



Manchester Stormwater Park

Manchester,
Washington

Kitsap County



Counterclockwise from top: Overhead view of completed park (John Aitchison, kitsap.biz), Spiral rain garden feature (Northwest Cascade Inc. All Rights Reserved); full park under construction (@Kitsap County Public Works).

An innovative stormwater management system doubles as a park and was designed to reflect the recreational and nature-loving character of this community by the shore.

CONTEXT

- Constructed in 2015.
- Western.
- \$4 million.
- 0.5-acre park.



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

- Retrofitted a brownfield site into a stormwater treatment site.
- Creating better outcomes through interagency collaborations.
- Improved pedestrian access and traffic flow as part of a stormwater retrofit.
- Retaining community character with an innovative park design.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT DRIVER?

The Puget Sound region has been experiencing population and development growth, thus raising concerns about pollution and environmental impacts. Manchester's Main Street-Colchester drainage basin was at the top of a countywide list of stormwater retrofit project sites, due to its "end of pipe" location along the Puget Sound shoreline, meaning it drained directly to the Sound. In addition to addressing stormwater treatment needs, the Manchester Stormwater Park also functions to alleviate the typical winter flooding in the village.

HOW DID THIS CONNECT THE COMMUNITY?

The Kitsap County Public Works Department worked in partnership with the Washington Department of Ecology (WA-DOE) to initiate the Manchester Community Stormwater Retrofit Plan to improve the quality of the runoff flowing directly into distribution channels and to nearby Pomeroy Park, a popular shore site for swimming and sailing. Manchester is among the many small communities in the region that have experienced population growth leading to additional traffic and

pollution, causing a strain on the community's ecology. The site of the retrofit was a brownfield site and a vacant lot that was formerly a gas station. Kitsap County transformed the lot into a stormwater treatment site that doubled as a walkable and bikeable community park.

As the community's center and core gathering space, the County tied this retrofit with some much-needed safety improvements. To help calm traffic along the park at Colchester Drive and East Main Street and improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, the County constructed a row of back-in only diagonal parking -- a **road diet** technique to increase driver awareness.



Completed park walkway (©Kitsap County Public Works).

Context sensitive solutions were a primary focus for the project team. In working closely with the community, the County designed a park that aligned with the community's natural and recreational ethos. A **bicycle and pedestrian assessment** aided the team in creating extended paths and updating signage and lighting connecting Manchester Stormwater Park and Pomeroy Park. Bike racks were also installed along East Main Street.

A main design feature is a spiral rain garden filtration system that also is a sculptural centerpiece for the park. It treats the water before it reaches the Sound. The Department of Public Works expects a total removal of over 100,000 pounds of materials related to pollution in the next 20 years.

In response to community feedback Kitsap County used a comprehensive **stakeholder engagement** process to collect input and build support. Public involvement efforts included:

- Upfront communication about project impacts and the completion schedule.
- On-site signage and **virtual public engagement** through social media and website updates.
- Community meetings to communicate project issues and mitigation procedures.

Through this consistent coordination, residents of Manchester voiced their desire for a design that would reflect the community's character, while taking advantage of the views of the Puget Sound. Residents also wanted an open-space area that could be used as a gathering space for various events.

WHAT WERE THE BENEFITS?



RENEW

The development of this park has been recognized both as an innovative approach to a rehabilitate a vacant space into a stormwater treatment facility and as a well-regarded

community space. On a half-acre parcel, this park is smaller than most stormwater treatment areas and also serves as a model for similar communities with limited space. Overall, the entire project adds a half-mile of pedestrian walkways.

In April 2016, this project was selected by the America Council of Engineering Companies for an "Honor Award" presented at the 2016 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala. The Manchester Stormwater Park project was also highlighted in an article in the May 2016 edition of Stormwater - Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals.

For more information:

<http://kitsap.paladinpanoramic.com/project/2231/44030>

<https://www.kitsapdailynews.com/news/manchester-stormwater-project-to-help-clean-up-puget-sound/>

<https://nwcascade.com/manchester-stormwater-park/>