

Everyday Kitsap

Fall 2025

CARING ABOUT YOUR EVERY DAY

**REPAIR IT
YOURSELF**
WE CAN HELP YOU

**BEHIND THE
WHEEL**
HEAVY LIFTING
MACHINES

SMART PARKS
ENGINEERING CLEAN WATER

**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

Kitsap1: 360.337.5777 or

email: help@kitsap1.com

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



An APWA accredited agency

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commissioners' note



Welcome to the 2025 issue of Everyday Kitsap! This magazine showcases Kitsap County's Public Works department. Kitsap County Public Works provides essential services and infrastructure to support the daily lives of Kitsap County residents and businesses. From maintaining safe roads and managing waste and recycling to treating

wastewater, managing stormwater, and responding to emergencies – public works professionals impact our daily lives in countless ways.

This issue of Everyday Kitsap looks at how transportation projects are planned, and the people that take pride in serving Kitsap County every day. You will also find ideas on keeping your home safe and healthy, whether that is taking your household hazardous waste to one of our facilities or learning about the plant types you can put on your septic drainfield.

We hope this information will give you a better understanding of the Public Works department and its operations within Kitsap County government. There are also tips on how to get involved in projects and improvements in your own neighborhood. Thank you for reading.

Christine Rolfes, District 1
Oran Root, District 2
Katherine T. Walters, District 3
Kitsap County Board of Commissioners

Helping Hands

Caring for our community and environment takes all of us. Kitsap County Public Works offers a range of volunteer opportunities that improve and protect our natural resources.

ADOPT A SPOT

Volunteer to keep Kitsap clean one spot at a time! If you're looking for a way to get outside and keep our community litter-free, join our Adopt a Spot program. We provide bags, pickers, gloves, safety vests, and free litter disposal to all volunteers. Adopt your spot at kcowa.us/adoptaspot.



COMMUNITY REPAIR EVENTS

Have a knack for fixing things? Volunteer with Kitsap Fix-it Fairs to help neighbors fix or mend broken items, like clothing and small household appliances. These events reduce waste and build community connections. Visit kcowa.us/fixitfairs to sign up.

STREAM BUG AND AMPHIBIAN MONITORING

Help protect local streams and marine waters – volunteer to monitor bugs and amphibians in Kitsap County! Your observations help scientists track water health and spot changes in wildlife. It's hands-on and a great way to explore nature. Experience is not needed, just curiosity and a love for the outdoors! Call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 for more information.

Repair for the Future

Reduce waste by fixing broken items

Not long ago, Kitsap County was home to countless repair shops. Ads offering repair services for shoes, mattresses, toys, and toasters once filled the pages of local newspapers. Today, many of those shops are gone, replaced by a culture of convenience and disposable goods. The shift stems from “planned obsolescence”—a business model where products are designed to wear out quickly. Poorer quality and limited repair options means that new replacements are purchased and more garbage is sent to landfills.

An energetic group of volunteers in Kitsap are embracing repair by donating their time and skills at free community events called Fix-it Fairs. At these events, community members bring broken items in need of mending or repair. Fixers and visitors sit together to troubleshoot broken lamps, sweaters, toys, and more. They also share stories of broken belongings and family histories.

At one recent event, fixers helped Michele from Poulsbo rescue a juicer that’s been in her family since 1975, traveling with the family during assignments in El Salvador, Korea, Latin America, and the United States. “We had fresh orange juice every morning thanks to that little guy,” she said, “until the motor began to smell like it was burning.”



unpacked countless times.”

With the right tools, knowledge, and community spirit, volunteers like Greg and local repair businesses are keeping repair alive in Kitsap.

Join us at a Fix-it Fair and be part of Kitsap’s growing community of repair. Learn more at kcowa.us/FixitFair.

Michele tried to fix it herself but had no luck. As a last effort, she brought her juicer to a Fix-it Fair and was paired with fixer Greg.

“Greg looked it over, carefully removed the cover, examined my now-naked juicer, plugged it in, pushed on the auger piece, and voilà! It sparked! And it smelled,” recalls Michele.

