



Wastewater Management

Stormwater Management Plan Update Report on Fall 2007 Open Houses

The Wastewater Management's Stormwater team along with the Water Department and Environmental Programs, held two open houses inviting the public to learn about and comment on the updates to the Stormwater Management Plan, the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual and the Water Use Efficiency Plan.

The open houses were held at two different locations. On the 27th this open house was held at the South Hill Public Library, 3324 S. Perry and on the 28th this open house was held at the Shadle Public Library, 2111 W. Wellesley. Both open houses were held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Both meetings were advertised via a media release.

The rooms were set up in stations. The first station was to educate the public and receive comments about proposed updates to the City's 2004 Stormwater Management Plan relating to the Eastern Washington Phase II Stormwater Permit. To comply with the permit Wastewater Management must update our Stormwater Management Plan and we needed to receive public input about this. The public was also provided with information about the Spokane Regional Stormwater Manual which is equivalent to the Eastern Washington Stormwater Management Manual.

The second station was the Water Use Efficiency Plan. The Water Department and Environmental Programs sought to educate individuals about the adoption of the plan and receive public feedback.

GeoEngineers public involvement staff assisted with questionnaire development and facilitated both events.

Meeting Questionnaire Responses

For both open houses, we had a total attendance of 15 citizens who 5 returned meeting questionnaires and 5 mailed in the questionnaires. The questionnaires provided the Stormwater team with further clarity on citizens' concerns, issues and opinions on Stormwater management. Citizens were asked...

1. If they were aware of how stormwater was managed at their homes and/or business.
 - a. 100% responded **yes**
2. If they were willing to individually manage their property and materials to prevent pollution.
 - a. 100% responded **yes**
3. If they knew the purpose of bioinfiltration swales in front of their homes.
 - a. 90% responded **yes** and 10% responded **somewhat**
4. If they knew that swales need to have appropriate soil and living turf that can hold the first half inch of rain.
 - a. 60% responded **yes**, 20% responded **no** and 20% responded **somewhat**
5. If they maintain stormwater bioinfiltration swales in front of their homes.
 - a. 60% responded **not applicable**, 20% responded **yes** and 20% responded **no**
6. If they prefer neighborhood infiltration facilities as an alternative to individual swales.
 - a. 50% responded **unsure**, 40% responded **yes**, and 10% responded **no**

Written comments were received on other Stormwater issues. The Stormwater team will review, evaluate and address all comments received as we finalize the Plan updates. We had a small turnout of public attendance and we seek a broader input in 2008.