



Stormwater Special District

Watersheds Review

H
A
N
D
O
U
T

N₁

What are Stormwater Special Districts?

Stormwater Special Districts include the Lake Whatcom, Lake Samish, Drayton Harbor, and Birch Bay watersheds. The purpose of the Special District is to protect water quality in these regulated watersheds by managing the quantity and quality of stormwater that may be introduced to the watershed system.

How do I know if my parcel is located in a Stormwater Special District?

Bring your 12-digit tax identification number (parcel number) to the Planning and Development Services permit counter and a Watersheds Planner will help you find out.

What if my parcel is in a Stormwater Special District?

1. All new single-family residences and duplexes on parcels smaller than 5 acres that are located in a Stormwater Special District are required to provide permanent on-site stormwater facilities. Remodeling projects may also be subject to these standards.
2. On parcels between 2 and 4.99 acres, 65% or more of existing qualifying vegetation shall be preserved. In addition, a **Protected Native Growth Area Covenant** shall be completed and filed with the Whatcom County Auditor's office.

3. An Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan is required to prevent soils and sediment-laden runoff from leaving the site during construction. ESCs shall be installed prior to land clearing activities, unless land clearing is necessary for installation of the ESCs. **An inspection of installed ESCs is required at the start of the project.** After construction, the site is re-vegetated or permanent ESC measures are required.

Why are ESC measures important?

ESC measures are important because eroded soils can be deposited in ditches, streams, or lakes making it less habitable for wildlife. If not properly managed, runoff can cause erosion or flooding of downstream systems and export pollutants to lakes and rivers.

Fees

Please refer to the current Whatcom County Unified Fee Schedule.

Information

Due to the administrative complexity of these regulations, it is usually best to visit with a Watersheds Planner to have any additional questions answered.

Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, Washington 98226 USA
E-mail: pds@co.whatcom.wa.us

Staff Contact: Watersheds Planner
Phone: (360) 676-6907

THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT HANDOUT SERIES