The issue was simply a dirty contact point, so Greg cleaned it up, and the juicer worked as good as new. “I can juice up a dozen or so lemons without needing to rest the motor,” Michele says, excited. “That little juicer is chock full of childhood memories... packed and



”
When I was a kid, we didn't
throw away good stuff!
We'd fix it or mend it.
- all our grandparents

Hot Wheels

Around 440 vehicles make up the fleet in Public Works, doing a variety of different jobs in our communities every day. Here are some of the machines you might see around your neighborhood.



VACUUM TRUCK

These vehicles have high-pressure water jets that break up clogs and powerful vacuums to remove sediment and debris in our sewer and stormwater systems. There are over 11,000 storm drains in Kitsap County!



DUMP TRUCK

Can you have too many dump trucks? There are 19 of them in the Public Works fleet. It's an essential machine for hauling, towing, and plowing to maintain over 900 miles of unincorporated Kitsap County roadways.



ROAD STRIPER TRUCK

Kitsap County paints over 3,000 miles of stripes on 940 miles of roads. For nighttime visibility, we restripe all roads annually. The paint used contains reflective glass beads, making it highly visible when wet and under headlights.



inside



SEWER CAMERA TRUCK

If you see this vehicle, your neighborhood is under sewer surveillance! Crews perform routine video inspections of our pipes to ensure 200 miles of sewer pipes are flowing smoothly.



MINI EXCAVATORS AND MOWERS

These small but mighty machines are deployed across Kitsap County for the vegetation management program. This essential work improves sight distance, prevents drainage issues, and removes trees posing a threat to driver and pedestrian safety.



SEMI-TRUCK, PAVER, EXCAVATOR AND LOADER

Public Works has one semi-truck that is shared across three road districts, used to transport heavy equipment for large jobs like road paving and culvert repairs.

Smart Parks

Stormwater parks around Kitsap keep our waterways clean

Whether you stop by to take in the view, eat lunch in the sun, walk your dog, or play on the lawn at one of our stormwater parks, you are in the midst of innovation. These parks also serve to capture toxic metals, oils, and bacteria in runoff and prevent them from polluting streams, lakes, and Puget Sound.



Settling Basin

The first stop for runoff. This basin allows sand, litter, and debris to settle out before water moves into the treatment areas.



Plants

Native species like reed grass and tufted hairgrass help absorb water, hold soil in place, and filter pollutants—while also supporting pollinators.



Rain Gardens

Shallow planted areas where water soaks into the ground at about two inches per hour. Soil and plant roots filter out oil, metals, and other pollutants.



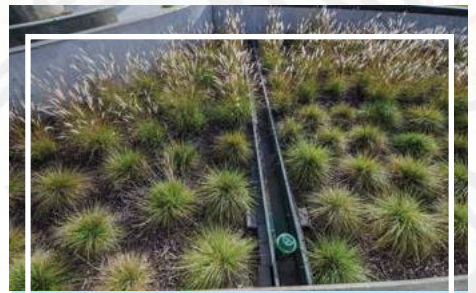
Treatment Cells

Specialized filtration zones that treat thousands of gallons of runoff. Over time, they remove more than 100,000 pounds of pollutants.



Filter Media

It looks like dirt and rocks under wood chips, but is actually a special proprietary blend. It removes 91% of the pollution from water.



Troughs

Raised channels that distribute water when underground pipes fill up. They help reduce erosion and spread flow evenly.

The Stormwater Division's newest project, Bucklin Tracyton Stormwater Park, will bring these features to life. Located at the corner of Bucklin Hill Road and Tracyton Boulevard, it will treat runoff from over 70 acres before it reaches Dyes Inlet and serve as a welcoming place to gather, walk, and learn. Construction on this stormwater park is anticipated in 2027.

Looking ahead, the County is studying where the next crop of stormwater powerhouses could be installed in the next five to ten years—turning overlooked spaces into hardworking green infrastructure that benefits both people and the environment.

To learn more about the Bucklin Tracyton Stormwater Park, visit kcowa.us/BucklinTracyton.

