



Reducing flooding,  
preventing pollution and  
restoring fish habitats

## Wild for Salmon

Kitsap loves salmon! Salmon are one of the most iconic species in the Pacific Northwest, from watching chum and coho return to our streams each year, to the cultural significance they hold for our local indigenous populations. Salmon serve as an important source of food to so many species – large and small! Sea birds, bear and the majestic orca whale all rely on salmon for nourishment. When salmon die after spawning, their carcasses provide nutrients and organic matter back into the ecosystem.

So many of Clean Water Kitsap’s outreach programs focus on salmon for good reason – the actions we take to help improve water quality impact this creature that is beloved by so many. While the pandemic was still a concern in 2021, we didn’t let it stop us from creating fun and engaging ways for the community to learn about salmon.

While schools were still teaching virtually, Kitsap County installed a fish tank at our offices and raised chum salmon, from egg to their release. Students watched the salmon develop through bi-weekly “observation” videos. Educators also created a series of six “Tank Talks” videos with special guests. The videos garnered over 6,417 video views. Watch all the Tank Talk videos at [kcowa.us/SalmonTank](http://kcowa.us/SalmonTank).

2021 saw the return of in-person Salmon Tours hosted by WSU. Despite stormy conditions, 1,539 visitors trekked to eight sites hosted by 25 local partners. Visitors to the Chico Salmon Park location were treated with views of a newly restored site. The salmon were abundant, making this a fantastic year for all those who were willing to risk being windblown and rain soaked. Watch BKAT Presents: Kitsap Salmon Tours at [vimeo.com/651751593](https://vimeo.com/651751593)

CWK partners rounded out this year’s salmon activities with live virtual field experiences for elementary school students. Via Zoom, students watched salmon swim up Chico Creek and learn about salmon and habitat from local experts. 35 classes joined us for three field experiences - approximately 600 students.



**Clean Water Kitsap**  
Partners in Stormwater Solutions

[www.CleanWaterKitsap.org](http://www.CleanWaterKitsap.org)



## 2021 Year in Review Impact Report



# 5 organizations working together



## Septic Sense Goes Virtual

Well-maintained septic systems save residents money in repair costs. Working systems also keep bacteria and nutrients out of Kitsap creeks, streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.

For many years, WSU, KPHD and Kitsap County Public Works have partnered on our popular Septic Sense workshops designed to help people understand how their systems work, detect failures, and garden using the right plants that won't cause damage.

With the pandemic still looming, CWK partners revamped the entire Septic Sense program, taking it online via three convenient workshops. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with over 180 attendees. A key aspect of the workshops was the time allotted for questions. Attendees posted hundreds of questions and staff answered every single one. Post-event, 55 attendees requested on-site visits from KPHD to receive personalized advice.



## Beautifying Kitsap One Garden at a Time

Rain gardens are a beautiful and functional solution that reduce pollution and treat millions of gallons stormwater runoff in Kitsap each year. And you don't need to be a homeowner to enjoy one.

In 2021, KCD installed a new demonstration project at The Reserve at Bucklin Hill apartments in Silverdale. The residents there are enjoying 10 rain gardens that are connected to their nine buildings. Water from over 15,000 square feet of impervious roofs and pavement is funneled through gutters and drainage pipes, into the bowl-shaped gardens.

The gardens are planted with hardy, low-maintenance grasses and groundcovers. Once the water reaches the rain gardens, the mighty plants will do their work, keeping pollution out of neighboring Dyes Inlet. In fact, it is estimated that these rain gardens will treat 300,000 gallons of stormwater runoff each year.

## 2021 Project Highlights

*“The presenters were all very knowledgeable and friendly. I feel less intimidated calling them to ask questions!”*





Reduce Flooding



Prevent Pollution



Restore Fish Habitat



KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT



## Chico Bay Water Quality Improves

When KPHD was notified by the state health department that parts of Chico Bay's shellfish beds were threatened by high fecal pollution, they used CWK funding to develop and implement the Chico Bay Closure Response Plan. The purpose of this plan is to identify and correct bacterial and viral pollution to improve water quality conditions within Chico Bay. KPHD's Water Pollution Identification and Correction program finds and fixes fecal pollution sources so they don't make people sick. Their efforts are paying off.

Since the Chico Bay Closure Response Plan has been implemented, KPHD has been hard at work investigating parcels for pollution sources, investigating properties with septic issues, partnering to inspect sewer infrastructure, and offering septic tank rebates.

### Since 2017, KPHD has:

- Found and corrected five agricultural manure violations
- Identified 25 septic failures
- Responded to 21 deficient septic tank pumping reports and 12 public complaints
- Identified and corrected pet waste pollution from a complex with 137 living units

With water quality improving, the state may upgrade the eastern portion of Chico Bay and approve shellfish harvesting as early as summer of 2022.



### Kitsap County Public Works

Stormwater System Construction, Maintenance/Repair, Watershed Health Monitoring, Public Education

Learn more: [kitsapgov.com](http://kitsapgov.com)



### Kitsap Public Health District

Septic System Information, Shellfish and Swimming Advisories, Public Health Water Quality Monitoring

Learn more: [kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)



### Kitsap Conservation District

Farm Management, Rain Gardens, Backyard Habitat Grants

Learn more: [kitsapcd.org](http://kitsapcd.org)



### Washington State University Kitsap County Extension

Stream Stewards, Master Gardeners

Learn more: [extension.wsu.edu/kitsap](http://extension.wsu.edu/kitsap)



### Kitsap Public Utility District

Measure rainfall, streamflow and aquifer levels across the county

Learn more: [kpu.org](http://kpu.org)



# Clean Water Kitsap

Partners in Stormwater Solutions

**5 Backyard** Habitat and **3 fish**  
barrier removal projects improving  
stream habitat



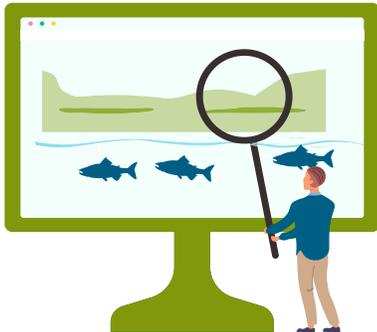
**7,834** trees and shrubs  
planted



on **5.8**  
acres of  
streambanks

**1,539**

unique visitors to  
*salmontours.org*



**8** Salmon Tours  
sites to watch  
salmon return  
home to spawn



**180** Septic Sense attendees  
55 on-site visit requests

**150 tons**



of pet waste picked  
up that did not  
enter our waterways

**40** rain gardens  
installed

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

