

# Everyday Kitsap

CARING ABOUT YOUR EVERY DAY

**POLLINATE  
THIS**  
CREATING AN  
INVITING OASIS

**TALKING DIRTY**  
EASY COMPOST SOLUTIONS

**ROYAL FLUSH**  
KEEPING IT MOVING

**ENTER  
TO WIN**

Grocery gift card  
Details on back



Kitsap County Public Works

# EverydayKitsap

A Kitsap County Public Works  
Publication

## Solid Waste Division

Waste reduction and recycling, garbage, litter, and household hazardous waste

## Stormwater Division

Stormwater infrastructure and maintenance, water quality protection, and habitat improvement

## Sewer Utility Division

Sewer service, wastewater treatment plants, and pump and lift stations

## Roads Division

Engineering, construction, traffic, survey, right-of-way, and maintenance

## Capital Facilities Division

Facilities maintenance, project management, and capital construction

For more information about any of our services or articles in this publication, or to report a problem, please contact:

[Kitsap.gov/pw](http://Kitsap.gov/pw)  
Kitsap1: 360.337.5777 or  
email: [help@kitsap1.com](mailto:help@kitsap1.com)

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Sign-up for electronic notifications at [Kitsap.gov](http://Kitsap.gov). Click on the 'News Sign Up' button at the bottom.



Kitsap County Public Works  
614 Division St. MS-26  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

 An APWA accredited agency

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# director's note



Welcome to this edition of Everyday Kitsap! Public Works provides services and infrastructure to make your every day a great day. If you travel on the county road system, dispose of garbage, recyclables or hazardous waste, are connected to one of the county's four wastewater treatment plants, or have strolled through one of our stormwater parks, you are a customer of Public Works. We strive to deliver these services in a courteous, efficient and professional manner.

This magazine is chock full of good ideas to help your family stay safe and healthy, improve the natural environment, and learn about projects in your neighborhood. Whether it be planting a native shrub in the garden, trying out a new natural cleaning product, or starting a compost bin, we can all reduce our impact on the environment.

Check out our project website at [kcowa.us/project](http://kcowa.us/project) to get the latest on the improvements we are making in your neighborhood.

Andrew B. Nelson, P.E. - Public Works Director

## BEAUTIFY YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



**Anyone can help keep Kitsap clean**  
Pick up litter and we'll provide the supplies

Join us at [kcowa.us/adoptaspot](http://kcowa.us/adoptaspot)



# Pollinate This

The buzz around the plants that help these little wonders

**D**id you know that you can help pollinators thrive by simply planting native plants? Pollinators like bees, butterflies, and bats are essential for our food crops, and they benefit immensely from native plants, which provide them with food and shelter. By planting these plants, you support pollinators and help improve water infiltration, reducing flooding and pollution. It's an easy way to make a big difference in your garden and beyond.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help pollinators:

**Embrace Natural Lawn Care:** Use organic fertilizers to nourish your soil and promote healthy plant growth. Rely on beneficial insects that prey on pests or natural remedies like neem oil instead of chemical herbicides. These eco-friendly alternatives help protect pollinators and make your lawn a healthy habitat for them.

**Buy Organic and Local:** Support local farmers by purchasing organic produce. Organic farming uses fewer pesticides, which is much better for pollinators. Plus, buying local reduces the carbon footprint of transporting food and supports farmers who use pollinator-friendly practices.

**Spread the Word:** Share what you've learned about pollinators and native plants with friends, family, and neighbors. When more people understand the importance of pollinator-friendly gardens, we can make a bigger impact together.

**Plant a Pollinator Garden:** Create a garden that incorporates native plants to provide an abundance of nectar, pollen, and shelter. Choose a variety of plants that bloom throughout the year from early spring to late fall. These native and non-native plants are some of our favorites and will make your garden a haven for local pollinators, bursting with life and color all year-round. Consult with a Master Gardener at WSU Kitsap Extension for how-to's and selecting the best plants for your location.

By taking these steps, you can make a real difference in protecting pollinators and ensuring they continue to thrive.

