

DRAFT - LWMP 2025-2029 Work Plan – July 2024

Program Area 8: Utilities & Transportation

Objective Prevent water quality and quantity impacts from water, sewer, and transportation systems.

2025-2029 Estimated Investments: \$7.7 million

The Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) supports responsible management of public infrastructure that serves watershed residents, which is critical in mitigating impacts to Lake Whatcom's water quality. Proactive maintenance of water, sewer, and road infrastructure within the watershed, coupled with effective water supply management and public education, can reduce development-related impacts.

8.1 Water

Manage water supply systems to minimize water quality and quantity impacts.

8.1.1 Conduct water audits to detect and repair water system leaks.

8.1.2 Encourage water-use efficiency through outreach and rebate programs.

8.2 Sewage

Reduce water quality degradation from sanitary sewer and on-site sewage (OSS or septic) systems.

8.2.1 Provide sewer service to areas with OSS systems when appropriate.

8.2.2 Maintain and replace sewer infrastructure to reduce the potential of sewage overflows.

8.2.3 Enforce OSS system operation and maintenance regulations, maintain OSS database, and respond to failing systems.

8.3 Roads and Transportation

Inform watershed residents and visitors about alternative transportation opportunities and maintain transportation systems to protect water quality.

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8.3.1 Employ road design standards to reduce impacts to water quality.

8.3.2 Perform enhanced maintenance actions (i.e., additional street sweeping, more frequent cleaning of catch basins, more frequent replacement of stormwater filters, etc.) to reduce impacts to water quality.

8.3.3 Encourage watershed residents and visitors to use alternative transportation in the watershed.

8.3.4 Work with Whatcom Transit Authority to preserve and promote public transit routes.

Reporting Metrics:

- Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable of water conservation concerns related to water supply from Lake Whatcom measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Baseline Survey
- Estimated gallons of water conserved in the City of Bellingham and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District service areas per year
- Number of OSS in Lake Whatcom watershed and the number of those that are in compliance with OSS regulations Number of OSS by compliance status (satisfactory; maintenance needed; failure) in the Lake Whatcom watershed
- Summary of OSS failures in the Lake Whatcom watershed
- Number of sewer overflows that reach Lake Whatcom per year
- Proportion of watershed residents who have used alternative methods of transportation in the past year measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Baseline Survey