Water Works

Protecting our most valuable resource

Kitsap County is one of Washington's most water-connected communities—nearly surrounded by Puget Sound, the county's 250 plus miles of shoreline is one of the most expansive in the state. Our local identity, economy, and way of life are all tied to the water. But here's the surprising part: every drop of our drinking water comes from surface water or underground aquifers, no snowcapped mountains here!

And those aquifers? They get replenished by rain, specifically the stormwater that filters through the ground. Everyone who lives in Kitsap County depends on rainfall for their drinking water.

STORMWATER IS POWERFUL. REALLY POWERFUL!

When rains hit roofs, roads, and driveways, that water rushes across surfaces, picking up oil, fertilizer, pet waste, soap, and other pollutants before heading toward storm drains. That's where things can go very wrong—or very right—depending on what's in place.

Kitsap's stormwater infrastructure is an unsung hero. It includes:

- Underground pipes and vaults
- Catch basins, ditches, and swales
- Detention facilities and stormwater ponds
- Natural treatment areas like wetlands and even stormwater parks

This network slows the flow, filters pollutants, and gives water a chance to soak into the ground—recharging aquifers and protecting shorelines.

CLEAN WATER STARTS AT HOME

You don't have to manage an underground storm pipe or engineer a pond to be part of the solution. In fact, the best stormwater helpers are often everyday residents like you!

Here's how you can make a difference:

Let it sink in. Redirect downspouts to gardens or grassy areas instead of driveways or sidewalks. This helps prevent flooding on streets and helps filter water.

Scoop it, Bag it, Trash it! Pet waste contains pathogens that can make your family, pets, and wildlife sick. Scoop up pet waste to keep those pathogens out of our waterways.

Capture it. Cisterns and rain barrels collect roof runoff for later use in your yard.

Fix leaks. Oil and antifreeze from your car can travel through ditches and storm drains directly into streams. Keep your vehicle in check.

Wash smart. Always wash your car at a commercial car wash, not in your driveway.

Report spills or illegal dumping. If it's not rain, it doesn't belong in a storm drain. Period.

WHY IT MATTERS

Clean water doesn't just come from the tap—it comes from you. Everything you do on your property, driveway, and street can either help or hurt the aquifers that give Kitsap its water. Plus, our streams, fish, and shorelines depend on clean, slow-moving water.

This is where stormwater gets personal—and powerful. And the more we work with it, the better Kitsap's future looks. Learn other tips at cleanwaterkitsap.org.



Ask the Expert

You asked, we answered!

Who maintains vegetation in the right of way?

Did you know that property owners are responsible for maintaining landscaping and vegetation in the county right of way? The right of way is the area along your property – typically the area between your front yard and the road. Maintenance is important because road users need good sight lines. It also helps prevent flooding caused by yard debris.

If you are unable to maintain the vegetation, county crews will do it. However, we landscape using a large mowing arm that is not very delicate. We encourage property owners to do their own maintenance. You can sign up for the “Owners Will Maintain” program to let us know you plan to do the work. Visit kcowa.us/roadmaint.



Can I put pet waste in the compost bin?

While doggie poo may seem “natural”, it belongs in the trash. Scoop, bag, and trash pet waste, used kitty litter, and pet bedding. Landfills are designed to handle pet waste safely. Yards, trails, streets, parks, toilets, yard waste carts, and compost piles are not.

Burying or composting pet waste allows harmful bacteria and micro-organisms into groundwater. Pet waste can make people sick. Some organisms persist for weeks in your yard, waiting for a host.

Kitsap's Mutt Mitt program helps community volunteers place dog waste bag stations around the county at kcowa.us/muttmitt.



What types of plants can I put on my septic drainfield?

Your septic system works hard to keep your home running smoothly, so it's important to choose plants that won't interfere with its job. The key is keeping things simple and shallow.

Skip anything with deep or aggressive roots. Instead, stick with shallow-rooted plants that won't need much water, like grass, groundcovers, or perennials.

These plants are perfect because they won't stress your system while still giving you a nice-looking yard. For specific plant recommendations that work well in our area, check out greatplantpicks.org or reach out to the WSU Kitsap Extension Master Gardeners – they're a great local resource!



Where does my trash go?

