RECOMMENDATION: Council motion to approve the list of Low Impact Development projects associated with the Smuggler’s Gulch LID project and proceed with the design and construction of the projects.

BACKGROUND:
During the 2012 budget process, staff proposed a capital project to initiate a Low Impact Development (LID) demonstration project in the Smuggler’s Gulch Drainage Basin to reduce flooding, manage erosion, and improve water quality. The intent of the project was to reduce peak flow rates, increase ground water recharge which will help maintain stable stream base flows, and improve water quality by retrofitting an existing detention pond and implementing Low Impact Development techniques. A contract was awarded to Tetra Tech for engineering services to prepare the design and engineering plans for the Low Impact Development (LID) projects in Smuggler’s Gulch basin.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY STORMWATER GRANT:
In August of 2010 the City applied for a one million dollar stormwater grant from the Department of Ecology (DOE) to help cover some of the costs associated with the Smuggler’s Gulch project. Our application was ranked in the mid-range of approximately 120 applications. As part of the 2011/12 Legislative Budget Session, the Legislature appropriated additional funds to the DOE stormwater grant program and allocated one million dollars to the Smuggler’s Gulch Drainage Basin LID and Retrofit project. This grant has been awarded and accepted by the City.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS:
Staff has mailed three letters to the affected neighborhood and held two open houses. A website on the project has also been created. The purpose of this outreach effort was to obtain public input on which projects the residents would like to see in their neighborhood.

- May 8, 2012 – Introduction letter explaining the project and inviting people to the open house – 445 notices were sent between 44th Avenue and 50th Avenue as the two initial projects were located east of SR 525.
May 24, 2012 – 4 people attend the Open House where the 44th Avenue Rain Garden and 88th Street Detention pond were selected as the initial projects. We then teamed with Edmonds Community College to help design the rain garden project.

November 5, 2012 – Second letter to the neighborhood with the expanded project description. 559 Notices were sent explaining the expanded project and inviting them to the second open house. Notice list was expanded to just past 53rd Avenue.


December 10, 2012 – the 44th Avenue rain garden was circulated for review and comment; 546 postcard notices were sent. Because this is a right-of-way and grading permit no formal review process was required as the SEPA process was completed with the design report (which was appealed and dismissed), but we felt the noticing was appropriate. Everyone on the mailing list was noticed. Orange poster board was posted.

January 11, 2013 – Third letter to the neighborhood showing the list of proposed projects and letting them know that the City Council will review the list on January 22 and that all are welcome to attend the meeting. (This notice will be sent out by Friday) 570 notices were prepared. We expanded the notice area past 53rd Ave.

Each of these notices were full size letters – not our typical postcards.

A website has been created with all of the boards and draft plans to date.

PROJECT STATUS:
Since the last meeting with the City Council, when the DOE grant was accepted, staff has worked with the consultant to identify the most effective stormwater management facilities that can be constructed in the Smuggler’s Gulch Basin and within the allocated budget; these stormwater facilities include additional rain gardens, gravel galleries and the retrofit of three existing drainage ponds.

In accordance with our grant, the City is under contract with DOE to construct bioretention facilities, gravel galleries and up to three retrofits of existing stormwater detention ponds. Attached is a map showing the projects that are proposed to be included in the overall scope of the LID demonstration project. The orange bubbles show the projects proposed to be included in the project and those in grey show projects that were dropped.

To date, the 44th Avenue rain garden has been designed and is ready for to go out to bid and the 88th Street detention pond is at 70% design. These two projects were started prior to receiving the DOE grant. The 50th Place detention pond is at the 30% design stage. The remaining rain gardens and gravel galleries have not been started yet and are pending Council’s motion to proceed. A full power point presentation showing the project options will be presented to Council at the meeting on January 22, 2013.

Staff anticipates bringing four bid packages forward to Council in the spring for construction of the proposed projects. The purpose of the multiple bid packages is that we can get contractors whose specialty is focused on the following types of projects:
1) Rain Gardens
2) Gravel Galleries
3) Detention Pond Retrofits
4) 50th Avenue Pond Retrofit – This project requires Corp and Fish and Wildlife Permits so the timing may be lagging behind the other proposed projects.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Recommend changes to the staff recommended list of projects.
Smuggler's Gulch Low Impact Development Project
Proposed Project List

Recommended LID Sites Plus Other Potential Sites
Smuggler’s Gulch LID Project Comments

Attached are the written comments received at the open houses and via the mail.

Received seven phone calls about the project from people within the project area; All seven were either supportive of the project or was neutral but didn’t want it to raise their taxes or cost them additional out of pocket expenses.