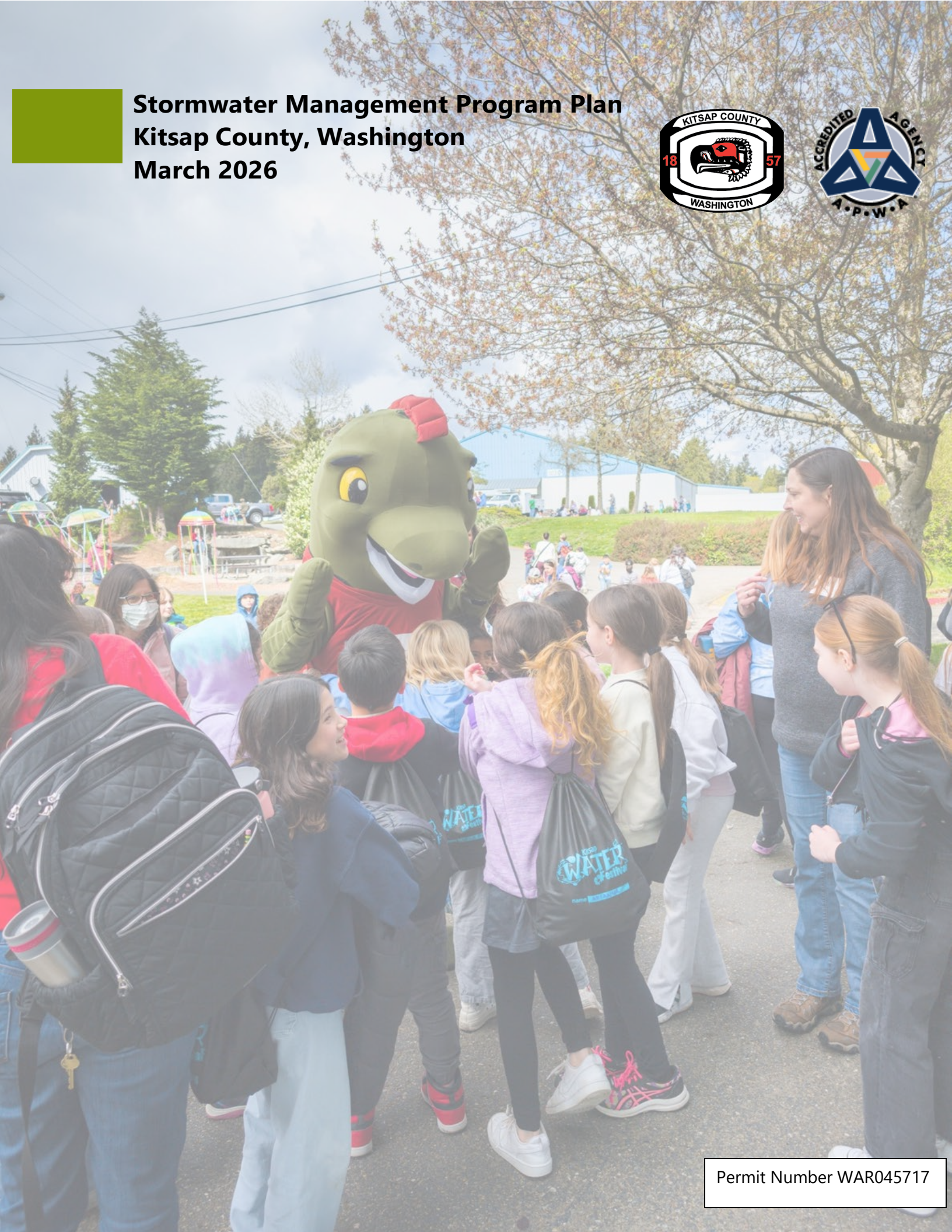


Stormwater Management Program Plan
Kitsap County, Washington
March 2026



Permit Number WAR045717

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview and Background

The Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit is part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The Permit outlines stormwater program activities and implementation milestones that permittees must follow to comply with the federal Clean Water Act. All Phase II communities are expected to develop a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that includes all the required activities, implement those activities within the required timeframes of the permit term, and submit annual reports to Ecology each year to document progress toward completing program implementation.

Municipal Stormwater General Permit

Since its initial implementation in 2007, there have been several iterations to update and refine the requirements. The iterations include:

2007-2012 Permit: The first Phase II permit became effective in 2007, focusing on developing stormwater management programs for small municipal separate storm sewer systems.

2013-2018 Permit: This version incorporated updates to address new stormwater control technologies, water quality standards, and compliance challenges identified during the first permit cycle.

2019-2024 Permit: This iteration further refined requirements, including enhanced monitoring, pollutant reduction strategies, and public education initiatives.

2024-2029 Permit: On July 1, 2024, Ecology issued the [most recent iteration of the Permit](#) with an expiration date of July 31, 2029 as part of the five-year permit cycle, which will likely continue evolving to address regional water quality goals and feedback from prior implementations.

The current Permit applies to cities and counties in Western Washington operating a small municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is located within, or partially within, an urbanized area and that discharges to a surface water of Washington State. Urbanized areas are defined as population centers with at least 50,000 people and densities of at least 1,000 people per square mile based on the most recent federal census data. Kitsap County has been designated by Ecology as a Phase II permittee. The Permit pertains to the MS4 contained within the census urbanized areas and the urban growth areas, including those adjacent to the cities of Poulsbo, Bremerton, and Port Orchard.

Kitsap County

Founded in 1857, Kitsap County's population (2023) is 277,658 making it one of the most densely populated counties in the state. Kitsap County occupies a unique position in the central Puget Sound region of the State of Washington, located directly between the urban areas of Seattle and Tacoma and the largely undeveloped Olympic Peninsula. It is bounded by the Hood Canal on the west, Puget Sound on the east, and Mason and Pierce Counties to the south. The county has a total land mass of 396 square miles, ranking 36th in size among all counties in Washington State.

In the first half of the twentieth century, dairy farming dominated land use. During the subsequent 50 years, many farms were subdivided into one- and five-acre parcels. The density of domesticated animals and people has grown, resulting in increasing pollution flowing into Kitsap County's bays, streams, lakes and marine waters. Some of the county's major waterbodies, Dyes Inlet, Sinclair Inlet and Liberty Bay, are located among the more densely developed and populated areas in the County.

With no large rivers or mountains containing snowpack, Kitsap County is like an island and relies on groundwater for its drinking water. The county's streams are relatively short in length and carry surface pollutants from stormwater runoff rapidly to its surface waters, making stormwater management a critical task.

1.2 Implementation Responsibilities

Kitsap County residents are represented by three elected County Commissioners and are served by a variety of agencies and government departments. The Board of County Commissioners is responsible for establishing public policy and local public laws within unincorporated Kitsap County. Recognizing the importance of protecting Kitsap's valuable natural waters, the Board adopted by Resolution 109-2009 (amended and revised in 2016 as Resolution 134- 2016) the Water as a Resource Policy which recognizes, in part, that storm and surface water runoff is the leading transport of

pollution into Puget Sound and its associated wetlands, creeks and rivers. Some of the guiding principles of this Policy include reducing pollutant loading and preserving the natural low-energy flow regime of ground and surface waters, managing assets, and refining management tools to incorporate the latest technology and innovations. This Policy guides staff in developing and implementing goals that include water resource protection and restoration as foundational elements. Within the County organization, many staff contribute toward meeting the Permit requirements, as well as implementing the principles of the Water as a Resource Policy.

The Kitsap County Department of Public Works (KCPW or Public Works) is responsible for building, operating and maintaining public facilities and utilities within unincorporated Kitsap County, including traffic engineering and maintenance, stormwater management, road maintenance, solid waste management, and sewer/wastewater management. Permit-required activities and the implementation of Water as a Resource Policy goals are also important functions of KCPW.







The Stormwater Division is primarily responsible for managing the Permit and developing and implementing the SWMP, with some responsibilities shared by the Roads Division and the Department of Community Development. The Stormwater Division is also responsible for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of all County closed conveyances within the right of way, water quality devices, and other drainage facilities outside the right of way.

The Roads Division maintains over 900 miles of roadway and all structures within the right of way that support the roadway such as ditches, culverts, sidewalks, bulkheads, seawalls and bridges. The Roads Division also implements the snow and ice removal program and is responsible for the Street Sweeping Program.

The Department of Community Development (DCD) provides review for new and existing development projects as well as code review and code enforcement.

1.3 Kitsap County Stormwater Management Program

To address the challenge of managing stormwater runoff and protecting water quality, the Surface and Stormwater Management program was formed in the early 1990s. Kitsap County and other local government agencies began working together to design a coordinated partnership to meet multiple needs:

-  KCPW needed to develop a stormwater management program in response to USEPA's development of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit Program for communities with populations of more than 100,000.
-  The Kitsap Conservation District, in 1989, needed to seek legislative approval for a fee to fund programs for landowner assistance.
-  The Kitsap Public Health District needed stable funding to address public health issues related to shellfish bed closures, failing septic systems and other water quality complaints.
-  Kitsap County Department of Community Development needed funding for state mandated watershed planning efforts.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners adopted Ordinance 156-1993 establishing the Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) program and the stormwater utility pursuant to [Chapter 36.89 Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\)](#), as codified in [Chapter 12.36 Kitsap County Code \(KCC\)](#) in 1993. Key features of the ordinance were the link between surface and stormwater and the formation of the partnership between KCPW and other agencies with the common vision for stormwater management and the protection/restoration of water quality. In 2014, SSWM was rebranded to Clean Water Kitsap (CWK).



The [CWK program](#) is a collaborative partnership between Kitsap County Public Works (led by the Stormwater Division), Kitsap Conservation District (KCD), Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD), Washington State University Kitsap Extension (WSU) and Kitsap Public Utility District (KPUD). The program is administered via interlocal agreements which are updated annually with each budget cycle. Many of the elements within the CWK program satisfy the requirements of the Permit. The specific contributions of each partner are outlined in detail in Section 3.2.

1.4 Stormwater Utility Rate Structure

The stormwater program is funded through an annual utility fee assessed to each developed property and road located within unincorporated Kitsap County and supplemented by grants. The funds are managed in a Stormwater Enterprise Fund under the authority of Chapter 36.89 RCW and Chapters 12.36 and 12.40 KCC.

In 2023, the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners formally adopted the **2024-2028 stormwater fee rates (Resolution 194-2023)**. The rate structure is designed to step up incrementally over the span of five years to fund a multitude of different programmatic areas. Kitsap County contracted with a consulting firm to conduct a stormwater utility fee study which was used to determine its future budget needs. Throughout the process, the County gathered feedback on the 2024-2028 stormwater fee structure through a variety of mechanisms, including a virtual open house, public comment form and public hearing.

Stormwater fee is used for...



Building new and improving existing stormwater facilities to reduce flooding, improve water quality, increase fish passage, and provide habitat.



Operating and maintaining over 225 miles of stormwater pipes, over 11,000 storm drains/catch basins, 500+ stormwater ponds, and numerous other facilities that manage the flow of stormwater runoff.



Education and outreach activities that help inform residents about what they can do to reduce stormwater runoff and keep water clean.



Preventing pollution from reaching Puget Sound through inspections and monitoring, as well as spill prevention and response.



In addition, the fee also funds Clean Water Kitsap partner agencies. Each partner has an area of expertise and implements programs to address water pollution. Partners include Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Conservation District, Washington State University - Kitsap County Extension, and Kitsap Public Utility District.

