

COUNCIL NOTICE OF RULE ADOPTION
(Via Email)

DATE: July 1, 2026
TO: County Council (by Email) Via
Debbie Eco, Clerk of the Council
Elena Lao, Deputy Clerk of the Council
FROM: Jed Gonzales, Transportation Specialist, Public Works
SUBJECT: Adoption of Amendments to the Snohomish County Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS)

Rulemaking Action: Pursuant to Snohomish County Code (SCC) 30.82.040 (Rulemaking) the Department of Public Works (DPW) proposed amendments to Chapters 1 and 11 of the Snohomish County Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS) by reason of State of Washington Department of Ecology's update to the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit that regulates systems owned or operated by unincorporated counties. Pursuant to SCC 30.82.040, DPW is adopting those amendments to the EDDS as generally described below. The director may approve the proposed rule or rule amendment with or without changes, or repeal an existing rule.

EDDS Reference Number with General Summary of Amendments:

Chapter 1 General Considerations

1. Updated definition of bicycle or bike in EDDS 1-17 to include electric power.
2. Updated definition of Bioretention BMPs in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as indicated in Appendix 1 (Minimum Technical Requirements for New Development and Redevelopment) Section 2 (Definitions Related to Minimum Requirements) of the August 1, 2024 Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit.
3. Updated definition of Common plan of development or sale in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
4. Updated definition of New hard surface in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
5. Updated definition of New impervious surface in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
6. Updated definition of On-site stormwater management BMPs in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
7. Updated definition of Pollution-generating impervious surface (PGIS) in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
8. Updated definition of Pollution-generating pervious surface (PGPS) in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.

9. Updated definition of Project in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
10. Updated definition of Replaced impervious surface in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
11. Updated definition of Site in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
12. Updated definition of Source control BMP in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
13. Updated definition of Threshold discharge area in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.
14. Updated definition of Vehicular use in EDDS 1-17 to have the same meaning as defined in Snohomish County Code.

Chapter 11 Low Impact Development (LID)

15. Updated EDDS 11-01.B to match the language indicated in Appendix 1 (Minimum Technical Requirements for New Development and Redevelopment) Section 1 of the August 1, 2024 Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit.
16. Appendix 10 (Equivalent Programs for Runoff Controls for New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites - Part 1.F.) of the August 1, 2024 Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit determined the HRM to be equivalent to both of Ecology's Western and Eastern Stormwater Management Manuals for minimum design requirements and best management practices for public road projects. Updated EDDS 11-02.D to match SCC 30.63A.140 that states the HRM to be equivalent to the 2024 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington.
17. Revised EDDS 11-02.E to provide more general information on the location of the webpage as opposed to a specific page since a page may be moved or updated in the future.
18. Revised EDDS 11-02.F.2 to add the applicable EDDS section.
19. Revised EDDS 11.02.F.3 to add as approved by the Engineer for LID BMPs installed in public right-of-way.
20. The update to Snohomish County Drainage Manual Volume V Chapter 7 Section 7.3 includes High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) Specifications. Updated EDDS 11-02.I.3.i to include possible use of new HPBSM.
21. Revised EDDS 11-02.I.3.viii to add the applicable EDDS appendix.
22. Revised EDDS 11.02.J.3.iii to correct the applicable EDDS section.
23. Revised EDDS 11.02.J.4.iii.e to correct the applicable EDDS section.

COMMENT: From Bill Lider, Lider Engineering PLLC: SCC 30.25.015

"Snohomish County is requested to include in the proposed amendments to its EDDS, a requirement to prevent street tree plantings in any underground utility corridor easement, or within 5-feet of any municipal underground utility, including but not limited to water, sewer, stormwater, electrical, gas, or telecommunication conduits."

"Currently Snohomish Code has no provision in its Landscape Code SCC 30.25 or its Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS) to prohibit planting of trees directly on top of underground utilities, as was approved by PDS at the Ambleside SFDU project site, PFN: 23-114601-SPA."

DECISION: Pursuant to SCC 30.82.040(1), the proposed amendments to this EDDS section are adopted without additional changes as these amendments are limited to stormwater-related requirements for compliance with the Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit that regulates systems owned or operated by unincorporated counties. The County acknowledges the concern regarding street tree placement near underground utilities. However, it is considered outside the scope of this rulemaking cycle due to the need for county code review and potential code change. In the event conflicts exist between EDDS and applicable chapters of county code, the requirements and definitions in the county code take precedence. If the code is required to be changed, an EDDS update would follow by way of the rulemaking process to be in accordance with the applicable county code change. This recommendation will be retained for consideration in a future EDDS update.

Effective Date: The adopted EDDS amendments take effect on July 1, 2026.

To learn more about the proposed amendments:

- Refer to the EDDS web page at: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/492/Design-Standards-EDDS>, or
- Email Contact.EDDSCustomerService@snoco.org, or by mail at 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 607, Everett, WA 98201.

Request for County Council Review: Pursuant to SCC 30.82.065, interested persons may request a review of the adopted rules by the Snohomish County Council within 120 days of rule approval. Council review shall determine whether the adopted rules are consistent with the scope of the department's rule making authority as specified in SCC 30.82.010(1). A request for Council review should be sent to contact.council@snoco.org or mailed to the County Council at 3000 Rockefeller Ave M/S 609, Everett, WA 98201, and copy emailed or mailed to the contact person above.

ADA Notice: Snohomish County strives to provide accessible facilities and services to all members of the public. Sign language interpreters and communication materials in alternative forms will be provided on request, please contact the County's EEO Officer at 425-388-3511 (for TTY first dial 711).

Attachments:

- A copy of the proposed EDDS amendments with the text sections shown in Track Changes format (i.e. changes are in color with deleted language shown with ~~strikeouts~~ and new language shown as underlined).
- A clean copy of the proposed EDDS amendments shown without changes.