



DIVISION: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WATER POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION PROGRAM



PROTECTING HEALTH AND OUR WATERWAYS

We keep surface water clean and safe for recreation by tracking and fixing pollution from septic systems, sewers, animal waste and other sources. We provide community education and monitor water quality in streams and at swimming beaches to prevent waterborne illness.

“The most challenging aspect of my work is serving families with limited resources. It takes a delicate touch to achieve compliance with a family who cannot fathom affording a new septic system. We overcome this challenge by connecting folks with available support and continuing to advocate for additional funding.”

Laura Westervelt, RS, Environmental Health Specialist

WHAT WE DO

Our program’s core activities include:

- **Responding to reports of pollution** caused by septic systems, agricultural waste, and numerous other sources.
- **Shoreline monitoring** to check for pollution in water flowing into Puget Sound.
- **Monitoring for bacteria in streams, lakes, and beaches**, and alerting the public to health risks.
- **Monitoring for dangerous shellfish biotoxins**, in partnership with the state Department of Health.
- **Notifying the public of health risks from sewage spills.**
- **Educating homeowners** about septic systems and animal waste.



SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS: Get health advisories for swimming beaches, lakes, shellfish, and sewage spills by email or text. Go to: kitsappublichealth.org/subscribe

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2022 HIGHLIGHTS

WATER POLLUTION IDENTIFICATION & CORRECTION

AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM NAME: Water Pollution Identification and Correction

MANAGER: Grant Holdcroft

2022 FTE STAFF: 8

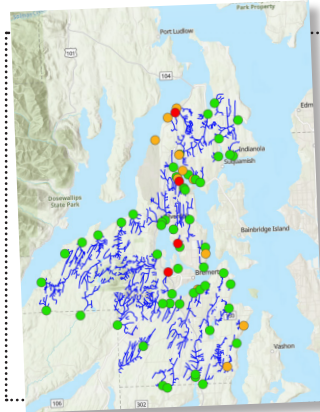
Key legal mandates:

- **36.89 RCW** — Establishes stormwater control management programs, including Clean Water Kitsap (CWK). The Health District conducts pollution monitoring for CWK.
- **90.72 RCW** — Establishing shellfish protection districts. CWK serves as the shellfish protection district for Kitsap.
- **70A.105 RCW & 246-272A WAC** — Management of onsite sewage (septic) systems

GRANTS & SPECIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR 2022:

- Clean Water Kitsap (local stormwater fees)
- BEACH Program (state Department of Ecology)
- Recreational Shellfish Program (state Department of Health)
- City of Poulsbo
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Thank you to our funders and community partners for their continued support!



READ OUR 2022 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Our new, interactive report includes highlights and statistics from our monitoring program and a dashboard displaying monitoring results for 69 Kitsap streams.

Explore the the report at:
kcowa.us/waterquality

2022 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **We made progress in reversing the shellfish downgrade in Chico Bay.** In other words, we worked to stop the deterioration of shellfish growing areas in the bay by identifying and reducing pollution sources.
- **We began a project to improve sewage spill notifications.** More than 60 community members provided comments on our sewage advisories. Based on their feedback, we have revised our advisory templates to make information easier to find, worked with the City of Bremerton to create a roadside advisory sign, and launched a new promotional push for our advisory subscription service.
- **We helped Clean Water Kitsap host three virtual workshops** for septic system homeowners so they could learn about how their septic system works and tips on protecting their investment.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

Statistics from water year 2022 — October 2021 through September 2022.

69 Kitsap streams monitored for pollution. **3,559** water samples collected. **162** days with health advisories in effect at local lakes.

LEARN MORE & CONNECT

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