Stormwater Fee Rates (Resolution 194-2023)

2024	\$133
2025	\$136
2026	\$139
2027	\$142
2028	\$146

1.5 Document Organization

This Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan comprises the written documentation of the Kitsap County SWMP that is required to be submitted with the Permit Annual Report. In accordance with the Permit terms, the SWMP has been designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable per federal regulations and meet the State of Washington criteria for using all known, available and reasonable methods of prevention, control and treatment requirements to protect water quality. The following sections outline Kitsap County's actions to meet Permit requirements and inform the public of planned SWMP activities for the upcoming calendar year. To facilitate tracking, this document is organized by the components in S5.C, with applicable additional actions to fulfill Permit obligations:

- Section 1 - Introduction (see above)
- Section 2 - Stormwater Planning (S5.C.1)
- Section 3 - Public Education and Outreach (S5.C.2)
- Section 4 - Public Involvement and Participation (S5.C.3)
- Section 5 - MS4 Mapping and Documentation (S5.C.4)
- Section 6 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (S5.C.5)
- Section 7 - Controlling Runoff from New Development, Redevelopment, and Construction Sites (S5.C.6)
- Section 8 - Stormwater Management for Existing Development (S5.C.7)
- Section 9 - Source Control Program for Existing Development (S5.C.8)
- Section 10 - Operations and Maintenance (S5.C.9)
- Section 11 - Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements (S7)
- Section 12 - Monitoring and Assessment (S8)
- Section 13 - Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements (S9)
- Section 14 - Compliance with Underground Injection Well Program Requirements

Compliance activities under Special Conditions S7 and S8, included as part of the Annual Report, are provided separately. Additional Permit conditions, such as Special Conditions S1 through S4 and General Conditions G1 through G20, still apply to permittees, though they do not result in specific program activities, nor is the SWMP required to document compliance with these activities. These additional conditions cover topics such as the entities covered by the Permit and the discharges authorized under the Permit, as well as legal guidelines for transferring, revoking, and appealing the Permit. Penalties for non-compliance are also included in these conditions.

2. STORMWATER PLANNING

2.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.1 requires Kitsap County to implement a Stormwater Planning Program to inform and assist in the development of policies and strategies as water quality management tools to protect receiving waters.

The minimum performance measures are:

- Convene an inter-disciplinary team to inform and assist in the development, progress, and influence of this program
- Coordinate with long-range planning updates
- Implement low impact development (LID) code-related requirements
- Complete Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP)

2.2 Current Activities

Interdisciplinary Team and Planning Coordination

Kitsap County has established an interdisciplinary team comprised of Clean Water Kitsap agency partners as well as the internal committee that administers the requirements of the County's Water as a Resource policy. The formal designation of this interdisciplinary team in the last Permit term built upon coordination efforts and working relationships that were already well established.

The interdisciplinary team serves a critical function in informing and assisting the development, progress, and influence of the County's stormwater program. During the 2020 Stormwater Comprehensive Plan (SWCP) development process, the team provided essential technical review and incorporated the Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP) results, SWCP findings, and prioritization outcomes into the County's short- and long-range planning goals. This collaborative approach ensures that stormwater planning is integrated with broader water resource management objectives and reflects the input of diverse technical expertise across County departments and partner agencies.

Coordination with Long-Range Planning

The County's stormwater planning efforts are coordinated with long-range planning updates at multiple levels. The Stormwater Comprehensive Plan works in concert with the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, which was most recently updated in December 2025 through Ordinance 837-2024 under the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA) Chapter 36.70A RCW. The SWCP provides a dedicated framework for managing, operating, and financing stormwater-related activities within unincorporated Kitsap County, addressing surface water and stormwater management needs including program management, operation and maintenance (O&M), climate change adaptation, capital facility planning, and financial sustainability.

The County's Stormwater and Roads Divisions are responsible for operating the County's storm drainage system under the regulatory framework of the Permit. This responsibility is carried out in part through a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) that establishes policy and service level standards, and a 6-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) designed to meet the goals and objectives of the County's Stormwater Division. These foundational planning documents are updated on an annual basis to ensure they remain responsive to changing conditions and regulatory requirements.

Ongoing SWCP Update and Interdisciplinary Engagement

The SWCP is currently being updated for the next five-year planning cycle. During this update process, the interdisciplinary team is again providing critical technical review and will assist with implementation of the updated plan. This ongoing engagement ensures that the plan reflects current best practices, addresses emerging challenges such as climate change impacts, and maintains alignment with both state and federal regulatory requirements as well as local policy objectives.

The 2020 SWCP, adopted in December 2020, represented a comprehensive effort that:

- Reviewed previous studies, plans, and information associated with current and proposed stormwater systems.
- Compiled a prioritized list of capital improvement projects.
- Evaluated County resources relating to current and future needs for NPDES compliance, including staffing, equipment, and funding.
- Developed actions for anticipated sea level rise, increased storm intensities, and other climate change impacts.
- Established a framework for ongoing coordination with the County's comprehensive planning processes.

The current SWCP update builds on this foundation while incorporating lessons learned from the previous planning cycle and addressing new requirements and opportunities identified through the SMAP process and ongoing program implementation.

Low Impact Development Implementation

As part of ongoing efforts to remove barriers and encourage wider implementation of Green Stormwater Solutions (GSS), also known as Low Impact Development (LID), Kitsap County updated its Stormwater Code and Stormwater Design Manual (SDM) in 2021 to continue making LID the preferred approach to stormwater management for new development. These code-related requirements support the County's commitment to incorporating low-impact development principles throughout its planning and development review processes.

Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP)

The County completed its Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP) during the previous permit cycle. The SMAP process provided a structured framework for identifying priority watersheds and stormwater management actions based on water quality data, receiving water conditions, and regulatory requirements. The interdisciplinary team played a key role in the SMAP process, bringing diverse technical perspectives to the prioritization of water quality improvement actions. The results of the SMAP continue to inform capital project planning, program implementation priorities, and resource allocation decisions as part of the County's adaptive management approach to stormwater program development.

Through these coordinated planning efforts, Kitsap County maintains a comprehensive and integrated approach to stormwater management that meets all minimum performance measures required under S5.C.1 of the Permit, including convening the interdisciplinary team, coordinating with long-range planning, implementing LID code requirements, and completing SMAP.

2.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County will implement the following actions to implement the Stormwater Planning Program in 2026 and beyond:

- As part of the County's ongoing Water as a Resource Policy implementation, the Stormwater Division will continue to coordinate between all departments for long-

range planning related to stormwater management, water resource management, and other related activities such as road network planning, facilities development, and other Kitsap County land-use activities. The SWCP specifically addresses how Kitsap County will accomplish this.

- Seek and pursue opportunities to expand GSS/LID as part of our retrofit activities to address existing development.
- The County is updating the SMAP and SWCP during 2026 in this Permit term and will implement the results and recommendations by applying them to the Capital Facilities Plan, Retrofit Plan and this SWMP. The CWK partner organizations will also utilize the results of the SMAP by focusing their work on top priority watersheds.
- The County developed a cost tracking program in 2025 and is implementing it in 2026. This program will track the cost or estimated cost of development and implementation of each component of the SWMP and TMDL requirements including the sources of funding.
- The Stormwater Division's leadership team will implement year 2 of the 5-year Stormwater Strategic Plan to meet Permit requirements and enact organizational goals and objectives. The Stormwater Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap for the Division's decision makers to enact a proactive, compliant, and sustainable stormwater management philosophy. The goals and objectives in this plan guide annual work plans that focus on maintaining compliance and implementing policies that will not only protect our natural resources but also enhance Kitsap residents' quality of life.

3. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

This section describes the programs and partnerships that the Stormwater Division implements to build general awareness about impacts from stormwater runoff, affect behavior change to reduce adverse stormwater impacts and create stewardship opportunities that encourage community engagement in addressing the impacts from stormwater runoff. Program implementation is done on an ongoing annual basis or on a strategic schedule.

3.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.2 requires Kitsap County to develop and administer a Public Education and Outreach Program for the area served by the MS4. Permittees may choose to meet these requirements individually or as a member of a regional group.

The program components include:

- General Awareness
- Behavior Change
- Stewardship

3.2 Partnerships

Internal, Local and Regional Partnerships

The Stormwater Division leverages partnerships internally, locally and regionally to maximize its reach and programmatic efficiency. Kitsap County education and outreach staff from the Stormwater, Sewer, Roads and Solid Waste Divisions meet every other month as a community of practice, to share information, coordinate efforts, synchronize messaging, and improve program efficiency.

On the local scale, the CWK partnership plays an integral role in Kitsap County's ability to meet all Permit requirements. CWK is a unique, nationally recognized multi-agency partnership created to reduce flooding, prevent pollution and restore fish habitat through stormwater management activities. CWK is managed by KCPW and includes Kitsap Public Health District, Kitsap Conservation District, Kitsap Public Utility District, and Washington State University Kitsap Extension. The structure, trust and collaboration of this group has

made it a model framework for regional partnerships that innovate and continue to raise the bar for collective actions on water quality. CWK partner agency programs are summarized below.

Kitsap Conservation District provides several programs that work to protect and restore surface water quality, and provide stewardship opportunities for the public including the Agricultural Program, Backyard Habitat Program and the Rain Gardens and More Program.

The Agricultural Assistance Program works with farmers and livestock owners to manage their land and animals to prevent pollution and protect surface water quality. KCD assists farmers with well-designed conservation practices that include pasture, crop, manure and mud management. They provide technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices as well as providing funds for cost sharing to support these best management practices. KCD also conducts workshops and farm tours.

The Backyard Habitat Program helps with planning, design and funding for projects to restore backyard stream habitat on private property. Projects are selected based on a scoring criterion. Staff assist with permitting, engineering, design, and construction. These projects remove barriers to improve fish passage, habitat, and water quality, as well as remove noxious weeds.

The Rain Gardens and More Program offers technical assistance and cost incentives for installing rain gardens and other green stormwater solutions on private residential and commercial properties in unincorporated Kitsap County. Benefits from these practices include reducing flooding and erosion in streams, filtering pollutants such as oil and grease from roads, and increasing the amount of water that soaks into the ground to recharge local groundwater. The cost share incentive provides up to \$1,500 per project, and the popularity of the program continues to grow.

Kitsap Public Health District addresses public health issues related to shellfish bed closures, failing septic systems and other water quality complaints. KPHD's activities include:

- Collecting water and shellfish samples from streams and shoreline areas to identify potential sources of bacterial pollution.
- Investigating potential pollution sources and working with property owners to correct them.

- Conducting septic system inspections and educational visits, investigating citizen complaints, and supporting regional efforts to provide financial solutions for property owners faced with septic system replacement.
- Responding to sewage spills and issuing public health advisories.

Under the CWK umbrella, KPHD is the primary agency responsible for investigating and identifying impaired waters and prioritizing nonpoint fecal pollution identification and correction. To address this need, KPHD implements the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program, which focuses on education, prevention, and enforcement of local health regulations. Inspectors prioritize, assess, and investigate streams with elevated fecal pollution using all available data and door-to-door inspections focused on preventative and corrective actions like septic maintenance and animal waste management. Pollution sources are corrected through education and enforcement as necessary.

KPHD has routinely monitored major streams and marine waters for fecal bacteria since 1996, with monthly water quality monitoring of all major streams. Popular recreational lakes are sampled regularly during heavy use. This monitoring reveals polluted areas that need cleanup and provides the information necessary to post health advisories and shellfish closures and restrictions. In addition, this monitoring can also demonstrate where water quality efforts have succeeded, providing the evidence needed to remove health advisory warning signs and upgrade shellfish harvest areas.

