

Public Works

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update

Our request for the WWTP was not funded in the Senate's proposed budget released on Wednesday, 3/28. However, there are significant differences in the list of similar projects included in each chamber's proposal, meaning that the conference committee will be taking a closer look at this issue as it negotiates a compromise budget.

With this in mind, staff organized community support to contact members' offices on behalf of the project. The members of the conference committee have not been selected yet but, in the meantime, we need to encourage people to contact the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Ranking Members for the Capital Budget in both chambers. Please contact the City Clerk for names and contact information.

Ryan Pennington, our representative in Olympia will continue working key legislators individually and will be following up with more outreach targets, once the conference committee members have been assigned.

We will want to engage as broad a coalition as possible and our message should be to encourage these members to support the inclusion of Sultan's WWTP request in the final budget. People should remind members that Sultan is experiencing tremendous growth pressure, as people continue to move further out the US 2 corridor, and that the Department of Ecology has recognized our current WWTP as having a much higher than average volume per sewer overflow event. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Property Acquisition

The trial for acquisition of Wold Corner is scheduled for May 14, 2007. When the trial is over (assuming there isn't a settlement), the final decision on just compensation will be made and the City will need to deposit the money with the court clerk. Joseph Bennett of Hendricks & Bennett, Edmonds, is representing the City via the County.

Skyview Tracts Status Report

Over the past month, Snohomish County Public Works Department has been working in partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and the Planning and Development Services Department in an aggressive clean-up of illegal dump sites and temporary encampments in the area south of the Skykomish River known as Skyview Tracts.

The Public Works Department plans to continue this cleanup effort by grading and planting grass on the county owned lots. The department will then secure the lots to deter further dumping. The department is also pursuing the purchase of another 36 lots which would bring the total owned by Public Works to 71 lots out of a total of 105 lots.

For more information see the attached March 1, 2007 status report from the County.

Community Development

Comprehensive Plan Update

The Planning Board is continuing to review the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to bring the Plan into compliance with the Growth Management Hearings Board decision and order. The City has until April 30, 2007 to complete the update. There will be a supplemental environmental impact statement (Supplemental EIS) that will be produced to review and take public comment on the impact of proposed changes and new information on the Final EIS that was produced for the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Board discussed the Transportation Element at its March 20th meeting.

Eric Ireland, the City's Transportation Planning consultant reviewed the methodology for estimating growth within various transportation "zones". This is important because growth will drive the size and location of various proposed motorized and nonmotorized improvements within the city.

City staff is seeking feedback from the Board and the community on the methodology and location of proposed improvements over the 20-year life of the Comprehensive Plan.

Please contact Community Development Director Rick Cisar for more information on the comprehensive plan update.

Stormwater Utility

The Planning Board also received its first update on the status of the city's effort to establish a stormwater utility.

The City has formed a small work group to make recommendations to the Planning Board on the proposed stormwater utility.

The group is meeting on first and third Tuesdays of the month from 5:30-7:00. The work group includes three representatives from the City's neighborhoods and business communities. The work group has met three times. The third meeting, to review the 2002 Water Quality Plan proposed storm water budget was on March 20th. This gave the group a basis for establishing a storm water utility fee that will be assessed to each owner of developed property within the city. The purpose of the fee is to create a funding source for maintenance, operation and capital investment to the city's stormwater systems. An adopted stormwater management program is required to meet new federal water quality requirements.

For more information, Attachment 2 to the staff report includes a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet on stormwater. Please contact Public Works Director Connie Dunn if you have questions regarding the stormwater utility.

City Administrator
Staff Report
April 12, 2007

Library

Jackie Personeus will provide the door count statistics for the Sultan Library each month. Following are the statistics for Jan and Feb 2007.

Jan 2007: 7,746 - This was an increase of 2% over Jan. 2006

Feb 2007: 7,082 -This was an increase of 11% over Feb. 2006

Also, the comparison of 2005 total door count with 2006 total door count:
2005: 70,321 2006: 78,920

This was a 2006 increase of 12% over 2005

Police

Update on Jail bill – Snohomish County and the City have agreed to split the difference on the disputed jail bill. The amount due by the City would be approximately \$50,000. There are funds available in the Treasurer's Trust. Deanna Dawson from the Snohomish County Executive Office is preparing settlement agreement for review by the City Council.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Clean-up Day – Sultan High School
Saturday, April 21, 2007
8:30am to 4:00pm

Open House – City Hall
Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm

- Proposed sewer and stormwater rate increases
- Shoreline Master Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Plan

Town Meeting

Thursday, May 31, 2007

Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference

AWC will host their annual conference in Tacoma this year from June 12-15

Council Budget Retreat

Saturday, June 23, 2007

9am-1pm

Skyview Tracts Status Report March 1, 2007

Background

Snohomish County acquired 35 lots in the Sky View River Tracts subdivisions 1&2 in the 1990s with Hazard Mitigation Grant dollars from FEMA. Grant funds required willing sellers and demolition of existing structures. County owned lots and surrounding lots in the subdivision as well as adjoining river frontage property have become a problem area with squatting, trespassing, illegal structures, meth labs and other illegal activity. The Sheriff's Dept. spends a disproportionate amount of time on enforcement.

