

# 2016 Stormwater Code Update

## Seattle Public Utilities & Neighborhoods Committee

Friday, September 11, 2015  
Seattle City Hall Council Chamber



Seattle  
 Public  
Utilities

Presented by:  
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# Overview

- Background
- Code Major Changes
- Next Steps





# Background

- Why do we have a Stormwater Code?
  - Protect life, property, surface waters from harm
  - Required under the federal Clean Water Act / Stormwater Discharge Permit



# Background

- Who is affected by the code?
  - Private development and city projects
  - Businesses
  - Residents





# Background

- What is in our current rules?
  - Pollution source control for business practices
  - Construction site pollution prevention
  - Green stormwater infrastructure, flow control & water quality treatment for development projects



# Background

- Who administers?
  - DPD (private property development)
  - SPU (right-of-way development & other provisions)
  - SDOT (construction erosion control enforcement for right-of-way permits)



# Background

- Why are we changing now?
  - Achieve equivalency with Ecology regulations & Stormwater Permit
  - Revisit thresholds
  - Use revision process to:
    - Address shortcomings
    - Streamline requirements
    - Simplify text

# Timeline

- ✓ • **Spring 2013:** Outreach to Frequent Users
- ✓ • **Summer 2013:** Initial Outreach
- ✓ • **Fall 2013 / Winter 2014:** Public Outreach
- ✓ • **Spring 2014:** Initial drafts available for public comment
- • **Summer 2015:** Legislative process and formal public review for 2016 Stormwater Code Update
- **Fall 2015:** Directors' Rule process and formal public review for 2016 Stormwater Manual Update
- **January 2016:** Code and related Stormwater Manual (Directors' Rule) are scheduled to take effect



# Two Actions

- **CB 118465** - related to vesting, technical, and threshold changes in the City's Stormwater Code
- **CB 118466** – related to Stormwater Code applicability changes in the City's Land Use, Building, and Residential Codes

# Major Code Revisions

- Overview of changes:
  - Exemptions
  - Vested Rights
  - Definitions
  - Prohibited and Permissible Discharges
  - Minimum Requirements for All Discharges and All Real Property
  - Minimum Requirements for Projects
  - On-site Stormwater Requirements

# Major Code Revisions

## ■ Exemptions

- Utility projects (e.g. gas line installations) not subject to On-site Stormwater Management
- Revise “Road maintenance practices” to “Pavement maintenance practices”



# Major Code Revisions

- Transition to 2016 Stormwater Code
  - Projects with permit applications prior to January 1, 2016 must start construction before June 30, 2020, otherwise permit expires and new code provisions apply
  - Affects vesting of building and master use permits (including short plats)



# Major Code Revisions

- Grading, Building, and Land Use Code Changes (CB 118466)
  - Add references to Stormwater Code applicability
  - Changes in:
    - Grading Code
    - Land Use Code
    - Seattle Building Code
    - Seattle Residential Code

# Major Code Revisions

- Definitions:
  - Delete a few (e.g. ~~joint project~~)
  - Revise several (e.g. *pollution-generating pervious surface*)
  - Add several (e.g. hard surface, on-site BMPs)

# Major Code Revisions

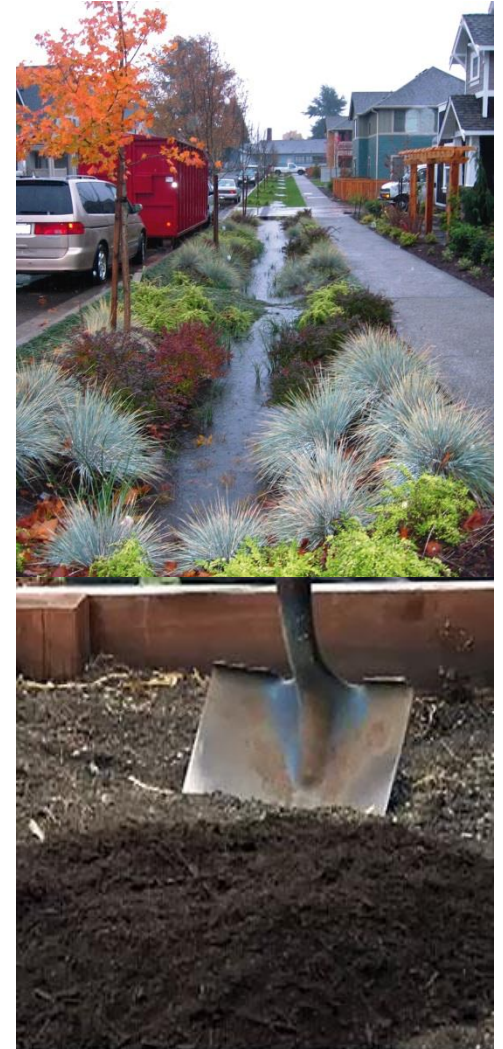
- Prohibited and Permissible Discharges
  - Discharges to public combined sewer shall meet Side Sewer Code
  - Revise Permissible Discharges – includes modifications and conditions
  - Dye testing - notice to SPU prior to test