Washington State University Kitsap Extension provides top notch education and volunteer opportunities for stewardship projects that raise awareness about Kitsap streams to support the protection and restoration of water quality. This includes Stream Stewards, Salmon Docents and Green Stormwater Solutions.

The Stream Stewards and Salmon Docents Programs provide Kitsap residents with educational training, volunteer opportunities and events to help turn environmental knowledge into action.

The Green Stormwater Solutions Program coordinates Master Gardener volunteers to perform outreach to homeowners about natural yard care which supports the overall goal of reducing water pollution while enhancing landscape management practices. In addition, the program coordinates a self-guided tour for residents to visit local rain gardens and learn of the many benefits of installing a rain garden on their property.

Kitsap Public Utility District provides streamflow gauging, stream temperature logging, rainfall gauging, maintenance of the gauging network, and hydrologic analysis for streams throughout the County.

West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group (WSSOG), led by Kitsap County since its formation in 2008, is a regional coalition of municipal stormwater permittees in and around the Kitsap Peninsula that collaborates on water quality education and outreach. This partnership provides Kitsap County residents with consistent messaging and educational resources, expanding regional reach and ensuring smaller jurisdiction permittees benefit from programming opportunities they might otherwise lack. Kitsap County implements all elements of the following WSSOG regional programs: Mutt Mitt Program, Dumpster Lid behavior change campaign and Spills Happen campaign (Spills Reporting Hotline - Kitsap1 and SeeClickFix).

Kitsap County actively connects to broader regional efforts through participation in the **Puget Sound Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM) partnership**. Kitsap County represents the WSSOG on the STORM Steering Committee and the Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) Committee, participates in quarterly meetings and the annual Symposium, implements local PSSH campaigns, and engages in specialized workgroups and subcommittees.

3.3 Current Activities

General Awareness

Puget Sound Starts Here

Kitsap County collaborates with regional partners to increase public awareness about protecting Puget Sound from polluted stormwater runoff through the Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) program. This regional effort includes events, outreach campaigns, and promotions like the “Don’t Wait to Inflate” campaign which encourages drivers to keep their tires properly inflated to protect local salmon from tire particles that can contaminate water systems and have been found to be lethal to coho salmon. Outreach efforts include distributing PSSH-branded items such as pet waste bag dispensers with adopted dogs, coasters to local restaurants, and storm drain curb markers to highlight the link between stormwater and receiving water quality.

Youth Education Programs

Kitsap County’s youth education programs engage local schools and the community to

raise awareness about the impacts of stormwater pollution on surface waters. The County provides interactive learning opportunities for school-age children through in-class lessons, field trips, school family nights, and youth-focused community events. These programs emphasize the effects of stormwater runoff, including impacts from impervious surfaces, and foster environmental stewardship. In 2025, the County reached approximately 5,949 students.

Kitsap County implements or participates in the following youth education programs and activities:

- Kitsap Water Festival
- Salmon in the Classroom
- Salmon Tours student field experiences
- Stormwater Park field trips
- Clear Creek habitat field trip
- Storm Drain Detectives
- In-class lessons
- Family STEM and STEAM nights at schools
- StoryWalks
- National Public Works Week Elementary Tour Day

Communications Campaigns

Kitsap County utilized multiple communications channels to build general awareness for target audiences in the areas of general impacts of stormwater on surface waters, including impacts from impervious surfaces, LID principles and LID best management practices. These channels include community events, social media, flyers, brochures, post cards, kiosks, interpretive signs, websites ([Stormwater Division](#), [Many Hands, One Mission: Clean Water](#) & [Dyes Inlet Watershed](#)), email ([Stormwater News](#)), and an online [Projects Map](#) to communicate about capital projects. Kitsap County Public Works produces an annually published magazine called *Everyday Kitsap*, that is provided to every household in Kitsap County. The magazine is available in print and electronic format ([Everyday Kitsap](#)) and contains utilities-focused articles and information including stormwater issues and solutions.

Kitsap County participates in numerous community events throughout the year. The events allow the County to provide information to the public on topics such as proper pet waste management, bacterial pollution, identifying and reporting spills, the principles of low impact development (LID), and the general impacts of stormwater pollution on surface waters, human health and the environment. Community events included:

- Peninsula Home & Garden Expo
- Manchester Community Open House
- Pets Walk
- Kids Day
- Whaling Days
- Discover Kingston Community Open House

Stormwater Parks and Restoration Sites

Kitsap County owns and maintains several multi-use properties, including educational sites at Salmon Haven (based at the Dickerson Creek Restoration Project site); the Clear Creek Interpretive Trail (based at the Clear Creek Floodplain Restoration Project site); and the Manchester and Whispering Firs Stormwater Parks. These sites provide locations for education and outreach events such as Story Walks, Salmon Tours, Salmon in the Classroom fish releases and community science opportunities. The sites also provide an ideal space for stormwater interpretive signs that allow for accessible learning, self-guided exploration, behavioral influence and increased visitor engagement. Kitsap maintains interpretive signs at all stormwater parks and restoration sites.

Septic Sense Workshops

Kitsap County offers *Septic Sense Workshops* free and open to the public. These workshops are a CWK collaborative effort between KCPW, KPHD and WSU. The goal of these workshops is to inform septic system owners on proper operation and maintenance of their systems and to encourage proper septic maintenance and pumping. The workshops address topics such as septic maintenance, how to identify a failing septic system, landscaping near the septic field and a low interest loan program for septic repairs. The workshops consist of a combination of online live webinars and in-person hands-on events. In 2025, 112 people attended either a webinar or in-person workshop. Recorded webinars and video shorts are available on the County's [YouTube](#) channel.

Natural Yard Care

Kitsap County's Natural Yard Care campaign is a CWK program led by WSU Kitsap Extension. The program focuses on helping residents use environmentally friendly landscaping practices that reduce pollutants in stormwater and protect local surface waters. The campaign topics cover soil health, water conservation, natural pest control, pollinator-friendly gardening and more. The program delivered three one-hour Natural Yard Care webinar trainings and one in-person event in the spring of 2025. Outreach and promotion for the webinars included seven targeted Facebook posts and distribution of printed flyers at local libraries and hardware stores to reach a broad homeowner audience. Program evaluation feedback indicated increased confidence in applying what was learned and interest in deeper engagement. Overall, the campaign helped raise

community awareness of natural yard care as a water-quality protection tool.

Kitsap County promotes natural yard care at the popular Kitsap Home and Remodel Expo at the Kitsap Fairgrounds. The Kitsap County Public Works Stormwater booth showcases and promotes natural yard care techniques and LID practices for homeowners. It also includes a game of natural yard care cornhole that offers a fun way to engage with the public.

Behavior Change

Mutt Mitt Program

Since 2009, the County and WSSOG have targeted pet waste pick-up and proper disposal as a key behavior for reducing bacteria pollution in stormwater and surface water and adopted a successful and collaborative regional Mutt Mitt Program. Efforts related to this key behavior have continued annually and the program continues to be a primary behavior change campaign for Kitsap. The Mutt Mitt program continues to grow steadily and currently comprises 699 stations that have been distributed throughout the county and WSSOG partner cities. Typically, between 20-40 stations are added annually.

In 2025, the Cities, County and residents that participate in the program distributed a total of 1,278,285 pet waste disposal bags. This effort represents 211 tons of dog waste diverted from the streams, lakes and marine waters of Kitsap County.

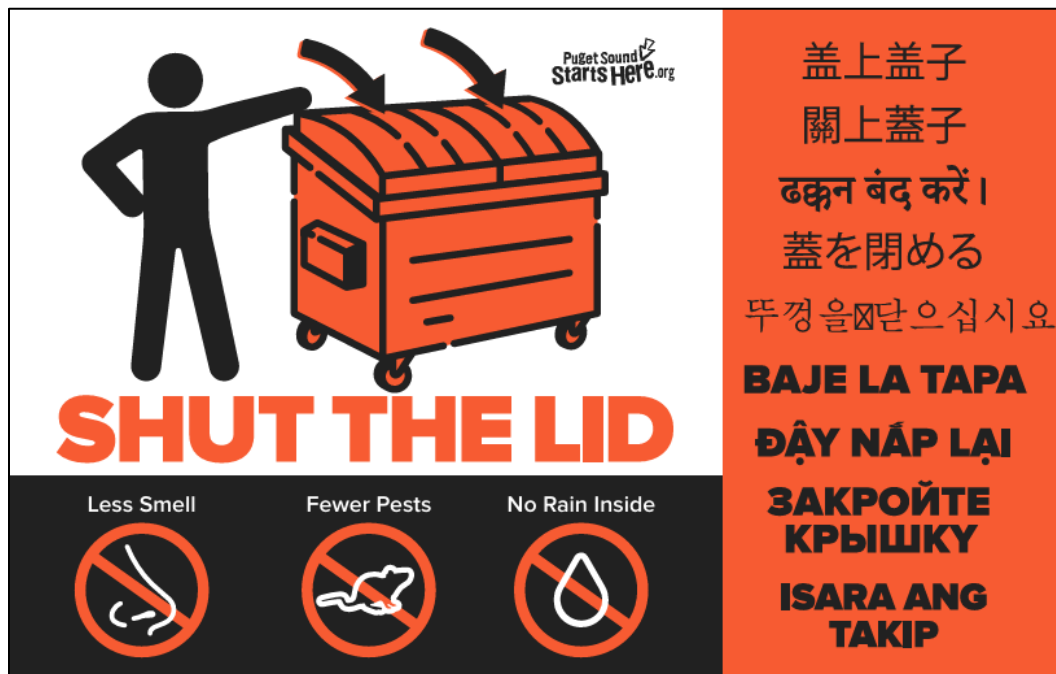
Dumpster Lids

Based on the results of the 2023 Natural Yard Care behavior change campaign and the evaluation report, WSSOG determined that spring 2024 would be the last time it would implement the NYC behavior change campaign, and elected to select a new pollutant, behavior and audience.

In fall 2024, the group applied social marketing practices to select a new behavior change campaign focused on preventing illicit discharges from commercial garbage dumpsters. Commercial garbage dumpsters are a known source of pollution in stormwater runoff. When dumpster lids are left open, rainwater can mix with food waste, grease, bacteria, chemicals, and trash and flow into storm drains, carrying pollutants directly to local waterways. Open dumpsters also attract pests such as vermin. The campaign seeks to motivate people to close the dumpster lids after each use and will focus on pollution-generating businesses as the priority audience.

In 2025, the group developed a campaign strategy and schedule and began implementing the campaign, beginning with engaging a consultant to gather baseline information on

dumpster closure rates for post-campaign comparison. The campaign strategy is based on the successful dumpster lid pilot program conducted by the City of Bellevue and partner cities. Next steps will include delivering campaign information and materials (stickers, magnets, posters) during regularly scheduled business inspections, conducting post-inspection windshield evaluations to determine campaign impact, and follow-up interviews with business inspectors to identify areas for program improvement.



Above: Dumpster Campaign Sticker, “shut the lid” in multiple languages: English, Traditional Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Tagalog

Stewardship

Kitsap County provides stewardship opportunities for residents in conjunction with our regional partners. These in-depth trainings, events and programs provide residents with opportunities to participate in activities and events which protect and restore surface waters, stream and riparian corridors and cultivate community connection.