Public Works has worked for a number of years to cleanup our property – removing abandoned vehicles and other trash from our lots and the ROW. The property is adjacent to the Skykomish River opposite the City of Sultan. Skyview Tracts is located in the river floodway and subject to frequent flooding. Current County regulations do not allow building in the floodway. This reach of the Skykomish River is included in the Braided Reach Study – a report of the physical and habitat conditions which identified restoration opportunities.

Cleanup

Over the past month, the Public Works Department has been working in partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and the Planning and Development Services Dept. in an aggressive clean-up of illegal dump sites and temporary encampments in an area outside of Sultan known as Skyview Tracts. In that month's time, the Department has:

- Spent approximately \$80,000 on cleanup of 35 County-owned lots totaling about 10 acres.
- Removed some 500+ tons of illegally dumped trash including roofing materials, car parts, household/remodeling debris, TVs, computers and meth lab waste.
- Hauled away 30 illegally parked and hulk cars, 8 trailers and 2 motor homes.
- Hauled away approximately 200+ illegally dumped tires.
- Hauled away approximately a dozen illegally dumped appliances.
- Cleaned up flood debris deposited during the November flood.
- Cleared nuisance vegetation from lots, making it more difficult for illegal activity to occur in hidden areas.

Public Works plans to continue this cleanup effort by grading and planting grass on the county-owned lots. The department will then secure the lots in a manner that will deter future dumping. Cleanup and clearing of brush along the right-of-way will continue after the lots have been cleaned up. The department plans to mow the County-owned lots annually to prevent growth of nuisance vegetation.

PW estimates that the cleanup work on the County-owned lots will be substantially complete by March 15. Cleanup may occur again in the future if the County successfully acquires the additional lots discussed below.

Acquisitions

Public Works is pursuing the purchase of another 36 lots, which would bring the total owned by PW to 71, out of a total of 105 lots in Skyview Tracts. Of that, so far we have purchased the following:

Owner	Lots	Plat	Amount
Barnes	14, 42, 43,44, 45	Sky View River Tracts	\$40,000
Barnes	15,16	Sky View River Tracts #2	\$16,000
Lance	5	Sky View River Tracts	\$ 8,000
Lanc	2,3	Sky View River Tracts #2	\$16,000

Total \$80,000

Long Term Vision - Opportunities

Acquisition of Skyview Tracts and a few adjacent parcels provide significant opportunity for:

1. Mitigation for future County and WDOT road improvements. Significant acreage for wetland and buffer mitigation credits are anticipated needs for County Roads in the next 20 years.
2. Restoration of riverine functions, side channel reconnection and restoration.
3. Alleviation of a social problem area.
4. Potential conversion to farmland – helping meet the County’s goal of no net loss.
5. Park – Development of river access and other park amenities such as ball fields in partnership with the City of Sultan.

**City of Sultan
Municipal Stormwater Utility (2007)**

Frequently Asked Questions



Under normal circumstances stormwater flow impounds in wetlands, depressions, ponds and puddles and soaks into the water table slowly. This process allows toxins and pollutants in the water to filter out in the soil, lessening the impact of the stormwater on our aquatic resources and our private well systems. This process also slows the volume of water that goes into our streams during a rain event, reducing flooding.

Increased development and impervious (paved) surfaces in populated areas causes stormwater to flow rapidly from the impervious surfaces into streams, lakes and marine waterways. The stormwater carries pollutants and causes long-term damage to our salmon and other aquatic life. Rapid stormwater flows increases the water volume in streams to the point of flooding.

As the population of Sultan grows, so do its impervious surfaces and the need for stormwater infrastructure improvements to handle the additional run off.

In the future, when Sultan's population reaches a certain level, the State will require the city to comply with the NPDES¹ permit program, which dictates that cities and counties develop stormwater quality management programs.

EPA regulation (40CFR 122.34) requires permitted cities at a minimum to develop, implement, and enforce a stormwater program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the city to the maximum extent practicable. The stormwater management program must include these six minimum control measures:

¹ National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts
2. Public involvement/participation
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control
5. Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations

As a proactive approach to the state requirement Sultan is establishing a stormwater utility to manage stormwater infrastructure now, lessening the cost of compliance and the costs of flooding and poor water quality in the future!

