

Stormwater Management Plan

City of Mill Creek

2026



Introduction:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a program created by the federal government as a part of the Clean Water Act in 1972 (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) The Washington State Department of Ecology grants Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permits, henceforth “Permit”, issued to qualifying municipalities with populations below 100,000. The City of Mill Creek is under the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit which authorizes the discharge of stormwater runoff from an MS4 to surface waters of the state (i.e., rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, ditches, etc.) as well as groundwater, if a Phase II municipality can meet state water quality standards and/or implement permit specified best management practices (BMPs). This permit requires the annual preparation of an updated Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) for the City of Mill Creek (henceforth, “Mill Creek”). The SWMP is broken down into 9 sections which are as follows:

- Stormwater Planning
- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- MS4 mapping and Documentation
- Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
- Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites
- Stormwater Management for Existing Development
- Source Control Program for Existing Development
- Operation and Maintenance

The SWMP describes activities Mill Creek performed during the period January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, related to the above listed sections. This plan also details the anticipated activities for 2026. This Stormwater Management Plan will be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology by March 31, 2026.

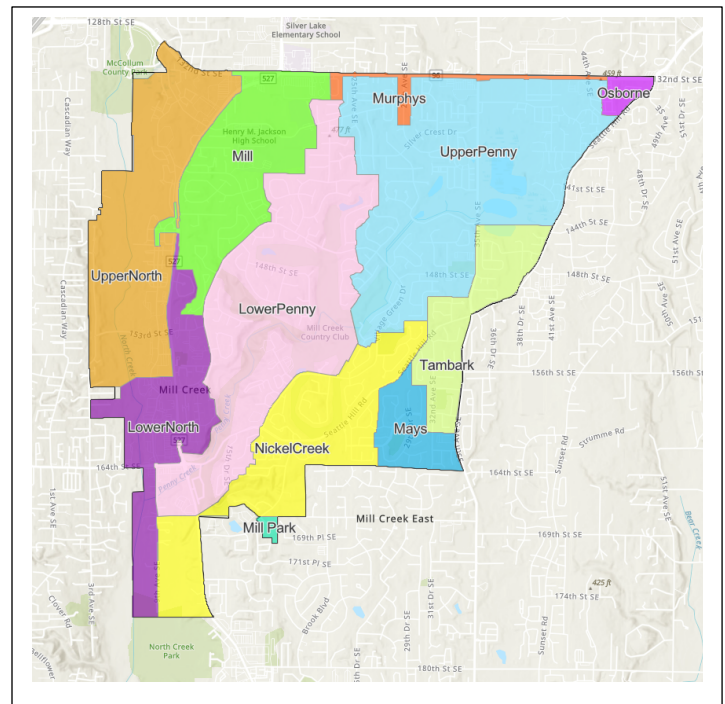
NPDES Annual Report Documentation:

Municipalities covered under the Permit require a submittal of an annual report to Washington State Department of Ecology due by March 31st each year. It consists of the following:

- Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP): summarizes what has been done in the previous year and planned NPDES activities to assure compliance for the coming year (2026)
- Compliance Report: A report, provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology and filled out by Mill Creek that verifies compliance for the previous calendar year (2025)

The City of Mill Creek is located just east of interstate 5 starting with a western boundary just west of North Creek. With its norther boundary marked by State Route 96. Its eastern boundary is marked by the intersection of Seattle Hill Road and State Route 96, past the intersection of Seattle Hill Road and 35th Ave SE and down to just north of 35th Ave SE and 164th St SE. Then the Southern boundary moves across and down to just north of North Creek Park. Mill Creek is comprised of 11 different watershed basins listed below and shown in Image 1.

- Upper North Creek (orange)
- Lower North Creek (Dark Purple)
- Murphys (Red)
- Osborne (Purple)
- Upper Penny Creek (Light Blue)
- Lower Penny Creek (Pink)
- Mill Creek (Bright Green)
- Nickel Creek (Yellow)
- Tambark (Light Green)
- Mill Park (Turquoise)
- Mays (Blue)



The degradation of water quality of these watershed basins is dependent on many variables and sources. These sources can include but are not limited to residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and livestock location. Pollutants from these locations can include but are not limited to sediment, metals (zinc, copper, lead, etc.), greases and oils, pesticides and fertilizers, and bacteria. Stormwater runoff is rainwater conveyed over impervious surfaces like roofs, roads, parking lots, sidewalks, driveways, and other non-

water absorbing surfaces. This stormwater runoff is conveyed through our MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) which is comprised of 4,752 catch basins, 38.55 miles of piping, and facilities like ponds, vaults, open conveyance and more. The stormwater runoff that flows through this system enters waters of the state with little to no water quality treatment.

