

## Beaches Are Dynamic!

### THE SEASONAL DIFFERENCES OF OUR BEACHES

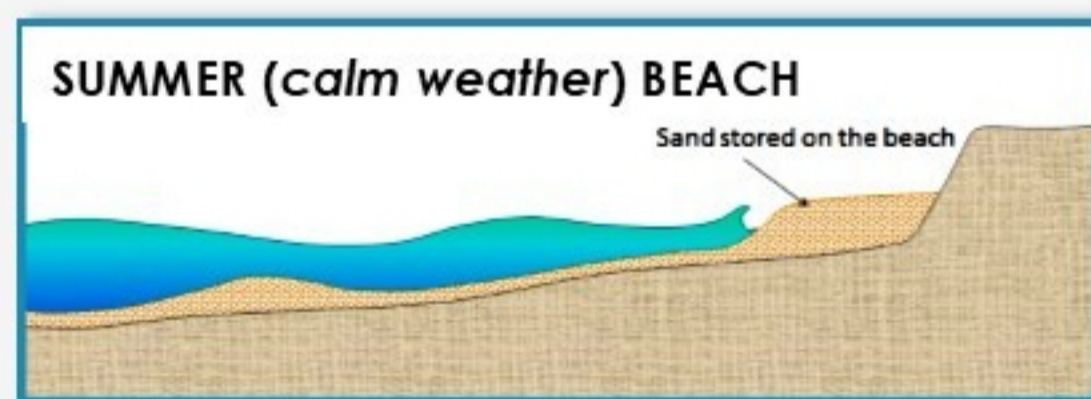
Did you know that most beaches experience seasonal cycles? They do! During summer and winter the sand moves in different patterns. Seasonally varying winds and wave currents move the sands and changes how they are deposited along our beaches.

In the winter, when waves are larger, stronger, and predominately rolling into shore from the southwest, our beach density gradually become more narrow. Winter beaches are also narrower, steeper, coarser, and have more driftwood.

As the illustration below demonstrates, rough winter wave conditions and strong Puget Sound winds erode beach sands and deposits them offshore into deeper waters.



Unlike winter, the calmer waves of the summer season replenishes beach sands, gradually restoring a wider, flatter and finer grained beach.



(Reference: "Physical Geology" by Steven Earle)

With these seasonal cycles in mind, go out and explore. Take a closer look at your beaches. What do you see?

### ENJOY

Watercolor paintings by San Juan artist, Kristy Gjesme

"I've lived on San Juan Island for the last 20 years and it's still a constant source of inspiration for my art," Kristy Gjesme.



### Share Your Beach Photographs!

Seasonal changes are a natural part of their existence. Do you have photos to share of your beach during winter and summer? Do have pictures that show your beach during various seasons? If so, please share them and with your permission and photo credit we will post your photos on the Shore Friendly Kitsap website! Let's see how many examples of our beaches we can share. Thank you for emailing your photos to: [shorefriendly@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:shorefriendly@co.kitsap.wa.us)

### Beach Mapping

Beaches are mapped in segments, called drift cells that have a beginning and an end. Beach building materials like sand and cobbles erode from the land and then are transported along drift cells, like a conveyor belt moving materials. Drift cells are mapped to show the net direction of currents and sands.

Check out the Washington Department of Ecology's Coastal Atlas to find your beach and its drift cell. (Hint: Add map data to see drift cells.)

### About Shore Friendly Kitsap

*Shore Friendly Kitsap is your waterfront partner. Our mission is to empower Puget Sound waterfront landowners to create beautiful, environmentally friendly shorelines for themselves and generations to come.*

For more information on Shore Friendly Kitsap's shore restoration resources, please visit us [www.shorefriendlykitsap.com](http://www.shorefriendlykitsap.com), or email Project Manager, Christina Kereki at [ckereki@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:ckereki@co.kitsap.wa.us)