

## Health Advisories for Contaminated Streams - 2009

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 improved enough in 2008 that the District was able to lift the health advisories on four previously listed streams. Advisories have been lifted for Daniels Creek in North Kitsap, Enetai Creek and Steele Creek in Central Kitsap, and Sacco Creek in South Kitsap. Health advisories remain in place for the creeks listed in the table below.

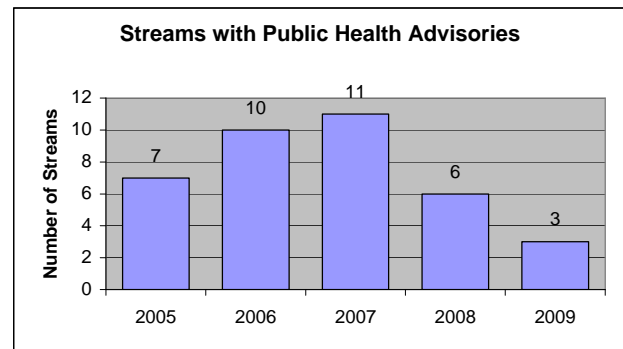
### 2009 Stream Advisories

Stream Name	3 yr. Summer FC Geomean
Phinney Bay Creek	814
Lofall Creek	755
Ostrich Bay Creek	443

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 a fecal coliform (FC) bacteria concentration 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 of illness outbreaks from swimming beaches located on a river system in Europe. (Ferley, 1989)

The number of streams with public health advisories has dropped significantly over the last few years. This has been due to a combination of Health District clean up efforts, increased awareness and concern of local communities, and individuals correcting problems on their own property. Based on the water quality sampling results from 2008, only 3 streams will have health advisories in 2009.



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.

### Clean-Up Plan Summary for Contaminated Streams

Stream Name	Status of Pollution Correction Plans	Funding Source
Phinney Bay Creek	PIC project underway, 5 failing septic systems corrected so far.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Lofall Creek	PIC project underway, 2 failing septic systems corrected so far.	State Grant + KC SSWM
Ostrich Bay Creek	PIC project underway, 14 failing septic systems corrected.	State Grant + KC SSWM

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

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