



City of Longview

1525 Broadway
Longview, WA 98632
www.ci.longview.wa.us

Agenda

Public Works SubCommittee

Wednesday, September 18,
2024

3:30 PM

Training Room
2nd Floor, City Hall

1. **HYBRID MEETING DETAILS**

24-00856 To join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191031903>
Webinar ID: 851 9103 1903
Or Telephone: (253) 215 8782 or (253) 205 0468

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

24-00857 MINUTES FROM JULY 17, 2024.
THE MEETING IN AUGUST WAS CANCELLED.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

24-00858 STORMWATER UTILITY

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7. **CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES**

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**



Minutes

Public Works SubCommittee

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

3:30 PM

Training Room,
2nd Floor, City Hall

1. **HYBRID MEETING DETAILS**

24-00647 To join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85191031903>
Webinar ID: 851 9103 1903
Or Telephone: (253) 215 8782 or (253) 205 0468

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 pm.

3. **ROLL CALL**

*Present: Councilmember Ruth Kendall; Councilmember Erik Halvorson; Councilmember Keith Young; Assistant Public Works Director Chris Collins
Staff: Sam Barham, City Engineer; Brian Steveson, Utility Manager; Mike Ward, Public Works Maintenance Supervisor; Joanna Martin, Parks and Urban Forestry Manager; Angela Abel, PIO; Nancy Vandehey, Admin*

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

24-00648 **MINUTES FROM JUNE 26, 2024**
The minutes were approved as presented.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

24-00649 **REVIEW OF LONGVIEW'S SIDEWALK PROGRAM**

COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:
Improve transportation system.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This agenda item is a presentation reviewing the sidewalk repair and urban forestry program and discussion on how it has evolved over time.

STAFF CONTACT:

Chris Collins, Public Works Director/ Assistant City Manager

Chris Collins shared the presentation and a video on a Sennebogen machine taking down a large tree. Topics discussed throughout the presentation included a weighted system, the current first in/first out method, options for sidewalk crews and UF crews with equipment. Parks and Public Works have

worked together to create a checklist for decision making if a tree needs to be removed or kept. A goal would be a clear direction from Council on the best way to proceed. Chris proposed bringing this topic back at a workshop in the fall.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Sam Barham provided a quick update on projects: stripped Beech St.; phase 2 of Washington Way; Downtown corridor pedestrian head count down timers; RRFP - should be moving along again; Olympia way & NW Nichols; Maplewood slide repair to start soon; Stormwater project on Delaware; pump station on 42nd Ave; Highlands lights; and golf course has new poles & nets.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

A citizen asked about the sidewalks on Vandercook Way. Mike knows that there is a sidewalk repair coming, but the exact address is unknown.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm.



STORMWATER UTILITY OVERVIEW

Public Works Subcommittee
September 18, 2024

Overview

- What is a stormwater utility?
- Longview's stormwater utility & programs
- Stormwater utility budget
- How are stormwater fees determined?
- Stormwater fee history
- Rate development
- 2020 Rate Study implementation

What is a stormwater utility?

A stormwater utility is a stand-alone entity, usually set up as an enterprise fund, designed to furnish a limited or comprehensive set of services related to stormwater quantity and quality management.



Washington State Legislation for Stormwater Utilities

RCW 35.67.020 authorizes cities to “to fix, alter, regulate, and control the rates and charges for their” systems of sewerage, defined in RCW 35.67.010 to include stormwater management.

- Utility has authority and responsibility for all City stormwater conveyances and facilities
- All real property in the City charged a stormwater utility fee (*with the exception of undeveloped parcels*)
- Stormwater fee billed at the same time as water, sanitary sewer & garbage fees
- Stormwater fees billed to owner for any improved parcel that does not receive water or sanitary sewer services.

