

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



## OUR WATERS & YOUR HEALTH

Kitsap County is home to numerous freshwater streams, lakes, and miles of shoreline. These waters provide us with many benefits, such as swimming, fishing, boating, and shellfish harvesting.

When our recreational waters become polluted with human or animal waste—pollution known as fecal bacteria—it can make us sick. Our job is to protect the health of Kitsap County residents by keeping our waters safe for you and your family to enjoy.

### CAUSES OF WATER POLLUTION

There are many causes of water pollution that can get into our streams, lakes, and beaches:

- Failing septic and sewer systems;
- Faulty stormwater systems;
- Pet and livestock waste;
- Runoff from farms.

### OUR ROLE

Our Pollution Identification & Correction program works to:

- Collect and review water quality data and property records;
- Identify sources of water pollution from fecal bacteria;



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- Help residents correct their failing septic systems;
- Educate our community by hosting public meetings;
- Educate our community via door-to-door visits with information about septic systems, managing pet waste, and farm-management practices.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Working together with Kitsap residents, our efforts have resulted in improved water quality countywide. For example:

- In a three year period, the number of Kitsap streams with improved water quality increased from 14 to 22.
- Prospect Point and Fragaria were reopened for shellfish harvest in 2015.
- Levels of bacteria in Phinney Creek (West Bremerton) have been reduced from 1000 per 100ml in 2007 to 137 per 100ml in 2014.

## RESOURCES

For updates and resources, see us under Environment on our website.

## QUESTIONS?

Call us at 360-728-2235.