Mill Creek has abundant greenery from grass, shrubs, bushes, and tree canopy dispersed throughout its commercial areas, neighborhoods, golf course, wetlands, and more. Most of Mill Creek's impervious surfaces are made up of roadways, neighborhoods, and commercial locations. Although in Mill Creek there is currently little construction, increases of development can increase the amount of impervious surfaces.

The City of Mill Creek's Stormwater Management Plan is designed to achieve the following goals:

1. Reduce illicit discharges of pollutants into our City's MS4 to the maximum extent practicable
2. Use all known, available, and reasonable (AKART) methods of pollution prevention and control to protect receiving waters
3. Protect local water quality to ensure healthy and safe local watershed and regional watersheds
4. Ensure practical, useful, and engaging outreach about our stormwater system and pollution prevention to residents, property owners, business owners, and other stakeholders
5. Maintain our City's MS4 through thoughtful, timely, and practical stormwater operation and maintenance

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The City of Mill Creek is required to design and implement a stormwater planning program to inform and assist the development of policies and strategies as water quality management tools to protect receiving waters.

Stormwater Planning:

The City of Mill Creek's stormwater planning elements as per permit requirements for 2025 and planned for 2026 are as follows.

- Mill Creek maintains an interdisciplinary team, with members of several different departments to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence our stormwater management program. Including members of the Public Works Department, Development Services Department, Marketing and Communication Department, and Operations and Maintenance Department. This team has had 2 meetings in 2025 and will continue in 2026 meeting on a quarterly basis to review permit compliance and program development. The city will continue these meetings through 2026 reviewing the team for additional members and points of view.
- Mill Creek coordinates with long-range planning through the City's Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) and stormwater related city code. In those two elements, Mill Creek will determine stormwater management needs and the protection and improvement of receiving water health through Comp Plan and City Code updates. Mill Creek will continue to review and refine stormwater related Comp Plan components and city code section in 2026. In 2026 the City will be proposing several surface water code changes to increase protection of local watersheds and address issues that have arisen in previous years.
- Mill Creek in 2025 reviewed Low Impact Development (LID) related code to identify regulatory or administrative barriers and did not identify any code barriers. But City staff did identify administrative barriers in our permits process. To eliminate these issues the City has acquired new permitting software to streamline the development process and make Stormwater related requirements easy to identify, understand, and meet in the development process. In 2026 Mill Creek will continue to address any regulatory or administrative barriers in LID related code.
- Mill Creek in 2024 through consultants developed a Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP) for the Mill Creek watershed. This development included considering overburdened communities using the Washington State Environmental Health Disparities Map and census data. Mill Creek also focused inspections,

maintenance, and IDDE screening in the Mill Creek watershed. In 2025 Mill Creek created a retrofit schedule and focused stormwater management actions strategy based on the developed SMAP. The City in 2026 will be working on funding these outlined projects. As well as identify opportunistic projects to be added if found.

Public Education and Outreach:

The City of Mill Creek continues to better its education and outreach efforts to increase stormwater knowledge and awareness throughout all stakeholders in the city. The program requires implementation of general awareness and behavioral change programs. Mill Creek's general awareness program in 2025 was focused on the general public and increasing knowledge of general impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces. After reviewing the City's education and outreach needs to make efforts as effective as possible. Mill Creek in 2026 will have a focus of Contractor, Developers, and Property Owners/Managers with a subject focus of Stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities. Mill Creek's behavioral change program has a target audience of residents with a BMP focus on pet waste management and disposal.

General Awareness Campaign: in 2025 included social media outreach on stormwater information, tabling at local community events, and increased in person interaction with the public on stormwater topics. In 2026, the City will continue social media outreach focused on stormwater facility information. The City will continue tabling at local events focusing on educating property owners on stormwater facilities and applicable requirements. The City will also be creating several new outreach material packages for property owners, contractors, and developers focusing on stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities.

