

STORMWATER PROGRAM

The Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) District was established in 2007 to manage storm-water in the Birch Bay Watershed and to address citizen concerns about water quality problems, flooding, and loss of aquatic habitat.

The BBWARM stormwater program includes:

◆ CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Constructing projects that improve drainage and remove pollution from runoff.

◆ MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Keeping public stormwater drainage systems in proper working condition.

◆ WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Collecting water samples throughout the watershed to better understand water quality trends and possible sources of pollution.

◆ EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Increasing public knowledge about stormwater problems and helping watershed residents adopt simple actions to improve and protect water quality and aquatic habitat.



MISSION

BBWARM promotes actions that reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff in the Birch Bay Watershed by decreasing threats to private and public property from flooding, and improving and protecting water quality, aquatic habitat, and the quality of life that a healthy watershed provides.

GOALS

- ◆ Improve and protect water quality.
- ◆ Increase citizen participation in watershed stewardship.
- ◆ Reduce impacts from stormwater flooding.
- ◆ Use public funds effectively to achieve desired outcomes.
- ◆ Provide open communication about program actions.
- ◆ Improve stormwater retention time and capacity in the watershed.

BBWARM

Birch Bay Watershed & Aquatic Resources Management District



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WHAT IS STORMWATER?

Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground to the nearest ditch or stream. In the Birch Bay Watershed, stormwater eventually flows into Birch Bay. Stormwater does not go to the waste water treatment plant.

STORMWATER PROBLEMS

Surface water runoff is a normal part of the water cycle. Stormwater becomes a problem when it picks up pollutants traveling over surfaces like roads, parking lots, and yards. Impervious surfaces that don't allow the water to soak into the ground cause stormwater to runoff more quickly increasing erosion and flooding in developed areas.

SOURCES OF STORMWATER POLLUTION

- ◆ Oil and metals from roads & parking lots
- ◆ Fertilizer and other yard care chemicals
- ◆ Animal waste (domestic & wildlife)
- ◆ Soap and dirt from car washing
- ◆ Leaking septic systems
- ◆ Disturbed soil exposed to rain

Dirty stormwater entering catch basins flows directly into streams and Birch Bay .



STORMWATER SOLUTIONS

There are many simple things you can do to help prevent stormwater problems and protect Terrell Creek and Birch Bay.

- ✓ Check your car for leaks and have them fixed right away.
- ✓ Scoop up pet waste and put it in the trash.
- ✓ Take your car to a commercial car wash.
- ✓ Regularly inspect and maintain your septic system.
- ✓ Minimize the use of chemicals in your yard.
- ✓ Cover exposed soil during construction or landscaping projects to prevent erosion.
- ✓ Keep grass clippings and trash out of ditches and water ways.
- ✓ Plant trees, shrubs, and native plants in your yard.



Buried pipes have replaced natural stream channels taking stormwater to Birch Bay.

GET INVOLVED

- ✓ Report stormwater problems to the Birch Bay Stormwater 1-call Hotline **360.715.7460**.
- ✓ Attend a BBWARM Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. Check our website (below) for the latest schedule and agenda.
- ✓ Know your watershed! Go out during a storm and watch where the stormwater flows.



Bluff erosion is accelerated from poorly managed stormwater.

LEARN MORE

BBWARM

www.bbwarm.whatcomcounty.org

WHATCOM COUNTY

MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

www.mrc.whatcomcounty.org

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

www.pugetsoundstartshere.org

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

www.ecy.wa.gov/Washington_waters