Stream Stewards Training

In the WSU Kitsap Extension [Stream Stewards course](#), local and regional experts teach potential environmental volunteers about topics like stormwater impacts on local streams and forests, stream health, water quality, forest ecology, wildlife biology, and ecological restoration. The training is a hybrid learning opportunity with both in-person field trips and virtual classroom settings. Upon completion, volunteers are required to commit to 20 hours of ecosystem-based volunteer service in the next year, which can be applied to a

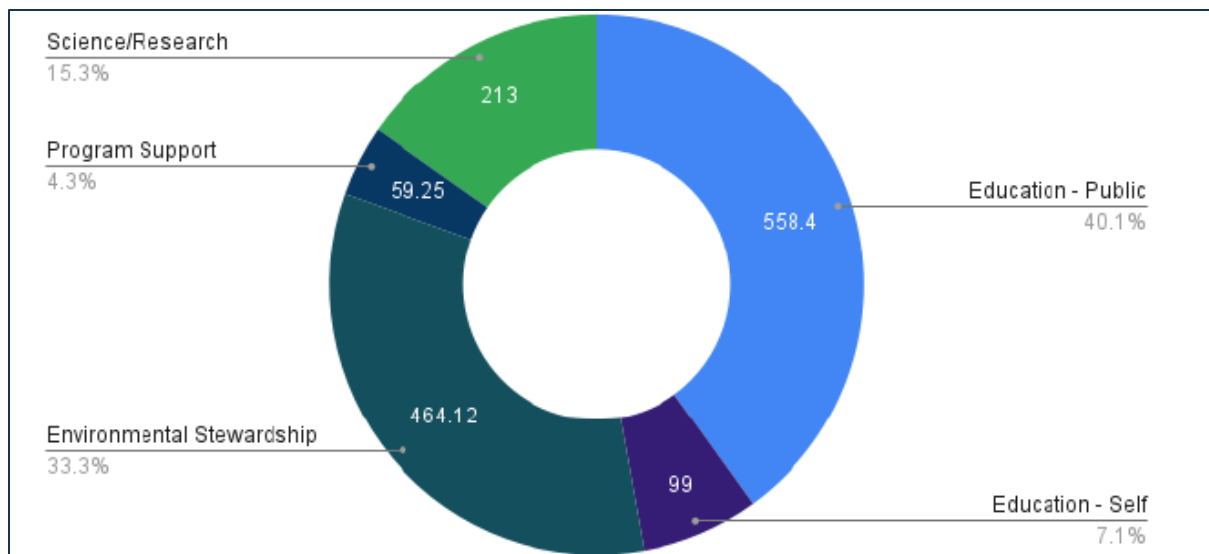
wide range of opportunities that work toward the larger goal of improving Kitsap ecosystem health. From getting involved in a [citizen science](#) project or watershed health monitoring (benthic sampling or habitat surveys) to engaging in public outreach, volunteers are connected to opportunities that fit their skills and interests.

Salmon Docent Training

Salmon hold ecological, commercial, and cultural significance in the Pacific Northwest. WSU provides an annual 3-day fall [Salmon Docent training](#), in which regional experts teach about how salmon survive their epic migrations and the challenges that they face in today’s changing world. Attendees engage with material through field trips and hands-on activities. Local organizations share current research findings and provide tangible volunteer opportunities on salmon-focused projects across Kitsap County. The training culminates with the opportunity to become a docent at the annual Kitsap Salmon Tours event, giving trainees the chance to share what they’ve learned with the public.



2025 Stream Steward and Salmon Docent Volunteer Hours (1,394 total)



Salmon Tours

Kitsap Salmon Tours is a CWK-sponsored program led by WSU. This annual event is held in November at eight stream sites across the county where the public can explore all things salmon with biologists, local organizations and trained volunteer docents. Salmon Tours provide the public with an opportunity to experience salmon in their habitat while learning about the sources and impacts of stormwater pollution.

In 2025, community partners provided booths and shared information with attendees about the salmon lifecycle, stream bugs, beavers, orcas, parks, trees, restoration projects and many other topics pertaining to salmon. 1,505 visitors were recorded visiting at least one salmon viewing site, and many visited multiple sites. The event was publicized via website (kitsapsalmon tours.org), leaflet, social media, and Peachjar flyer distribution to schools. A salmon-themed popup StoryWalk was held at Salmon Haven in partnership with Kitsap Regional Library. In person and virtual field trips were provided to high schools and elementary schools during Salmon Tours, with over 800 students in attendance.

Agricultural Assistance

The [Agricultural Assistance Program](#) partners with farmers and livestock owners to support sustainable land and animal management, helping to prevent pollution and protect surface water quality. This includes implementing well-designed conservation practices for pasture, crops, manure, and mud management, with technical assistance and funding provided by CWK. Each year, KCD engages with at least 500 landowners, schedules over 100 site visits, and collaborates with landowners to implement approximately 50 best management practices (BMPs) for farm management. In addition to direct assistance, KCD also offers workshops and farm tours to further educate and support the agricultural community.

Backyard Habitats

The [Backyard Habitat Program](#) focuses on planning, designing, and funding projects to restore backyard stream habitat on private property. Projects are selected based on criteria such as, addressing fish passage, habitat improvement, and water quality as well as removing trash and noxious weeds. These projects remove barriers to participation and inspire residents to get involved. Each year KCD allocates at least five backyard habitat grants—depending on size and scope. Larger projects can span two or three years for design, permitting, and construction and require multiple grant funding sources. KCD also coordinates with landowners, volunteers and work crews on planting and restoration projects resulting in a minimum of two acres of restored habitat and 500 ft of stream improved. KCD recently wrapped up the last of eight fish passage barriers on Ruby Creek, improving access to 5 miles of stream habitat. [Ruby Creek Fish Passage Projects](#).



*Above: Backyard Habitat Program volunteers helped with the relocation of aquatic animals before a fish barrier was removed. Over 100 northwestern salamanders (*Ambystoma gracile*) were found!*

Rain Gardens and More

The [Rain Gardens and More Program](#) provides technical assistance and cost incentives for installing green stormwater solutions (GSS) like rain gardens on private and commercial properties in unincorporated Kitsap County. The incentives can reach up to \$1,500 per project, aiming to reduce flooding, filter pollutants, and promote groundwater recharge. KCD's goal is to install a minimum of 50 rain gardens, underground outlets, cisterns, landscape amendments or other GSS, with a target of treating at least 60,000 square feet of impervious surface / stormwater runoff per year.

Adopt A Spot – storm drains!

Kitsap County Stormwater Division partnered with the Solid Waste Division to include clearing trash and debris around storm drains in the popular [Adopt A Spot program](#). The program gives anyone the opportunity to help keep the county clean and keep trash and debris out of our waterways. To date, Kitsap residents have adopted 1,552 storm drains, preventing potential flooding in addition to keeping our communities' trash free.

3.4 Planned Activities

Kitsap County has implemented all required actions under this section of the Permit. Activities planned for the upcoming year will include maintaining and improving the programs outlined above and adapting them as necessary to meet permit and program objectives. Kitsap County plans to conduct the following new activities in 2026:

- Develop and implement an awareness campaign to help the public understand the connection between stormwater fees and the benefits of invisible stormwater infrastructure.
- Develop and implement a “clear your drain” campaign.
- Redesign Home Show booth to better promote Clean Water Kitsap and natural yard care practices.
- Implement the dumpster lid behavior change campaign in coordination with WSSOG.
- Promote a new Septic Sense video short to enrich and expand on the Septic Sense Workshops.
- Implement a new Mutt Mitt station mini trash can pilot and design new MM station signs that promote proper pet waste disposal.

4. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

4.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.3 requires Kitsap County to provide ongoing opportunities for public involvement and participation through advisory councils, public hearings, watershed committees, participation in developing rate structures or other similar activities.

The minimum performance measures are:

- Create opportunities for the public, including overburdened communities, to participate in the decision-making process involving the development, implementation and update of the SMAP and SWMP.
- Annually document specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically highly impacted communities.
- **No later than December 31, 2026**, document methods used to identify overburdened communities.
- Post this SWMP Plan and Annual Report on the County's website, no later than May 31 each year. All other submittals shall be available to the public upon request.

4.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County actively fosters public involvement and participation in developing rate structures and similar activities. Engaging the community in ways that ensure inclusion of overburdened communities is essential for identifying opportunities to refine the County's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) and other initiatives to better align with local needs and priorities. This approach also facilitates meaningful dialogue on stormwater challenges and solutions, enhancing transparency and collaboration in the County's projects and planning efforts.

The County's SWMP Plan, Stormwater Comprehensive Plan, SMAP, and NPDES Annual Reports are posted on the County's website annually, comments are accepted year-round. The public is also invited to provide input on stormwater activities or issues via Kitsap1 and the SeeClickFix app.

Kitsap County employs place-based and project-based public engagement which allows for community specific input and feedback. When the Stormwater Division is performing operations and maintenance, construction, retrofits, inspections, or education and outreach activities in the community, staff are coached and encouraged to take every opportunity to engage with the public.

In addition, Kitsap County sponsors several Community Advisory Councils in the communities of Manchester, Kingston, and Suquamish as well as the Central Kitsap Community Council. These community connections provide opportunities for the public to provide input on specific stormwater projects located in their communities, as well as the various programs and services offered to communities through the CWK partnership.

The Stormwater Division solicited public comments on the 2026 Stormwater Budget at the September 15, 2025 Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing and on the Stormwater 6-year Capital Facilities Plan at the November 5, 2025 Board of County Commissioners Public Hearing.

The County recognizes that input from Kitsap residents will help us focus program efforts on areas that are of concern or interest to the community. To increase public involvement in the SWMP Plan in 2025, the Stormwater Division developed a survey to collect information on areas of the SWMP Plan that the general public would like to see emphasized or improved, such as flood prevention, water quality protection, repair of aging systems, wildlife habitat restoration, public education, trees and natural area conservation, equity, climate change, emergency preparedness and response, and financial efficiency. Respondents were also asked what concerns them most about runoff and what needs they see in their neighborhoods.

The survey was delivered from November through December 2025, utilizing social media so that people could participate wherever and whenever it was convenient for them. The survey provided participants with information on how to access the SWMP Plan and encouraged them to answer multiple choice and open-ended survey questions.

Responses show that flooding and drainage performance are the most visible and immediate concerns for residents. There is also strong community support for protecting local waterways and salmon, reflecting a shared environmental value. Pollution prevention remains a priority, with particular concern around oil, trash, and pet waste. Residents expect the stormwater system to be well maintained and reliable, and many expressed interests in green infrastructure and stormwater parks as added community assets. At the same time, some residents raised concerns about the system's long-term capacity and how future growth may affect performance. Further comments on the SWMP Plan are

continuously open via email at stormwater@kitsap.gov, or the County's [website](#) ("Submit a Public Comment").

Potential stormwater projects located in areas with overburdened communities, including vulnerable populations and highly impacted communities, are given higher priority where the water quality issues and human health impacts overlap and can be addressed (at least partly) through stormwater management improvements. Kitsap County uses mapping tools to identify overburdened communities including the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map and the County's own Equity Atlas. The tools are used to identify overburdened communities that possibly have health risks that may be improved through stormwater management actions.

