

February 2, 2012

Mr. Ted Sturdevant
Ecology Director
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Mr. Kelly Susewind
Water Quality Program Manager
Department of Ecology
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Dear Mr. Sturdevant and Mr. Suswind,

We are requesting that the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) include stronger Stormwater and Low Impact Development (LID) standards in its new Municipal Stormwater Requirements and that it strengthen the Permits with expanded requirements to abate and monitor discharges into freshwater lakes and streams.

The Lake Burien Neighborhood is located in the City of Burien and surrounds Lake Burien which is one of the cleaner lakes in the I-5 and a critical resting and feeding area for migratory birds. The Lake Burien watershed encompasses 250 acres and the lake itself has a surface area of 44 acres. Lake Burien is designated as a critical area. It is primarily fed by stormwater and the lake's outflow is through Lake Burien Creek and into Miller Creek which is Salmon-bearing.

A portion of our neighborhood is located in a critical area that contains both wetlands and aquifer recharge lands, so we are extremely aware of the need for controlling storm and surface water runoff and we are aware of deficiencies in the City's stormwater and drainage plans. The city has a poor storm and surface water management plan which has not been updated since the mid-1990s. There are 11 stormwater outfalls that directly enter Lake Burien—a number of them with inoperative or missing oil separators. Under heavy rains, the lake is overrun by an inadequate Stormwater system. The city also has outfalls that dump large volumes of water directly into Miller Creek. The city has documented LID requirements, but they are only voluntary and not enforced. This past year, Lake Burien suffered a long-term, seven-month algae bloom—the first of its kind.

Over the years, the Lake Burien Neighborhood has done its part to protect the lake environment. We have a trained and dedicated lake steward; the community promotes the use of low/no lawn fertilizers; tracking and monitoring of water quality is done with support from King County. We participate in the yearly Cornell bird count; have stenciled most of the storm drains within the watershed; have proactively participated in the city's draft Shoreline Master Program; for over a year we have been unsuccessful in collaborating with the local sewer district to place stormwater educational inserts in their billing statements; and unsuccessfully worked with the City of Burien to decrease the amount of impervious surfaces especially for those lands located within the documented critical areas recognized by the city.

While our community involvement has contributed to the environmental protection of our neighborhood, we are subjected to the effects of the City's lax Stormwater Master Plan that fails to regulate and reduce upland stormwater runoff and its toxic brew of hydrocarbons, heavy metals, paints, soaps, phosphates, dog poop, fertilizers and pesticides. When implemented, the improved DOE stormwater and LID requirements will force the City of Burien to take a more responsible, proactive approach in developing a robust Stormwater Master Plan that better protects the city's residents, open spaces, freshwater lakes, creeks and streams, and, ultimately, the waters of Puget Sound.

Therefore, the Lake Burien Neighborhood is requesting that the DOE include stronger Stormwater and Low Impact Development (LID) standards into its new Municipal Stormwater Requirements to abate and monitor discharges into freshwater lakes and streams.

Sincerely,


Chestine Edgar
Lake Burien Neighborhood