

Spring 2021

# Everyday Kitsap

CARING ABOUT YOUR EVERY DAY

**AU NATURALE**  
YARD CARE THAT CARES

**GROWTH SPURT**  
PLANNING FOR A GROWING KITSAP

**SHOP STYLE**  
TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND  
YOUR SHOPPING STYLE

**ENTER  
TO WIN**

Amazon Gift Cards  
Details on back page



Kitsap County Public Works

# EverydayKitsap

A Kitsap County Public Works  
Publication

## Solid Waste Division

Waste reduction and recycling, garbage, litter, business technical assistance, and household hazardous waste

## Stormwater Division

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

## Sewer Utility Division

Operations and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants and sewer collection and conveyance systems, engineering, and construction.

## Roads Division

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

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

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

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



An APWA accredited agency

# director's note



**P**ublic Works strives to make your every day a great day! The significance of public works has never been more prevalent than during the pandemic. Public Works employees are essential and on the job daily. Maintaining a high level of service and keeping the public safe required innovation, hard work and diligence.

As we emerge from pandemic restrictions, many are changing habits at work and home. By commuting less, we consume less, but others consume more delivering orders to our front doors. Whether it was items cleared from garages, debris from home improvement projects, or packaging from increased home deliveries, Kitsap generated more solid waste this past year than any previous. Can our lifestyles evolve from this experience to have less impact on our environment?

Everyday Kitsap can help with great ideas to reduce our impact, ease our routines and make our homes safer. Share these good ideas with family and friends. Together, we can continue to make every day in Kitsap a better day.

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

## Buy Nothing

Have you ever wished you could borrow a tool for a few hours instead of buying it? Baked too many cookies and wondered whether a neighbor would enjoy some? Downsized your bobblehead collection and felt that gifting them to a fellow bobblehead fan would ease the loss?



You're not alone. The "buy nothing" movement connects neighbors around gifting and sharing, and you can join in on the fun!

"Buy nothing" is a new name for the old concept of sharing resources within your community. It can be as simple and informal as knocking on your neighbor's door to request help or a cup of sugar. More recently, these friendly exchanges have moved online.

Here's how it works: search for and join a "buy nothing group" in Kitsap County. Most groups are on Facebook. Then post an item or a service you would like to offer, or ask the group for something you need. If someone posts something you'd like, leave a friendly comment to request the item. "I would love to be considered for this bobblehead! I'm trying to downsize my collection but this one is just perfect!"

No money is exchanged, but the benefits of "buy nothing" go beyond free stuff. These groups strengthen community and reduce waste through simple gifts.

# Natural Beauty

Go natural all year-long

**O**ur lawns are an extension of our homes. They provide fun, beautiful spaces for our kids to play, relax in a hammock in the shade or toss a Frisbee with our dogs.

Many of us want to keep our yards green, and in doing so, use a lot of water or overuse chemicals that are bad for our families' health and the environment.

The good news is, by making some simple changes in how we care for our lawns, we can:

- Save money on water, waste disposal and chemicals
- Save time because in the long run working with nature is easier
- Protect our families' health by reducing contact with chemicals
- Protect the environment



## SUMMER

- Water at dawn or in the evening to reduce evaporation.
- Mow regularly and leave the clippings on the lawn.
- Keep mower blades sharp to reduce lawn damage and brown tips.
- Let low-traffic lawn areas go brown and dormant until fall.
- Water lawns 1 inch per week—water enough to moisten root zone once a month.



## FALL

- Improve thin areas of lawns by aerating, overseeding, and top-dressing with compost.
- Fertilize lawns with 'natural' or 'organic' fertilizer in September to develop healthy roots and crowd out weeds.
- Plant new lawns September 1 – October 15 to give them the best start before next summer.
- Shut off and drain watering systems when rains come.



