

# MEASURING STORMWATER IMPACTS TO ESTABLISH FUNDING FOR FOREST MAINTENANCE

## CITY OF SNOQUALMIE'S URBAN CANOPY FUNDING GAP

Urban trees and forested trees in Snoqualmie retain an extensive amount of stormwater. This affects the City's forest health, threatened species, riverine slopes, and water quality. Through 2020, Snoqualmie faced funding shortages threatening the ability to keep natural infrastructure healthy.

## COST OF DEVELOPMENT

One proposed development in the City of Snoqualmie required the removal of approximately 9.8 acres of forest, impacting an average of \$49k in ecosystem services.

**\$49,376** per year

**\$1.3M** Over 50 years

## CHALLENGE

Small cities like the City of Snoqualmie lack stable and consistent funding to maintain city-owned natural assets. Analysis and policy directed at establishing this funding is needed to protect the stormwater integrity of Snoqualmie's infrastructure.

## INSIGHTS FROM ANALYSIS

The City manages over 1,300 acres of forested land (including street tree areas in ROWs).

**Impervious areas** encompass **only 15%** of the land area, but account for **47% of the runoff**.

Stormwater models were used to measure impact of forests contributing to water retention.



**Model**  
Stormwater



**Measure**  
Impact



**Draft Funding**  
Mechanism

## THE STORMWATER UTILITY FUND

Results from this analysis were used to justify funding the urban forestry program from the stormwater utility fund. The analysis also led to a funding increase and the creation of a new capital program for street tree replacement.

To learn more about this policy, reach out to us at [help@eqmecon.com](mailto:help@eqmecon.com)