## FALL

Hardy Fuschia  
Vine Maple  
Agastache (Giant Hyssop)  
Pacific Crabapple  
Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan)

**WINTER**  
Snowberry  
Oregon Grape  
Pacific Ninebark  
Western Red Cedar  
Red Twig Dogwood

**SPRING**  
Lupine  
Salal  
Serviceberry  
Gaillardia  
Rhododendron  
Red Flowering Currant

## SUMMER

Purple Coneflower  
Common Yarrow  
Magic Carpet Spirea  
Penstemon  
Gaillardia

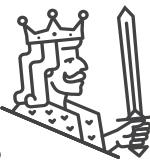
# Royal Flush

Don't gamble with your plumbing! Follow these tips for the win.



KING

## DON'T RISK FLUSHING WIPES



Disposable wipes for baby care, hand washing, personal cleansing, makeup removal, and household cleaning are not flushable. If you regularly purchase wipes for your household, check the packaging for the "Do Not Flush" logo. Washington's wipe labeling law has been in effect since July 2022 for most non-flushable disposable wipes. But what if it says it's flushable?

Your best bet – don't flush wipes, even "flushable" ones. All wipes can clog pipes. The package may claim it is safe, but flushable wipes do not break down like toilet paper. They can clog your toilet, and long-term use may cause overflows in septic and sewer systems.

Some other things that end up getting flushed in the bathroom include dental floss, facial tissue, cotton swabs, contact lenses, and hair. Keep the odds in your favor – only flush human waste and toilet paper.

KING



QUEEN

## USE A WINNING STRATEGY



Weekly cleaning of your toilet is important to stop the spread of germs, especially if it is one that's used every day. White vinegar can be used as an effective toilet bowl cleaner. Disinfectant wipes are convenient for cleaning surfaces, but remember to use the trash can for disposal, not the toilet.

Avoid automatic cleaners such as bleach tablets that go in your toilet tank. These chemicals will damage the rubber and plastic parts over time, making it a bad strategy for keeping your toilet clean. It is a good idea to also clean your toilet tank occasionally to prevent mildew and bacteria buildup. Pour two cups of vinegar into the toilet tank, let sit overnight, then flush a few times the next morning.

Even with proper maintenance, your flushing mechanism may wear over time and need replacing. This can cause leaks from the toilet tank into the bowl, wasting water. If you suspect a leak, a safe way to check is by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Do not flush the toilet and let it sit 15-30 minutes. If you notice colored water in the bowl, you have a leak.

QUEEN



## WHEN TO GET HELP

A contained leak from your toilet tank to the bowl could be an easy fix with some basic knowledge and a trip to the hardware store. An uncontained leak is harder to detect and could cause expensive water damage if not fixed immediately. If you notice dampness on the floor around the toilet or if you begin to smell sewer gas, it may be time to call a professional.



# Tiny Tips

To make your life easier

## The Safer Choice

Keep it clean with EPA's Safer Choice label. The Safer Choice label helps you find products that work well and contain safer ingredients for your family and the environment. Search for products with this label.



## Bagging Scraps

Brown paper lunch bags are a great way to gather your daily compost scraps. Line your compost pail with one and throw it away at the end of the day. Since paper goods can improve the nutritional balance of compost, it is a welcome addition to your organics.



## Just Add Air

Don't wait to inflate. Check your tire pressure monthly and add air if needed. Keeping your tires properly inflated helps you stay safer on the road, saves money, and protects coho salmon from tire particles that shed pollutants.

## Herb Right

Storing fresh leafy herbs like cilantro, parsley, mint, dill, chives, and basil properly extend their life, prevent food waste, and save you money.

Unbind them, wash in cold water and dry them. Trim off the stems and place them in a shallow glass of water. Cover them with a recycled plastic bag and store it in the refrigerator.



## Clog Works

Unclog your kitchen sink without chemicals by pouring one cup of baking soda down the drain, followed by one cup of white vinegar. Cover the drain with a rubber stopper and wait 15 minutes. The baking soda and vinegar will create a chemical reaction that can remove mineral buildup. Then, remove the cover and run hot water down the drain to clear the clog.

## The Swedish Way

Swedish cloths are all the craze right now. They dry quickly and are less likely to smell from bacteria. They also absorb 20 times their weight and are long lasting. In fact, using a Swedish dish cloth can replace 17 rolls of paper towel. They can be washed in the top rack of the dishwasher too!



