

## The Culvert Conundrum

*Culvert replacement projects have been popping up all over Kitsap County recently. What's the big deal?*

### **What Is A Culvert?**

Simply put, a culvert is a pipe that goes underneath a road with the intention of moving water from one side of a road to the other. In some cases, culverts were placed where a stream flowed, diverting its natural course and altering the stream bed.

### **Why Are They Being Removed Now?**

The negative impact culverts have on the local ecosystem is becoming apparent. Culverts are often narrow, which causes sediment and debris build-up, leading to blockages, while also negatively impacting water flow. These issues prevent migrating fish from reaching spawning grounds. This results in mass die-offs and harming already very delicate species, such as our beloved Northwest salmon.



### Become a Beach Naturalist!

Are you interested in exploring our shorelines and learning more about the sea life that call them home? If so, Kitsap Beach Naturalist may be for you!

Each year, WSU Kitsap Water Stewardship hosts Beach Naturalist Training. This class is open to the public and taught by local and regional experts. Topics include:

- Salish Sea Oceanography
- Invertebrates and Seaweeds
- Birds and Bugs
- Shoreline Conservation & Restoration
- Shoreline Living

***Check out the link at the bottom of the newsletter to learn more and register!***



*Culvert removal on Chico Way*

### **Creating Positive Change**

Recent culvert removals have expanded fish passage in hopes to increase future spawning in Kitsap County.

***Check out the links below to see some recent projects!***

### Species Spotlight: Lampreys!

Dating back 450 million years, lampreys are one of the oldest invertebrates on the planet. Often confused with eel, lampreys are actually fish and more closely related to sharks. There are a total of 41 species of lamprey, some of which are anadromous, just like salmon - utilizing both fresh and saltwater throughout their lives.

Lamprey in this area provide food for larger marine species and are an important source of river nutrients. The Pacific Lamprey has been a part of Indigenous culture for hundreds of years.



***Check out the links below to learn more about these cool fish!***



### About Shore Friendly Kitsap

*Shore Friendly Kitsap is your waterfront partner.*

**Our mission is to empower Puget Sound waterfront landowners to create beautiful, environmentally friendly shorelines for themselves and generations to come.**

*Join our new Facebook group! Link below...*

**Contact us:** 360.307.4242 or shorefriendly@co.kitsap.wa.us

## **STAY INFORMED**

Join our Facebook Group at Shore Friendly Kitsap! You can find the link to below!