

BACKGROUND

In July 1984, the Gig Harbor City Council adopted Ordinance No. 448 establishing the storm drainage utility and authorizing the City to create a storm drainage utility fee. Prior to Ordinance No. 448, storm drainage was managed through the operation and maintenance of roads. The storm drainage utility addresses the City's concerns regarding flooding, channel erosion, water quality, and stream and wetland preservation. Since 1984, the City has increased their stormwater service charge to meet the increasing cost of providing services and maintenance related to the storm drainage system. The current monthly stormwater utility rate is \$11.12 per Equivalent Billing Unit (EBU).

In June 1998, Gray and Osborne, Inc. completed the Gig Harbor Stormwater Comprehensive Plan and also updated the Plan in March 2001.

In 1999, the Puget Sound Chinook was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Stream preservation was included in Ordinance No. 448 which allows the City to use these funds for projects that protect and preserve stream habitat. Stream habitat improvement projects will benefit not only the Chinook salmon, but other wildlife and fish species that use the habitat. Improvement projects are discussed in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) chapter of this Plan.

In March 2003, the City submitted their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Permit Application. As an NPDES Phase II Permittee, the City is required to satisfy the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit requirements which include developing a stormwater management program. In 2006, the City completed a study to evaluate the City's current stormwater program and develop recommendations to comply with the NPDES permit requirements. The study provided costs, schedule and recommended modifications to the stormwater program to satisfy the permit requirements. Current City actions to address the various permit components and additional recommendations are outlined in the Stormwater Regulations chapter of this Plan. In March 2008, the City submitted their Annual Status Report for the year 2007 to Ecology as required by the permit.

In June 2008, PACE Engineering, Inc. was contracted to update the 2001 Stormwater Comprehensive Plan. Following are the chapters of this Plan:

- Stormwater Regulations
- Service Area

- Existing Stormwater Drainage System
- System Model
- Water Quality
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Finance
- Operations and Maintenance

The City and PACE have worked together in the development of this Plan. City staff has provided their knowledge and experience, background information, reports, maps, project construction drawings, and other data to PACE for the purpose of updating this Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the City of Gig Harbor Stormwater Comprehensive Plan is to provide the City with a planning document that satisfies local, state, and federal stormwater regulatory requirements. The Plan will evaluate the existing stormwater system and program, provide recommendations to improve the storm system capacity and water quality, preserve stream and wetland habitat, and satisfy some/many of the NPDES Phase II permit requirements. This Plan will serve as the basis for developing the stormwater management program as required by the NPDES Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. It also includes the cost estimates and schedule for the CIP projects.

GOALS

The following goals from the City's 2004 Comprehensive Plan, related to the stormwater program are addressed in this Stormwater Comprehensive Plan:

- Protect and enhance surface water quality and manage flows to preserve environmental resources
- Conserve natural resources and activities
- Plan for and provide adequate storm drainage facilities to manage and control stormwater runoff

The objectives of these goals are discussed in the Stormwater Regulations chapter of this Plan.

PLANNING PERIOD

The Stormwater Comprehensive Plan has a twenty-year horizon, from 2009 through 2029. It is recommended that the Plan be a working document that can be referenced

and updated as needed. It is anticipated that the City will update the plan at least once every six years and maintain records that provide details of the implementation of the Plan elements. The annual NPDES reports will provide a good summary of the progress achieved in completing the various tasks and the information needed to update the Plan in the future.