

PUGET SOUND National Estuary Program

Lopez Village Ditch Retrofit

This project will improve the performance of roadside ditches by increasing stormwater treatment and managing conveyance with swales planted with native vegetation within Lopez Village, San Juan County, WA.

Project outcomes

- 1000 ft of constructed bioswales
- Provides infiltration and runoff treatment
- Planted with a variety native sedges and rushes used for stormwater treatment. Provides habitat for birds and butterflies



Success stories

Not only did this project construct bioswales for stormwater treatment, it provided a platform for local community engagement and opportunities to learn and ask questions about stormwater pollution and treatment, how to minimize it through projects such as this, and the importance of reducing pollutants and contaminants from entering our local waterways.

A common question that was frequently asked is “what can we do at home to help?” This project was also a great opportunity to share ways to minimize stormwater runoff.



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Development is increasing consistently throughout Washington state, specifically here in San Juan County, which consists of multiple small habited islands. Projects such as these provide opportunities to incorporate Low Impact Development BMP’s, such as constructed bioswales, into small villages and towns within proximity to the local waterways such as the Salish Sea.

These projects are successful in treating stormwater and there are ways that you too can help at home:

- Ⓞ Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Ⓞ Never dump anything down storm drains
- Ⓞ Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces
- Ⓞ Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Ⓞ Compost your yard Waste

Recipient Contact Information

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