Longview's Stormwater Utility

💧 Created by Ordinance 2757 in 1999

💧 Codified in LMC Title 15

Utility Programs

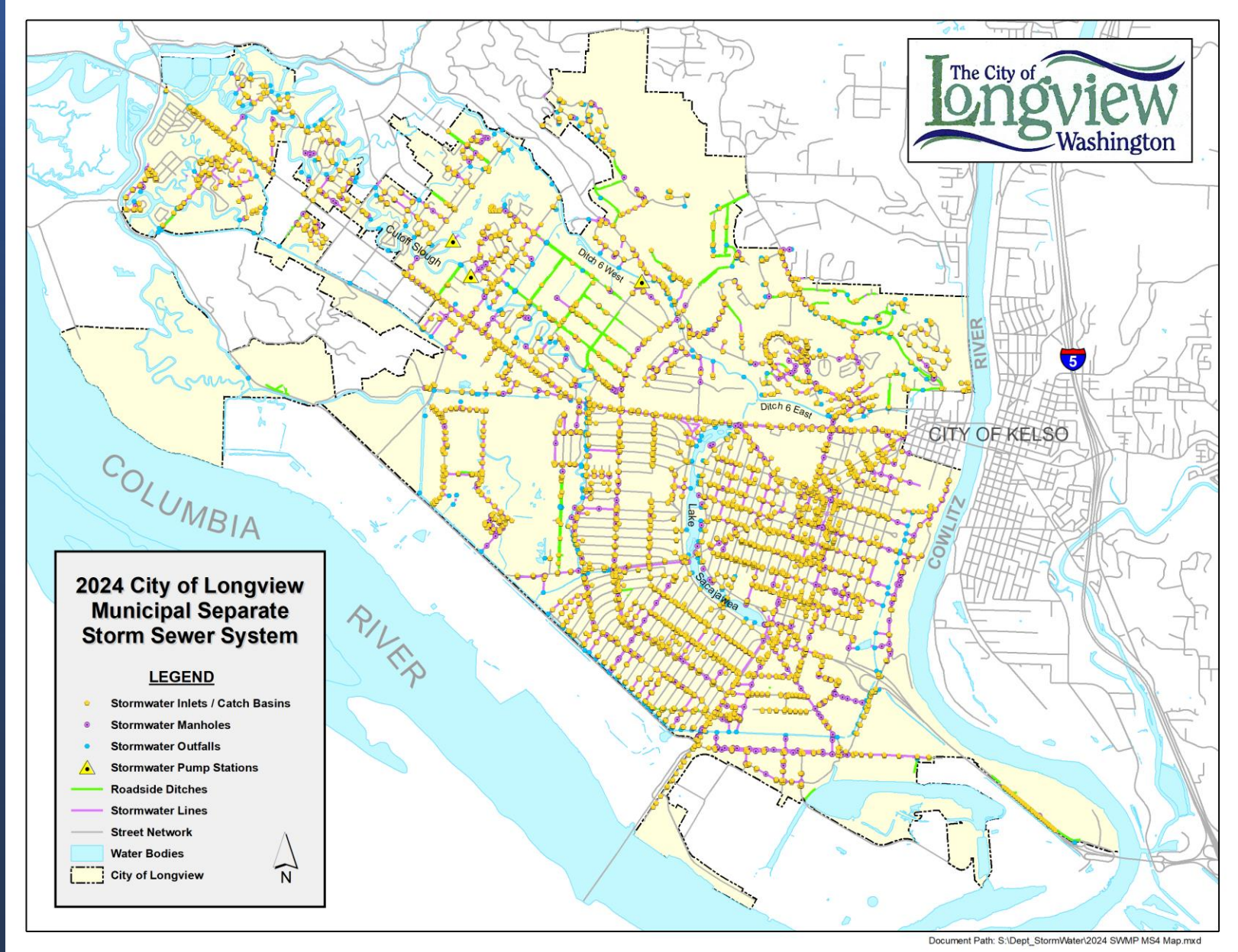
- Operations and maintenance of City stormwater infrastructure and facilities
- Regulatory compliance with NPDES municipal stormwater permit
- Development review and inspection
- City-wide street sweeping program
- Leaf pickup (fall months)
- Urban forestry program
- Sidewalk repair & replacement program
- Stormwater capital improvements