All garbage is taken to Olympic View Transfer Station by your waste hauler. Garbage is compacted into containers, then loaded onto rail cars. The garbage is transported 300 miles to the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon.

Collected recyclables are transferred to larger containers for transport to WM's JMK Fibers, a material recovery facility in Tacoma. The recyclables are sorted, baled, and then transported to manufacturers to be made into new products.

To improve resiliency, Kitsap County Public Works is installing a second compactor in 2025 and replacing the existing one in 2026.



HUM of Kitsap

1

Paul Nettleton

*Pavement Asset Manager,
Roads Division*

What do you do?

I manage Kitsap's 900 miles of roads in compliance with state WAC & RCW's.

Basically I.....

Help ensure that Kitsap's road network is safe and viable for all users.

What do you like about your job?

Being a part of the planning and design of road projects and maintenance that enhance the lives of Kitsap road users.

2

Sarah Kalmbach

Utility Lab Analyst, Sewer Division

What do you do?

I analyze wastewater samples. These tests help us understand how the treatment plants are functioning, and if there are any adjustments that need to be made.

Basically I.....

Help monitor and ensure that the wastewater sent to the treatment plants is being properly treated and that clean effluent is being produced before it is discharged into Puget Sound.

What do you like about your job?

I like the lab work! I love the variety of lab tests I get to perform daily.

1

3

5

2

4

3

Rick Fortner

*Instruments and Controls Technician,
Sewer Division*

4

Sarah Olson

*Spills Prevention and Response Coordinator,
Stormwater Division*

5

Cassandra Langer

*Custodial Supervisor,
Facilities Maintenance*

6

Roosevelt Bradley

*Household Hazardous Waste Supervisor,
Solid Waste Division*

HUMANS

County



8

David Prychodzko
Stormwater Technician,
Stormwater Division

9

Theresa Smith
Engineering Design Manager,
Roads Division

11

Lisa Monroe
Transfer System Coordinator,
Solid Waste Division

7

Regan Myhre

*Stormwater Construction Specialist,
Stormwater Division*

What do you do?

I install, maintain, and repair storm drains and drainage pipes to ensure functionality and safety.

Basically I.....

Help prevent flooding, protect water quality, and ensure reliable stormwater drainage.

What do you like about your job?

I enjoy knowing that the work I do directly protects the community and environment.

10

Amelia Rohwein

*Clean Kitsap Program Coordinator,
Solid Waste Division*

What do you do?

Manage illegal dumping and litter concerns on public property, including homeless encampment cleanup.

Basically I.....

Keep our beautiful public property clean and safe for residents.

What do you like about your job?

The variety of work from day to day and the people I work with.
The Solid Waste folks are dedicated to the cause and are fun to work with.

Learn how each Public Works employee cares about your every day by visiting kcowa.us/humans



Spills happen. Help us find them.



PAINT



OIL



LEAKY DUMPSTER



CHEMICAL SPILL



SOAP AND SUDS



CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF

ONLY rain down the drain.

We work hard to keep our waterways safe places to swim, fish, and play. And we know that you do, too. Kitsap residents care about keeping our water quality healthy for people and fish. But sometimes spills happen. We need your help finding them so that we can clean them up before they reach our creeks, lakes, and Puget Sound.

Easily report a spill with the SeeClickFix app.

Call Kitsap1 360.337.5777 for more information or to report.

HOW TO SAFELY MANAGE Household Chemicals

Kitsap County's award-winning Household Hazardous Waste Facility provides a safe and easy way for residents to get rid of hazardous products like paint, batteries, pesticides, and strong cleaners that can't go in the trash.



ACCEPTED PRODUCTS



Aerosols



Antifreeze and Coolant



Batteries - Automotive



Batteries - Household



Cleaning Products



Flammable Liquids and Solvents



Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs (limit 10)
(no limit)
Dry and not taped



Gasoline and Other Petroleum Fuels



Motor Oil and Oil Filters
Used or contaminated



Needles/Syringes
No loose sharps



Paints and Stains
Dry small amounts of latex and put in garbage.



