



SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM

Reporting year 2026
Updated September 2026

Tim Wheeler
Executive Director of Facilities & Operations
Skagit Valley College
2405 East College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360-416-7751
tim.wheeler@skagit.edu

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.

2026 Program Activities

In July 2026, SVC contracted with an external stormwater consultant, Freeland & Associates, to support stormwater program improvements and permit compliance activities. Generally, consultant support will include:

- SWMP Review & Gap Analysis – Review of the current permit and identify areas to update the program.
- Site Stormwater Facility Review & As-built Verification – visit the campus stormwater facilities and review the available as-built documentation.
- SWMP Plan & Map Update – Based on the previous review, make necessary updates to the SWMP and update the map.
- Evaluation of the SVC Illicit Discharge and Detection Elimination Program – review and update the program as needed.
- Review implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Operation and Maintenance procedures.

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.

2026 Program Activities

- Campus stormwater information is placed on public bulletin boards between January and March on an annual basis as part of the annual reporting process.
- Campus stormwater information is emailed to the SVC community between January and March on an annual basis as part of the annual reporting process.

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.

2026 Program Activities

- Distribution of the SWMP (reporting year 2026), 2025 report, and system map posted on the SVC website at the location below under *Facilities and Operations*:

<https://www.skagit.edu/policies/consumer-disclosure-information.html>

Note: If the link above does not direct you to the SVC SWMP, this may be due to the re-organization of the SVC website. Please reach out to Skagit Valley webmaster or use the search function on the SVC website for more information.

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 includes the routine sweeping of all parking surfaces.
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 utilizes the Department of Enterprise Services approved list of qualified companies for spill response and cleanup. Should a spill occur that is larger or more significant than the College can manage, they would reach out to a qualified company on this list 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.

2026 Program Activities

Updates to the IDDE and Operations and Maintenance programs include the following:

- Adding the new 2024 permit language regarding exterior building washdown, identified during a compliance review by the DOE for the SVC SWMP. This will include the following and will be pursued as part of the program activities of 2026:
 - Add language addressing building washdown of buildings. Language must be included indicating that, as a first step for any remodel / repair of exterior building, or demo of an existing building, is to complete a review of the building age. Buildings identified as constructed or renovated between the years 1950 and 1980 may have PCB-containing building materials and must be assessed for those substances.
 - Communicate with the City of Mount Vernon to learn what their policies and procedures around the building washdown / maintenance protocols will be so that the SVC campus is adhering to all local codes and ordinances appropriately.
 - Update the IDDE and O&M program documents as needed by or before July 1, 2027.

Note: SVC does not perform building washdown as part of regular maintenance activities. Building washdown that may occur during remodeling or construction projects is required to meet the State of Washington Department of Enterprise Services (DES) standards governing the handling of hazardous materials. Those standards include performing an environmental assessment on buildings prior to demolition or renovation. All projects are required to meet state and local guidelines to safely test, remove, and dispose of dangerous building waste.

- Update the storm sewer system map and provide it in electronic form. This effort will be part of the overall SWMP update that Freeland & Associates is preparing and will be prepared by the end of the year (2026).
- Spill response kits are available at a centrally located campus storage building for use/deployment at any location on campus where necessary (Central Receiving Building).

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. For all construction projects, SVC will hire trained contractors to perform work that are trained in stormwater erosion and sediment control BMPs and requirements.
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.

2026 Program Activities

2026 planned activities include:

- Compliance with City of Mount Vernon stormwater management requirements.
- Compliance with DOE stormwater manuals.
- Implementation of stormwater treatment and flow control facilities when required.
- Incorporation of stormwater facility operation and maintenance requirements into campus maintenance activities following construction completion.
 - This will include coordination with the City of Mount Vernon and their stormwater facility inspection program.

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.
 - SVC follows the Whatcom County guidance in their Stormwater Management Program for their campus found at the following link:
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/86460/2024-Stormwater-Management-Program>
 - Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) is 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) Campus access 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 can 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. SVC coordinates with the City of Mount Vernon's stormwater inspector when they inspect campus stormwater facility inspections. SVC Facilities staff generate work orders based on the recommendations for maintenance of the stormwater BMPs or notice of deficiencies contained within the City of Mount Vernon inspection reports. This is an on-going program with the City of Mount Vernon.

2026 Program Activities

2026 planned activities include:

- SVC references the following documents for campus staff training, selection and implementation of BMPs for Operation and Maintenance of existing stormwater facilities:
 - Whatcom County Stormwater Management Program:
<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/86460/2024-Stormwater-Management-Program>
- Coordination and communication with staff training to carry out the campus Operation and Maintenance Plan.
 - This will include updates to the campus O&M Program & Maintenance Program to include the new standards for external building maintenance activities. See S6.D.3 IDDE updates.

Campus Stormwater Maintenance Projects (2020 to 2026)

Multiple infrastructure projects associated with existing stormwater facilities that were identified through the City of Mount Vernon stormwater facility inspection and maintenance program were funded and completed at SVC during the time frame of 2020 and 2026. These include:

- 2020-113 Repair Clogged Storm Drain, completed November 2020
- 2022-070 Recondition Retention Pond, completed May 2023
- 2023-572 Retention Pond and Swales, completed September 2024
- 2023-572 Sewer and Storm Line Replacement and Re-lining, completed June 2025
- 2026-181 SVC Recondition Stormwater Pond & Swale State Project, completed July 2026.