# Let's Talk Dirty

## Composting for every lifestyle

You don't need to be an expert in composting or have a lot of space to transform your food and yard waste into a valuable resource. Craft your own pot of black gold almost anywhere: your backyard, an apartment, a tiny closet, or on the go. All you need to get started is the basic ingredients, an understanding of the process, and a little space.

### Choose the method that's right for you and the planet

Composting is the process of organic material naturally breaking down in a controlled environment. Simply put, it's nature's way of recycling with the right mix of microorganisms, water, air, greens, and browns. Regardless of your chosen method, you're helping the planet by converting waste into compost.

Nearly a quarter of Washington's waste could be diverted from landfills and turned into compost. Compost protects the planet by decreasing methane emissions from landfills, building healthier soils that absorb carbon and conserve water, and improving plant growth. Compost is the climate's champion, and you can be too!



#### Curbside composting

Convenient, easy, and effective! Curbside composting is great for households on the go. Most Kitsap homes are eligible for this service. You might already have it — it's the bin that collects yard waste, and you can add food scraps too. Contact your waste collection hauler to set up your yard and food waste service.

#### Vermicomposting with worms

Want to adopt a new pet? Search no further, because red wiggler worms are your perfect match! These small but mighty creatures create compost as they eat, and they're happy to live in a small container. Worm composting requires some materials and minimal upkeep. Learn to create a worm bin and take care of your worms at [kcowa.us/wormbin](http://kcowa.us/wormbin).

#### Backyard composting

If you have more room and are seeking to learn the art of composting, this method is for you. Backyard composting can be done in a fully enclosed or partially open bin. This method requires a bit more maintenance and understanding of the process, but leaves you with a nutrient-rich material to add to your soil. Visit [kcowa.us/compost](http://kcowa.us/compost) for resources to get started.

## Simple recipe for backyard compost

You need five ingredients: Browns, greens, water, oxygen, and time.

**2 PARTS BROWN**

Leaves, straw, sawdust, coffee filters, shredded paper, woody materials, dried yard debris

**1 PART GREEN**

Fresh yard and grass trimmings, fruit, vegetables, coffee grounds

Keep your pile moist and introduce air by turning your pile every few days.

# DISCOVER KITSAP COUNTY



Agents of Discovery, an augmented reality game, is back, offering families a blend of entertainment and education amidst the county's picturesque landscapes. Agents of Discovery is a free mobile app where game players take on the role of top-secret Agent, Great Blue Heron. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to solve different challenges.

In this mobile game, you'll take on an augmented reality "mission" with challenges to complete. From picking up virtual pieces of trash to identifying native insects and plants, Agents of Discovery offers engaging activities the whole family will enjoy.

This year, two thrilling location-based games await adventurers of all ages: "Discover Clear Creek 2.0" and "H<sub>2</sub>O in Kitsap." More than just a leisurely stroll, Agents of Discovery encourages both young and old to engage with their surroundings, fostering a deeper appreciation for nature while promoting environmental stewardship. As families embark on these missions, they not only bond over shared experiences but also gain valuable insights into conservation and sustainability.

## DISCOVER CLEAR CREEK

Participants delve deeper into the wonders of the Clear Creek Floodplain, on an immersive journey to uncover the secrets of this ecological gem. The game begins at Silverdale Rotary Gateway Park, where players embark on an exciting adventure, navigating the park with interactive challenges, learning about species of birds, insects, and wildlife native to Clear Creek. One of the county's most beloved and frequented parks becomes an adventure for the whole family!

## H<sub>2</sub>O IN KITSAP

This adventure introduces explorers to Puget Sound's first stormwater park, nestled in the heart of Manchester. Adventurers will discover and explore the park's innovative design, which utilizes green stormwater solutions to treat runoff from 100 urban acres. From a spectacular spiral rain garden to flood-tolerant plants, every element works harmoniously to filter and absorb pollutants like oils, metals, and bacteria.

Join the excitement of Agents of Discovery! Whether exploring the tranquil beauty of Clear Creek or marveling at the innovative design of Manchester Stormwater Park, there's something for everyone to discover in Kitsap's great outdoors.

Ready to hit the trails? Scan the QR code to learn more about Agents of Discovery and get started on your mission!



