



**SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE**  
**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**  
**PROGRAM**

Reporting year 2024

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The issue of surface water management is relevant to Skagit Valley College (SVC), because of its proximity to the Skagit River. The college focuses on many environmental issues, not least of all clean water, and it has set a good example in minimizing its impact on the river by maintaining a clean college site and clean water retention ponds. Apart from minimizing SVC's ecological footprint, the college is also engaged in environmental education as a core vocational study, and the best way to teach environmental technology is by example. We also have a 35 acre area that we have maintained as a wooded area for natural observations of forested areas.

The majority of runoff is channeled from the campus core, where most of SVC's buildings are concentrated. Thus, the campus core is also the location of the highest number of impervious surfaces on SVC property. These include the roofs of the campus buildings, sidewalks, parking spots and other impervious areas. Green strips, numerous planting areas and native trees mitigate the effects of these impervious surfaces. Angst Hall our Science & Allied Health building has achieved a LEED Platinum rating. Part of the determination of this rating is the method we use to deal with stormwater runoff. Our roof drains feed into a water garden and natural landscaping was a part of the design. Lewis Hall the Academic & Student Services Building, completed in 2014 achieved a LEED Gold standard, utilizing a similar approach to stormwater management.

Other impervious surfaces include campus parking lots, sidewalks, roof surfaces and plaza areas for foot traffic circulation. Some of these areas control water runoff and water filtration thru holding ponds. We also have a large holding pond that is used for water flow control and cleaning from out tennis courts. This pond has been developing as a study structure for environmental classes

The Skagit River ultimately receives all of the campus stormwater runoff. The campus site is on the crest high ground. The water from the eastern part of the campus drains to Barney Lake, which then drains into the Skagit River. The water from the western part of the campus drains to the Kulshan Creek drainage area, and then into the Skagit River. SVC works continuously to preserve water quality in the Skagit River and further along, Puget Sound.

### **Public Education and Outreach**

1. The College re-labeled all campus storm drain inlets during the summer, 2024. All 46 of the storm drain inlets that are located in maintenance yards, parking lots, sidewalks and pedestrian access points have been painted with the message “DUMP NO WASTE, DRAINS TO THE RIVER”.
2. As part of the college’s preventive maintenance program, all storm drain inlets are inspected each summer to ensure that these labels are readable. If the labels are unreadable they will be repainted within 90 days as part of our summer parking lot maintenance program.
3. The annual SWMP is posted to the WCC website.
4. Facilities and Operations provide regular updates and information to the campus Sustainability Committee.

### **Public Involvement and Participation**

1. Skagit Valley College published a public notice in the Skagit Valley Herald on April 4-8 2012 to solicit public review of its original SWMP. No comments were received.
2. Skagit Valley College works with Marketing annually to post its updated SWMP and our Annual Stormwater Report to the SVC public website.

### **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

1. Skagit Valley College complies with all relevant ordinances, rules and regulations that govern non-stormwater discharges.
2. The Director of the Physical Plant developed an Illicit Discharge Plan in June of 2008. The policy includes a commitment from the college to prohibit illicit discharges to the MS4 and outlines the administrative processes to identify, report, and enforce requirements set forth by the policy.

#### ***Current control practices include, but are not limited to:***

- Adjust and maintain lawn irrigation systems to eliminate over watering, system leaks and overspray caused by broken or

misdirected sprinkler heads.

- Limit use of water for hard surface cleaning (i.e. sidewalks, tennis courts) to areas where runoff can be directed to naturally vegetated areas, not storm drains.
  - Use only street sweepers, brooms, street vacuum trucks, and leaf blowers whenever possible and always before any water is used for cleaning of parking lot and driveway areas.
  - Monitor parking lots for spills that could have the potential of entering the storm sewer system. Report any spills to the Facilities and Operations Department and take appropriate action for containment and clean-up.
  - Facilities and Operations schedule annual sweeping of all parking surfaces to help address the amount of tire wear particles and organic waste that enter into the stormwater system.
3. The College began visually inspecting all outfalls discharging to surface waters during summer 2008. Inspection procedures have been developed and any illicit discharge findings will be addressed as outlined in the Illicit Discharge Policy. Inspection reports will be kept in the Facilities and Operations Office.
  4. The College has personnel trained in spill response. If a spill is small and contained, College personnel will complete the cleanup and disposal process.
  5. The College has identified Clean Harbors as a qualified company specializing in spill response and clean-up. Should a spill occur that is larger or more significant than College can manage, Clean Harbors would be contracted for emergency spill response.
  6. The College will provide training annually to Facilities staff and Custodial personnel). Training will include BMPs, identification/notification of illicit discharges and spill prevention/clean-up. Training will be relevant to campus operations and focus on key areas of the College's MS4.