Behavioral Change Program: in 2025 the City's behavior change program had a priority audience of residents with a BMP focus on increasing proper pet waste management and disposal. The city has started its own behavioral change program titled "Stop Paw-llution" program. This program will continue through the length of the current permit term. The program consists of data collection of instances of uncollected pet waste and/or improper disposal of pet waste at city owned/operated parks and trails. This data is collected via Survey123 through GIS. This survey also includes if waste receptacles are available in the area of the identified pet waste. The program started to roll out in Mill Creek's Heron Park which had an initial count of 35 instances of uncollected or improperly disposed pet waste. At each park, after initial data collection, educational signage is placed throughout the park. This signage informs residents of issues caused by improperly disposed of or uncollected pet waste. The signage also lets residents know they can get free pet waste

bag dispensers at city hall. The program also includes local flyers and focused social media outreach to residents. The program also looks to interact with residents in person through HOA meetings and local event tabling. Every quarter a new park is added and data is reviewed. If waste receptacles are found in the data to not be available enough. Additional receptacles are placed in participating parks. In 2026, city staff will bring outreach to different pet related businesses in the city to create additional avenues for outreach. The City will continue data collection and adding parks to the program quarter and reviewing the program for additional outreach methodologies.

Stewardship Opportunities: The City, in 2025, offered stewardship opportunities via litter cleanup events and the adopt-a-street program. In 2026 the City strives to add more stewardship opportunities through curb marking and volunteer monitoring.

Public Involvement & Participation:

The City of Mill Creek encourages public input. The city will continue to create opportunities for public involvement through various avenues.

- Mill Creek allows for public participation by providing The City's Stormwater Management Plan and Stormwater Master Action Plan on The City's website. Including directions on how to provide comments via email.
- Public comment periods for residents are notified via social media and The City website front page. This allows multiple avenues for residents to know when public comment is available.
- During public comment period, signs are also posted at both city hall front desks directing residents to visit our website to view the SWMP and SMAP and provide comment.
- The City also provides notice of public comment periods via city council meetings during the public comment period.

MS4 Mapping & Documentation:

The City of Mill Creek operates and maintains several Geographic Information System (GIS) maps, that includes a map of the City's stormwater system. This map contains:

- Known MS4 outfalls and discharge points, including size and material, when known
- Receiving waters
- Publicly owned and operated stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities
- Catch Basins
- Tributary conveyances (piping) that include type, material, and size when known
- Associated drainage areas and land use

- Connections owned and operated by the City's MS4 to other Municipalities MS4's
- All known connections from privately owned stormwater systems and facilities to the City's MS4
- MS4 connection allowed after February 16, 2007
- Wetland areas
- Street Sweeping routes

The City continues to update and improve this mapping based on Permit requirements and internal need. In 2026, the City will be mapping the cities tree canopy for stormwater management purposes using available data. The City will also begin mapping surface acreage of MS4 tributary basins to outfalls with a diameter of 24 inches or greater and unmanaged areas. The city will also be mapping privately owned stormwater facilities. And begin the process of being able to map illicit discharge and connection instances, stormwater related development projects, and behavior change program metrics.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Review permit requirements

The City of Mill Creek is required to operate an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program. An Illicit Discharge is any discharge of prohibited liquids or solids into stormwater which can cause pollution. This IDDE program is designed to prohibit, prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate these pollutants. Simply put, the IDDE program is to prevent spills of polluting material into our stormwater system to ensure healthy water quality. To identify these prohibited pollutants, the City of Mill Creek updated city code to define them. Section **15.14.230** "*Discharges into Mill Creek waters and storm drainage systems*" lists 23 types of "Prohibited Discharges". This section also noted "Conditional Discharges" which noted conditions needing to be met to discharge these substances. This section also defines "Illicit Connections" which is any conveyance system attached to the City stormwater system or privately owned stormwater system without permitting or permission of the City.

1. Mapping

Currently the City of Mill Creek does not map illicit discharges specifically. But the City does map a variety of assets to help with our permit required IDDE screening. This includes outfalls which is our permit required inspection methodology as per the Ecology selected manual. The City is aiming to

2. Staff training

Each year, All City staff who may be able to identify Illicit Discharges are required to complete IDDE & Spill Response training. This class is just over 1 hour covering a range

of information necessary for potential or active spill identification and response based on material. This also includes an emergency response for discharges that constitute a danger to public health and safety.

This course is designed to ensure that all staff that could engage with an illicit discharge have all the information and tools necessary to properly handle the situation. And to meet state permit requirements.

3. Spill response

The City of Mill Creek Maintains a 24-hour Spill Hotline which can be reached by dialing 425-582-6000. Staff members or the Public are directed to report spills through this hotline. During regular business hours 9:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday City maintenance staff respond to reported spills. The City maintains a large stockpile of spill supplies including granular absorbent, spill pads, spill waddles, spill pillows, and other supplies which staff are trained to use properly. Spills reported outside of regular business hours are reported to the city contracted 24-hour spill response. Contracted spill response is used for off-hour spills and emergency large scale spill response. All spills that actively affect City MS4 are reported to the department of ecology within 24 hours of receiving reports. In 2026 the city will offer residents the ability to report spills via our online code compliance software.