Pesticides and Herbicides



Pool and Spa Supplies



Propane Bottles (Up to 1 liter)



Road Flares
No marine flares

NOT ACCEPTED



TVs, Computers, Monitors



Smoke Detectors



Explosives (Fireworks, ammunition, marine flares)



Propane Tanks (Large)



Dirt and Garbage

What is household hazardous waste (HHW)?

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is any household product that contains harmful chemicals. We safely manage unwanted and leftover HHW to protect human and environmental health.

How do you identify HHW?

Look for warning labels with words like danger, caution, flammable, warning, toxic, poison, or combustible. If you're not sure, search online or contact us for help.

Why can't HHW go in the trash?

Hazardous products cannot go in the trash, recycling, down a drain, or onto the land. They can pollute drinking water, contaminate soil, and cause fires. It's also the law!

Where can I take HHW?

You can dispose of HHW for free at our Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility, located at 5551 SW Imperial Way in Bremerton. The facility is open Thursday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed 12 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

North Kitsap HHW Facility is coming soon

We're opening a second location at 23300 Arness Creek Rd. NW in Poulsbo. We expect to open in early 2026. Visit kcowa.us/hazwaste for more information.

Visit kcowa.us/dropoff for more facility locations, accepted materials, and transportation tips.

BE A SEWER HERO



THE MENACING UNFLUSHABLES

are wreaking havoc in our pipes and causing corruption in our sewer systems. Who knows where they will show up next? From overflowing toilets to clogged pipes, to seized sewer pumps, to major sewer spills!

Once these criminals infiltrate the system, they become a menace. The only way to stop them is to head them off at the pass. The power is in your hands! You can be a Sewer Hero today by keeping unflushables away from toilet and sink drains. Put these used up items in the trash where they belong!

SEWER HEROES, do you understand the assignment? Let's save our sewers one drain at a time. Visit kcowa.us/sewer to learn more about sewer systems and wastewater treatment in Kitsap County.

the UNFLUSHABLES

Put Us Only In the Garbage

FARRAH FAKEOUT

(flushable wipe)

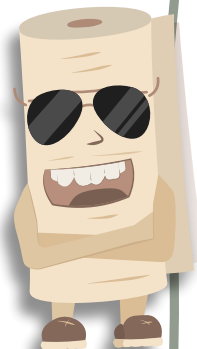
Don't be fooled by Farrah! Wipes clog pipes! All wipes, even those labeled flushable, can cause backups. The truth is they do not dissolve like toilet paper.



"TOUGH" TOMMY TOWELS

(paper towel)

If it's tough enough to clean your counter, it's too tough for the toilet. That doesn't stop "Tough" Tommy Towels. Second only to wipes, when it comes to clogging pipes!



"DIRTY" DUSTIN DIAPER

(diaper)

Used diapers, baby wipes, feminine pads, and any other absorbent personal hygiene items should never be flushed.



FRANKIE FLOSS

(dental floss)

Frankie always seems to end up in the wrong place at the wrong time. Don't let him slip through your fingers and fall into the toilet!



CASE CLOSED!

Keep your toilet lid closed when not in use to keep unflushables from entering your pipes.



Take Me to a Dedicated Drop Off

MASON "THE MENACE" MEDICINE

(pills or pill bottle)

Flushing unwanted medicine can contaminate our water and harm marine life. Find a safe disposal drop-off location near you at med-project.org.

TIP Sheet

A step-by-step walk through of a road project

With over 900 miles of roads throughout unincorporated Kitsap County, our priority is to maintain, operate and preserve existing facilities. Improvements to our roadways are ranked on project need and available funding.

Projects with the highest rankings make it into Kitsap County's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a rolling six-year plan that outlines transportation programs in Kitsap County. We adopt this capital plan annually in accordance with Washington State law.

What is the process for a project to be included in the TIP? Follow the timeline of a project near a local elementary school, from concept to completion.

Journey of a TIP Project

National Ave & Loxie Eagans Blvd Safety and Overlay Improvements

Project identified from several sources

- Community and school members
- Road preservation
- Intersection congestion
- Safety concerns

2018

Project moves up to #20 and receives grant funding

2019

Project design starts

2024

Project is complete

2017

Project ranked #21 on project candidate list

2022

Construction begins

Prospective transportation improvement projects come from existing county plans, coordination with the state, neighboring cities and transit agencies, and suggestions from the public. Public Works planning staff gather this information and make recommendations to the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners.