## **Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control**

1. Skagit Valley College will comply with all relevant ordinances, rules, and regulations of the local jurisdiction that govern construction phase stormwater pollution prevention measures.
2. For all construction projects under the control of Skagit Valley College which require a construction stormwater permit, SVC will obtain coverage under the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities or an alternative individual NPDES permit prior to discharging construction related stormwater.
3. The College will work closely with the selected civil engineer and the Skagit P.U.D. to ensure a Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan is developed specific to the construction project and that NPDES coverage is obtained prior to the discharge of construction related stormwater.
4. The college will coordinate with the SKAGIT P.U.D. regarding projects owned and operated by other entities which discharge into the college's MS4 and will assist the Skagit PUD with achieving compliance with all relevant ordinances, rules and regulations. The College will coordinate with Skagit P.U.D. on any necessary construction or maintenance related work which requires discharging to the WCC MS4.
5. SVC Facilities staff are trained on erosion and sediment control best management practices. The college will also verify the credentials of any outside contractor to ensure that they have the experience and training in construction stormwater pollution prevention.
6. Skagit Valley College will fully cooperate with the Department of Ecology and/or local jurisdictions to provide access for inspection of construction sites or other land disturbances. Requests for such access are to be directed to the Executive Director of Facilities and Operations at (360) 416-7751.

## **Post-Construction Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment**

1. The college will comply with all relevant ordinances, rules and regulations of the local jurisdictions that govern post-construction stormwater pollution prevention measures.

2. The college will coordinate with the SKAGIT PUD regarding projects owned and operated by other entities which discharge into the college's MS4 and will assist the Skagit PUD with achieving compliance with all relevant ordinances, rules and regulations.

### **Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

1. The Stormwater System, Operation and Maintenance Program is designed to minimize stormwater pollution stemming from campus activities.
  - Stormwater Facilities Operations & Maintenance Manual identifies locations and descriptions of all campus stormwater conveyance, treatment, flow control, and detention facilities. The manual also includes detailed inspection maintenance procedures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to campus operations and stormwater standards/requirements.
  - Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) used to schedule and track periodic maintenance and inspection tasks.
  - Inclement weather protocol identifying snow and ice removal will be controlled by mechanical means when practical. Snow shovels, snow blowers and snowplows will be used to remove as much snow and ice as possible. De-icer will only be used for sidewalks, stairs and entryways. Sand will be used sparingly and only as needed on campus drives having steep grades, new concrete to avoid spalling, and at intersections. Parking lots will be plowed as needed but not sanded. De-icer and sand will be stored under cover and will not be exposed to the elements.
  - Motor pool guidelines identifying campus vehicles will be serviced at an authorized service center, vehicles will be washed in a designated area that will not drain to the storm sewer system. There are no fueling facilities on campus.
  - Training for Maintenance staff involved in external building maintenance, painting and cleaning focusing on ways to minimize stormwater pollution (i.e. proper housekeeping and waste disposal).
  - Training for Grounds staff on the use of BMPs to minimize contamination of the stormwater system. In addition to general stormwater system maintenance, the training includes BMPs related

to pesticide and fertilizer use, composting, erosion control, and hardscape cleaning.

- Storage and handling of maintenance materials and equipment to reduce risk of spills and ensure materials are kept under cover and not exposed to the elements while in storage.
  - The O&M program includes the following components:
    - a) Stormwater collection & conveyance systems
    - b) Sidewalks, driveways & parking lots
    - c) Fleet vehicles
    - d) Exterior building maintenance
    - e) Campus grounds
    - f) Material & equipment storage areas
2. The College owns or operates no other facilities requiring coverage under a NPDES permit for industrial activities.
  3. O&M reports will be generated from the CMMS providing information on periodic maintenance, system repairs and scheduled inspections.
  4. SVC provides periodic training to Facilities & Operations staff which includes BMPs, identification/notification of illicit discharges and spill prevention/clean-up. Training is relevant to campus operations and focuses on key areas of the College's MS4. College employees directly involved with O&M functions of the MS4 may receive more specific training depending on their responsibilities.
  5. The City of Mount Vernon stormwater inspector completed campus stormwater inspections in 2023. During the inspections SVC staff received guidance and instruction on BMPs and stormwater facilities maintenance from the city stormwater inspector.