

DRAFT - LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan – July 2024

Program Area 2: Stormwater Management

Objective: Protect and restore water quality in Lake Whatcom and its tributaries by using best management practices to collect, treat, and manage stormwater runoff from developed areas throughout the watershed.

2025-2029 Estimated Investments: \$14.2 million

The Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) addresses stormwater pollution by working with experts in the fields of engineering and water chemistry and landowners throughout the watershed to develop treatment strategies including preventing pollution at its source, filtering stormwater through native soils and vegetation, and treating it using engineered stormwater facilities and other emerging technologies.

2.1 Capital Improvements

Construct and retrofit capital facilities to reduce water quality and quantity impacts associated with stormwater runoff.

2.1.1 Construct new capital stormwater facilities and rebuild aging facilities and infrastructure in accordance with capital improvement and retrofit plans adopted by the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County.

2.1.2 Pursue funding opportunities, including grants, for projects identified in capital or retrofit list(s).

2.2 Residential Stormwater Solutions

Work with landowners to address unmanaged runoff and phosphorus from private properties around Lake Whatcom.

2.2.1 Provide technical and/or financial assistance for residential-scale retrofits of private property that result in phosphorus-limiting or flow-limiting projects and encourage voluntary stewardship by landowners.

2.2.2 Encourage the implementation of stormwater treatment practices, including infiltration and media filtration, on private properties through outreach, technical assistance, and barrier removal. Support, through incentives and technical assistance, the proper construction and maintenance of voluntary installations.

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2.2.3 Encourage the conversion of non-native landscape and lawn to native forested areas and the preservation of forested areas through incentives and permanent conservation agreements with landowners.

2.2.4 Provide inspections and/or technical assistance to owners of private stormwater facilities and document performance toward water quality improvements for properly maintained systems.

2.2.5 Provide resources and staff support to educate and inform owners of private stormwater facilities about system needs and maintenance.

2.2.6 Develop and disseminate Lake Whatcom watershed-specific education and outreach messaging that encourages residents to act to protect water quality.

2.3 Public Stormwater Facilities and Infrastructure

Operate, inspect, and maintain all public stormwater facilities and infrastructure.

2.3.1 Conduct regular inspection and maintenance of public stormwater facilities.

2.3.2 Complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) procedures for stormwater flow control and treatment facilities. Develop a list of recommended improvements to O&M practices and procedures to increase phosphorus and bacteria reductions.

2.3.3 Complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of pollutant management activities on public lands throughout the watershed. Develop a list of recommended best practices for public land management for phosphorus and bacteria control.

2.3.4 Adopt an Enhanced Maintenance Plan to maximize phosphorus and bacteria reductions and begin implementation of this plan.

2.4 Integrate Water Quality Improvements Across Program Areas

Provide assistance to other program areas to achieve water quality improvement goals.

2.4.1 Provide technical assistance and consulting to other program areas and estimate water quality benefits gained through combined efforts and partnerships.

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2.4.2 Develop a consistent and understandable way of estimating relative water quality benefits achieved by other relevant program areas.

2.4.3 Develop metrics for phosphorus reductions for mass per unit time (Lbs P/yr).

Reporting Metrics:

- Pounds of phosphorus reduced per year, expressed as mass per unit time (Lbs P/yr), through activities in the following categories:
 - Phosphorus treatment and flow control capital projects
 - Voluntary residential improvements
 - Required land use regulations applied to developed lots
 - Operations and maintenance activities as described in Operations and Maintenance plans