactive than reactive in problem resolution. As this plan points out, there is more to do to continue the proactive trend towards avoiding clogged drainage systems in the next big event, or promoting activities and projects that maximize protection of water quality for the money.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

The Stormwater Management program receives revenues from two local funds to accomplish its work, as well as grant funding from State and Federal sources for specific projects and activities.

The City established the Stormwater Management Fund with the creation of the Stormwater Utility. It generates approximately \$1.8 million in revenue each year and is collected twice a year with the County Property Tax & Fee bill. The current rate is the equivalent of \$1.75 a month (\$21/year) for a single family residence, with commercial properties paying a commensurate rate based on the amount of hard surfacing on the parcel, whether private or publicly owned. The fee calculation is explained further “Stormwater Utility Fee Calculation” in Appendix C of this Plan, on the Stormwater webpage: <http://www.spokanevalley.org/stormwater>

The Aquifer Protection Area fee was created based on popular voting in 1984 and in a renewal vote 2004. It established fees to water and sewer utility billing to help pay for funding sanitary sewer projects in the County, and has been later used to fund stormwater projects in the City. It generates approximately \$450,000 in annual revenue for City projects. The current rate is \$1.25 per month for water and \$1.25 per month for sewer. For more information, see Spokane County’s Aquifer Protection Area webpage: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/1530/Aquifer-Protection-Area>

2021 BUDGET

The annual budget for the Utility is passed as part of the City budget each year, typically in the fall. The budget process for the Utility starts in the Spring, the year prior, with staff proposing requests based on the needs of individual areas discussed in this Plan. The draft plan of the SWMP for the following year starts at this point, as well as the update to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan to provide as backup for the requests.

The 2021 Budget does not change much from previous years, with the exception of the deferred funding from Ecology that pushes a few larger projects back in the Stormwater CIP Plan. To review the current 2021 budget, see page 40 and from the Approved City Budget 2020 in Appendix C of this document or at: https://www.spokanevalley.org/filestorage/6836/6902/7156/6868/2020_Final_Approved_Budget_as_of_November_22%2C_2021.pdf

KEY GOALS FOR 2021

- Continue to build this section of the SWMP Plan, coordinating with City Finance Department staff.
- Complete a stormwater utility program comprehensive plan to identify if current fee rates and level of service are appropriate.

CONTACTS

Questions about the City of Spokane Valley's Stormwater Management Program can be directed to:

Chad Phillips, PE
Stormwater Engineer
City of Spokane Valley
10210 E. Sprague Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
(509) 720-5013
cphillips@spokanevalley.org

Questions about the Eastern Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit can be directed to:

Amanda Mars
Ecology Water Quality Program - ERO
Washington State Department of Ecology
4601 North Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 329-3554
amar461@ecy.wa.gov

REFERENCES

Washington State Department of Ecology. 2006. *Frequently Asked Questions about Municipal Stormwater Permits*. Publication No. 06-10-005 (revised).

Washington State Department of Ecology. 2007. *Protecting Washington's Waters From Stormwater Pollution*. Publication No. 07-10-05.