DOING GOOD IN YOUR

# Neighborhood

Keeping up with Kitsap's growing population requires planning to maintain our infrastructure. These projects, coming to a neighborhood near you, are designed to meet the growing needs of our community. The results are a cleaner, healthier, and safer environment for all!

To find out how Kitsap County Public Works plans which projects to build and see other planned projects, visit [kcowa.us/project](http://kcowa.us/project).

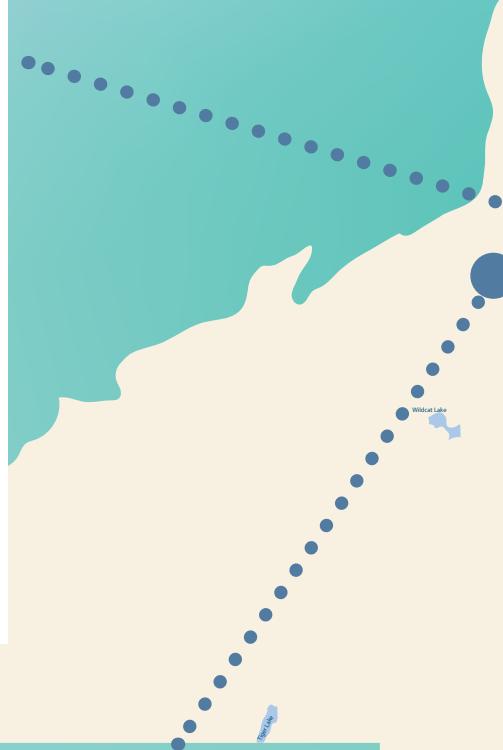
## BUCKLIN/TRACYTON STORMWATER PARK, SILVERDALE

Our award-winning stormwater parks in Manchester and Whispering Firs blend function with beauty. Whether you stop by to enjoy lunch or to stroll the paths with your pup, you are sharing space with underground water treatment that captures and prevents toxic metals, oils, and bacteria from polluting our waterways.



Manchester Park

A third stormwater park is under design and slated for construction in 2026 at the corner of Bucklin Hill Road and Tracyton Boulevard. Once built, it will treat polluted runoff from approximately 72.5 acres of land.



## SILVERDALE RECYCLING AND GARBAGE FACILITY UPGRADES, SILVERDALE

Accessibility. Increased capacity. Convenience. These are the top benefits to the improvements being made at the Silverdale Recycling and Garbage facility. Upgrades will eliminate stairs to the recycling area with a new drive-up location. The limited household hazardous waste and appliance collection areas will be relocated for easier public access. Additionally, credit and debit card payments will be accepted. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2024 or early 2025.





## KINGSTON FERRY TRAFFIC MITIGATION, KINGSTON

Beginning summer 2025, a new active traffic management system will be live in Kingston. The project will build a ferry traffic holding lane on the shoulder of State Route 104 with a boarding pass and stop light system to manage traffic. The system is designed to manage ferry terminal backups that create congestion in downtown Kingston. The project benefits include improved access to the downtown Kingston businesses and better air quality in downtown from the reduction of idling cars.

## NORTH KITSAP SERVICE CENTER

The North Kitsap Service Center has dual benefits for roads maintenance and residential needs for disposal of household hazardous waste. You may have seen some of the construction along Bond and NE Rova Road. Once completed in 2025, residents will have a new place to drop off household hazardous waste. A new roads operation facility will support road maintenance needs in unincorporated areas of North Kitsap.



*Artist rendering of NKSC*

## CENTRAL KITSAP TREATMENT PLANT, BROWNSVILLE

The Central Kitsap Treatment Plant treats four million gallons of wastewater per day from sewer systems in Central Kitsap, City of Poulsbo, and Naval Base Kitsap. It also treats solid and liquid hauled wastes from smaller treatment plants, septic systems, and grease traps. Planned upgrades to the solids facility will ensure worker safety, replace systems that have reached the end of their life cycle, and add redundancy and capacity to serve Kitsap for the next 50 years.



# Ready, set, go

Rose Schaffer, Kitsap County traffic engineer, answers your road safety questions



## HOW ARE SPEED LIMITS SET FOR DIFFERENT ROADS?

Reasonable speed limits are an essential element of road safety. Speed limits are only meaningful if the majority of motorists voluntarily comply. We use federal standards set by guidance from the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) to establish reasonable speed limits.

