

Building Cities in the Rain

Puget Sound Regional Council:
Regional Staff Committee

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Photo: SvR Design

Commerce: Heather Ballash
City of Redmond: Andy Rheume
PSRC: Erika Harris

Overview

1. Context – project origin/desired outcomes
2. Permit Flexibilities:
Regional Facilities/In
Basin Transfers
3. Permit Flexibilities:
Watershed Planning/Out
of Basin Stormwater
Control Transfers
4. Building Cities in the Rain
- Prioritization Guidance



Photo: SvR Design



Context – Project Origin and Desired Outcomes

Growth Management Policy Board

“NPDES v. GMA”

NPDES v. GMA: Stormwater regulations are often more costly in ultra-urban areas than in green-fields.



NPDES & GMA/Regional Growth Strategy: How to encourage development in designated urban centers while being effective at recovering surface waters?



The logo for the Puget Sound Partnership is centered within a light orange oval. It consists of a dark grey rectangular box containing the text "PugetSoundPartnership" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font, is the phrase "LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY".

PugetSoundPartnership

LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

Action Agenda

Commerce Near Term Action A1.2.1:

“Land Use Planning Barriers, BMPs and Example Policies”: address barriers to policies that encourage compact growth, increased density, water quality standards, redevelopment.....”

South Central LIO Near Term Action SC13: “Develop recommendations for incentives and cost effective tools to meet stormwater management and GMA ... to encourage infill... in urban centers instead of greenfield... and to improve water quality.”

Desired Outcome = Vibrant Designated Urban Centers + Clean Water and Restored Fish Habitat

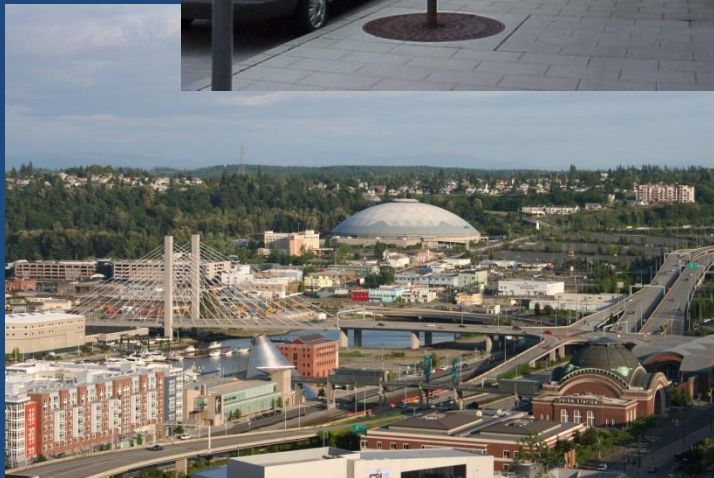


Photo: SvR Design

GMA - Local Comprehensive Planning

- Policy/goal - healthy environmental assets at build out
- Capital Facility Planning – assess your environmental assets and stormwater infrastructure together, especially for urban centers
- Efficiently and intentionally invest in your community's environment



Schematic: SvR Design

Flexibility in regulations: “in basin” alternatives

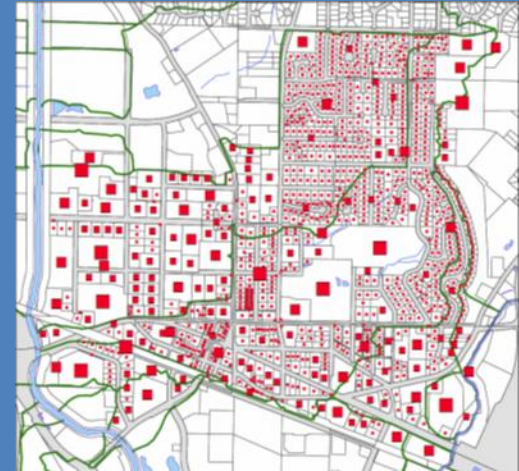
Centralized mitigation projects
(big ponds/vaults, or pipes to
exempt waters)

Escapes the “tyranny of site
constraints”

Scalable: can treat large areas or
small neighborhoods

Concerns:
Need the right geography.
How to pay for facilities?