## WINTER

- Tune up yard equipment; sharpen mower blades.
- Check storage areas for any unwanted chemicals and dispose of them safely. Visit [Recycle.KitsapGov.com](http://Recycle.KitsapGov.com) for information on proper disposal for household chemicals.



## SPRING

- Mow about 2 inches high for most lawns or 1 inch for bentgrass lawns. Grasscycle — leave lawn clippings on the lawns for free fertilizer.
- Aerate, overseed and top-dress with ½ inch of compost.
- Fertilize lawns in May, if needed, with products that are labeled 'natural' or 'organic.'
- Prepare sprinkler systems by testing, adjusting sprinkler heads and repairing leaks.

# Chips the Season

## Maintaining County roads

**W**e have great roads in Kitsap County. And much like your car, it is important to keep up with routine maintenance to avoid costly repairs down the road. The chip sealing process is one of many activities we do to help maintain and preserve our roads. Other options include fog sealing, crack sealing, and paving.

The County uses a pavement rating method (“rock science”) to rate all roads every two years. The survey considers the condition of the roadway along with factors that determine when roads need repairs. Roads get rated from 100 (new road) to 0 (no pavement left); this helps us prioritize work and decide which preservation treatment to use.

Chip seal is a two-part process of applying oil and a layer of rock to an existing paved road. The goal is to seal the paved surface from water intrusion into the asphalt and underlying subgrade material. The applied oil works its way into cracks and voids in the asphalt surface and slows deterioration. Rock is then applied on top of the oil to protect it and prolong the life of the roadway—often up to 10-12 years, depending on the original road condition and use. Chip seal also adds strength and skid resistance to the roadway, a particular benefit during snow and ice events.

The average base cost of chip seal is approximately \$30,000 per mile. This is about one third the cost of a traditional paving project per mile, making chip seal a cost-effective method to preserve roadway. On average, 30 miles of roadway is chip sealed each year.

The County continues to search for innovative and cost-effective new technologies and practices. Using reclaimed asphalt in the chip seal process reduces the use of virgin materials and keeps waste out of the landfill. Over the past three years, the County expanded its use of “fog seal”—an asphalt emulsion—applied to roads that were recently chip sealed. Fog seal acts like an insulated blanket and has many benefits. It retains more of the chip seal aggregate (the rocks), it allows UV light to penetrate the pavement increasing ice melt during snow events, it provides more contrast for road striping and it looks like pavement.

Kitsap County draws on the expertise of our internal workforce for road maintenance and preservation. This model saves taxpayer dollars. Chip sealing would cost up to 60% more if outside contractors did the work. During this time of road funding uncertainty, using County crews helps to reduce the strain on the road fund.















Is your road scheduled for chip sealing? Here is what you should know. It takes less than a day to chip seal each road (depending on length). Crews sweep the road of the loose gravel within two to three days and again within two weeks of the application. Because the process needs time to cure, it is important to keep your speeds reduced until the chips are swept away. And most important, on the day of the chip sealing, no cars are allowed to be parked on the roadway. Bicyclists and motorcyclists should use extra caution. To learn more about chip sealing and to see the yearly chip seal schedule, go to [kcowa.us/roadmaint](http://kcowa.us/roadmaint).



# Soak it Up!

## Stormwater improvements rated

**W**e all want to do our part to make our corner of the world a little better for future generations. When it rains, the water from our homes runs off into the streets. This runoff picks up pollutants along the way and drains into our streams and Puget Sound. Small garden improvements help keep the rain in our yards to reduce runoff and flooding. Here's a handy guide to things you can do to manage water in your yard and make a difference to water quality in Puget Sound.

	BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	STATS	LIFESPAN
	<b>CISTERNS</b> can be built above or below ground to capture roof runoff. Larger and more permanent than rain barrels, cisterns are made of durable materials designed to last.	\$ \$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	25-50 years
	<b>PERMEABLE PAVERS</b> come in a wide variety of attractive shapes and sizes and are ideal for patios, walkways or driveways. A contractor or savvy DIY'er can install pavers, but call before you dig!	\$ \$ \$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	Varies, depending on materials
	<b>PLANTERS</b> placed under downspouts help remove heavy metals that can be carried from roofs and gutters which are harmful to salmon. You can put planters in challenging spots and vary plantings based on sunlight and space.	\$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	Varies, depending on materials and plant choices
	<b>RAIN BARRELS</b> , one of the most affordable practices, are suitable for most homes and provide extra water for ornamental landscaping in the summer.	\$ ↓ ↓ 	20 years
	<b>RAIN GARDENS</b> filter sediments and pollutants while also providing habitat for wildlife. A 20' x 20' rain garden can soak up the runoff from half the area of a standard roof! You can even get free technical help from the <a href="#">Kitsap County Conservation District</a> .	\$ \$ \$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	For mulched beds, replenish every few years as needed
	<b>SOIL IMPROVEMENTS</b> are an affordable way to strengthen your lawn or planter bed's ecosystem. Improving your soil helps its ability to hold and filter water and reduces its need for fertilizers.	\$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	For mulched beds, replenish every few years as needed
	<b>TREES</b> help capture and evaporate rainfall, prevent erosion and slow runoff. A master gardener or your local nursery can help you find the perfect tree for your space.	\$ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ 	Up to decades for some varieties

COST: \$ IMPACT ON STORMWATER QUALITY: ↓ EASE OF INSTALLATION: ↓ EASE OF MAINTENANCE: ↓

# PLANNING FOR YOU

We work every day to provide infrastructure and services for a growing County. For the future.

The Comprehensive Plan describes the 20-year vision for unincorporated Kitsap County in environment, housing and human services, transportation, capital facilities and utilities.

As we plan, we find ways to protect our natural environment to keep Kitsap County beautiful. See upcoming projects in your neighborhood at [know.us/project](http://know.us/project).

## SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

Sewer Utility projects ensure safe transport and treatment of wastewater for a growing population. A third siphon from Lemolo to Keyport will add capacity and reliability for flows from the City of Poulsbo.



## RECYCLING & GARBAGE



The Silverdale Recycling and Transfer Station is being remodeled with 30% energy in mind.



Customers can expect cost savings, reduced payments, increased call volume, improved traffic pattern, new recycling services without stairs, and an improved hazardous waste and recycling program.

## RECREATION

When we build new stormwater facilities, we aim to think green, be innovative, and design for multi-functional community use. Whispering Pines Stormwater Park is a working water-quality facility that does double duty by providing recreation opportunities for residents.



## WATER QUALITY



The Kingston Regional Stormwater Treatment Plant will treat stormwater runoff through a centralized program. Designers are working to connect to this facility and building their own.

One centralized system will reduce cost and benefit the community.

# OUR EVERYDAY

Ensuring the infrastructure we need starts with planning for our future. The plan covers land use, economic development, housing, utilities as well as parks, recreation and open space. We want to make sure we're a great place to live. You can find current and



## WASTE

Waste-to-Energy Facility  
years of growth

credit card  
capacity, a safer  
cycling area  
improved  
appliance area

## GETTING YOU THERE

Road projects are planned to accommodate more than cars.

- Bike lanes, wider paved shoulders, transit stops, and more sidewalks provide access and safety for those not driving.
- Culvert replacement projects and help salmon reach their spawning grounds.



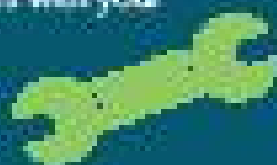
## QUALITY

Water Facility will  
through a  
developers may pay  
rather than

en means  
water quality!

## STAY CONNECTED

It'sapt is a one-stop shop for County services. Need to report a problem in your neighborhood? SeeClickFix lets you report non-emergencies with your smartphone or computer.