1. What is a stormwater utility?

A stormwater utility is an enterprise fund that provides stable funding for stormwater operations and capital projects within a jurisdiction. The existence of a stormwater utility will allow the City of Sultan to charge a stormwater utility fee and use that money exclusively for stormwater management, including maintenance and improvements.

2. What are the benefits of proper stormwater management?

Managing stormwater properly reduces flooding on your property, reduces water pollution and reduces road erosion due to improper drainage.

3. What is a stormwater utility fee?

A stormwater utility fee is used to finance stormwater utility operations, maintenance and capital improvements. It is a fee customers pay to convey stormwater from their properties. It is very much like a water or sewer fee. The stormwater fee is user based and dependent on the contribution to the stormwater system of a property.

4. Who will pay the city's stormwater utility fee?

Every parcel owner in the City of Sultan is responsible for paying a stormwater utility fee including the City of Sultan. Some properties such as state and federal government parcels, public institutions, undeveloped parcels, parcels returned to their natural state, and Washington State Department of Transportation roads may be exempt from the fee.

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5. Is there anything I can do to reduce my stormwater bill?

Yes, a credit system exists for qualified, properly designed, installed and maintained water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). This credit is only available to non-residential properties. Residential properties are not eligible for fee reductions because they typically only have a small amount of impervious surface, they pay only a small fee when compared to non-residential properties.

6. What will my stormwater utility fee be used for?

Your stormwater fee will be used to maintain existing stormwater infrastructure, build new infrastructure in areas that experience frequent flooding and to fund educational outreach programs and any future state required water quality studies.

7. If I live in an area that does not have any drainage problems, or live on the edge of the City and water drains on my property away from streets and the public drainage structure, or live at the bottom of a hill and my property is not the cause of increased flooding from uphill, why would I have to pay for stormwater services?

Impervious surface on your parcel places a certain demand on the stormwater system. Stormwater runoff generated by any property must be controlled and conveyed once it leaves the property so that it does not create problems for others. While certain projects funded by the program would address drainage problems on private properties, all property owners would receive indirect benefits from a properly maintained and city operated stormwater system.

Stormwater management activities have broad benefits including keeping the public streets drained and cleared, making necessary stormwater infrastructure upgrades, reducing erosion and other pollutants that enter streams and lakes, protecting and restoring streams and other aquatic habitat areas and collecting and conveying stormwater safely through all parts of the City. A portion of the fee also provides for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations for water quality improvements; administration of the City's land use ordinances through development review; public involvement and educational programs; and responding to public health and safety issues that benefit all property owners.

8. Doesn't rainwater dilute polluted wastewater? And isn't it diluted further by the water in its final destination point?

Yes, it's diluted, but there are several reasons why this is still undesirable. We have laws to prevent even diluted wastewater from being discharged into our surface waters because it poses an immediate threat to public health. Although concentrations may be diluted, the overall load of disease causing

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microorganisms and other chemical pollutants (such as nutrients, sediments, organic matter and toxic contaminants) is enormous.

9. How does the volume of rainwater runoff affect the streams?

It is not only the quality of stormwater runoff that can degrade streams but also the amount of water. In an undeveloped watershed with entirely natural vegetative cover, most rainfall and snowmelt can soak into the soil before entering the streams. When this happens the increase in flow is much more gradual than in a watershed with lots of hard, impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads and pavement. When water gets into the streams too quickly, the water volume increases rapidly, which results in higher stream velocities. High stream velocities lead to stream bank erosion and the potential for flooding.

10. What about if I live on a large piece of land; doesn't the water just filter into the ground?

The answer depends on many things. It depends on what has been done to the land, how your lawn and buildings are situated on the land, and where the runoff from those developed areas goes. Lawn allows very little rainwater to infiltrate, compared to the natural landscape. If most of your land is grass, there is more water running off those areas. Recently logged areas (less than 10 years ago) produce more runoff. Impervious surfaces result in major increases in runoff. If water from these areas can be directed through natural areas such as forested areas, meadows, or rain gardens, much of it will likely soak into the ground before reaching a stream and causing problems. Even then, during large storm events when erosion problems are worst, any reduction in infiltration anywhere in the watershed can cause harmful increases in runoff to your local stream.

11. Why should I pay the Stormwater Service Charge if flooding still occurs in my neighborhood?

Unfortunately, it is not feasible to fix all of the problems with the public drainage system all at one time. It may be necessary to complete downstream drainage system improvements before it is feasible to address upstream concerns. Spreading out the cost of system improvements in a particular area to all users in the city keeps the cost as low as possible.

Even if a project doesn't provide direct benefits to your neighborhood, you will likely derive indirect benefits from the project, including improved water quality, improved salmon habitat and better road conditions.