Redmond: example
alternative to site-by-
site mitigation




Flexibility in regulations: “out of basin” alternative

Identify where stormwater retrofits will have near term ecological benefits

City builds stormwater retrofits to address hydrology and water quality issues


Developers/local governments pay fee-in-lieu of on-site controls to pay back stormwater retrofits

2013
CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON
CITYWIDE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

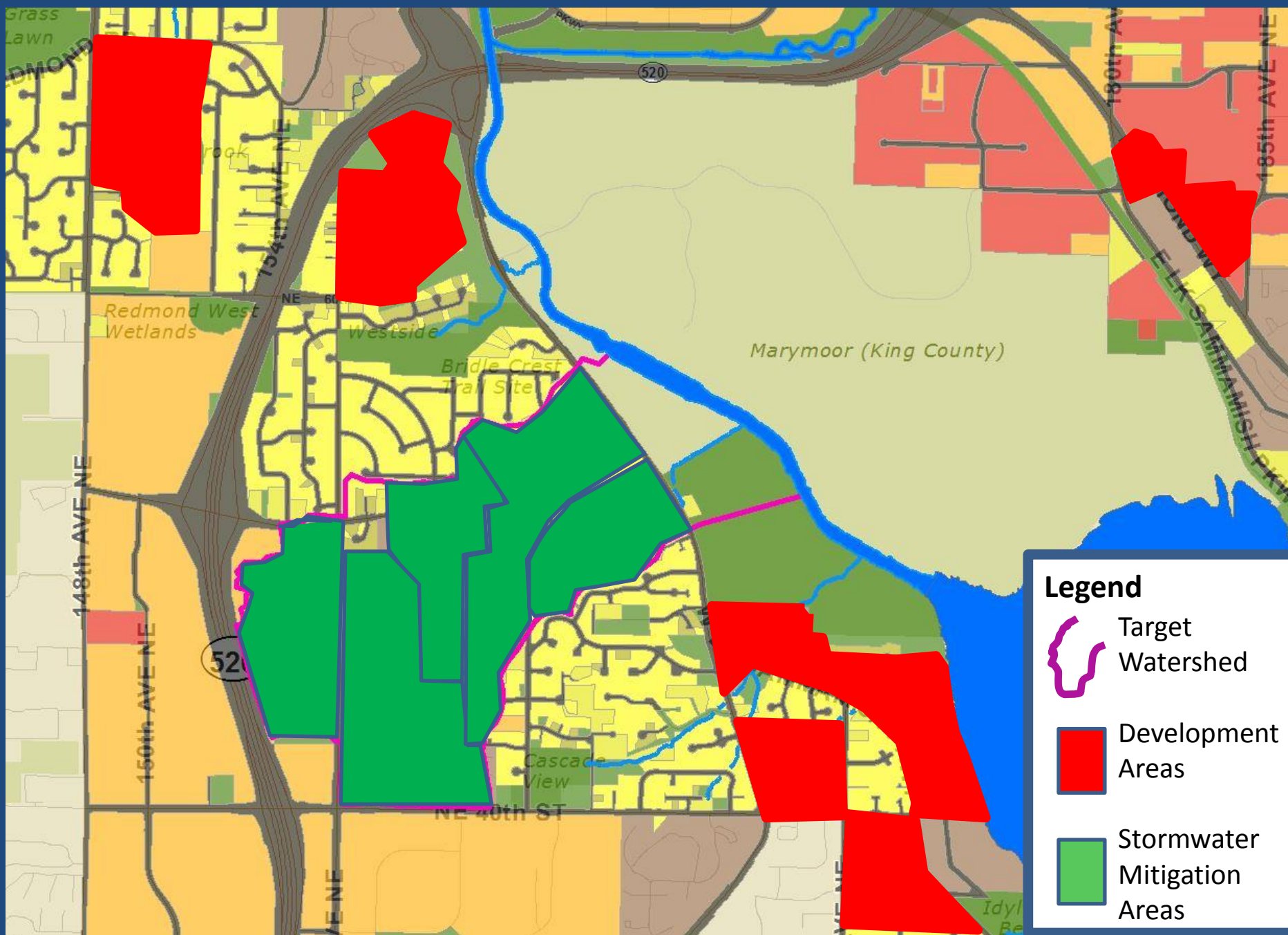


Prepared for
City of Redmond
Public Works Natural Resources Division

Prepared by
Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.



Carefully decouples mitigation from project site



Stormwater Control Transfer Program

Anne Dettelbach, Water Quality Program



Stormwater Control Transfer Program (SCTP) Background

- **Responds to:**
 - Recurring complaint that SW Req'mts discourage urban redevelopment
 - Building Cities in the Rain Initiative
 - Stipulated Order in settlement of municipal permit appeal
- **Articulates municipal permit flexibility**
- **Identifies Ecology expectations**
- **Consistent with PS Ecosystem Recovery Targets (improve lightly to moderately impacted basins)**



General Program Principles

1. Environmental Goal: Full attainment of WQS
2. NO increased stormwater impacts to any receiving water
3. Directs stormwater improvements to “priority watersheds”
4. Prioritization is science-based
5. Ecology approval required; action is appealable
6. Other, more stringent requirements may still apply



Stormwater Control Transfer Program Overview: *What it is*

- **An alternative approach** to satisfy municipal stormwater permit requirements associated with flow control at new and redevelopment sites that...
- **Accelerates environmental improvements** in priority watersheds and is...
- Implemented through a **water quality/quantity planning provision** in Phase I and II Municipal Stormwater Permits in...
- Western Washington.