## PLANNING A PROJECT

Get help at [know.us/16d](http://know.us/16d)



# Your Shopping Style

Food Scraps: No matter what type of grocery shopper you are, we all have food scraps and can benefit from compost collection at home.

[Sign up for home compost collection service](#)



## Sprinter

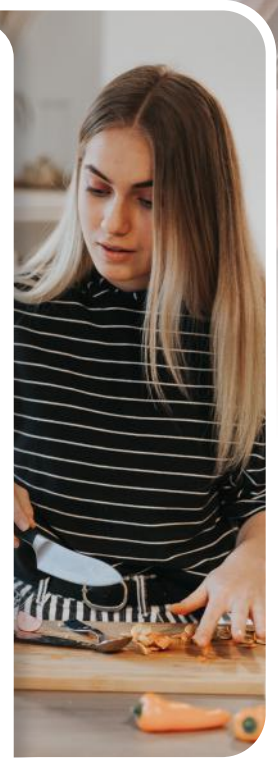
**O**rganized with list in hand. Great at being in charge, but no stranger to relaxing. Sprinters make decisions with ease, moving forward to the next endeavor.

*Sprinters are great planners, but everyone has food scraps (egg shells, potato skins, etc.) from cooking a meal. The average person produces 218 pounds of food waste annually. Organized shopping produces less waste. Stick to the meal plan!*

## Wanderer

**G**reat on the fly! Easy going and ready to make changes. New recipes inspire your list. Wanderers are free spirits and love new products.

*The adventurous nature of Wanderers makes buying habits unpredictable and the potential for food waste greater. Like the Bargainer, Wanderers get caught up in buying a 50% off beef roast. Those who also like to wander in the garden will find it convenient for their household to collect yard and food waste in one easy compost bin!*



## Trend Follower

**I**nformed and active. People notice you wherever you go. Trend Followers have great stories, explore new restaurants, and seek knowledge.

*This stylish group produces meat, bread, cheese, and salad waste from leftovers. All these items can be composted in your curbside compost cart. Follow the trend; compost to make energy not waste. Careful, takeout packaging is not compostable. Reduce waste by rethinking your portions before you order.*

## Bargainer

**S**ocial and kind. The door is always open, and there is a celebration for everything. Bargainers feed crowds and buy in bulk.

*Those who buy more, create more waste. Fresh food spoils from not being consumed quickly enough. Bargainers can fight waste by revising their buying plan and [sign up for home compost collection](#). Try to buy only what you need and can reasonably consume.*



[Take the quiz to discover your shopping style](#)



# Daily Grind

## Work/life balance for your garbage disposal

**L**ove them or hate them, garbage disposals are a popular fixture in over half of American homes. They make kitchen clean up easier. But without the proper routine, they can cause odors, clog your sink or wreak havoc in sewer or septic systems. Here are some tips to keep your garbage disposal working for you.

### What goes in a garbage disposal?

Only small items should go in the disposal, such as crumbs, small pieces of eggshell, and small amounts of coffee grounds. A good rule of thumb is to not put anything in the garbage disposal that you would not let go down the drain. This especially includes anything with grease – it will solidify and clog pipes. Never put non-food items in a garbage disposal.

### How do I keep it working well?

Your garbage disposal should work for up to ten years if you treat it with care. One common mistake is not using it at all. Without occasional use, components can seize up. Or inevitably crumbs from dishes will get inside and cause clogs and bad odors. Even if you don't have anything to grind, turn on the water and run your disposal every few days.

Always use water when running your disposal. Cold water is best. Hot water can dissolve food and cause it to clog the unit. Run your disposal a little longer while running cold water to make sure everything goes down the drain. You can also add a little dish soap to keep it clean.

Grinding ice cubes a few times a month is a good way to clean and sharpen the blades in your garbage disposal. Some people put citrus peels in to help with

odors, but these can cause clogs or get stuck in the blades. Freeze vinegar into ice cubes for a better way to tackle cleaning and odors at the same time.

