



Executive Summary – Planning Commission

Issue Title: Natural Resource Asset Management Program, sponsored by Department of Community Development

Meeting Date: February 17, 2026

Time Required: 45 minutes

Attendees: Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Natural Resources Programs Manager,
Brittany Gordon, Natural Resource Coordinator

Action Requested at this Meeting:

None. This is for informational purposes only and intended to provide an overview of the Kitsap Natural Resource Asset Management Program.

Background

Kitsap Natural Resource Asset Management Program (KNRAMP) is an innovative initiative that redefines how natural resources are managed – treating them as vital community assets that must be accounted for, protected, and enhanced when possible. The program's core objective is to formally recognize and manage ecosystems such as forests, shorelines, streams, and critical areas as essential infrastructure. These natural assets are planned for, maintained, and invested in to support the well-being of both current and future generations.

To develop and finalize the KNRAMP framework, staff from the Department of Community Development (DCD) collaborated with a Core Team that included representatives from the Washington Conservation Action Education Fund (WCAEF), the Suquamish Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Skokomish Tribe, and multiple County departments. The Core Team identified three priority natural assets for initial management: streams, forests, and marine shorelines. Together, they established a technical framework that defines management units and key attributes contributing to each asset's level-of-service score. The framework also outlines how KNRAMP can be integrated into existing County planning processes and governance structures.

Improving data quality, particularly for streams, is a top priority for KNRAMP. To support this effort, Kitsap County partnered with Wild Fish Conservancy to conduct field surveys to accurately map and classify streams throughout the County. Surveys for the Big Beef Creek, Thomas Creek, Kinman Creek, Anderson Creek, Karcher Creek, and Lemolo Creek watersheds are complete, with additional watersheds to be completed in 2026.

What's Been Accomplished

- **Natural Asset Inventory Built in Cartegraph** – Technology analysts from DCD and Public Works created an inventory of natural assets using Cartegraph. Cartegraph is a software

platform traditionally used by Public Works to manage built infrastructure. Cartegraph's compatibility with GIS makes it effective for sharing mapping data with the public.

- **KNRAMP Embedded in County Planning** – DCD staff integrated language into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update to formally establish KNRAMP as a guiding framework. This move elevates natural resource management as a consideration in decision-making across County departments.
- **Stream Data Gap Addressed** – Recognizing limitations in the existing stream inventory, DCD partnered with Wild Fish Conservancy to conduct field surveys. This effort aims to improve the accuracy and completeness of stream data across Kitsap County.
- **Cross-Jurisdictional Workshops Held** – The program team organized two Cross-Jurisdictional Workshops to introduce the KNRAMP framework and showcase key development milestones. These events fostered peer learning and collaboration among city and county agencies, tribal governments, and watershed partners throughout the Puget Sound region.
- **Annual State of the Natural Assets Report** – KNRAMP team produced the 2025 annual report to assess the condition of assets, define geographies for protection and restoration, and recommend actions for implementation. A GIS Storymap is also being created to communicate this information in a more interactive way. DCD staff will present an overview of the 2025 Annual State of the Natural Assets Report.

What's Next

- **Integration Across County Planning** – DCD Natural Resources staff will continue using KNRAMP data to guide County-wide planning efforts. This includes active participation in initiatives such as the Transportation Improvement Program, Stormwater Capital Facilities Plan, Parks Planning, Salmon Recovery Planning, Watershed Planning, and the Year of the Rural initiative.
- **Ongoing Outreach and Knowledge Sharing** – The program will collaborate with other local governments seeking to pursue similar natural asset management work. The KNRAMP team will present this work at the spring APWA (American Public Works Association WA chapter) conference in Vancouver, WA.
- **Enhanced Asset Mapping** – Continued improvements to the accuracy and completeness of natural asset mapping will support better decision-making and public transparency.

Our Team

Kitsap County staff working on this project and long-term implementation of this program include:

- Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Natural Resources Programs Manager, DCD
- Brittany Gordon, Natural Resource Coordinator, DCD: Project Manager
- Jonathan Raine, Technology Analyst, DCD: Cartegraph and GIS technical lead
- Jim Rogers, Senior Planner, DCD: Long Range Planning, Comprehensive Plan, and Transportation Planning technical expert
- Doug Adams, Programs Analyst, Public Works: Cartegraph and GIS technical partner

Washington Conservation Action Education Fund (WCAEF)

- Mindy Roberts, Puget Sound Program Director
- Robinson Low, Habitat Policy Manager

- WCAEF hired Ross Strategic as a subcontractor for this project.

Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC)

- Jamie Glasgow, Director of Science & Research

Core Team:

The Core Team consists of natural resource managers from Suquamish Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, and Skokomish Tribe including:

- Suquamish Tribe: Alison O'Sullivan
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe: Roma Call, Marla Powers
- Skokomish Tribe: Lisa Belleveau, Bruce Weiskotten
- Kitsap County Public Works Stormwater
- Kitsap County Public Works Roads
- Kitsap County Parks

Funding

\$789,155: 2024-2026 EPA National Estuary Program grant through Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Strategic Initiative

- Distribution:
 - Kitsap County: \$229,755
 - WA Conservation Action Education fund: \$243,900
 - Wild Fish Conservancy: \$315,500

Additional Information

Program webpage: [Kitsap Natural Resource Asset Management Project](#)

Story Map: [Kitsap Natural Resources Asset Management Program \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Attachments

- Presentation
- State of the Natural Assets Report