Kitsap's web-based Overburdened Communities Assessment tool – the [Equity Atlas](#) – is designed to guide the County and partner agencies toward meaningful, inclusive, and equitable outreach. This tool is comprised of 23 demographic, socioeconomic and health/environment metrics (or indicators) from Federal, State, and private data sources and allows for community exploration down to a neighborhood level or census tract. The Overburdened Communities Assessment is used to identify barriers (language, transportation, economic, education, etc.) within overburdened neighborhoods to better inform public outreach and program development.

4.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County will continue to implement and improve upon the existing public involvement and participation opportunities as outlined above. Additional planned activities for 2026 will include:

- Incorporate themes from public participation and feedback survey into stormwater program investments, communications strategies, and community education initiatives.
- Solicit input from the public regarding new operational, capital and retrofit projects through online surveys, online comment form, Kitsap1 and SeeClickFix app, as well as other avenues such as presentations at public meetings and Community Advisory Councils meetings.
- Solicit input from the public on the Stormwater Budget and Capital Facilities Plan at Board of County Commissioner public hearing.
- Document specific public involvement and participation opportunities provided to overburdened communities and specifically highly impacted communities.
- Begin the process to update the Kitsap County Equity Map.

- Incorporate specific recommendations from the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan Update project.
- Find new ways to connect with the public, especially overburdened and highly impacted communities, to gather feedback, concerns, requests for information, project ideas, community needs, etc.
- Provide public involvement and participation opportunities to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities in deciding where to site future stormwater parks identified through the [Kitsap County Stormwater Parks Planning Study](#).

5. MS4 MAPPING AND DOCUMENTATION

5.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.4 requires Kitsap County to implement an ongoing program for mapping and documenting the MS4.

The minimum performance measures are:

- Maintain all required mapping data (IAW S5.C4.a).
- New Mapping:
 - **No later than March 31, 2026**, submit locations of all known MS4 outfalls.
 - **No later than December 31, 2026**, using available, existing data, map tree canopy to support stormwater management on Permittee-owned or operated properties. Permittees shall develop and follow a methodology to intentionally identify canopy for stormwater management purposes, which may be updated annually or as needed.
 - **No later than March 31, 2028**, implement a methodology to map and assess acreage of MS4 tributary basins to outfalls with a 24-inch nominal diameter or larger, or an equivalent cross-sectional area for non-pipe systems that have stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities owned or operated by the County.
 - **No later than December 31, 2028**, using available, existing data map overburdened communities in relation to stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities, outfalls, discharge points, and tree canopy on County-owned or operated properties.
- Maintain all mapping electronically.
- Make maps available to Ecology, Tribes, municipalities and other Permittees upon request.

5.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County utilizes the OpenGov Software system to manage all stormwater infrastructure inventory. This database system links to the Kitsap County Geographical Information System (GIS) and stores information for each asset (size, type, as-built date, condition, inspection and maintenance history, etc.). The system is updated to reflect

public and private system changes, additions, and upgrades based on as-built documents received upon project completion. The system is combined with other GIS information to create maps showing land use, topography or other features to aid in illicit discharge detection and elimination or spill prevention.

Kitsap County also maintains written agreements (memorandum of understanding) with the cities of Bremerton, Poulsbo and Port Orchard for collaboration, data sharing and mapping information across shared jurisdictional boundaries.

In 2024, the Stormwater Division began an 18-month project to review its:

- asset management activities
- planning
- operational practices
- database systems

This project will provide a Strategic Asset Management Plan, including individual plans for specific asset classes, assessing risk and guiding enhanced maintenance. It will also include asset replacement plans and evaluate the need for any upgrades or additions to our CMMS (computerized maintenance management system).

5.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Continue to share information related to stormwater connections across jurisdictional boundaries, as well as mapping information with CWK partners, Bremerton, Poulsbo and Port Orchard.
- Update the database with any additions, corrections or changes to asset information (e.g., discrepancies found during inspections, maintenance activities, retrofit projects, and completed CIP construction projects).
- Identify and map the location of all components of the stormwater drainage system and add new assets into GIS database as necessary.
- Adapt any necessary updates to the CMMS, mapping, inspection, and O&M processes identified in the asset management project analysis.

6. ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

6.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.5 requires Kitsap County to implement an ongoing program to prohibit, prevent, detect, characterize, trace, and eliminate illicit connections and discharges into the MS4.

The minimum performance measures are:

- Maintain procedures for reporting and correcting or removing illicit connections, spills and other illicit discharges.
- Inform public employees, businesses and the public of the hazards of illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.
- Implement ordinances and regulations to prohibit IDDE.
- Implement a program to detect and identify illicit connections and non-stormwater discharges to the MS4.
- Implement a program to address illicit connections and illicit discharges including spills.
- Implement a Training Program for IDDE staff.
- Recordkeeping and Reporting.

6.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County complies with this permit condition through a robust IDDE Program designed to identify, characterize, address and report illicit connections, spills, and other illicit discharges.

S5.C.5.a. Include procedures for reporting and correcting or removing illicit connections, spills and other illicit discharges when they are suspected or identified. The program shall also include procedures for addressing pollutants entering the MS4 from an interconnected, adjoining MS4.

The County utilizes OpenGov Asset Management Software (detailed in Section 5) to manage all storm sewer system infrastructure and track illicit connections, spills and

discharges including connections to private systems and adjoining MS4s. The system ensures that reports are adequately investigated, and illicit connections are removed.

The County coordinates with owners and operators of adjoining MS4s to address pollutants entering its system, including maintaining professional working relationships with adjoining jurisdictions for collaboration, data sharing related to stormwater connections across jurisdictional boundaries, and mapping information. Notifications and technical assistance are provided as necessary to mitigate issues.

Section S5.C5.b. Inform public employees, businesses and the public of hazards associated with illicit discharges and improper disposal of waste.

The County provides education and outreach activities tailored to public employees, businesses, and the public (see Education and Outreach section) through workshops, community events, and digital platforms to educate residents about the hazards of illicit discharges and the importance of proper waste management. Key components include:

- Kitsap County's "[Report Spills](#)" website, a central place for information on how to report water pollution and spills.
- Providing business related handouts during private commercial storm system inspections and Source Control inspections.
- Advertising the Kitsap1 Spills Hotline and *Puget Sound Starts Here* campaign message on storm drain markers, vehicle graphic and other marketing materials.
- Youth education programs focusing on how to report spills, where the water goes and the effects of illicit discharge pollution on salmon and other keystone species.
- Septic Workshops that teach residents about the adverse environmental effects of bacterial pollution from leaking septic systems.

Section S5.C5.c. Implement an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to effectively prohibit illicit discharges into the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable under the state and federal law. Revise, if necessary, **NLT July 1, 2027.**

The County's legal authority to prohibit illicit discharges into the MS4 is found in in Kitsap County Code Title 12 Stormwater Drainage. It includes chapters on definitions, stormwater management, illicit discharge detection and elimination, stormwater management program and more. Additionally, illicit discharges and connections can be enforced by the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) through their On-Site Sewage System and General

Sewage Sanitation Regulations 2008A-01 (section 19) and Solid Waste Regulations 2010-1 (section 305).

Section S5.C.5.d Implement a program to detect and identify non-stormwater discharges and illicit connections into the County's MS4.

Investigations of MS4

The County screens more than the required 12% of the MS4 annually to detect potential illicit discharges and connections. During regular storm system maintenance activities, trained O&M staff look for possible illicit discharges and unexpected flows. County staff screen storm system components for primary indicators such as unusual odor, color, staining, or turbidity. Any suspected illicit discharges are noted in the County's database and reported to IDDE staff for follow-up.

IDDE staff conduct annual dry weather outfall screening in priority areas, using methods from the [Illicit Connection and Illicit Discharge Field Screening and Source Tracking Guidance Manual](#), (Herrera 2020) (IC-ID Manual). Other methods to identify potential sources include:

- Construction site inspections (in coordination with the Department of Community Development)
- Private commercial storm system inspections
- Source control (business) inspections
- Stream sampling
- Shoreline outfall monitoring

The County partners with Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) on stream sampling and shoreline outfall monitoring.

KPHD Stream Monitoring Program

KPHD staff sample dozens of streams across the County for fecal bacteria, an indicator of pollution caused by human or animal waste. Fecal pollution can carry viruses and harmful bacteria that make people sick. Staff prioritize, assess, and investigate streams with elevated fecal pollution using all available data and conduct site inspections focused on finding and correcting failing septic systems, improper waste handling and storage and improper animal waste management. Pollution sources can then be corrected through education and enforcement.

Additionally, KPHD issues public health advisories for streams that have consistent levels of high fecal pollution. Advisories are posted to protect the health of people who might come into contact with stream water, especially children. Advisory signs will be posted at public access points.

These streams have advisories in place for 2026:

- **Lofall Creek (Upper Hood Canal)**
- **Perry Creek (Liberty Bay)**



KPHD Shoreline Monitoring Program

KPHD surveys Kitsap County's shoreline in segments each year, with each segment surveyed at least once every six years. During a shoreline survey, staff walk the entire stretch of shoreline searching for and sampling any water flowing onto the beach from pipes, culverts, and small streams. If the samples indicate fecal pollution an investigation is opened to begin looking for the potential illicit discharge. If human sources of pollution are identified, they are corrected through education and enforcement.



In 2025, the team focused on the **mid-Hood Canal and Port Gamble** areas.

In 2026, the team will monitor shoreline in the areas of **Indianola, Miller Bay, and Suquamish** in North Kitsap and Yukon Harbor in South Kitsap.

Spills Reporting Hotline

Kitsap1 is Kitsap County's regional hotline (360-337-5777) for public reporting of spills. It is widely marketed and can also be used to access other County services and for general questions and information. Spills may also be reported through a web form on the [Kitsap County website](#) or by using the [SeeClickFix app](#).

Field Staff Training

County staff who, as part of their regular duties, might encounter or observe an illicit discharge or connection receive regular training on recognizing, and reporting spills and illicit discharges and the proper procedures for addressing or reporting them. Employees are instructed to report spills through Kitsap1 or SeeClickFix during business hours and Kitsap 911 (CENCOM) after normal working hours. Training records are maintained to ensure program consistency.

Section S5.C.5e. Implement a program to address illicit discharges including spills and illicit connections

The County's Spill Plan outlines in detail all procedures for characterizing, tracing, eliminating and reporting illicit discharges, including spills and illicit connections, into the County's MS4, including the following:

- Characterizing threat to public or environmental health
- Source tracing of illicit discharges
- Eliminating the discharge and notifications

Kitsap County coordinated with firefighting agencies/departments that serve the areas that discharge to the county MS4 on December 4, 2025. All agencies agreed to notify Kitsap County Public Works Stormwater Division when PFAS-containing AFFFs are used during emergency firefighting activities, as well as confirmed their departments no longer use AFFF/PFAS foams and have fully removed legacy products to prevent accidental use. The Chiefs agreed to notify Kitsap County Public Works through established emergency channels if any large foam discharge could impact the MS4, noting that PFAS foam use would only be possible in rare catastrophic events involving outside agencies.

Kitsap County has updated its spill plan and procedures to minimize impacts to the MS4 when PFAS-containing AFFFs are used and will contact an emergency cleanup contractor if a PFAS-containing AFFF spill occurs.

Section S5.C.5f. Training program for IDDE Staff

Annual training is provided to staff responsible for identification, investigation, termination, cleanup and reporting of illicit discharges. This includes training on documenting and reporting illicit discharges when found, environmental sampling for enforcement, and BMP training. Training is documented and records are maintained.