Stormwater Operations and Maintenance

- Provides for ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) of the various components of the City's stormwater drainage, conveyance, and water quality treatment systems
- Includes all city-owned and maintained stormwater inlets and catch basins, manholes, pipes, culverts, roadside ditches and stormwater management facilities and Best Management Practices (BMPs)





NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit Program

- Stormwater Planning
- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- MS4 Mapping and Documentation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Controlling Runoff From New Development, Redevelopment & Construction Sites
- Operations & Maintenance
- Source Control Program for Existing Development
- Compliance with Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements
- Monitoring & Assessment



Street Sweeping & Leaf Pickup

- The street sweeping program provides for cleaning streets, alleys, and City-owned parking lots to prevent debris and pollution from entering the City's stormwater system
- Activities include year-round street sweeping and disposal of the debris, as well as collecting, hauling, and disposing of leaves from City streets during the fall months



Urban Forestry

- Urban Forestry program manages and maintains the City's public urban forest consisting of over 12,000 trees and includes the maintenance and replacement of trees in the City's parks and public right-of-ways
- Trees are an integral part of the City's stormwater management program as they reduce stormwater runoff by capturing and storing rainfall in their canopy and release water into the atmosphere and also also create soil conditions that promote the infiltration of rainwater into the soil

Sidewalk Repair

The Urban Forestry sidewalk program repairs sidewalks damaged by the City's Urban Forest. The program is important to a livable, walkable City

