

Health Advisories for Contaminated Streams - 2010

In 2005 the Health District began posting warning signs along Kitsap County streams that are known to be chronically and severely contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria. The Health District updates these advisories each year, once more recent water quality data from our trend monitoring is available. Water quality problems detected in 2009 will result in health advisories for two additional streams in 2010. Bear Creek, a tributary to Burley Creek in southern Kitsap County, had a significant increase in bacteria concentrations. Little Scandia Creek, west of Poulsbo, was recently added to our monitoring program and contains high levels of bacteria. Previous health advisories remain in place for Phinney, Lofall and Ostrich Bay Creeks.

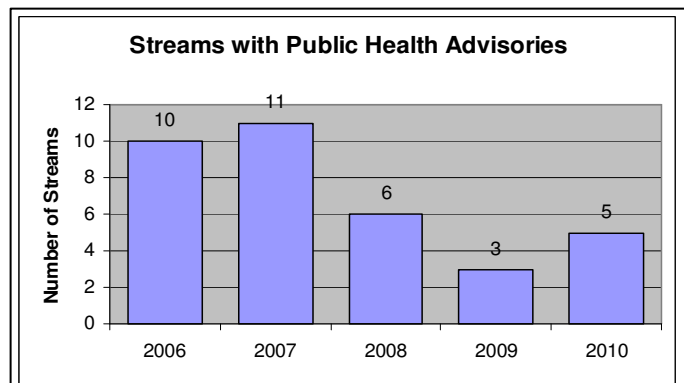
2010 Stream Advisories

Stream Name	3 yr. Summer FC Geomean
Phinney Bay Creek	741
Lofall Creek	663
Little Scandia Creek	405
Ostrich Bay Creek	372
Bear Creek	335

High levels of fecal coliform bacteria indicate the presence of viruses and other pathogens that can make people sick. The District issues health advisories for chronically contaminated streams to protect the health of people, especially children, who may contact or play in these streams. The advisory uses data from the summer months, when people tend to contact streams.

Under this policy, a contaminated stream is defined as having fecal coliform (FC) bacteria concentrations with a geometric mean value of $\geq 270\text{FC}/100\text{ml}$, using data from samples collected between May and September of the previous three years. This standard is based on an epidemiologic study correlating high levels of fecal coliform bacteria with illness outbreaks . (Ferley, 1989)

The number of streams with public health advisories has dropped over the last few years. This has been due to a combination of factors, including Health District clean up efforts, increased awareness of local communities, and individuals correcting problems on their own property. The Health District continues to look for stream pollution through our monitoring program, and notify local residents when we discover potential health risks.



To inform local residents of the problems in each stream, the Health District posts warning signs along the affected streams and issues news releases. Public meetings are sometimes held to discuss plans for solving pollution problems, and what residents can do to help. Hopefully this information promotes support in the community for fixing pollution sources. The following table includes a summary of clean up efforts for each stream.

Clean-Up Plan Summary for Contaminated Streams

Stream Name	Status of Pollution Correction Plans	Funding Source
Phinney Bay Creek	Inspection and enforcement efforts continue in this drainage. Five failing septic systems corrected so far, 1 in repair process.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Lofall Creek	PIC project continues, 26 properties inspected in the drainage, 2 failing septic systems corrected so far. Dye testing of septic systems underway.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Little Scandia Crk	PIC project started in 2009, area properties will be inspected.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Ostrich Bay Creek	PIC project underway, 114 properties inspected in the drainage, 19 failing septic systems corrected.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Bear Creek	Health District staff will sample the upper sections of this drainage to determine extent of pollution problems, and inspect properties in affected areas.	KC SSWM, applying for grant funding to clean up pollution sources.

PIC = "Pollution Investigation and Correction" projects done by Health District staff.