In Kitsap, we conduct engineering studies on the prevailing speed. We also consider other factors such as roadside development, collision history, and roadside geometrics. We then make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners, who determines and approves the final posted speed limit. We will review established speed limits if there has been significant change to the roadway. This includes development along the road, road improvements, or significant collision history that could be mitigated by a changed speed limit.

## HOW CAN I REQUEST TRAFFIC CALMING FOR MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

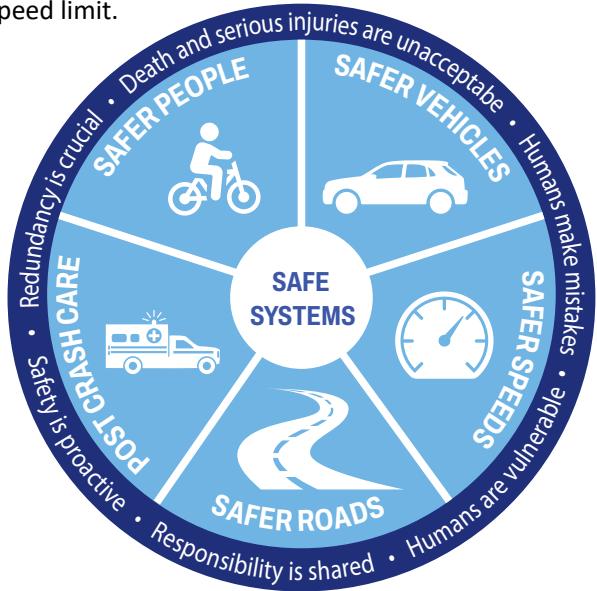
Kitsap County Public Works has a Neighborhood Traffic Calming program. Residents can submit an initial petition and request through Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777. We will perform an engineering study to determine eligibility for traffic calming measures. Learn more at the Kitsap County Road Standards booklet (Chapter 9) at [kcowa.us/roadstandard](http://kcowa.us/roadstandard).

## WHAT IS VISION ZERO AND HOW IS KITSAP COUNTY IMPLEMENTING IT?

Vision Zero is a program that aims to reach zero serious injury or fatal traffic collisions by 2030. Kitsap County adopted a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in the spring of 2024. The plan uses a "Safe System Approach" to build redundant safety measures throughout Kitsap County. This is a holistic approach with five objectives to help make places safer for everyone. Learn more at [transportation.gov/NRSS/SafeSystem](http://transportation.gov/NRSS/SafeSystem).

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

My favorite part of the job is collision analysis and mitigation. Everything I do in my job is meaningful and works to keep our roads safe and functional. However, finding solutions to make locations with a collision history and pattern safer is the most fulfilling.



**REPORT POLLUTION**  
360.337.5777

**Be Ready with:**

1. Spill Location
2. Substance
3. Estimated Amount
4. Did It Enter Storm Drain

**Emergency? Call 911**

**See a Public Works Issue in Kitsap County?**

**Report the issue. Then follow it as it gets fixed.**



**SeeClickFix**  
Download the app at [Kitsap1.com](http://Kitsap1.com)

# Cut the Scrap

## Tips to reduce waste and save on groceries

The average household in the United States wastes \$1,500 every year on food that isn't eaten. Scrap happens and plans change that prevent us from using the food we buy. Reclaim your grocery budget by following these simple tips.

### Prepare first, then shop

Creating a meal plan or shopping list does wonders for your wallet and the environment. When you create a list before heading to the store, you're only buying what you plan to use. And you're more likely to eat everything you buy. As you make your list, check your pantry and fridge for items you need to use up or items at risk of turning bad. In other words, use it or lose it!

### Keep your food fresh

Not everything belongs in the fridge. If it does, make sure you're storing it in the right place. When you open your fridge, you'll typically find a few crisper drawers that you can adjust from a high to low setting. This changes the humidity level of the drawer. Place fruits and veggies that can rot in a low-humidity drawer, and veggies that can wilt in the high-humidity drawer.