Training emphasizes that the reporting of spills and illicit discharges is important for both human health and environmental health. Training is offered both in-person at the work site and via computer-based training. All County staff who, as part of their regular duties, might encounter or observe an illicit discharge or connection receive regular training on recognizing, and reporting spills and illicit discharges and the proper procedures for addressing or reporting them.

Section S5.C.5f. Track and maintain records of the activities conducted to meet the requirement of this Section.

Kitsap County maintains records of all activities conducted to meet the requirements of the IDDE section of the Permit in a database. All data for illicit discharges, spills and illicit connections including those that were found by, reported to, or investigated by, the County is submitted in the Annual Report in the format specified by the Permit. All records will be made available upon request.

6.3 Planned Activities

IDDE Program activities in 2026 will consist of maintaining and improving existing programs and adapting them as necessary to meet Permit and program objectives. Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Update IDDE Code to reflect new Permit definitions.
- Continue to refine the spill call system with greater field staff involvement in how calls are managed, documented and resolved.
- Update IDDE educational materials as needed.
- Perform targeted outfall screening for illicit discharges in priority watersheds.

7. CONTROLLING RUNOFF FROM NEW DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION SITES

7.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.6 requires Kitsap County to implement and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to a regulated small MS4 from new development, redevelopment, and construction site activities. The program must apply to both private and public development, including transportation projects.

7.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County's Department Community Development (DCD) has a comprehensive land-use and development permitting process that applies to both private and public development, including transportation projects. This program includes the areas required by the Permit as follows:

- Kitsap County has adopted stormwater regulations through Kitsap County Code (KCC) Title 12: Stormwater Drainage and the 2021 Kitsap County Stormwater Design Manual (KCSDM). KCC and the KCSDM currently comply with Permit requirements.
- Enforcement of all existing stormwater codes that address runoff from new development, redevelopment, and construction site projects is accomplished through a permitting process that includes site plan review, inspection and enforcement.
- The County requires all project proposals that meet the thresholds established in the Permit to submit Stormwater Site Plans that meet the requirements of the KCSDM. Project proposals are reviewed against all existing stormwater codes for compliance prior to approval for construction.
- DCD stormwater inspectors perform pre-construction meetings on all projects that are subject to KCSDM Minimum Requirements #1-9 prior to any land disturbing activities.
- DCD stormwater inspectors perform regular erosion and sediment control inspections on active construction sites during the wet season (October – April). When necessary, inspectors facilitate the submittal of Statewide Environmental

Reports Tracking System (ERTS) reports on sites with illicit discharges and enforce violations in accordance with KCC Title 12.

- DCD stormwater inspectors inspect the construction and maintenance of both temporary and permanent stormwater facilities to verify proper installation and function.
- For projects that construct BMPs to meet KCSDM Minimum Requirement #6: Runoff Treatment and Minimum Requirement #7: Flow Control, that discharge to the County's MS4 system and that are to be privately maintained, are required to record a Maintenance Covenant that grants Kitsap County the right to access for inspection, maintenance and repair.
- Records of all stormwater plan reviews, inspections and enforcement actions are maintained within the County's permitting database.
- As required by the Permit, a link to the online *Construction Stormwater General Permit* Notice of Intent (NOI) or the *Industrial Stormwater General Permit* NOI, and a link to the registration requirements for Underground Injection Control program registration, are provided to representatives of proposed new development and redevelopment, as applicable. When required, applicants must show proof of coverage under the NPDES Stormwater General and/or registration under the UIC program prior to project approval. DCD staff provide applicants with requirements in writing during the permit review process.
- DCD stormwater reviewers and inspectors are all Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) certified and participate in continued training opportunities relevant to stormwater regulations, construction, and BMPs.

7.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Continue to implement the Kitsap County comprehensive land-use and development permitting program.
- DCD will begin planning and developing a local program and updates to Kitsap County code to meet changes in minimum requirements, thresholds and definitions required by the new Permit.
 - **No later than June 30, 2027**, the County will adopt and make effective a revised KCSDM and update relevant code sections to comply with the Permit and 2024 SWMMWW.
- DCD will maintain, improve and adapt programs as necessary to meet Permit and program objectives.

8. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.7 requires Kitsap County to implement a Program to control or reduce stormwater discharges to waters of the State from areas of existing development. The Program must aim to focus on strategic stormwater investments over longer planning timeframes. The minimum performance measures are:

- Implement stormwater facility retrofits or tailored SWMP actions that meet the criteria described in Appendix 12, using one or a combination of strategic stormwater investments identified in the SMAP, or opportunistic stormwater investments identified by leveraging projects outside SMAP areas to improve stormwater management and infrastructure.
- Provide a list of planned projects scheduled for funding or implementation during the Permit term meeting the assigned equivalent acreage in Appendix 12 and provided in the format specified in Appendix 12.
- **NLT March 31, 2028**, fully fund, start construction or implement projects and submit documentation in the Annual Report.
- Permittees may collaborate to meet a regional goal.

8.2 Current Activities

Recognizing that retrofits of existing developed areas provide some of the most impactful results on receiving water quality, Kitsap County regularly implements more than the Permit-required acreage of stormwater treatment both within and outside of the County's SMAP priority areas as part of the annual retrofit and capital facilities projects, and in conjunction with our mission to treat water as a resource and not a waste steam.

These projects incorporate public and partner input and are selected utilizing evaluation criteria that considers data from regional retrofit plans, SMAP watershed priorities, and other critical considerations, including the effect on overburdened communities, known water quality issues, opportunistic funding and collaboration, and human health and safety. These annual Retrofit and Capital Facilities Plans implement projects ranging in scale from smaller, County-forces level retrofits, and larger regional projects.

8.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive tracking system for both capital and retrofit projects, including acreage of benefit, to meet the Permit-required reporting date of March 31, 2028.
- Continue to plan, fund and implement projects via the Retrofit and Capital Facilities Planning processes to meet the equivalent acreage requirements for Kitsap County.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with regional jurisdictions to implement regional projects.

9. SOURCE CONTROL PROGRAM

9.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.8 requires Kitsap County to implement a program to prevent and reduce pollutants in runoff from areas of existing development that discharge to the MS4. The program must include application of source control BMPs, inspections, and enforcement. The minimum performance measures are:

- Enforce ordinance(s) requiring the application of source control BMPs. Revise, if necessary, NLT August 1, 2027.
- Identify publicly and privately owned institutional, commercial and industrial sites which have the potential to generate pollutants into the MS4. Update the inventory at least once every 5 years.
- Implement an inspection program, performed by qualified personnel.
- Implement a progressive enforcement policy that requires sites to comply with stormwater requirements in a timely manner.
- Training program for Source Control Program staff.

9.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County employs a robust Source Control Program designed to prevent and reduce pollutants in runoff from areas of existing development that discharge into the MS4.

Kitsap County Code 12.20.030, addressing source control of existing development, was approved by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners and adopted into code on August 7, 2022. Updates are not anticipated, as the ordinance was designed to remain applicable regardless of changes to the SWMMWW.

A list of applicable sites which have the potential to generate pollutants into the MS4 (source control inventory) has been established using data collected from the Department of Revenue and Kitsap County parcel GIS data. Potential pollutant generating sites include commercial, industrial and publicly owned sites with certain business practices that may impact stormwater quality. Potential pollutant generating sites also include mobile or home-based businesses with certain business practices that may impact stormwater quality, and any site or facility identified through field observations or complaints as a

potential pollutant generating source.

There are currently 688 applicable businesses/sites on the Source Control Program inventory. Kitsap County Source Control Program staff regularly review new businesses and sites throughout the County to determine if they should be added to the inventory. Conversely, if businesses or sites are no longer applicable to the Source Control requirements, they are removed from the inventory. The inventory is maintained within the County's GIS database.

The Kitsap County Stormwater Division provides information on activities that may generate pollutants and the source control requirements applicable to those activities to all sites with a business address. This information is provided either directly during the inspection site visits and/or by mail.

Investigation and enforcement occur in response to all credible water quality complaints. Source control inspections prioritize sites with higher potential for sources of stormwater pollution. Stormwater staff inspect a minimum of 20 percent of the required sites annually to ensure BMP effectiveness and compliance with source control requirements. All source control inspections, investigations and enforcement actions are tracked in the County's GIS database.

The Kitsap County Source Control Program Plan includes a detailed progressive enforcement policy that requires sites to comply with stormwater requirements within a specified period of time. It considers environmental harm, responsiveness in correcting any non-compliance findings, and repeat violations. Enforcement procedures may include phone calls, emails, compliance/warning letters, follow-up inspections, Notices of Violation, and civil penalties.

Source Control staff are trained and maintain regular follow-up training as needed. The training includes uniform enforcement of the applicable source control requirements listed in KCC 12.20.030 and the SWMMWW. Training topics include legal authority, proper use and application of source control BMPs, lessons learned and typical cases, inspection procedures and the enforcement process. The County maintains all records of training provided and staff trained.

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Update the Source Control Program Plan.
- Notify all applicable sites about activities that may generate pollutants and the source control requirements applicable to those activities.
- Update and maintain the source control inventory.
- Inspect 20% of all pollution generating businesses and/or sites on the inventory and 100% of all credible source control complaints.
- Document all inspections and implement the source control progressive enforcement policy.
- Train any new Kitsap County Source Control Program staff.

10. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

10.1 Permit Requirements

Section S5.C.9 requires Kitsap County to implement and document a program to regulate and conduct public and private operation and maintenance activities to prevent or reduce stormwater impacts. The minimum performance measures are:

- Develop or maintain maintenance standards for stormwater facilities.
- Ensure maintenance of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities regulated by the County.
- Implement maintenance of stormwater facilities owned or operated by the County.
- Reduce stormwater impacts from lands owned and maintained by the County and road maintenance activities.
- Implement Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP).
- Implement O&M staff training.
- Inspection and maintenance records.

10.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County operates a robust O&M Program designed to regulate and conduct O&M activities that prevent or reduce stormwater impacts.

S5.C.9.a. Implement maintenance standards that are at least as protective as those specified in the SWMMWW. Maintenance standards must be made for any facility which doesn't have them. **NLT June 30, 2027**, update maintenance standards to meet the requirements of this section.

In 2022, Kitsap County updated the KCPW Stormwater BMP Operations and Maintenance Manual and the KCPW Stormwater Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual. These living documents are regularly updated to incorporate new BMPs as they are installed or adopted. The maintenance standards outlined in these manuals guide inspections, routine maintenance, and repairs, which are initiated, executed, and tracked through our CMMS (OpenGov).

S5.C.9.b. Maintenance of stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities **regulated** by the County. The provisions must include:

- Implement an ordinance that clearly identifies the party responsible for maintenance in accordance with the maintenance standards, requires inspection of facilities and establishes enforcement procedures.
- Annual inspections of stormwater facilities. Must achieve 80% of required inspections annually, with proper documentation, enforcement actions, and maintenance activities.

Kitsap County Code 12.24.010 and 12.24.020 provides direction for private storm system maintenance requirements. The County maintains an inspection schedule including privately and county-owned/maintained stormwater facilities per Kitsap County Code Title 12.24. Enforcement procedures are established in Title 12.32.

S5.C.9.c. Maintenance of stormwater facilities **owned or operated** by the County.

- Inspect all County owned or operated permanent stormwater treatment and flow control facilities at frequencies required in the Permit.
- Spot check damage after major storm events.
- Inspect all catch basins and inlets every two years.

