

STORMWATER WETLAND PARK

City of Arlington



Facility type

Constructed wetlands providing stormwater treatment and flow/flood control, wastewater treatment, trails, and other recreational opportunities

Construction date

Construction completed in 2011

Facility size

21-acre park with a 9-acre wetland

Drainage basin area

280 acres (Old Town Arlington)

Facility Description

Arlington's Stormwater Wetland Park contains a constructed wetland that not only treats stormwater from Old Town Arlington, but clean backwash water from the City's water treatment plant, and reclaimed water from the City's Water Reclamation Facility before infiltrating or discharging into the Stillaguamish River. The wetlands consist of a series of wetland cells and weirs that improve water quality through infiltration, aeration, and vegetative uptake. Along with providing water treatment, the 9 acres of different wetlands types provide multiple habitat niches.

Public recreation features on the site include shoreline access, wildlife viewing areas, water features, a 4,200-foot trail network, dog park, and picnic tables. The facility also provides for educational opportunities to instruct the public on proper stormwater management and control practices, which helps meet NPDES permit requirements.

The opportunity to build the wetlands came in 2000, when the city obtained a 27-acre

parcel through purchase and donation. The parcel was on the site of an old farm with over 1,400 feet of Stillaguamish River frontage. City staff had identified many issues that could be addressed with the facility: stormwater treatment and flow/flood control, stormwater education, wastewater treatment (temperature, dissolved oxygen, emerging contaminants), waterfront access, wetland creation, and other recreational opportunities. The project was conceptual for years and evolved over time.

Departments involved Public Works, Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, Community & Economic Development

Contractors Landau Associates, Reece Construction

Public engagement

Public meetings hosted by the City of Arlington helped shape the project. The public wanted park-like features. Concerns of neighboring landowners over water pollution led to the installation of groundwater monitoring wells that monitor urban runoff into the groundwater and floodplain. Farmers had some concerns about the loss of farmland.

Maintenance and monitoring

The facility is maintained by Public Works. After 10 years of operation, sediment must be removed from the first cell. The city contracted with Snohomish Conservation District to prepare a study to inform how best to remove the sediment while maintaining the habitat. A maintenance project is being planned. Monitoring is provided by a combination of city staff and volunteers/interns looking for community service or educational projects.

Challenges and lessons learned

- A facility can provide many functions when well sited and designed
- A single facility can replace parcel by parcel systems allowing for major cost savings
- Green infrastructure can provide cost savings over gray infrastructure
- A stormwater park needs to be an allowed use in the zoning code
- These types of projects require staff from multiple disciplines/departments to work together (stormwater, natural resources, planning, and parks staff)
- Early outreach to the public leads to greater public acceptance, volunteers can be helpful
- Consider irrigation needs and prepare for regular maintenance until vegetation is established. Once established, periodic maintenance is required – an excellent outdoor learning opportunity for students and community volunteer groups
- Practice due diligence in design and permitting to avoid setbacks

Cost \$1,325,000 to treat 280 acres of historic downtown Arlington lacking modern treatment

Funding Sources Stormwater Utility, Sewer Utility, Washington Department of Ecology

For more information

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Additional information

- Project description: <https://srp.rco.wa.gov/project/270/14667>
- Drawings: <https://www.arlingtonwa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/800/Stormwater-Wetland-PDF>