Some food items prefer to be stored on the counter or in a dark cupboard. Store bananas, avocados, and tomatoes on the counter away from one another to avoid premature ripening. Place potatoes, garlic, and onions in a cupboard away from each other.

"Lettuce" help you keep your food fresh longer with our food storage guide at [kcowa.us/foodguide](http://kcowa.us/foodguide).

### Freeze or refresh it

One of the best ways to avoid food waste is freezing your food. Before your veggies, fruits, or meats turn, freeze them! Search U.S. Department of Agriculture's FoodKeeper website or app for guidance on safe handling, preparation, and storage of frozen food items. Keep a list of your freezer contents on the fridge so you don't forget what you have.

Another way to prevent food waste is by refreshing your fresh produce. If you store your leafy greens or herbs in the fridge, you've probably experienced wilted leaves. Cut the ends off your leafy greens, such as bok choy, chard, asparagus, or lettuce heads, and place them into a jar of water. You can also submerge wilted cut salad greens in ice cold water for five to ten minutes to crisp them up.

### Use your scraps

There's nothing more appetizing than carrot top pesto or potato peel chips! Give your food scraps a makeover with a creative recipe. Visit [savethefood.com](http://savethefood.com) or [usefoodwell.org](http://usefoodwell.org) for stews, marinades, desserts, and more recipes made from leftover scraps and foods past their prime.





# Recycle Right

only these items



## Plastic bottles, jugs, jars and dairy tubs no lids



## Paper and cardboard



## Glass bottles and jars no lids



## Metal cans no loose lids



# Garbage

Not accepted for curbside or facility recycling

## Plastic Trays and Clamshells



## Plastic Cups



## Cartons



## Styrofoam™



## Paper Towels, Napkins and Plates



## Paper Cups



## Utensils and Straws



## Pizza Boxes



## Frozen Food Containers



## Coffee Pods



## Foil Plastic



## Aluminum Foil



## Shredded Paper



## Prescription Bottles



## Lids



# Other

Special drop-off sites for these items plus  
electronics, appliances, yard waste and more

## Plastic Bags and Wrap



## Batteries



## Household Hazardous Waste



## Scrap Metal



Ignore symbols - doesn't mean recyclable

# Change Partners

## Helping our community protect our waters

Kitsap County offers amazing stewardship opportunities for residents through the Clean Water Kitsap partnership. These include in-depth trainings, chances to volunteer and teach others what you've learned, and programs to turn knowledge into action. These programs let you dive into activities that protect and restore our streams and streamside pathways.

### STREAM STEWARDS PROGRAM

Dive into the Stream Stewards program and make a splash! This program, led by WSU Kitsap Extension, is perfect for Kitsap residents who want to learn about the environment and make a positive impact. Join us for engaging training sessions where you'll explore local lands and waters. The Stream Stewards program is an exciting journey to discover the natural beauty of the streams and waterways that flow through our community.

### SALMON DOCENTS PROGRAM

If you have a passion for salmon, the Salmon Docents program is tailor-made for you. In partnership with WSU Kitsap Extension, we'll take you on a journey to explore everything about salmon and their habitats. Embark on exciting field trips, engage in hands-on activities, and learn from local experts. Both Stream Stewards and Salmon Docents trainings prepare volunteers for the annual Kitsap Salmon Tours.

### KITSAP SALMON TOURS

Kitsap Salmon Tours, supported by the Salmon Docents, is a beloved local tradition. See native salmon in their natural habitat, explore the ecosystem, and learn more about these iconic fish. Visitors can explore several locations across the county, watch salmon as they make their journey home, and learn why they're so important to the ecosystem of Puget Sound.

### RAIN GARDENS

Rain gardens can make a beautiful difference in managing your stormwater! Kitsap Conservation District's Rain Garden and LID (Low Impact Development) Program offers a unique opportunity for homeowners to receive assistance installing rain gardens and other green solutions that benefit our environment. Rain gardens are beautiful powerhouses for reducing flooding, filtering pollutants from water, and replenishing groundwater. If you are ready to move toward cleaner water for Kitsap in your own yard contact us to see how you can benefit from this amazing program!

### GET INVOLVED

Clean Water Kitsap's programs are a wonderful way to learn, have fun, and make a positive impact. Whether you're interested in becoming a Stream Steward, a Salmon Docent, or installing a rain garden, there are plenty of ways to get involved and help protect our environment.