### What if I have a septic system?

Garbage disposals are not recommended for use with septic systems. Using a disposal on septic tank can reduce the capacity of your septic tank and affect performance. If you are on a septic system and currently have a garbage disposal, you can have a plumber remove it and replace it with pipe.

Follow these tips to extend the life of your garbage disposal and make the most of the daily grind.

### DO'S

- Grind small food items like crumbs or small amounts of coffee grounds
- Run cold water during and after use
- Use your disposal regularly

### DON'T'S

- Put non-food items in the disposal
- Grind anything with fats, oil, or grease
- Stick a fork in it!

# Tiny Tips

To make your life easier

## Mail Call

Paper is the #1 item in our recycling bins. Reduce it! Switch to paperless bills and opt-out of junk mail and credit card offers through websites like [catalogchoice.org](http://catalogchoice.org), [yellowpagesoptout.com](http://yellowpagesoptout.com), and [dmachoice.thedma.org](http://dmachoice.thedma.org). For more ways to opt-out, visit [Recycle.org](http://Recycle.org).



## Tank Tested

Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

## Grease Stop

Keep fat, grease and oils out of your sink to prevent costly clogged pipes and drains. If you're a Kitsap County Sewer customer, we'll mail you a free "Can the Grease" kit to help you scrape and collect cooking grease. Call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777.



## Denim Mender

Sashiko, a Japanese sewing technique and tradition, is a beautiful mend anyone can do. It requires only a patch, long sewing needle and embroidery thread.

By sewing many lines of short stitches, you create a sturdy repair that adds style. Conceal the repair with matching thread or show off your design with contrasting colors. For inspiration and instructions, look online for how-to videos.



## Water you doing?

How do you really know if you're watering too much or not enough? Overwatering can transport pollutants into our local waterways. Moisture meters can be found for less than \$10 at most home improvement stores and let you know when the soil is dry so you only water plants when they need it.



## Paint Over

It's easy to recycle leftover paint with the new PaintCare program. There are over 200 paint drop-off sites across Washington, including paint retailers.

Recycle your latex or oil-based paints, stains, and varnishes at a location near you! Visit the [Drop-off Site Locator](http://Drop-off Site Locator).

There is no cost to drop off.

# Signs of life

## A 'behind the signs' look at a familiar roadside sight

**W**e have over 20,000 traffic signs around Kitsap County, and they have a lot to say. Traffic signs communicate by their shape, color, and symbol and come in three types – warning, regulatory, and guide. Understanding what each category means can help you travel safely.



**WARNING SIGNS**

**Warning:** These tell drivers to use caution and are usually yellow diamond shaped. You'll find these indicating turns or curves (large arrows), school zones or pedestrian crossings.

**Regulatory:** Stop! Signs like these tell drivers of a traffic law that must be obeyed. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes but are usually white with black or red letters. Yield, speed limits and parking signs are examples.

**Guide:** You can find these signs marking street names or recreation information. They are designed to help you get where you're going. They are often green or brown with white letters.



**REGULATORY SIGNS**

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) determines the type, shape, color and location of each sign so signs are standardized throughout the entire country. Variables such as vehicle speed and the width of the roadway determine the size. Signs need to be surprisingly large for a motorist to see them from a distance. A standard warning sign can measure 3 to 4 feet on each side!

Signs are made of reflective plastic sheeting applied to a metal sign blank. This sheeting has tiny prisms that reflect light from headlights and other sources in many directions, making the signs visible at night. To make them even brighter, some signs are backlit using LED lights. Once a year, sign crews drive through the night to inspect reflectivity and assess how well the signs are working.

