



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2012

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Port Townsend – County Resource Center invites development professionals to join rosters

The Jefferson County Watershed Stewardship Resource Center wants to connect with architects, engineers, designers, real estate developers, building contractors, excavators, landscapers, marketing specialists and other professionals who provide services in the local area. In preparation for upcoming feedback, training, and contract opportunities, these professionals are encouraged to join the Small Works, Vendor, and/or Professional Consultant Services rosters, as appropriate, as soon as possible. These rosters are maintained by the Public Works Department, online at <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/publicworks/business/default.asp>.

The Resource Center is housed at the Department of Community Development and is a grant-funded pilot project to educate, inspire, and assist landowners, developers and interested citizens pursuing land use and building projects. The main focus of the project is customer service and fostering rural self-reliance. The Center helps customers find creative solutions to development challenges such as meeting code requirements for shoreline and critical area protection and for managing stormwater runoff. Critical areas include fish and wildlife habitat, flood-prone areas, geological hazards (seismic, erosion, landslide and channel migration zones), wetlands and critical aquifers. Alternative low impact development (LID) techniques such as rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable pavement are promoted for new builds, retrofits/redevelopment, and as landscape enhancement projects. The Center helps mentor and coach people to better understand both the basics and finer details of site analysis, project planning, and the permit process.

Visitors to the Resource Center are invited to enjoy self-serve features such as the collection of informational art posters, brochures, handouts and reference books, computer research stations for GIS mapping and hundreds of online resources, and to get one-on-one staff assistance during drop-in hours for Coaching Services. There will be numerous opportunities for development professionals to get involved during the next 18 months:

- **LID Peer Leader Mini Grant Program** – Registration costs are paid for attending a series of technical workshops at the Washington Stormwater Center in exchange for volunteer assistance to the Resource Center;

- **Stakeholder Focus Groups** - Help evaluate existing land use and building policies and permit processes to find opportunities for simplification and streamlining;
- **Local LID Workshops** – In partnership with WSU Extension, free training on low impact development options for professionals and for landowners;
- **Local Ordinance Work Group** – Stakeholders will provide input to draft Jefferson County Code revisions that will better address buffer vegetation management and make choosing LID options easier by reducing costs and permit review timelines;
- **LID Demonstration Sites** – Provide expertise and materials for the design and installation of demonstration gardens that highlight low impact stormwater strategies;
- **Marketing, Education & Outreach** – Help research and develop a marketing plan and unique ‘brand’ to encourage use of the Resource Center and voluntary selection of ‘earth-friendly’ alternatives;
- **Local Projects Video Tour** – Professionals who’ve designed and/or installed habitat restoration projects or LID methods in the local area may be asked to have their project featured to help educate others about what’s possible and any lessons learned;
- **Buffer Management Workshops** – In partnership with WSU Extension and the Noxious Weed Board, landowners and professionals will learn more about best management practices for eradicating noxious weeds and encouraging more native vegetation to make buffer areas effective and beautiful landscape amenities;
- **Volunteer Greeter** – Help staff the Resource Center to welcome customers and introduce them to the resources available.

The Watershed Stewardship Resource Center is located at 621 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend in the Castle Hill QFC shopping center. The Resource Center is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm with a staff planner available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons for walk-in Coaching Services. Contact the Resource Center at 360/379-4450, wsrc@co.jefferson.wa.us, or <http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/WSRC.htm>

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