



Focus on **Grants Offered for Low Impact Development for Stormwater Management**

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

A Pilot Grant Program to Support Low Impact Development Stormwater Management in Puget Sound

The department of Ecology's Water Quality Program is pleased to announce that \$2,500,000 in grants have been offered to ten local governments. The money comes from the FY 2007 Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Grants Program. The 2006 Legislature authorized and appropriated these funds through its Supplemental Budget for the state and is an integral part of the Governor's Puget Sound Initiative.

The purpose of this pilot program is to provide grants to local governments in the Puget Sound Basin to help them meet critical stormwater management needs to protect and restore water quality. The grants will fund innovative, low impact development (LID) stormwater management projects.

Substantial interest in program throughout Puget Sound

A total of 28 local governments in the Puget Sound Basin submitted grant requests totaling \$10.2 million for various types of LID techniques.

Program goals and evaluation of proposals

The grant program encourages all new development to minimize changes to the natural hydrology and provide protection of water quality. Ecology gave priority based on the degree to which an applicant proposes to use LID to provide natural hydrology. Goals for retrofit projects are to provide significant improvement to site hydrology and water quality. Project proposals were ranked according to the following criteria:

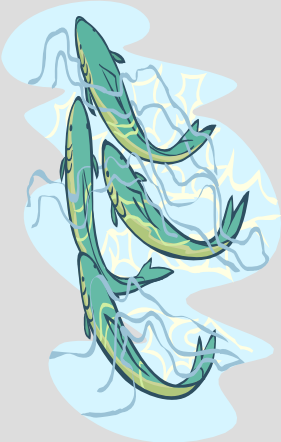
- Water quality protection, restoration, and other positive impacts
- Overall quality of project proposed and likelihood of success
- Usefulness of project outcomes for other environmental efforts
- Readiness to proceed

Applicant responsibilities

Applicants offered funds have until November 30, 2006, to provide a Notice of Intent to negotiate and sign an agreement with Ecology (an example is available at the Web page link below). These applicants must sign a grant agreement as soon as possible, but no later than March 30, 2007.



Examples of innovative, LID projects include permeable pavement; bioretention swales, slopes, or cells; rain gardens; vegetated roofs; and reverse-slope-sidewalk rainwater harvest projects. All projects are aimed at water quality protection and improvement of habitat such as that of the endangered species.



Examples of projects offered grant funds include the following:

Snohomish County will use a variety of LID improvements at Snohomish County's Evergreen State Fairground site in Monroe. The county will implement the following LID practices: porous pavement educational display, rain gardens along parking lot/ride areas and FFA display area, bioretention planter box at 4H/FFA Building and Sheep Barn, multiple LID improvements in Longhouse and Courtyard Stage areas. These improvements aim to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality by retrofitting an older site that was developed with large amounts of impervious surface. These improvements are to provide an excellent opportunity for public education.

The city of Poulsbo will improve motorized and pedestrian safety on a 1,900 foot segment of Caldart Avenue. LID elements consist of 2,200 feet of porous concrete sidewalks, 800 feet of bioretention swales, a traffic island bioretention cell, an on-site educational panel, and monitoring.

The city of Port Angeles, in partnership with the North Olympic Building Association, proposed to design and install an LID streetscape for a new 18-lot development. The LID elements will provide enhanced bioretention of stormwater runoff and function together with the other LID practices implemented on the individual lots. The project will demonstrate to local builders, developers, engineers, and students on how new residential development can minimize changes to natural hydrology, retain and infiltrate water on site, provide water quality protection, and be aesthetically attractive.

Program information

The program guidelines, the application, and the evaluation criteria for the program were available on July 14, 2006, at the Web site noted above. Ecology held two application workshops in mid July and applicants were given until September 15, 2006 to submit applications.

Ecology's LID Web page is:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/NewLowImpactProgram.htm>

Circulating information about project outcomes is of utmost importance to the program. Project results will be made available in low impact development newsletters and at conferences, site tours, and local forums. The information will be posted on local Web pages such as Ecology's Water Quality Stories pages. The results will also be published in EPA's *WaterTalk* and Puget Sound Action Team's newsletter *Sound Waves*.

For further information on this financial assistance program contact:

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