

Stormwater Parks

Marine Resources Committee Conference
November 8, 2025



Central Puget Sound Region



- 4.5 million people
- 4 counties: King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap
- 82 cities and towns
- Urban and rural
- 6,300 square miles
- 1,000 square miles in urban growth areas



Stormwater Parks

Stormwater parks can have multiple benefits:

- Provide recreation
- Treat, store, and infiltrate stormwater from hundreds of acres
- Address equity when built areas underserved by parks
- Support Tribal treaty rights
- Add natural features and wildlife habitat to an already built park
- Be funded by multiple sources



City of Arlington

Stormwater Wetland Park

- Constructed wetlands providing stormwater treatment and flow/flood control
- Recreation: Trails, water access, wildlife viewing, dog park
- Facility size: 21-acre park with a 9-acre wetland
- Drainage basin area: 280 acres (Old Town Arlington)



Kitsap County



Manchester Stormwater Park

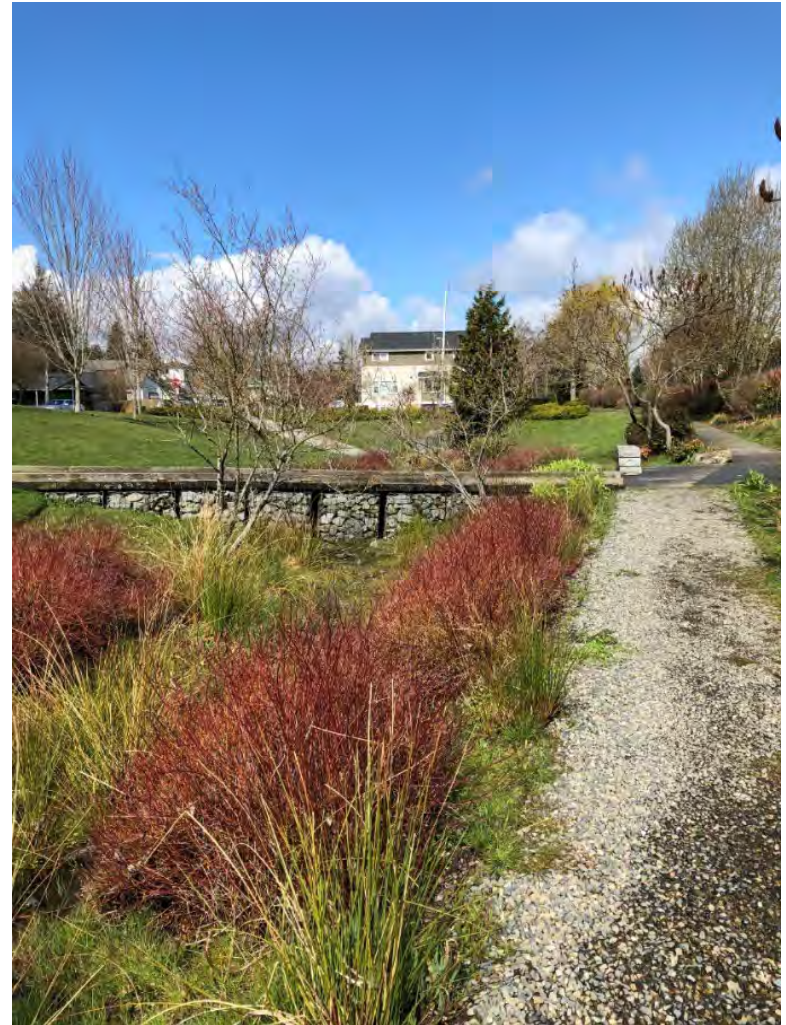
- Small park with natural and engineered stormwater infrastructure that provides treatment and flood control
- Recreation: community gathering space/lawn, walking paths
- Facility size: 0.5 acres
- Drainage basin area: 100 acres



City of Seattle

Madison Valley Stormwater Improvements

- Two park sites that provide flow/flood control, part of combined sewer system
- Recreation: trails, gathering spaces, play areas
- Facility size: 0.84 acre



City of Tacoma/Metro Parks Tacoma

Point Defiance Stormwater Treatment Facility

- Provides stormwater treatment and visual interest in a park
- Recreation: Walking paths
- Facility size: 5,500 SF
- Drainage basin area: 754 acres



Lessons Learned

- Can achieve **multiple benefits** when well sited and designed
- Find opportunities through working with **other departments** and **partners**
- Early **public engagement** leads to greater acceptance
- Having a **project champion** and **political support** is needed
- Consider **maintenance needs** in project design
- Factor **climate change** impacts into design
- **Vary greatly** in size, function, and cost; **many opportunities** to develop stormwater parks throughout the state



Planning stormwater parks:

www.psrc.org/our-work/stormwater-parks

Other Puget Sound recovery resources:

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/puget-sound-recovery>

Erika Harris, AICP

Puget Sound Regional Council

eharris@psrc.org