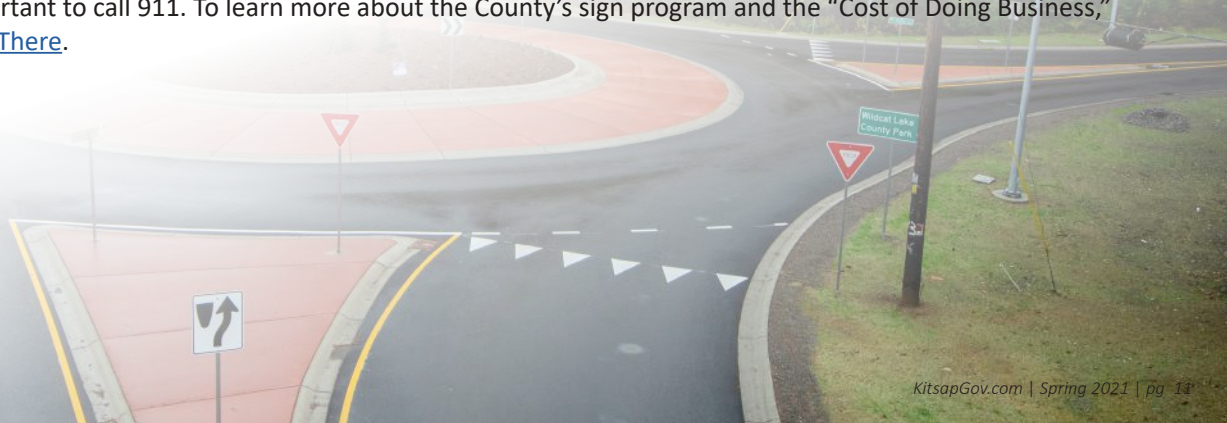


**GUIDE SIGNS**

Kitsap County's sign program costs between \$400,000 and \$500,000 a year, and seven full-time employees and up to 17 seasonal workers maintain the county's many signs. Last year crews installed, cleaned, and repaired over 8,000 of them.

While vendors supply some basic signs like stop or yield signs, the Traffic Division crafts most of the street name and other custom signs in the in-house sign shop. This allows crews to respond quickly to a damaged, vandalized or missing sign.

Damaged or missing signs cost up to \$300 to replace and need to be put back quickly to keep drivers safe. If you come across a downed or damaged sign, report it through the [SeeClickFix](#) app or call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777. However, if you see a downed stop or yield sign, it is important to call 911. To learn more about the County's sign program and the "Cost of Doing Business," go to [Kcowa.us/GettingYouThere](http://Kcowa.us/GettingYouThere).



# Earth Day Awards

Honoring 2021 recipients and artist



## Sinclair Inlet Clean-Up

### Along the shore

Twice a year, Sinclair Inlet Cleanup Volunteers scour beaches along Port Orchard and Bremerton to capture litter washed up on the shore before it heads back out with the tides.



### Around the island

Deb Rudnick, Ph.D., is an Islander for change. Active in preservation on Bainbridge Island, Deb's work in schools and numerous organizations focuses on protection and restoration in the island community.



### Cultivating curiosity

Magnolia Forest Preschool engages young minds through play and discovery in a fully outdoor program. The preschool harnesses the power of wonder to spark interaction with the natural world.



### A Refreshing Artisan

Each winner received this stunning award designed by local artisan Ken Blair of Chameleon Studios. The award captures the movement of salmon brushing against driftwood. Blair crafts his pieces from upcycled glass, wood, and metal.



### Cleansing space

Anton Preisinger, founding Director of Northwest Hospitality, leads compassionate programs and litter cleanups in the community. Preisinger has coordinated 38 cleanup events that removed 54,537 pounds of waste from the Kitsap Peninsula.

get  
Anast



### Out the back door

Carin Anderson and Jesse Adams with Kitsap Conservation District's Backyard Habitat Restoration program engage volunteers, neighbors, and landowners in the collaborative process of renewing streams.

# WIN

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Take a brief online survey about this magazine for a chance to win a

**\$20 Amazon Gift Card**

3 to win! Don't miss out!

Visit [kcowa.us/eksurvey](https://kcowa.us/eksurvey)

