City of Edgewood – Summary of Public Education and Outreach Resources

Low Impact Development – Rain Garden Handbook:
In 2012 the City purchased several hard copies of the Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington for distribution to Edgewood residents who come to the City to undertake small development projects. The City provides this resource to residents seeking alternatives to conventional stormwater systems and provides the resource for no charge.

Educational Programs:
The City has sponsored community workshops in the past and anticipates additional workshops in the future providing hands on opportunities for residents to discuss and review stormwater related topics including; low impact development (LID), rain gardens, fish friendly activities and conservation programs. These are commonly supported by the Co-op Extension programs, Pierce County Conservation District or other local and regional conservancy programs.

Stormwater-related Code, Regulation, and Development Review and Programs:
The City of Edgewood provides public notice for all plans and codes that are being reviewed or updated, in particular those related to our adopted stormwater codes, plans and capital programs. The City’s Planning Commission reviews formal proposals and provides both formal and informal public review opportunities. Recommendations of the Planning Commission are forwarded to the City Council for final review, additional public consideration, and action. Most formal code amendments or changes related to the City’s surface water programs, stormwater codes and compliance with our Phase II Municipal Permit follow this process for public review. Larger programs and projects, such as the updated Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan adopted this year, typically include more in-depth public involvement process, such as workshops and surveys.

Other Educational Opportunities:
City staff continually offers information and general stormwater education at the front counter, regarding Best Management Practices (BMPs), Stormwater Pollution Prevention (SWPPP), and the necessity of stormwater management in general for various audiences: Edgewood citizens, landowners, development professionals, and the general public. The goal has been to build awareness of stormwater management and impacts on downstream properties and surface waters, by encouraging consideration of how stormwater runoff is affected by development activity and adoption of lower-impact practices and behaviors.

The result is continued interest in stormwater management in the City of Edgewood. Staff has seen an increase in the application of LID strategies and practices in recent years. Through these outreach strategies, the City is reaching the appropriate target audiences and realizing practical behavior change.