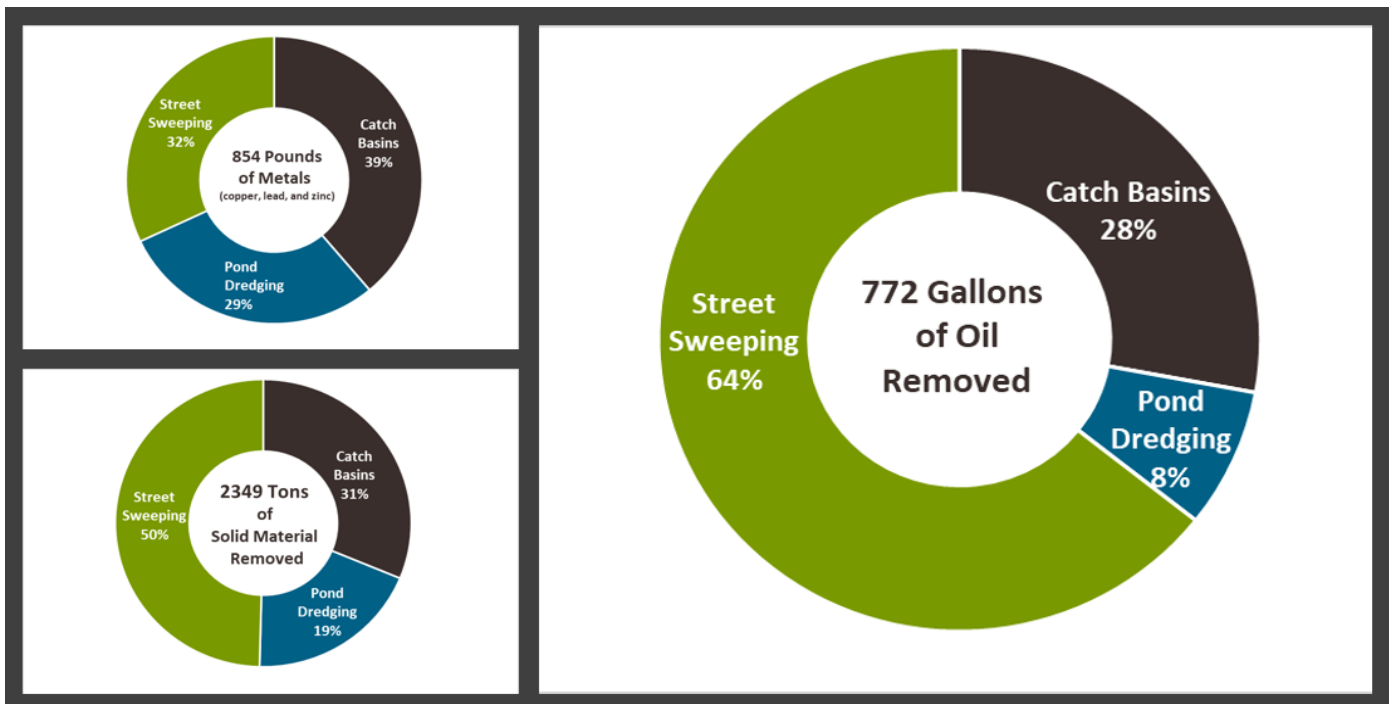
Kitsap County utilizes the KCPW Stormwater BMP Operations and Maintenance Manual and the KCPW Stormwater Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual to maintain County-owned facilities in a manner that is protective of water quality.

The County maintains over 1,000 stormwater facilities to standards consistent with the Permit and cleans or inspects over 12,200 catch basins at least biannually. All catch basin and stormwater facility inspection and maintenance activities are planned and tracked in the County's GIS database. Street waste removed from these systems is taken to the County-owned decant facility located adjacent to the Central Kitsap Wastewater Treatment Plant. The decant facility is operated under a solid waste handling permit issued by Kitsap Public Health District.

The amount and quality of street waste solids removed from roads and the stormwater system is tracked. These solids come from several activities, including soil removal during ditch maintenance or pond maintenance, sediment removed from catch basins and vaults, and solids removed from streets by street sweepers. All these solids, if allowed to accumulate in the stormwater system, have the potential to carry the associated contaminants to surface waters during runoff events. All stormwater and street solids are

tested and disposed of in accordance with local and state requirements. These waste removal activities have a large impact on water quality, removing oils and heavy metals that would otherwise make their way to our natural waterways.

In 2025, 2,349 tons of street waste sediment, including 772 gallons of oil and 854 pounds of metals (copper, lead, and zinc), were removed from the storm system. The charts below show the percentage of each type of sediment removed from the storm system and of each pollutant contained in each of the sediment types.



S5.C.9.d. Implement practices, policies, and procedures to reduce stormwater impacts associated with runoff from all lands (including but not limited to: streets, parking lots, roads, highways, buildings, parks, open space, road rights-of-way, maintenance yards, and stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities) owned or maintained by the County, and road maintenance activities under the control of the County – document these **NLT December 31, 2027.**

Kitsap County is partnering with a consultant to create a Strategic Asset Management Plan for the Stormwater Division. The proposed project will create a plan that will define how the County manages and enhances maintenance and replacement of assets, establish individual Asset Management Plans for all stormwater assets owned or 45 maintained by

the County, work in concert with the County's SMAP and overburdened communities plan, and provide a long-term view that supports enhanced maintenance, project prioritization, and inform future needs. This project will be a multi-year project, with an anticipated completion in 2026.

The County maintains all stormwater treatment and flow control BMPs/facilities per the KCPW Stormwater BMP Operations and Maintenance Manual and the KCPW Stormwater Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual. The Parks Department and Capital Facilities and Maintenance Division have separate policies and procedures to address the applicable compliance areas related to property maintenance. These policies and procedures are based on the latest available best management practices to protect water quality and direct the routine maintenance activities on parks, buildings, and associated areas.

Kitsap County Public Works and Parks have programs that use a common integrated pest management plan and fertilizer management plan. These plans employ the latest best management practices to avoid the use of pesticides where possible. All pesticide applicators are licensed through the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Kitsap County is one of the agencies participating in the Western Washington Regional Road Maintenance Endangered Species Act (ESA) Program. Since December 12, 2001, Kitsap County has been officially committed to implementing the [Regional Road Maintenance ESA program](#). This program includes all the activities listed under S5.C.5.f and has a training element.

The Road Maintenance Division operates a water-quality street-sweeping program utilizing three high-efficiency street sweepers (purchased in-part with Ecology Grant funds). This

program results in the removal of a significant amount of street grit and debris and intercepts this waste prior to being washed into our stormwater system or receiving waters.



S5.C.9.f. Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) for all heavy equipment maintenance or storage yards and material storage facilities owned or operated by the County that are not covered by the NPDES Stormwater Industrial General Permit.

Kitsap County has created SWPPPs to meet the requirements to control pollution runoff from all County-owned and maintained facilities, where heavy equipment and potentially pollution generating materials are stored, and that are not covered by the Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP). These include the Randy W. Casteel Public Works Annex, Central Kitsap Laydown Yard, Wildcat Lake County Park, and Kitsap County Fairgrounds. All SWPPP's are reviewed annually and updated at least every four years based on the Permit (last revision in December 2025). The North, Central and South Road Maintenance Facilities are covered under the ISGP.

S5.C.9.g. Implement an ongoing training program for staff whose job functions may impact stormwater quality and document the training program.

Kitsap County Stormwater Division coordinates a training program for County staff with primary construction, operations, and maintenance job functions that may impact stormwater quality. The training includes discussions of BMPs, policies and procedures for the maintenance activities listed in the Permit Section S5.C.9 (outlined above). Training is also provided during Public Works orientation for new employees, manager meetings, staff meetings or other training opportunities. The program includes regularly scheduled refresher training, and a list of trained staff is maintained in a database.

S5.C.9.h. Maintain records of the activities conducted to meet the requirements of this section.

The County keeps records of all maintenance activities of County-owned and operated storm drainage facilities. Record-keeping processes and maintenance checklists are regularly evaluated and updated.

Public Works Department staff maintain a database of all inspections, including private stormwater facility inspections, maintenance, enforcement, and spill complaint information.

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Maintain, improve, and adapt municipal street sweeping program procedures to meet Permit requirements.
- Maintain, improve and adapt programs as necessary to meet Permit and program objectives. As part of the Stormwater Comprehensive Plan (SWCP) update discussed in Section 2.3, the County will evaluate and develop recommendations for improving and adapting O&M programs, integrating the Strategic Asset Management Plan recommendations, and enhancing capacity to meet Level of Service (LOS) requirements. This comprehensive evaluation will address staffing levels, equipment needs, and other resource requirements necessary to maintain compliance and service delivery.
- Continue annual inspection of all privately-owned stormwater facilities.
- Continue to maintain stormwater management facilities to enhance water quality, reduce local flooding and improve stormwater runoff flow-control.
- Expand the asset management program to:
 - Maximize the efficiency of stormwater projects by coordinating water quality retrofits with road and sewer projects.
- Track inspection, maintenance, condition and life cycle of assets to ensure replacements occur before failures.
- Ensure adequate funding for all applicable requirements of the Permit.
- Implement the recommendations of the Strategic Asset Management Plan and Stormwater Comprehensive Plan update.

11. TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD REQUIREMENTS

11.1 Permit Requirements

Section S7 requires Kitsap County to conduct SWMP and Appendix 2 activities in the Sinclair and Dyes Inlets to address the applicable fecal coliform bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) parameters. For all other applicable TMDLs, compliance with the Permit constitutes compliance with those TMDLs and no additional SWMP documentation is required. The SWMP and Appendix 2 activities - TMDL implementation actions include:

- Business Inspections
- Public Education and Outreach
- Operations and Maintenance
- Illicit Connection/ Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

11.2 Current Activities

Business Inspections

Kitsap County inspects all facilities with SIC Industry Group no. 074, 075, including NAICS Major Group 1152xx, an NAICS 325315 (composting facilities), as part of its ongoing Source Control Program for Existing Development (S5.C.8). If it is determined, through inspections or otherwise, that a facility has failed to adequately implement BMPs to prevent potential sources of bacteria pollution, Kitsap County will re-inspect the facility at least once more during the permit term to verify compliance, and/or initiate enforcement action.

In 2025, Kitsap County conducted a comprehensive search and review of all pollutant generating sources associated with existing land uses and activities (in accordance with Appendix 8) and determined that none of the facilities met the criteria outlined above.

If a facility is identified in the future through routine inventory updates conducted in accordance with Appendix 8, it will be added to the inventory and subject to the requirements described above. Through ongoing inspections and routine inventory

updates, Kitsap County will continue to identify, track, and address facilities that pose a potential risk of bacteria pollution in accordance with permit requirements.

Public Education and Outreach

Kitsap County employs a coordinated effort to educate the public about bacterial pollution through the Clean Water Kitsap (CWK) partnership. The partnership prioritizes the TMDL watersheds to reduce fecal pollution and restore water quality. Kitsap County implemented the following education and outreach activities that increase awareness of bacterial pollution problems and promote proper pet waste management.

- Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program
- Septic Sense Workshops
- Agricultural Assistance Program
- PetsWalk & Puget Sound Starts Here

Operations and Maintenance

Mutt Mitt Program

As of 2025 there are a total of 335 Mutt Mitt stations located in the Sinclair and Dyes Inlet Watersheds. More information on the Mutt Mitt Program can be found in the Section 3 Public Education and Outreach.

