



Department of Commerce



Photo: SvR Design

Building Cities in the Rain:

Watershed Prioritization for Stormwater Retrofits

Heather Ballash
Senior Planner

Growth Management Services

March 18, 2016

Puget Sound Regional Council: VISION 2040

Jobs & Housing for 1.7 Million More People



2 more Seattles + 2 more Tacomas

Central Puget Sound Region



VISION 2040: Regional Growth Centers

Regional strategy focused on designated centers linked by transit:

29 Regional Growth Centers

- 2.5% of total UGA (≈ 25 sq mi)
- Currently 29% of region's jobs

8 Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

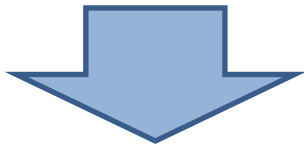
- 3.7% of total UGA area



Puget Sound Regional Council

“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 and manage stormwater effectively?



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



Photo: SvR Design

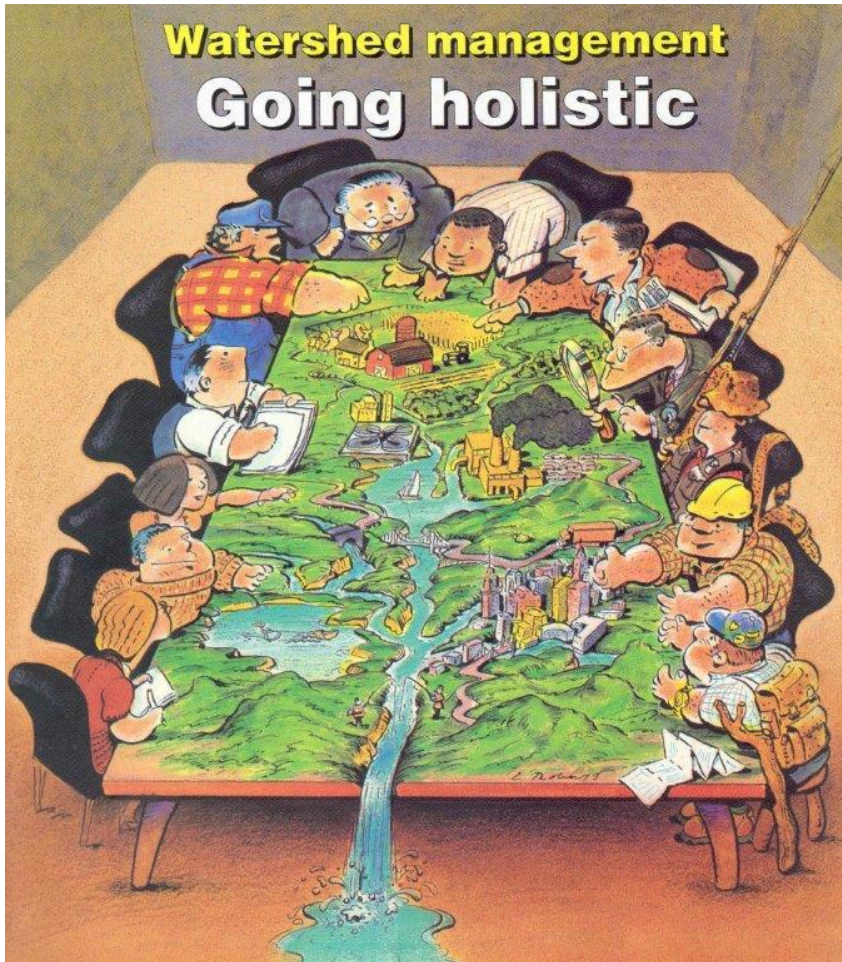


Building Cities in the Rain

Watershed Prioritization for Stormwater Retrofit Investment



Building Cities in the Rain Work Group



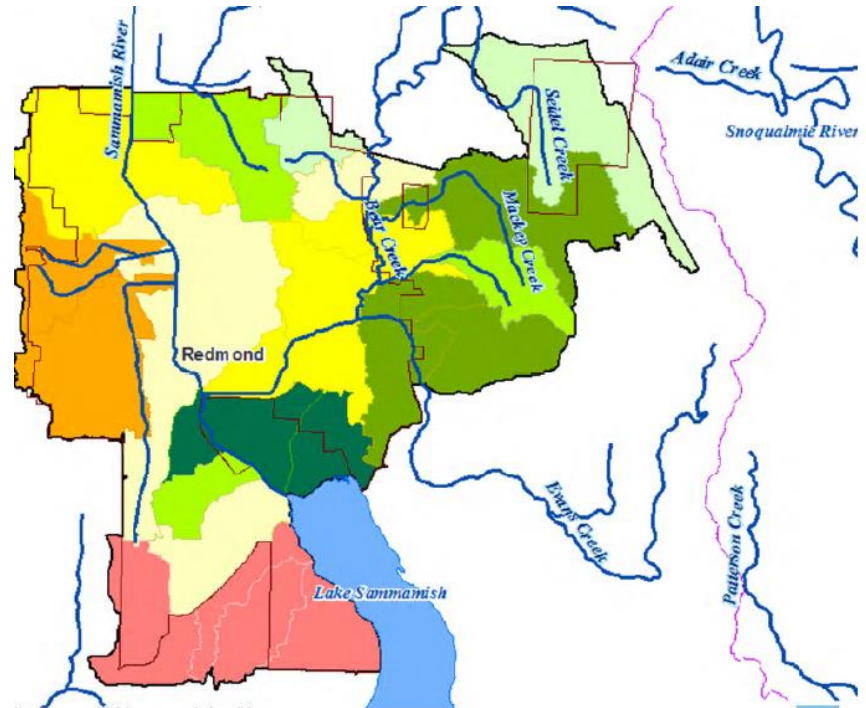
Tacoma Issaquah
Redmond Bellevue
King County Thurston County
Futurewise Ecology
WDFW WRIA 8
EPA Commerce
Puget Sound Regional Council
Puget Sound Partnership



Department of Commerce

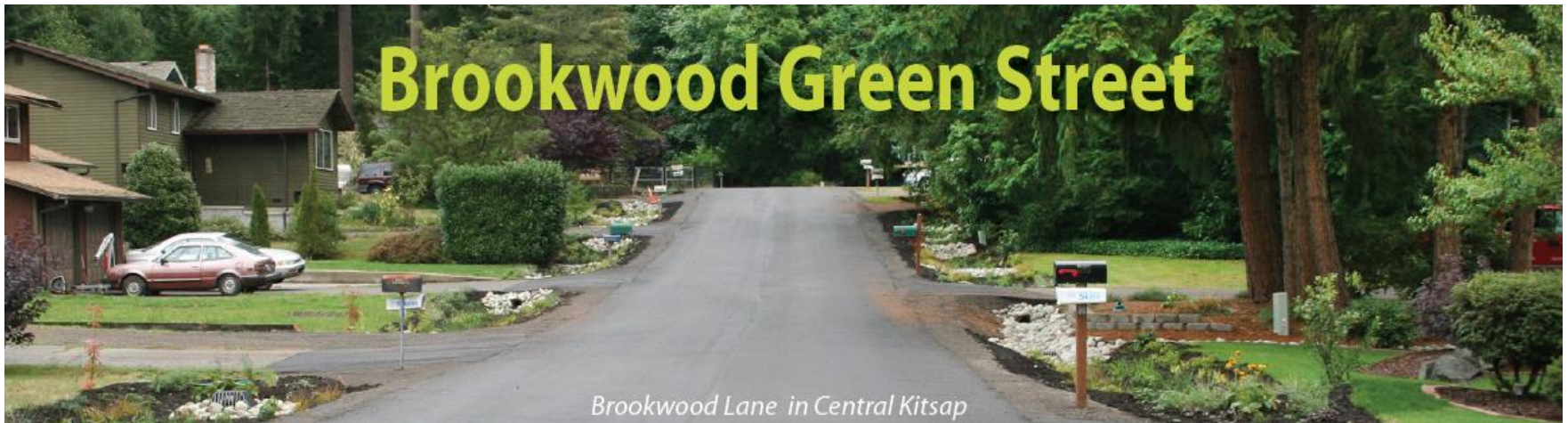
Process and Data for Prioritizing Watersheds

