



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, PE, Environmental Services Director
COPY: Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee; James Parvey PE, LEED AP, Environmental Services Division Manager; Rebecca Boydston
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SUBJECT: Nature's Scorecard
DATE: March 28, 2018

PRESENTATION TYPE:
Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

On March 28, 2018 Puget Soundkeeper ("Soundkeeper") and Washington Environmental Council ("WEC") will present an award to the City of Tacoma to be accepted by the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee. The City of Tacoma is receiving a "Green Star Leader" award for low-impact development code integration and leadership pursuant to the NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit. This award is presented as part of a project created jointly by the organizations titled "Nature's Scorecard."

BACKGROUND:

The 2012 NPDES Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit was issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology as a requirement under the Clean Water Act. As required by the permit, each city and county permittee must review and revise development codes and related documents in order to make low-impact development the "preferred and common" approach to development. Soundkeeper and WEC tracked progress for the 81 municipal permittees in the Puget Sound region. The culmination of this tracking is "Nature's Scorecard," a digest synthesizing a wealth of data using accessible language and simple visuals meant for the general public as well as public officials and staff.

In the end, we found eight cities and counties that went above and beyond the permit requirement by doing such things as extensive public outreach, thorough code review, and comprehensive LID integration. Soundkeeper and WEC are pleased to present Tacoma with a "Green Star Leader" award for prioritizing low-impact development and planning for a healthy and sustainable future for your city.

ISSUE:

Stormwater is a major threat to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Paved surfaces and hard rooftops prevent rain from soaking naturally into the soil, instead allowing it to flood through streets and carry pollution directly to our waterways. Low impact development mimics natural infiltration and allows rainwater to soak into the ground reinvigorating aquifers, preventing flooding and making sure that harmful and toxic pollutants do not get into the surrounding waterbodies.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:



This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.