

# Clark County's CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

## CLEAN WATER & THE LAW

### The Clean Water Act

The federal Clean Water Act was enacted in 1972 to restore and maintain the nation's waterways. It was amended in 1987.

It created water quality standards and established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is a permit-based system to regulate pollution flowing into waterways. NPDES permits, commonly referred to as stormwater permits, require use of best available technology to meet water quality standards.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, under an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for enforcing the Clean Water Act in Washington and overseeing Clark County's stormwater permit.

### What does this mean for Clark County?

The county's stormwater permit establishes a legal basis for controlling discharge of pollutants, which has led the county to adopt local ordinances governing stormwater:

The permit also requires the county to:

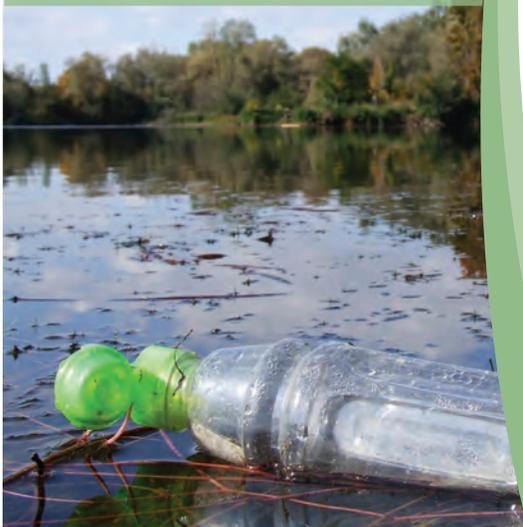
- Develop and implement a stormwater management plan
- Inventory and map existing stormwater facilities
- Maintain facilities that provide treatment and flow control
- Provide public involvement and participation opportunities
- Enact local ordinances to control runoff from new development, re-development, and construction sites
- Build new facilities that reduce pollutants in runoff to the stormwater system
- Provide education and outreach aimed at residents, businesses, and industries.

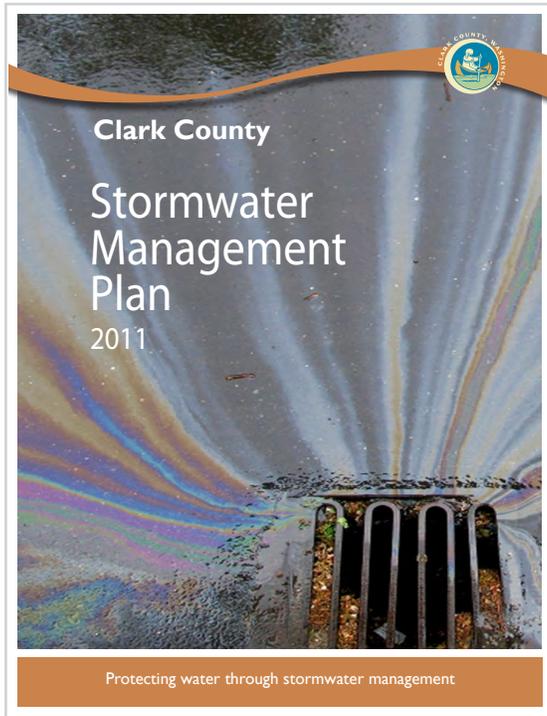
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**A healthy community needs clean water.**



Hard surfaces, like roofs, parking lots and roads, prevent rainwater from soaking into the ground.





## The Clark County Stormwater Management Plan

The Clark County Stormwater Management Plan describes the county's approach to permit requirements in detail.

The plan is available online at:

[www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/documents.html](http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/documents.html)



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