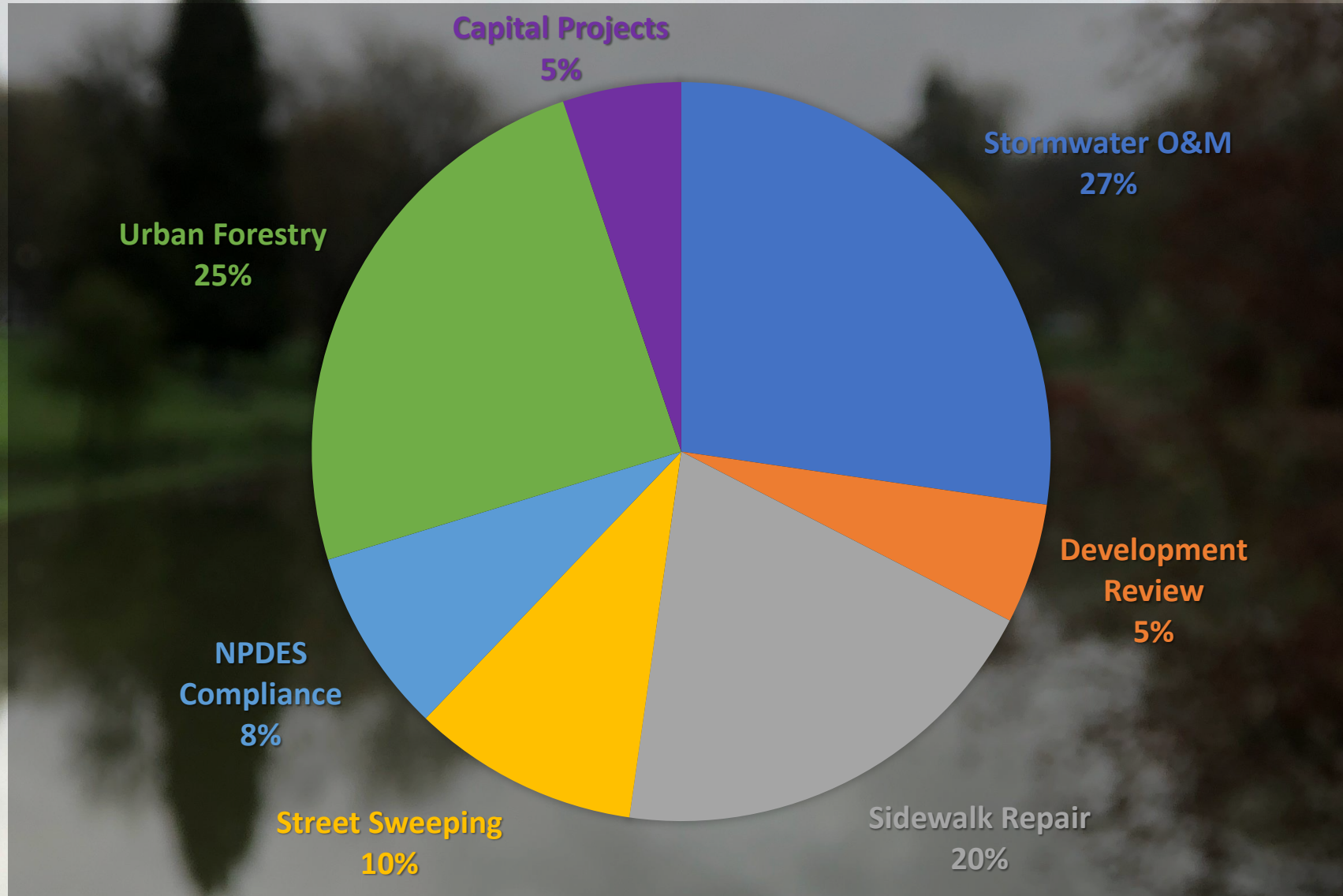




Capital Programs

Stormwater capital improvement projects, purchase of assets and equipment, and payment of debt service on borrowing for capital improvements and equipment purchases to support the operational needs of the stormwater utility

Stormwater Utility Budget



How are stormwater fees determined?

- Basis of stormwater fee is impervious cover
- Impervious surface area widely accepted as an approximate measure of a property's contribution of runoff
- Most stormwater utilities typically develop a uniform rate for single family residential customers
- The average residential impervious cover measurement is used to develop the base unit charge or equivalent residential unit (ERU)
- Charge basis for other customers is the actual measured impervious surface



STORMWATER FEE CALCULATION

**The Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)
is the impervious cover for an average
single family residential parcel**



**Single-family residence =
1 ERU = base rate (\$X.XX)**

**Commercial property =
total impervious area / ERU
multiplied by base rate**



Stormwater Rate History

Year	Monthly Rate per ERU	Fee Increase	Additional Programs/Activities
2006	\$3.22	\$0.56	Street sweeping transferred to Stormwater
2007	\$3.54	\$0.32	NPDES Permit prep
2008	\$3.79	\$0.25	Stormwater inspector hired
2009	\$4.06	\$0.27	NPDES Permit coverage starts
2010	\$4.34	\$0.28	
2011	\$5.07	\$0.73	Added stormwater maintenance crew
2012	\$5.63	\$0.56	Mint Farm wetlands
2013	\$6.70	\$1.07	Urban Forestry transferred
2014	\$7.97	\$1.27	
2015	\$9.09	\$1.12	Sidewalk program transferred
2016	\$10.09	\$0.49	
2017	\$11.10	\$1.01	Added stormwater maintenance crew
2018	\$12.21	\$1.11	
2019	\$13.68	\$1.47	Added (2) sidewalk crews
2020	\$14.50	\$0.82	
2021	\$14.50	\$0	Added new UF crew & staff
2022	\$14.50	\$0	
2023	\$14.50	\$0	no adopted enhancements or CIP
2024	\$17.11	\$2.61	Stormwater master plan
2025	\$18.65	\$1.54	Adding new stormwater & UF specialists