Illicit Connection/ Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Kitsap County implements a robust Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program as described in Section 6 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. During investigations of potential illicit connections, discharges, spills, or routine field screenings in the TMDL areas, the County conducts stormwater quality sampling at the most downstream accessible location within each drainage circuit. Sampling includes collecting grab samples from the MS4, discharge points, or outfalls with flow. If bacteria levels or observations exceed trigger thresholds defined in the county's IDDE guidance manual, source tracing efforts are initiated following adopted IDDE procedures.

Comprehensive qualitative and quantitative data, including sampling locations, methods, and results, are compiled and documented in the County's database and in the Permit Annual Report, ensuring compliance with TMDL reporting requirements and supporting effective source identification and elimination efforts.

11.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County has implemented all required TMDL actions. Future actions will consist of maintaining and improving the programs and adapting them as necessary to meet permit and program objectives. Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026:

- Conduct Source Control inspections at all sites identified to be a potential source of bacterial pollution, including those with the specified SIC and NAICS business classifications.
- Continue to visit non-compliant dumpster sites and provide technical assistance.
- Continue funding CWK efforts (KPHD PIC Program and KCD Agricultural Program) in applicable TMDL watersheds.
- Continue with catch basin cleanouts in the TMDL area.
- Continue to implement the Mutt Mitt Program by installing and maintaining pet waste stations around Kitsap County, prioritizing TMDL watersheds and areas adjacent to stream and marine shorelines where people commonly walk their dogs.
- Continue to implement IDDE Program Plan including routine field screening of potential bacteria pollution sources in applicable TMDL watersheds.

12. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

12.1 Permit Requirements

Section S8 requires Kitsap County to choose one of two options for Section S8.A - Status and Trends Monitoring and Section S8.B - Effectiveness Studies: Option 1 - pay into the Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) collective fund or Option 2 - conduct stormwater discharge monitoring. The County provided notification to Ecology by December 1, 2024, that they elected to pay into the collective fund for both the Status and Trends Monitoring as well as the Effectiveness Studies during the current Permit term.

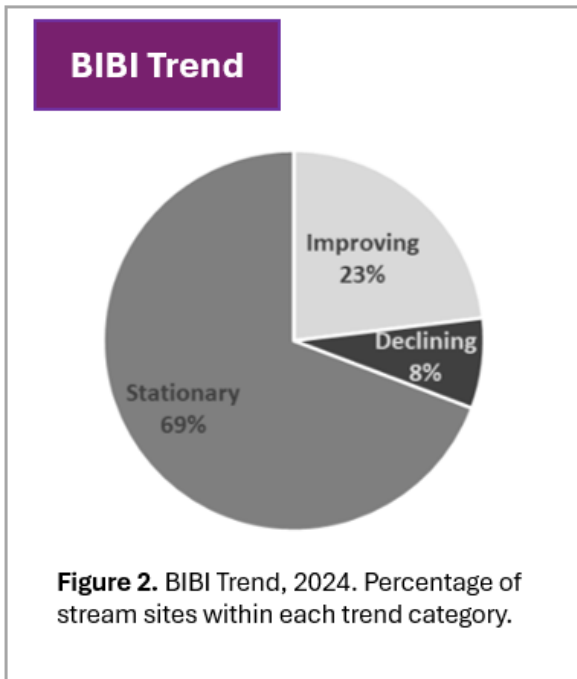
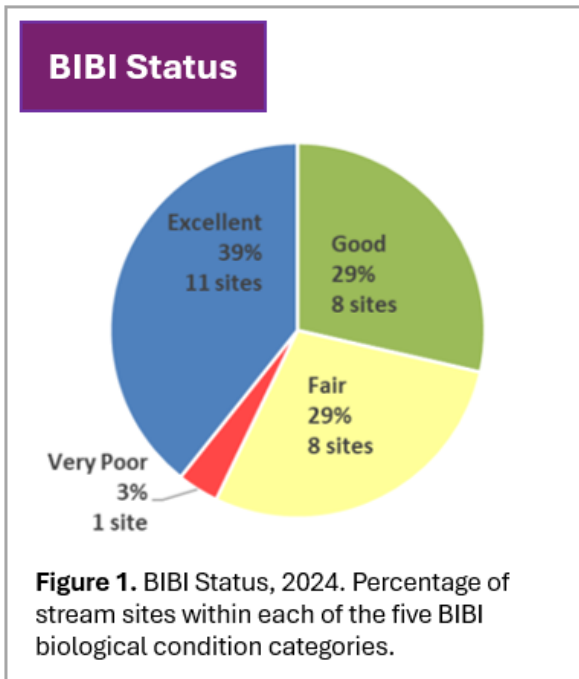
12.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County pays into the collective fund for Status and Trends Monitoring and for Effectiveness Studies. Payments have been made annually.

Kitsap County participates in the Stormwater Work Group and 6PPD subgroup. The groups aim to develop a strategic approach to monitoring and assessment, and to reduce stormwater pollution in Puget Sound. The Stormwater Work Group directs the SAM program implementation and other stormwater-related monitoring and assessment.

The Stormwater Division monitors stream health in Kitsap's watersheds by collecting benthic macroinvertebrate samples from 60 sites on 42 streams. Benthic macroinvertebrates, also known as stream bugs, are animals that can be seen with the naked eye and live in or near the streambed. They include insects, worms, snails, crayfish, clams, etc. Benthic macroinvertebrate communities serve as excellent indicators of stream health and play a vital role in our ecosystem.

The Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BIBI) is a standardized scoring system describing stream health. It is a measure of insect diversity where greater diversity results in a higher score. Ten metrics are calculated, then added together to provide a score up to 100 points which is broken down into biological condition categories ranging from "excellent" to "very poor." This standardized scoring system allows Kitsap County stream health comparisons to the greater Puget Sound streams. Kitsap has been conducting macroinvertebrate sampling since 2010. In the summer and fall of 2025, benthic macroinvertebrate samples were collected from 27 sites in 21 streams. Results are expected in spring of 2026.



Results from 2024, show the greatest number of sites in the “excellent” category and more than half were in the “good” to “fair” biological condition category (Figure 1, BIBI Status). Twenty-eight sites were sampled in 23 streams. Figure 2 shows the BIBI trend over the last two sampling events. If the score increased by more than ten points it was considered “improving.” If the score decreased by more than ten points it was considered “declining”. If the score stayed within ten points the trend was considered “stationary.” The trend for 23% of sites (6 sites) showed an “improving” trend, while 8% (2 sites) showed a declining trend, or decreased by more than ten points. Twenty sites (69%) remained “stationary.”

Kitsap County provided opportunities for the public to engage in community science by offering benthic macroinvertebrate volunteer training and monitoring opportunities at these sites. Volunteers, partner organization staff, and Olympic College students joined County staff to collect stream bugs and perform habitat assessments. This monitoring work provides an opportunity for community members to get to know local streams, learn and participate.

12.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County plans to continue to pay into the SAM fund and participate in the Stormwater Work Group.

13. REPORTING & RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

13.1 Permit Requirements

Section S9 requires Kitsap County to do the following:

- Submit an Annual Report to Ecology by March 31 of each year for the previous calendar year. Annual Reports must be submitted electronically using Ecology's WQWebPortal.
- Retain all records related to the Permit and SWMP for at least five years.
- Make records related to the Permit and SWMP available to the public at reasonable times during business hours. The County must also provide a copy of the most recent annual report to any individual or entity upon request.
- Include a copy of the current SWMP Plan in the Annual Report.

13.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County submitted an NPDES Annual Report and SWMP Plan as required by the Permit, which are posted on the [Kitsap County website](http://kcowa.us/Stormwater) (kcowa.us/Stormwater).

13.3 Planned Activities

This SWMP Plan will be updated annually to reflect progress with implementing all elements of the Stormwater Management Program required for compliance with the Permit and posted to the Kitsap County website.

14. COMPLIANCE WITH UNDERGROUND INJECTION WELL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

14.1 UIC Program Requirements

Chapter 173-218 WAC serves as the regulatory authority for underground injection control (UIC) wells in Washington State. This section outlines the requirements of the UIC well program. While the UIC program is not a Permit-required component of the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) plan, it is included here for completeness.

To meet UIC program rule authorization for municipal Class V UIC wells using the presumptive approach, jurisdictions may choose to apply their SWMP to the areas served by their municipal UIC wells. The requirements include:

- Register all UIC wells, existing (in use before 2/3/2006) and new, with Ecology.
- Complete well assessment for all existing wells in use prior to 2/3/2006.
- Site, design, construct, operate, and maintain new UIC wells according to the specifications throughout the Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington (SWMMWW).
- Fulfill Source Control and O&M requirements for both new and existing UIC wells by:
 - Conducting O&M according to the specifications of the SWMMWW.
 - Implementing Source Control activities (including targeted education and outreach) that are well-suited for land uses associated with the UIC wells and to the specifications in the SWMMWW.
- Provide IDDE programs in areas served by the UIC wells to prevent pet waste and control other sources of pathogens.

14.2 Current Activities

Kitsap County currently operates 22 municipal Class V UIC wells and meets the requirements of the UIC Program by applying the SWMP to the entire MS4, including areas served by UIC facilities. KCPW has registered and completed well assessments for all existing UIC wells with Ecology.

For new UIC wells, registration forms are submitted 60 days prior to construction to allow for a full review of the application by Ecology and Kitsap County Department of Community Development. All UIC wells will comply with all the siting design, and treatment requirements through either the presumptive approach or the demonstrative approach.

KCPW provides operations and maintenance of all UIC wells per the specifications in SWMMWW.

The County's Stormwater Source Control Program targets pollution generating sources that potentially contribute stormwater runoff to the UIC wells. KCPW inspects 100% of source control complaints utilizing BMP educational materials and illicit discharge violations as needed. Kitsap County Code, Title 12 outlines storm water management regulations and provides a mechanism to take enforcement actions for any code violations.

Kitsap County implements a robust IDDE program to ensure all UIC wells do not receive any fluids other than stormwater and to reduce potential pollutants in stormwater.

Through the Clean Water Kitsap interlocal agency partnership, KCPW sponsors the KPHD Water PIC Program to identify and correct sources of fecal pollution expected to reach ground water.

KPHD staff sample dozens of streams across the county for fecal bacteria, an indicator of fecal pollution caused by human or animal waste. Sampling results are used to identify and eliminate the sources of pollution. Staff also investigate public sewage complaints, agricultural complaints, and on-site sewage deficient pump reports from certified septic pumps.

Public education and outreach efforts such as the Mutt Mitt Program encourage pet waste pickup in public places. This program works to divert pathogens from reaching ground water through UIC wells.

14.3 Planned Activities

Kitsap County has implemented all required actions under the UIC Program regarding existing UIC wells. Future actions will consist of continuing to meet the requirements for any new UIC wells, as well as maintaining and improving the programs and adapting as necessary to meet program objectives.

Kitsap County plans to conduct the following activities in 2026, including areas served by UIC wells:

- Submit all registration forms, for any new UIC wells, 60 days prior to construction to allow for a full review of the application by Ecology and Kitsap County Department of Community Development. All UIC wells will comply with all the siting design, and treatment requirements through either the presumptive approach or the demonstrative approach.
- Continue to maintain facilities to enhance water quality and meet UIC program requirements.
- Enhance the Mutt Mitt program with new information from station sponsor surveys and continue to build and support the program in these areas.
- Continue funding KPHD PIC program efforts.
- Continue to implement Source Control and IDDE programs to prevent, identify and correct potential sources of pollution.
- Continue to implement Kitsap1 and SeeClickFix, the regional spills reporting hotline and mobile app.