



MEMORANDUM

Notice to Council of Final Rulemaking Action

Date: June 30, 2026

To: County Council (by email)

Via: Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council

Via: Elena Lao, Deputy Clerk of the Council

From:  Josh Dugan, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Subject: Notice to Council of Final Action
Adoption of 2026 Snohomish County Drainage Manual

In accordance with Snohomish County Code (SCC) 30.82.040 (Rulemaking), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (CNR) hereby notifies the Snohomish County Council that it is adopting an updated version of the Snohomish County Drainage Manual, which is comprised of Volumes I through VI, effective July 1, 2026.

Summary of CNR Director decision

Per SCC 30.82.030, the CNR Director issued a notice of proposed rule adoption to the Council on June 1, 2026. A public comment period was held from June 1, 2026, to June 23, 2026. No written comments were received during the period.

Per the authority in SCC 30.82.040(1), the CNR Director adopted the proposed Snohomish County Drainage Manual without amendment.

Notice of rule adoption

Per SCC 30.82.040(2), in addition to notifying the Council of this rule adoption, the CNR Director will provide notice of rule adoption by placing a public notice in the Everett Herald.

Effective date

In accordance with SCC 30.82.060, the updated Drainage Manual is effective on July 1st, 2026.

Availability

The 2026 Drainage Manual, as well as past versions of the manual, will be available on the [Surface Water Management website](https://www.snocounty.org/surface-water-management).

Request for Council review

Per 30.82.065 SCC, an interested person may request Council review of the CNR Director's decision to adopt the rule by submitting a written request to the CNR Director or the contact person listed below by October 29, 2026 (120 days from effective date). Council review will determine whether the adopted rule is consistent with the scope of the CNR Director's rulemaking authority as set forth in 30.82.010(1) SCC.

For further information, please contact Jim Blankenbeckler, SWM Engineering Manager, at 425-262-2606, or Jim.Blankenbeckler@snoco.org.

Drainage Manual Volume with General Summary of Amendments:

The updates from the 2021 Drainage Manual are generally described below.

Volume I: Minimum Technical Requirements

- Removal of an exemption from Minimum Requirements for certain paving activities; "replaced hard surfaces" must comply with requirements dictated by the thresholds in SCC 30.63A.310
- Addition of a requirement for commercial/industrial development projects to meet applicable Minimum Requirements when the redevelopment area of a project exceeds 5,000 square feet and either of (1) the valuation of the project improvements exceed 50% of the existing assessed value, or (2) the new plus replaced hard surfaces total 50% or more of the existing hard surfaces.
- Addition of a requirement to implement pollutant-specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) to treat stormwater runoff in project locations likely to have oil pollution (based on traffic counts or industrial activities), phosphorous (in watersheds with receiving waters sensitive to phosphorous), or heavy metals (for light rail, certain industrial activities, high traffic roads, and areas in close proximity to freshwater aquatic life).
- Addition of High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) to approved methods for meeting requirements of BMP T7.30 Bioretention.
- Modification of the criteria for meeting Wetland Hydroperiod Protection requirements based on site discharge modeling on a monthly basis. Prior requirements allowed a maximum 15% variance from pre-project volumes. New requirements allow up to 20% during the months of October, November, December (all other months remain at 15%).
- Updated definitions for consistency with EDDS and SCC: Bioretention BMPs; Common plan of development or sale; Critical area; Effective impervious surface; Impervious surface; New hard/impervious surface; On-site stormwater management BMPs; Replaced hard/impervious surface; Site; Source control best management practice; Threshold discharge area; Vehicular use.

Volume II: Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention BMPs

- Corrected reference to WAC 173-201A-200 (Freshwater Designated Uses and Criteria).

Volume III: Hydrologic Analysis and Flow Control BMPs

- Updated design criteria for roof downspout infiltration trenches to include a minimum spacing between trench centerlines of 6 feet.
- Updated design criteria for roof downspout infiltration drywells to include a minimum spacing between drywells of 10 feet.

Volume IV: Source Control BMPs

- Moved the existing “Recommended BMPs” content from Chapter 4, appending the recommendations into the applicable industry/activity sections of Chapter 3, matching the formatting of analogous BMPs in Ecology’s 2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SMMWW). Required BMPs for new development and redevelopment moved from Chapter 5 to Chapter 4.
- Updated Snohomish Health District references to Snohomish County Health Department.
- Added PCB-related pollution prevention requirements for certain activities related to building washing, repair/remodeling, and demolition.
- Added Source Control BMPs related to Light Rail:
 - BMP 3.50 BMPs for Washing Light Rail Elevated Guideways
 - BMP 3.51 BMPs for Washing Light Rail Vehicles

Volume V: Runoff Treatment BMPs

- Added *Pump Systems* to list of Stormwater Facilities with specified maintenance standards.
- Added BMP T5.31 *Light Rail Elevated Guideway Dispersion*.
- Added specifications for *High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix* types 1, 2, and 3.

Volume VI: Stormwater Facility Maintenance

- Corrected various scrivener errors and formatting errors from the 2019 Drainage Manual.
- Minor updates to multiple maintenance standard charts to reflect problems commonly found by inspectors: *No. 1 Catch Basins*; *No. 2 Conveyance Storm Pipes*; *No. 6 Energy Dissipators*; *No. 9 Detention Tanks and Vaults*; *No. 11 Wetponds*; *No. 12 Wetvaults*; *No. 23 Media Cartridge Filters*.
- Added maintenance standards for Pump Systems.
- Added maintenance standards for Light Rail Elevated Guideway Runoff Dispersion Systems.