Comparison of 2024 Residential Stormwater Rates

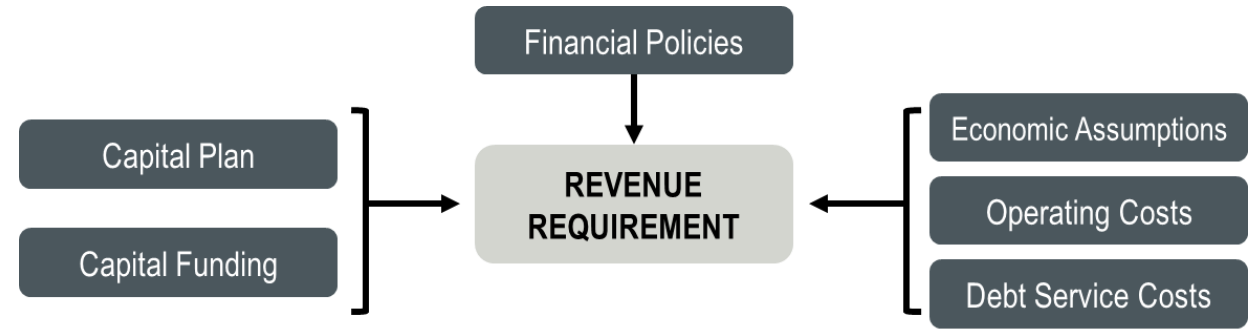


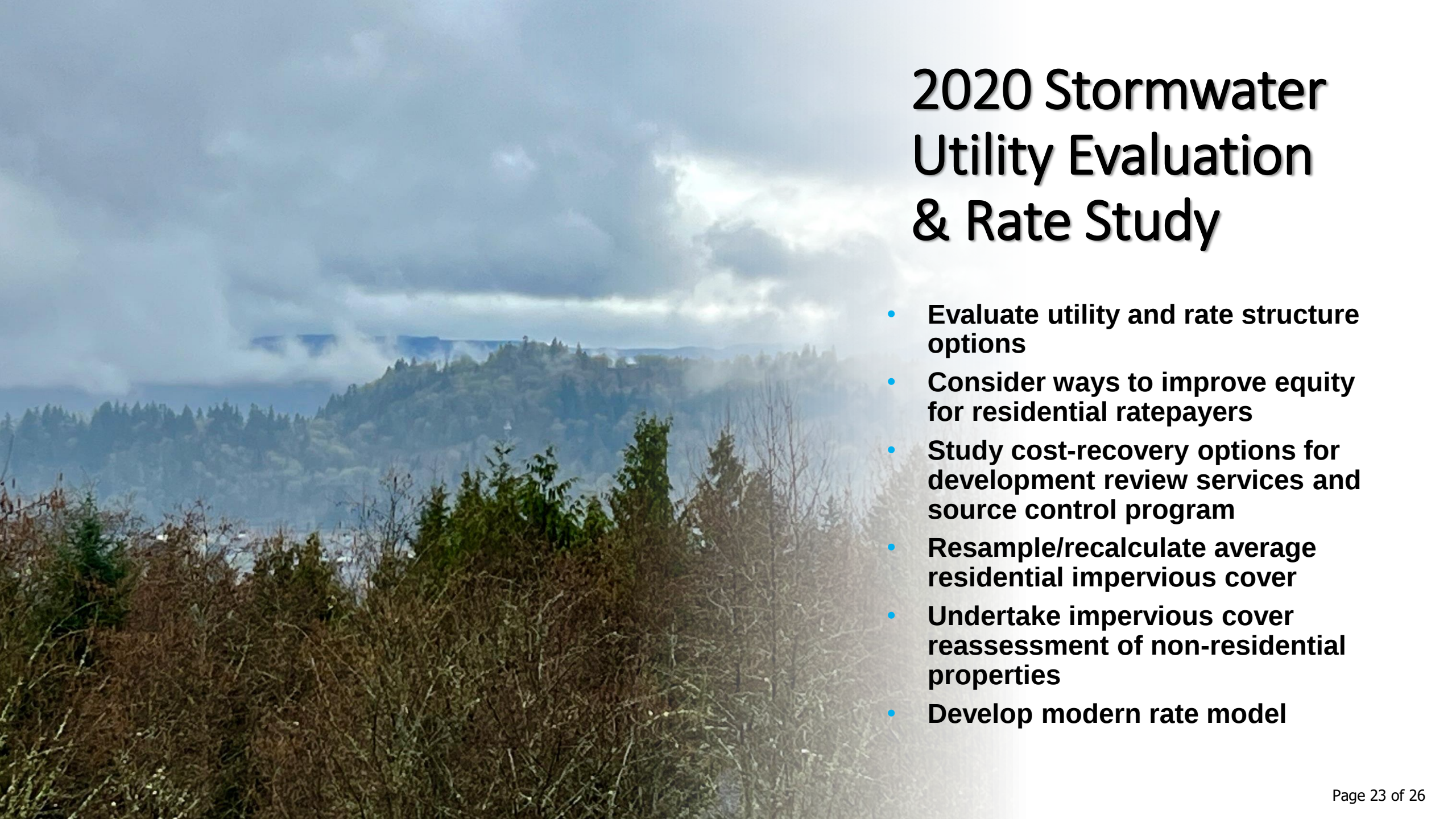
Everett	\$34.18
Mountlake Terrace	\$28.94
Edmonds	\$25.45
Auburn	\$18.09
Mercer Island	\$23.21
Port Angeles	\$19.13
Longview (2025)	\$18.65
Olympia	\$18.23
Longview (2024 Current)	\$17.11
Renton	\$17.04
Lynnwood	\$15.58
Kent	\$15.42
Vancouver	\$15.17
Bellingham	\$11.85
Kelso	\$10.23
Centralia	\$11.35
Chehalis (not a stormwater permittee)	\$9.45
Aberdeen	\$13.19
Castle Rock (not a stormwater permittee)	\$8.79
Kalama (not a stormwater permittee)	\$8.05
Woodland (not a stormwater permittee)	\$4.65

