



Yelm Stormwater FAQs

What Is Stormwater?

Stormwater is the water discharge that runs off of impervious surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. Stormwater discharge can also come from hard, grassy surfaces including lawns, play-fields, and graveled roads.

Why is stormwater a problem?

Stormwater is a problem because it is often polluted and, if left untreated, can impact health by contaminating aquifers—which contain drinking water, and fish habitats. Untreated stormwater contains toxic metals, organic compounds; and bacterial and viral pathogens. Virtually all of our creeks, streams, and rivers are harmed by stormwater runoff. Stormwater is the leading contributor to pollution of waterways

Why do I have to pay a fee?

Everyone in Thurston County, **whether they are within city limits or not**, pays a stormwater fee. **For the average county resident, the fee is approximately \$6.75 per month, or \$81 per year.** County residents see the fee included in their property tax bill, while City of Yelm residents are billed directly. **The programs, services, and rates of the city's storm water utility apply to all properties in Yelm city limits**, except those without impervious surfaces.

What happens if I don't pay?

Non-payment of stormwater fees will result in a property lien

Stormwater management involves more than placing a drain in a nearby street

A variety of methods are used to treat stormwater before it infiltrates the aquifer. Fenced, grassy depressions built and placed throughout the city serve as water cleaning facilities.

Drywells and bioswales capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff: drywells are perforated pipes dug into the ground; bioswales are shallow, grass-lined ditches.

For more information about stormwater, visit www.ci.yelm.wa.us or call 360-458-8414

A clean watershed benefits everyone.

It is mandated that all citizens participate and be responsible for stormwater programs

As a ratepayer, you help safeguard groundwater and aquifers that supply our drinking water and help protect local rivers and streams

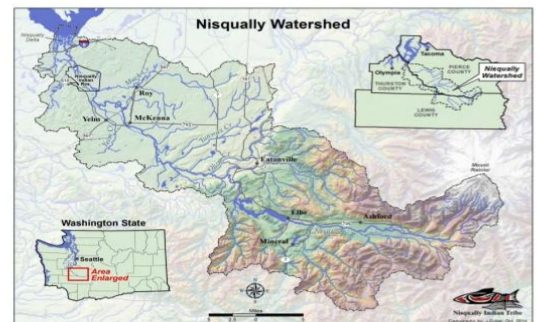


Figure 3. The Nisqually River runs 78 miles from the summit of Mount Rainier to the shores of Puget Sound. It is the traditional home of the Nisqually Indian Tribe, along with