4. Investigation

When a spill is reported, Public Works Surface Water (PWSW) staff will head out as soon as possible to investigate. PWSW staff once onsite determine the severity of the issue to create appropriate response. Staff will then identify the party responsible for the spill and will contact that party to resolve these issues. If a potential spill is reported, staff will talk to the property owner to provide technical assistance on how to avoid an active discharge.

5. Screening

The City of Mill Creek is required to complete field screening for Illicit Discharge for an average of 12% of the City MS4 each year. This screening is done through required inspection process for stormwater facilities, business inspections, and maintenance inspections of catch basins. As well as through the selected methodology of Outfall Screening based on the Ecology recommended manual. City personnel who commit these inspections are trained with the Ecology recommended manual.

Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites:

The City of Mill Creek maintains a construction inspection program in which constructions projects that meet requirements for specific permits will be inspected regularly throughout the project by qualified City staff. Permits like Clearing and Grading or Building Permits for projects needing Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control (TESC) Plans or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). These are then inspected prior to clearing and construction to ensure TESC designs or SWPPP Elements are met. Inspected throughout the project to ensure BMPs are installed properly and operable. All required sites are also inspected prior to the City final sign off. To ensure all stormwater facilities and structures are operable and have an identified maintenance plan with a responsible party signing off.

These inspections are made to maintain local water quality. Requirements of this inspection program include:

- The City of Mill Creek's permitting process includes site review, required inspections, and enforcement if a project violates city code in relation to stormwater. In 2026, the City will be going live with a new permitting software which should increase applicants' ability to provide information and the City ability to quickly review and provide feedback along with scheduling inspections.
- Local ordinances to ensure the requirement of proper BMP usage along with Illicit Discharge ordinances that address runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Site Projects allow for regulatory enforcement.
- Making available links to the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent form, NPDES Industrial Stormwater General Permit Notice of Intent form, and the online registration requirements for Underground Injection Control (UIC). In 2026 the city maintains this information on their stormwater page of the city website.
- Ensuring training for all staff whose primary job duties are implementing the program to Control Stormwater Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites, including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement. And follow-up training as changes in procedures, techniques, or staffing.

Stormwater Management for Existing Development:

The City of Mill Creek is required to implement a program to control or reduce stormwater discharges to waters of the State from areas of existing development. This program uses a combination of strategies, including strategic stormwater investments that were identified through our Stormwater Management Action Plan (SMAP). And doing opportunistic stormwater investments through projects outside of the SMAP identified Mill Creek basin to improve stormwater management and infrastructure. This program under the current Permit is required to use these projects to help the water quality of 3.4 acres of Surface Water by 2029. Below are some of the projects outlined by our SMAP and city identified opportunistic projects. In 2026, the City will begin fully funding projects to meet this requirement.

Source Control Program for Existing Development:

The Source Control Program is an inspection-based program focused on stopping point source pollution by working with existing development. This happens through inspections of their business or property for points of possible pollution on site. The business owners or property owners are given a report noting what could be done to better prevent pollution. This is a technical assistance-based program in which the city is working with business owners and property owners on their own accord to help prevent pollution and increase the health of water quality in the city.

- To comply with permit requirements the city has put in place our city ordinance **15.14.250** “*Requirements to prevent, control, and reduce stormwater pollutants by the use of BMPs*” with accepted BMPs being only ones from the SWMMWW.
- To identify publicly and privately owned institutional, commercial, and industrial sites which have the potential to generate pollutants to MS4. The City has created an “Existing Development Inventory” which shows all pollution generating existing development in Mill Creek ranked by pollution potential. This list is updated annually.
- The city has qualified personnel performing all inspections. Annually inspections associated with the permit required 20% of businesses from our inventory. This 20% changes annually based on most recent inspection status. City personnel inspection 100% of sites identified through credible complaints.
- If a business or property owner fails to implement adequate BMPs to prevent pollution identified through our Source Control Inspection Program. Compliance is then moved to our Illicit Discharge Program for progressive enforcement.
- The City trains all staff by conducting Source Control Inspections annually to address changes in procedure, techniques, or requirements. To ensure business owners and property owners are getting the most up to date information and processes.