1. Establish prioritization goals/policies.
2. Review regional-scale information as initial screen.
Refine with local data.
3. Seek input from stakeholders (tribes, resource agencies, the public)
4. Plan for stormwater retrofits where expected to accelerate environmental improvement



Local Policies for Water Resources/Stormwater

- Kitsap County's "Water as a Resource" policy
- Redmond's Natural Element Policies re water quality and surface waters



Puget Sound Watershed Characterization



http://www.ecy.wa.gov/puget_sound/characterization/



Department of Commerce

Stepwise Analytical Process Recommended



Use local data to refine watershed prioritization:

Step 1 – Review receiving waterbodies/waters in the watershed for actual or potential fish use.

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

Step 3 – If desired, consider Environmental Justice/Social Equity issues



Department of Commerce

Step 1 – Fish Use

- Actual or potential fish use and existing aquatic conditions
- Tree Canopy/Condition of buffer for habitat
- Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BIBI)
- Known water quality impairment



Step 2 – Stormwater Control Opportunities

Flow Control, LID and Runoff

Treatment Opportunity Assessment:

- Existing/Current Land Cover
- Existing/Current Land Use Data
- Future Land Use
- Age and condition of stormwater management treatment and flow control infrastructure
- Ripeness to proceed
- Watershed area data
- Physical barriers
- Coordination with state, regional and local plans



Step 3 – Environmental Justice

 **EPA**
United States Environmental Protection Agency

[Español](#) | [中文: 繁體版](#) | [中文: 简体版](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [한국어](#)

[Learn the Issues](#) | [Science & Technology](#) | [Laws & Regulations](#) | [About EPA](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Share](#)

EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool

Launch the EJSCREEN Tool

Explore EPA's environmental justice screening and mapping tool



Links

- [Environmental Justice at EPA](#)
- [Grants and Other Funding Opportunities](#)
- [EPA's Environmental Justice in Action Blog](#)
- [Sign up to receive updates on EJSCREEN](#)

In order to better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of public health and the environment, EPA has developed a new environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports.

What is EJSCREEN?



Learn to Use EJSCREEN



Launch the Tool





Department of Commerce

Uses for Watershed Prioritization

- Targeting stormwater control investment for regional facilities – planning for capital facilities
- Prioritizing project proposals for grants
- Informing water clean up plans (TMDL)
- Establishing a stormwater control transfer program




Photo: SvR Design



Draft Watershed Prioritization Guidance

To view the guidance: www.ezview.wa.gov
Comments due April 30, 2016



Building Cities in the Rain

[Portal ID #1780]

[Overview](#) [Contacts](#) [Events](#) [Library](#) [2013 Meetings](#) [2014 Meetings](#) [2015 Meetings](#)

Building Cities in the Rain: Watershed Prioritization Guidance for Stormwater Retrofits

The Department of Commerce, in consultation with a work group of interested parties, has developed a draft [Building Cities in the Rain](#) guidance that describes a process for prioritizing watersheds for stormwater retrofits. It is intended to provide a tool for local governments to target investment in stormwater retrofits in a way that leverages opportunities for salmonid habitat restoration and facilitates redevelopment in urban centers. The Building Cities in the Rain guidance describes a four-step watershed prioritization process for stormwater retrofits. The guidance was released on March 1, 2016. **The draft guidance is available for public comment until midnight on April 30, 2016.**

[Click here](#) for the draft guidance.

Please submit comments by email to:
Heather Ballash at heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov

Submit written, hard copy comments to:
Heather Ballash
Growth Management Services
Washington State Department of Commerce
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525



Department of Commerce



Department of Commerce

Presented by:

Heather Ballash

Senior Planner

(360) 725-3044

heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov

www.commerce.wa.gov

facebook

twitter