SCTP Overview: *What it is not*

- Relaxation of stormwater requirements
- Wetlands Mitigation Banking
- TMDL-driven pollutant trading
- An alternative to structural retrofitting required by Phase I MS4 permit

NOTE: Phase II permit does not require retrofitting existing development with stormwater controls



SCTP Guidance Overview

- Section 1:
 - Overview
 - General Principles
 - Key Elements
 - Specific Guidelines
- **Section II: Prioritization Analysis Support & Principles**
- Section III: Effectiveness Monitoring Plan Considerations
- Section IV: Determining Debits/Credits & Tracking Transfers



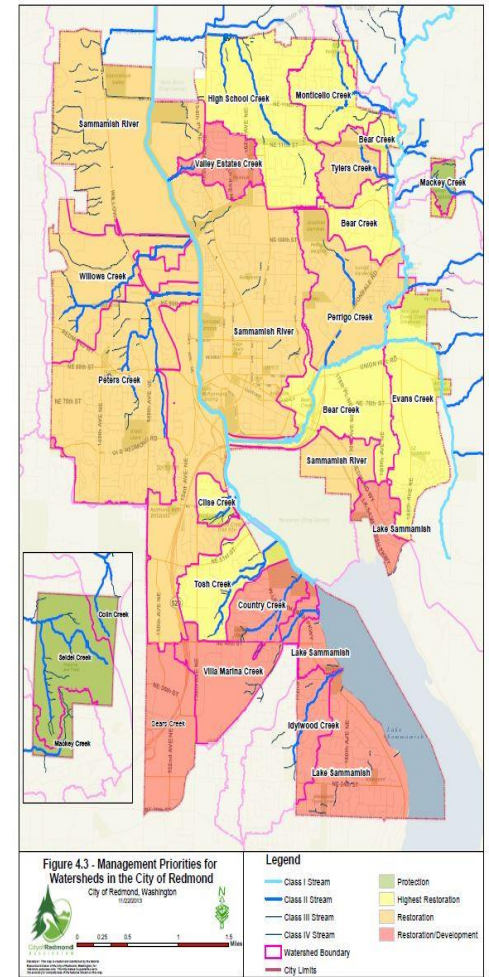
Stormwater Control Transfer Program Review and Comment

- Public Draft Issued for Comment: May 15, 2015
 - Described how to set-up a transfer program for:
 - Flow Control
 - Run-off Treatment
 - LID
- Public Comments Received: July 15
 - 13 parties commented (plus BCitR)
 - Little support for LID transfers
 - Serious concerns raised re: treatment transfer
 - Numerous comments on needed clarifications and proposed changes



Section II: Prioritization Analysis

1. Priority watersheds: Stormwater improvements provide more immediate environmental benefit
2. Science-based
3. Watershed-specific information
4. Specific prioritization goal, data sources
5. Input from tribal, federal, state natural resource agencies
6. Ecology concurrence



Section II: Prioritization Principles to Consider

Prioritize watersheds with:

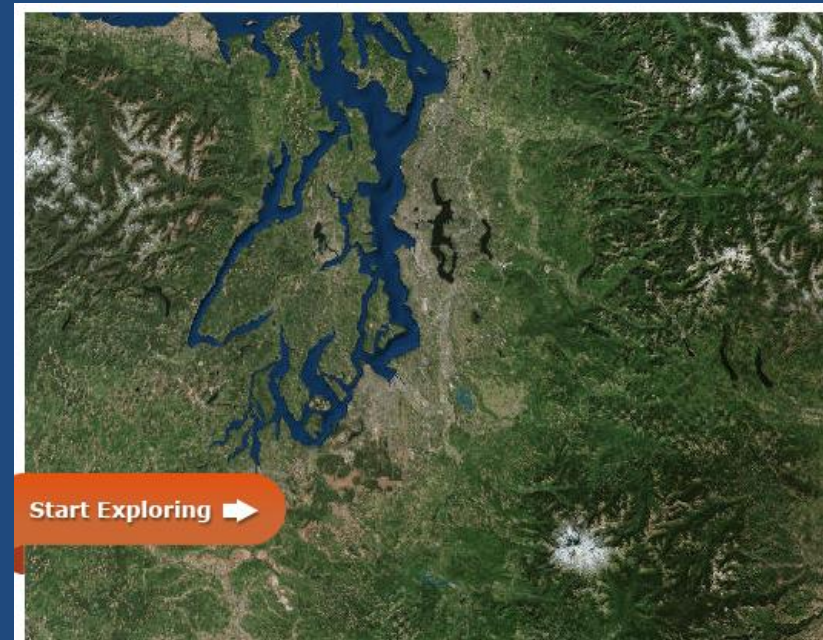
- Low to moderate impairment
 - Relative to the municipality
- Permittee ability to influence
- Possible synergy with other rehabilitation efforts (e.g., salmon recovery)