Visit [cleanwaterkitsap.org](http://cleanwaterkitsap.org) to join us in making Kitsap County a cleaner, healthier place for everyone.



Roads connect us to our communities, move our goods, and keep us connected to our families and friends. From livestock paths to superhighways, roads are the arteries that keep our communities' lifeblood flowing. From the time of the earliest settlements in Kitsap, people have needed ways to get from one place to the next as quickly as possible.



In 1853, the Pope & Talbot Company of San Francisco built a sawmill in Port Gamble. At the time, travel by water was the only connection to other mill towns. The mill constructed a trail from Port Gamble to Agate Pass near Port Madison on Bainbridge Island, the first main overland connection and the birth of today's road system in Kitsap.

In 1857, residents gathered at Port Madison to organize the county government and name the county "Kitsap." The new County Board of Commissioners approved and adopted that early trail from Port Gamble to Agate Pass as the very first official road in Kitsap.

Throughout the remainder of the 1800s and into the early 1900s, most transportation was done by water. However, it was faster and shorter to move goods over land, making it increasingly necessary to build roads to move goods from the ports to other areas. Wood, the most common and abundant construction material, was used to build our early log roads.

The 1920s brought new road-building equipment like steamrollers, making road-building easier and more efficient. These smoother surfaces made for a faster and more pleasurable travel experience.

# Road to the Future

The Kitsap of today looks a lot different than the Kitsap of 100 years ago. As we continued to grow and more people chose to live here, the need for more efficient roads and direct routes increased. From the old log roads of the 1850s to the paved asphalt roads that we know today, we are still finding ways to get you there more efficiently and safely. Here are a few examples.



The Bucklin Hill Bridge, completed in 2016, not only increased capacity and improved traffic flow but provided environmental benefits like a fish-friendly passage and restored estuary. Pedestrians also enjoy the addition of sidewalks and bike lanes.

Roundabouts have four key advantages. 1) They allow traffic to flow consistently, increasing capacity, 2) they promote lower speeds, 3) they reduce points where accidents can occur, and, 4) they are cheaper to construct and maintain than a traffic light intersection.

Cutting-edge equipment, computer-aided technology, and continually improving materials and practices work together to build a stronger and more resilient road system. As a result, roads today are safer and last longer, too.

How we build and maintain roads has come a long way from the horse and oxen days. As the history of our road system has evolved, so have we. To dive in, visit [kcowa.us/GYT](http://kcowa.us/GYT).

# A Salmon's Tale

## Navigating the waters of Puget Sound

Splash! As I emerge from my egg nestled in the gravelly streambed of Kitsap County's Clear Creek, I am filled with excitement for the adventure that lies ahead. My journey to the waters of Puget Sound has officially begun, and oh, what a journey it will be!

With a flick of my tail, I wriggle free from my egg and enter the world as a tiny alevin, barely the size of a paperclip. It's a big world out here! As I drift through the cool currents, I feast on tiny aquatic insects and plankton, fueling my rapid growth.

As the days become months, I transform from a minuscule fry into a smolt, sporting a sleek silver body and a determined spirit. It's time to bid farewell to the streams of Kitsap County and embark on the next leg of my journey—the vast expanse of Puget Sound.

Navigating the maze of waterways, I follow the scent of saltwater and the call of the open sea. Along the way, I join my fellow salmon companions.

Together, we finally reach Puget Sound, where the waters stretch as far as the eye can see. It's a bustling underwater metropolis, teeming with life. Here I grow up mingling with other marine creatures, from seals to orcas, as I continue my journey toward adulthood. With each passing year, I grow stronger and more resilient, honing my instincts and adapting to the ever-changing currents of Puget Sound and Pacific Ocean.

Then, one fateful day, I am driven by an irresistible force to continue my species. It sends me on a monumental journey back to the freshwater streams where it all began. It's a perilous voyage, fraught with obstacles and challenges, but I press on, fueled by the primal instinct to spawn.