Comparison Average:
\$16.25

Rate Development

Model determines the level of annual revenue necessary to meet all utility financial obligations of the enterprise fund





2020 Stormwater Utility Evaluation & Rate Study

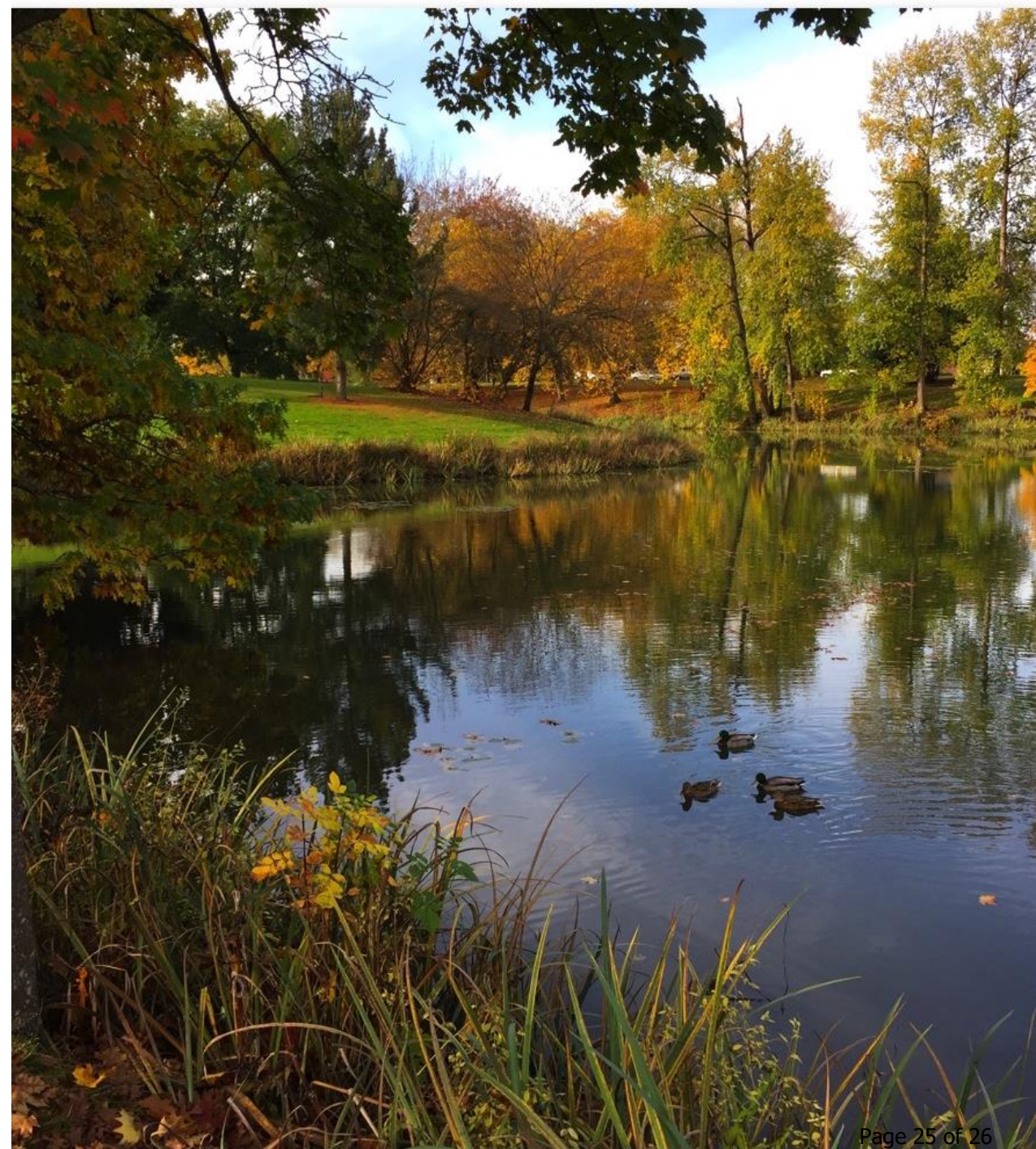
- Evaluate utility and rate structure options
- Consider ways to improve equity for residential ratepayers
- Study cost-recovery options for development review services and source control program
- Resample/recalculate average residential impervious cover
- Undertake impervious cover reassessment of non-residential properties
- Develop modern rate model

Key Study Recommendations

- 💧 Update equivalent residential unit (ERU) to 3,000 square feet (from 2,500 sq ft)
- 💧 Use impervious cover as basis of stormwater rates for multi-family parcels with 4 or more units
- 💧 Move towards cost-recovery fees for development programs
- 💧 City properties need to be assessed stormwater utility fees
- 💧 Utilize new rate model for developing future stormwater utility rates
- 💧 Consider additional changes in the future such as multiple tiers for single-family residential parcels

Implementation of Recommendations

- **January 2021** – Study recommendations presented to Council for 2021 Rate consideration
- **April 2022** – Council workshop on stormwater utility and need to implement new impervious assessments and rate structure changes
- **August 2022** – Council adopts Resolution 2409 which includes ERU and multifamily changes.
- **Fall 2022** – Staff aggregates parcel data to account level and validates impervious cover measurements
- **February 2023** – City accounts charged for stormwater
- **February 2024** – Updated impervious assessments for existing non-residential & multifamily accounts are implemented
- **April 2024** – New stormwater-only accounts created and billed





Questions and Discussion