



Meeting the goals of reducing flooding, preventing pollution and restoring fish habitats

Clean Water Kitsap Adapts To Covid-19 Restrictions

There is no question that COVID-19 turned people’s lives upside-down in 2020. When it became apparent that the stay-home orders in Washington would be extended, Clean Water Kitsap pivoted to continue meeting the goals of reducing flooding, preventing pollution and restoring fish habitat.

Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) deserves special mention as every employee was called upon to respond to the health crisis. Even through the ongoing pandemic, KPHD continued to protect surface waters, through their Pollution Identification and Correction program. In 2020, KPHD focused their outreach efforts through mailers, including a successful septic tank service voucher.

Meanwhile, as residents scrambled to set up school and office spaces at home, Kitsap Public Utility District installed miles of broadband and built nine Wi-Fi hotspots around the county to meet increased demand. Fewer drivers on the road may result in improved water quality so building out broadband infrastructure may be a vital piece in the clean water puzzle.

Kitsap County answered the call of bored kids (and adults!) through the popular Great Kitsap Virtual Scavenger Hunt. Run through an app, the game consisted of educational trivia and activities-based “missions.” One team was made up of 10 people from three generations...ranging in ages 4-70!

Home gardening took off during the pandemic. Master Gardeners at WSU Kitsap Extension offered weekly Zoom drop-in calls where gardeners could get help.

Thanks to the outdoor nature of their work, Kitsap Conservation District continued rain garden installations and restoration work. Six Backyard Habitat projects were completed, restoring 1.5 miles of streams. 7,000 trees and shrubs were also planted in 2020.

This past year was one of growth and learning but Clean Water Kitsap is poised and ready to continue our important work into 2021 and beyond.



Clean Water Kitsap
Partners in Stormwater Solutions

www.CleanWaterKitsap.org



2020 Year in Review Impact Report



5 organizations working together to



Kitsap Salmon Tours Goes Virtual

Kitsap Salmon Tours annually draws over 1,000 people from all parts of Kitsap County. In 2020, interest in outdoor activities such as watching salmon spawn grew, so the planning committee embraced the opportunity to virtually share the gift of nature that salmon migration provides.

Thanks to a collaborative partnership of 17 agencies, including Kitsap Public Utility District, WSU Kitsap Extension, Kitsap Conservation District and Kitsap County, Salmon Tours successfully met the goal of educating the community while upholding health and safety guidelines. A bevy of webinars, videos (including one that garnered over 30,000 views), online activities, and new site signs for self-guided tours were unveiled.

Longtime Chico Salmon Park Steward John Mikesell shared, "The best and most heartwarming aspect of the experience was the children who had participated in the Salmon in the Classroom program and were witnessing the results of their efforts."



Using Monitoring to Help Protect Watersheds

Kitsap Public Utility District plays a vital role in measuring the long-term success of CWK's work. Stormwater flows and temperature impact conditions in streams, lakes, wetlands, and near-shore areas. It can take several years to track these incremental changes and determine whether watershed enhancement projects have been effective in restoring natural conditions. Regular monitoring of these changing conditions helps us better understand water conditions so that we can protect and maintain the long-term health of Kitsap watersheds.

Kitsap Public Utility District maintained nine streamflow monitoring stations for the Clean Water Kitsap partnership in 2020. In addition to flow monitoring, each station records stream temperature throughout the year. This data is analyzed according to a series of "flow metrics" developed by King County Department of Natural Resources and the University of Washington and helps monitor the effectiveness of Kitsap County's stormwater management efforts.

2020 Project Highlights





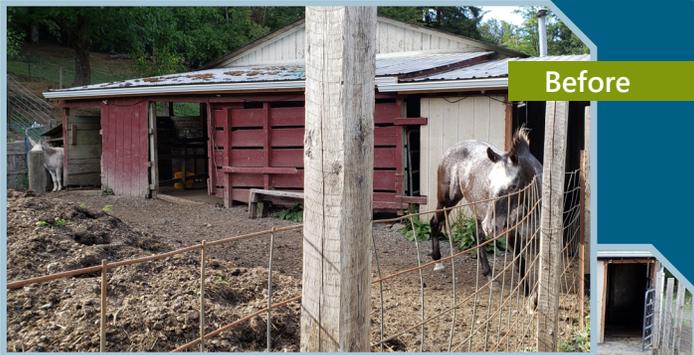
Reduce Flooding



Prevent Pollution



Restore Fish Habitat



Before



After



Programs Work In Tandem To Improve Water Quality

After three years of work, one farm in Olalla is now providing a healthier habitat for both salmon and horses. In 2018, planners from Kitsap Conservation District's Backyard Habitat and Agriculture programs began working with a farm owner in the Olalla Creek watershed. A salmon-bearing portion of Olalla Creek in need of restoration and protection runs through the property. In addition, there were drainage, mud and manure issues around the farm.

In 2019, eight tons of concrete and bank armoring were removed from the stream and replaced by 20 habitat logs. These logs help slow water flow and create pools that provide spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. The streamside was planted with nearly 2,000 native trees and shrubs. This section of Olalla Creek was historically ditched and streamside-logged for farming, but the project was successful in bringing back habitat features to create a healthy stream environment.

In 2020, construction included a facility for composting manure, drainage systems for routing water away from livestock areas, gravel footing to create mud-free paddocks, and fencing to keep livestock off the grass in the winter and away from the creek. These practices facilitate manure management and ease of winter chores, as well as keep the animals healthier.



Kitsap County Public Works
Stormwater System Construction, Maintenance/Repair, Watershed Health Monitoring, Public Education
Learn more: kitsapgov.com



Kitsap Public Health District
Septic System Information, Shellfish and Swimming Advisories, Public Health Water Quality Monitoring
Learn more: kitsappublichealth.org



Kitsap Conservation District
Farm Management, Rain Gardens, Backyard Habitat Grants
Learn more: kitsapcd.org



Washington State University Kitsap County Extension
Stream Stewards, Rain Garden Mentors, Master Gardeners
Learn more: extension.wsu.edu/kitsap



Kitsap Public Utility District
Measure rainfall, streamflow and aquifer levels across the county
Learn more: kpu.org



Clean Water Kitsap

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21 rain gardens installed

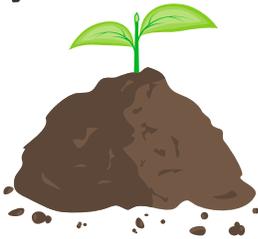
which will treat and infiltrate over 1 million gallons of water each year

180 tons



of pet waste picked up that did not enter our waterways

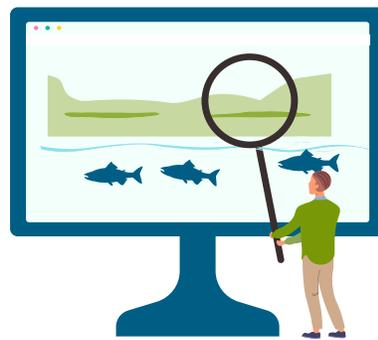
7,128 trees and shrubs planted



on **6.65** acres of streambanks

1,500

unique visitors to *salmontours.org*



7 Salmon Tours sites to watch salmon return home to spawn



36 sewage sources corrected



137 shellfish harvesting acres were upgraded which is a vital sign in improved water quality