Operation and Maintenance:

The City of Mill Creek Stormwater Permit requires that maintenance standards are implemented through adoption of the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington by the City. The City of Mill Creek operates the maintenance programs and activities that meet the minimum performance measures described in the permit, which include:

- Inspection and Maintenance of stormwater facilities regulated by the permittee
- Inspection and Maintenance of stormwater facilities owned by the permittee
- Implement practices, policies, and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands owned and maintained by the permittee
- Inspection and Maintenance of catch basins in accordance with the permit required intervals
- Implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards owned or operated by the Permittee
- Implement an ongoing training program for employees of the permittee whose primary construction, operations, or maintenance job functions may impact stormwater quality. Follow-up training is provided as needed.

Inspections

The City of Mill Creek has several operations and maintenance related inspections to monitor the condition of stormwater infrastructure. These inspections allow the City to make maintenance plans for City owned infrastructure. They also allow the City to provide notice on what maintenance is needed for privately owned infrastructure to ensure the stormwater system functions properly.

Public Stormwater Facilities Inspections

- The City of Mill Creek annually inspects 100% of City owned stormwater facilities to ensure they are functioning properly. If an issue is found, maintenance is scheduled to bring the facility back into maintenance standard outlined in the adopted SWMMWW.
- The City of Mill Creek owns 38 stormwater facilities throughout the City.

Public Catch Basin Inspections

- The City of Mill Creek inspects 95% of all catch basins owned or operated by the City every two years. These inspections help to determine the catch basin maintenance program to ensure that city catch basins are functioning properly.

- The city has 4,752 owned or operated catch basins.

Post-Storm Inspections

- The City of Mill Creek conducts spot checks throughout the city after major storm events (a storm event with a 10-year or greater recurrence interval within a 24-hour period). These spot-checks investigate city streets for debris and localized flooding. They also check different stormwater facilities throughout the city to ensure proper operation.

When an inspection identifies an exceedance of the maintenance standard, it will be returned to standards within the following timelines:

- Within 1 year for typical maintenance of facilities, except catch basins.
- Within 6 months for catch basins.
- Within 2 years for maintenance that requires capital construction of less than \$25,000.

Maintenance to Reduce Stormwater Impacts

The City of Mill Creek implements practices, policies, and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all land owned or maintained by the City. The activities include the following:

- Culvert cleaning
- Ditch maintenance
- Street sweeping
- Pipe cleaning
- Road repair
- Beaver dam maintenance
- Utility locates
- Pavement striping
- Roadside maintenance
- Vegetation management
- Stown and ice control
- Litter control
- Encampment clean-ups

2026 Surface Water Utility Projected Permit Compliance Budget

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Permit Section	Budget Description	Budget Amount	Total for Permit Section
Stormwater Planning	SW Master Action Plan	\$ 220,000	\$ 230,000
	Conferences, Dues, Training	\$ 10,000	
Public Education and Outreach	Supplies - Public Outreach Ed	\$ 12,000	\$ 23,400
	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000	
	MarCom Salary Budget	\$ 6,400	
Public Involvement and Participation	Operating Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
MS4 Mapping and Documentation	Software Licenses	\$ 500	\$ 32,500
	GIS & Asset Management Program	\$ 32,000	
Illicit Discharge Dection and Elimination	Emergency Spill Repsonse	\$ 82,000	\$ 83,000
	Disposal Testing Service	\$ 1,000	
Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and	Disposal Testing Service	\$ 500	\$ 30,500
	Professional Services - Misc.	\$ 30,000	
Stormwater Management for Existing Development	SW Master Action Plan	\$ 220,000	\$ 5,020,000
	SW Pipe Rehab Plan Update	\$ 600,000	
	Sweetwater Ranch Storm Main Replacement	\$ 1,200,000	
	Citywide Catch Basin Repair	\$ 3,000,000	
Source Control for Existing Development	Operating Supplies	\$ 6,500	\$ 21,000
	Labor for Inspections and Technical Assistance	\$ 14,500	
Operations and Maintenance	Catch Basin & Pond Maintenance	\$ 15,000	\$ 906,500
	Ditch & Swale Cleaning Service	\$ 10,000	
	Catch Basin & Public Facility Inspections	\$ 250,000	
	Catch Basin and Pipe Cleaning	\$ 200,000	
	Repair and Maintenance - Sweeper	\$ 20,000	
	Equipment Replacement Funding	\$ 47,500	
	Labor for Surface Water Utility Related Operations and Maintenance	\$ 331,000	
	Gasoline Fuel	\$ 6,000	
	Small Tools & Equipment	\$ 2,000	
	Rental - Tools & Equipment	\$ 25,000	