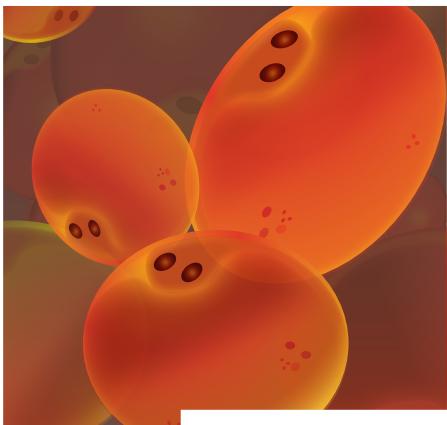
Finally, I reach the familiar waters of Kitsap County, where the gravelly streambed of Clear Creek and Dyes Inlet await. With one final burst of energy, I deposit my precious cargo of eggs into the waiting embrace of the stream.

As the circle of life continues, I feel a profound sense of fulfillment, knowing that my journey has not been in vain. Though my time on this earth may be fleeting, the legacy of my offspring will endure, carrying on the timeless cycle of life in Puget Sound.

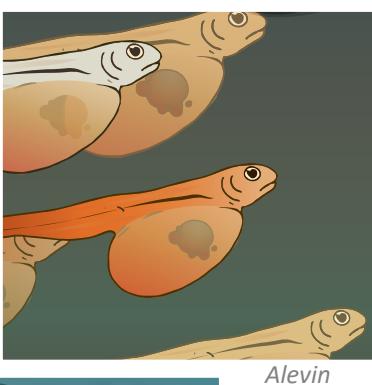


### MEET ME AT THE FINISH LINE

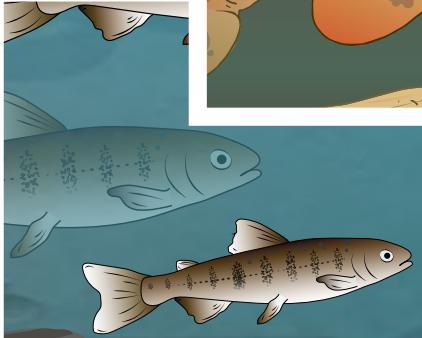
Join us for Kitsap Salmon Tours, where you can witness the inspiring journey of salmon firsthand. Explore various stream sites across the county on Saturday, November 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and discover all things salmon with biologists, local environmental organizations, and trained docents. Visit [kitsapsalmontours.org](http://kitsapsalmontours.org) to find a viewing site near you.



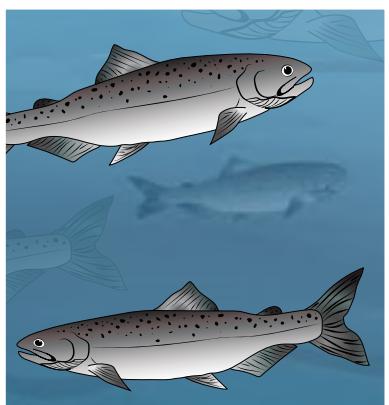
Eggs



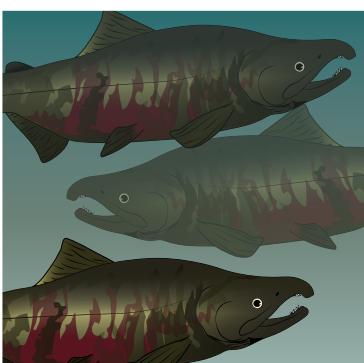
Alevin



Fry



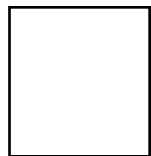
Adult



Spawner



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# Taking care of business

Some of our favorite things in the workplace



## So fresh and so clean

Combine 2 tablespoons of Borax, 1/4 cup of vinegar and 2 cups of hot water in a spray bottle to make a safe all-purpose cleaner.

## Book smart

Smart reusable notebooks give you the convenience of pen to paper but with the ability to upload your notes to your cloud services, emails, and more. Some apps can also name your note pages into files and transcribe your handwritten scribbles into text.



## Note it

Use this desk whiteboard to jot down your temporary scribbles instead of reaching for sticky notes.



## Walk to it

Always be ready for an opportunity to walk by keeping a set of comfortable shoes under your desk.



## Plated lunch

Have a set of your own plates, bowls, glass, and mug. Use them instead of disposable dishware to cut down on waste.