Projects placed into the TIP process are scored and ranked using objective criteria. These include safety and/or capacity needs, structural conditions, availability of funding, and timing of the funding, especially for state and federally funded programs.

Once added to the TIP, a project may take three to six years to complete, if completed at all. The County Road Fund is limited, and revenue has not kept up with inflation. Grant funding makes a project more likely to move to construction. In fact, all county road improvements completed in the past year were funded in part by grants.

You can submit projects for consideration throughout the year! All submissions received after June are included in next year's process. Learn more about the transportation planning process at [Kitsap.gov/pw](https://www.kitsap.gov/pw).

ROUNDABOUT

basics

Roundabouts are a safer alternative to traffic signals and stop signs. They make intersections safer and more efficient for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. Here are some tips for safely driving through a single-lane roundabout:

- 1 Watch for and STOP for pedestrians.
- 2 YIELD to drivers already in the roundabout (on the circulating roadway).
- 3 Do not stop in the roundabout.
- 4 Bicyclists can use the travel lane or exit the roadway and use the walkway like pedestrians.
- 5 If an emergency vehicle approaches, drive through the roundabout, then pull over, just like you would at any intersection.

USING SIGNALS AT ROUNDABOUTS

While signaling when entering and exiting a roundabout may be helpful, it is not mandated by law.

ROUNDABOUTS ARE SAFER INTERSECTIONS

- A 35 – 47% reduction in overall collisions
- A 72 – 80% reduction in injury collisions
- A 90% reduction in fatality collisions
- A 40% reduction in pedestrian collisions

**Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Federal Highway Administration*

For more go to wsdot.wa.gov/travel/traffic-safety-methods/roundabouts

SE LUND AVENUE CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

Over the upcoming years, the Lund Avenue corridor will be improved by constructing roundabouts spanning from the city limits of Port Orchard to Jackson Avenue. Sidewalks and bike lanes will improve accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians. Learn more at kcowa.us/lund.

Compost at your Curb

Curbside collection service makes composting easy

Most households in Kitsap County can sign up for curbside food and yard waste collection services. In 2026, this service will be available to all Kitsap households.

Food and yard waste makes up about 23% of the waste we send to the landfill. Let's change that by turning organic waste into a valuable local resource!

Sign up today and help us achieve our goal of reducing organic waste sent to the landfill by 75% by 2030.

Learn more at kcowa.us/compost



**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

**Notice a problem?
We're here to help**

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



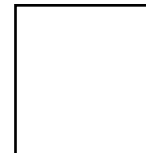
SeeClickFix

Download the app at Kitsap1.com





Kitsap County Public Works
614 Division Street
Port Orchard, WA 98366



ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Take a brief online survey about this magazine for a chance to win one of four
\$50 grocery store gift cards

Don't miss out! Visit kcowa.us/eksurvey



Tiny Tips

Small actions that can make a big difference

Making a Mark

Survey monuments are physical markers used in land surveying to define property boundaries and reference locations (fixed and known coordinates). They play a critical role in ensuring the accuracy of land surveying. It ensures land is measured and mapped out with precision. If you see one, it is important not to move or destroy it. Call Kitsap1 at 360.337.5777 if you come across a damaged or moved survey monument.



Weed it out

Long-handled weed pullers can pop dandelions out of lawns and gardens easily. Get to weeding in spring or early summer while the soil is still damp, before weeds have a chance to go to seed.

Save the Date

Stay informed about all our recycling and garbage events, open houses, and more by checking out our new event calendar at kcowa.us/pwcal. You can also receive emails on your preferred topics by subscribing to our electronic notification system at kcowa.us/signupkens.

Freeze it

The longer shelf life of frozen foods reduces the chances of spoilage (a key contributor to food waste).

Keeping frozen fruits and vegetables on hand ensures you'll always have some nutritious foods in the house. And because produce is often flash-frozen within hours of harvest, nutrients are locked in and perfectly preserved.