Building Cities in the Rain: Prioritization Guidance for Out of Basin Transfers

Process and data for prioritizing water bodies

1. Establish prioritization goals.
2. Review regional-scale information as initial screen. Refine with local data.
3. Seek input from stakeholders (tribes, resource agencies, your neighbors)
4. Plan to invest where stormwater retrofits are expected to accelerate environmental improvement
5. Submit plan to Ecology for approval.



Puget Sound Characterization Project

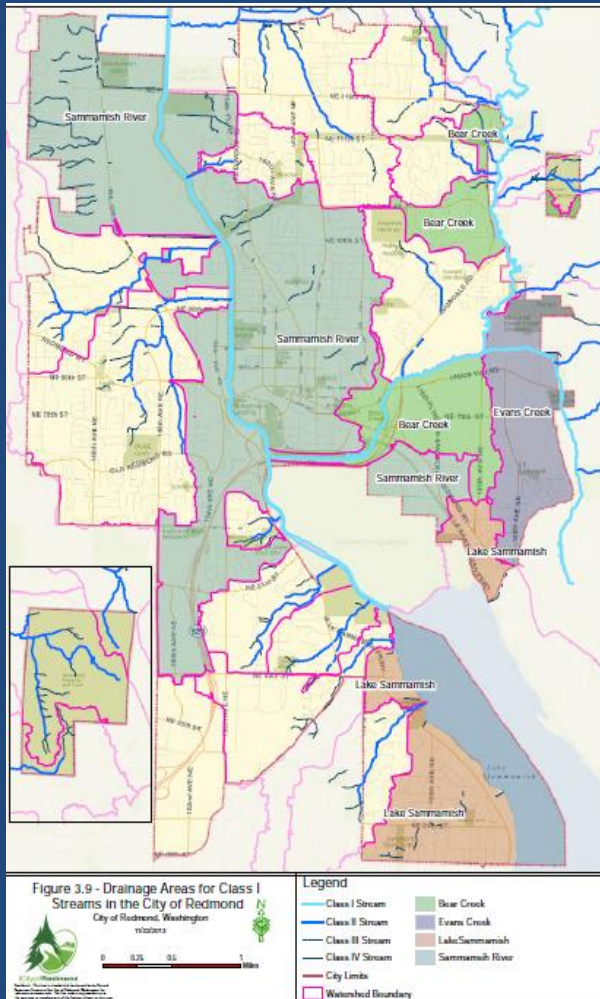
Two-step Analytical Process Recommended

Use local data to refine prioritization:


Step 1 - Review receiving waterbodies or waters for actual or potential fish use.

Step 2 – Give priority where stormwater improvements are expected to accelerate environmental improvement based on:

- Physical flow control data
- Watershed area data
- Priorities identified in state, regional and local plans



For More Information



Building Cities in the Rain

[Portal ID #1780]

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Summary of the project

The Washington State Department of Commerce, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program, is partnering with the South Central Sound Puget Caucus to identify approaches to managing stormwater in infill areas.

Problem Statement:
Current regulatory and legal requirements, including stormwater management, provide important environmental protections but can also make development in urban centers more expensive than in less dense areas. What approaches can the region use to both encourage development in dense urban centers to meet land use goals, while meeting water quality requirements?

Need:
The challenge of meeting growth management and stormwater goals is complex and involves many disciplines such as water resources, science and engineering, architecture, real estate development and finance, land use and environmental regulation, and urban design, among others. Infill development can include costs for demolition, brownfield remediation, historic preservation, aging infrastructure repair, and stormwater infrastructure. These types of requirements can ultimately make an infill project more expensive than a similar project in a less developed area.

Pictures



Courtesy SvR Design

Visit the project web site at www.ezview.wa.gov
or contact Heather Ballash at
heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov, (360) 725-3044