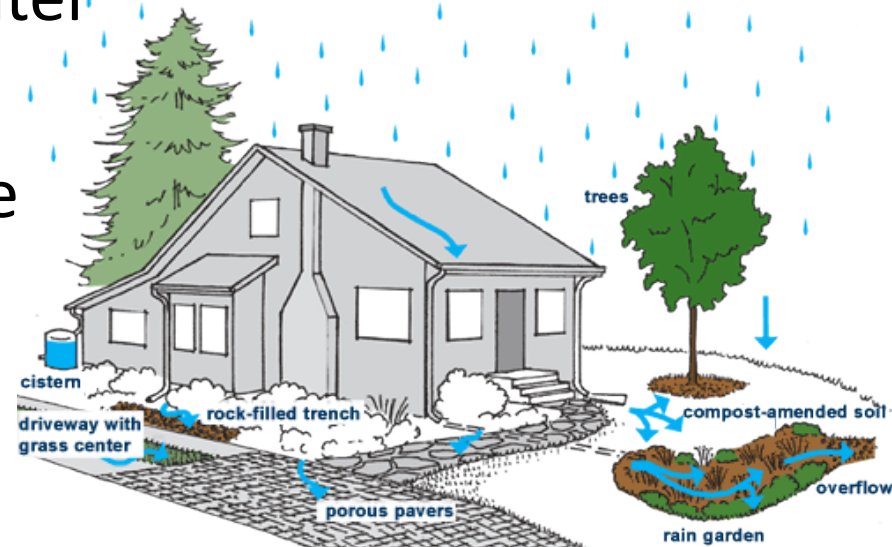
# Major Code Revisions

- Minimum Requirements for All Projects
  - Green Stormwater Infrastructure is now “On-site Stormwater Management” (On-site)
  - On-site Stormwater Management thresholds are based upon Project Type (e.g. Parcel-based, Roadway)
  - Amend soil based upon Project Type
  - Add requirement to protect stormwater facilities during construction



# Major Code Revisions

- Minimum Requirements for Single-family Residential Projects (SFR)
  - Change new and replaced hard surface threshold for On-site to 1,500 sf for projects platted before January 1, 2016 (formerly required for all SFR projects)
  - Change threshold for On-site to 750 sf for projects platted January 1, 2016 or later
  - 1,500 sf credit for SFR projects no longer applicable



# Major Code Revisions

- Minimum Requirements for Parcel-based Projects
  - Change new and replaced hard surface threshold for On-site to 1,500 sf for projects platted before January 1, 2016 (formerly 2,000 sf for parcel-based projects)
  - Change threshold for On-site to 750 sf for projects platted January 1, 2016 or later
  - Flow control requirement for projects permanently discharging groundwater

# Major Code Revisions

- Minimum Requirements for Roadway Projects
  - Flow control requirement for projects permanently discharging groundwater
  - Add infeasibility criteria for roadway projects pertaining to:
    - Existing infrastructure & utility limitations
    - Hydraulic limitations



# Major Code Revisions

- Minimum Requirement Standards:  
On-site Stormwater Management
  - Choose either:
    1. On-Site List (by project type), or
    2. On-Site Performance Standard



# Council Next Steps

- ✓ 2016 Stormwater Code Update to SPUN Committee – *September 2015*
- 2016 Stormwater Code Update to full Council – *September 2015*

# Stay Connected

- Join the Stormwater Code Listserv
- Visit the Stormwater Code Update Website

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codesrules/changestocode/stormwatercode/getinvolved/default.htm>

# Questions?





### On-site List for Parcel-based Projects

Category	BMPs	Projects Discharging to a Receiving Water Not Designated by Section 22.801.050, Public Combined Sewer, or Capacity Constrained System, or its Basin	Projects Discharging to a Designated Receiving Water or its Basin
1	Full Dispersion	R, S	R, S
	Infiltration Trenches	R, S	R, S
	Dry Wells	R, S	R, S
2	Rain Gardens	R <sup>a</sup> , S <sup>a</sup>	R <sup>a</sup> , S <sup>a</sup>
	Infiltrating Bioretention	R, S	R, S
	Rainwater Harvesting	R <sup>b</sup>	X
	Permeable Pavement Facilities	R, S	R, S
	Permeable Pavement Surfaces	S	S
3	Sheet Flow Dispersion	R, S	R, S
	Concentrated Flow Dispersion	S	S
	Splashblock Downspout Dispersion	R	R
	Trench Downspout Dispersion	R	R
	Non-infiltrating Bioretention	R, S	R, S
	Vegetated Roofs	R <sup>c</sup>	X
4	Perforated Stub-out Connections	R	R
	Newly Planted Trees	S	S

R = Evaluation is required for all roof runoff from parcel-based projects.

S = Evaluation is required for all surfaces of parcel-based projects, unless otherwise noted below.

X = Evaluation is not required but is allowed.

# Major Code Revisions

- On-site Stormwater Management
  - On-Site Performance Standard:
    - Sized for small storm events (less than 2-year storm)
    - Meet pasture condition if the existing impervious surface is greater than or equal to 35%
    - Meet forested condition for all other projects.