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Draft
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: March 23, 2026

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Subject: Kitsap Stormwater Park Analysis Pre-Assessment

Contents

Tables

Figures

Introduction

Kitsap County (the County) commissioned the Stormwater Park Analysis project to identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential locations for large-scale stormwater park retrofit projects that provide both effective stormwater quality treatment and valuable community park amenities. The Study Area encompasses the Kitsap Peninsula within the County boundary, including unincorporated lands, incorporated cities, and Tribal territories. This project builds on the County's Stormwater Management Action Plans (SMAPs) and other planning efforts, including those by local Tribes and neighboring cities, which comprise the project Working Group. The County contracted with Herrera Environmental Consultants (Herrera) to help coordinate and perform the technical work under this project. This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement PC-01J95801-2 to the Washington State Department of Ecology.[1]

Using lessons learned from existing stormwater parks, this project will develop and use a rigorous, science-based and stakeholder-inclusive process to identify the top sites for future stormwater parks within the Study Area. The overall project goal is to improve watershed health and support healthier communities, while building a working relationship and a shared vision with Working Group partners and their representative jurisdictions. The objective of the project is to create a framework for thinking about, identifying, siting, and designing stormwater parks, for this and future projects. The result of this project will be to develop conceptual designs for the next five stormwater parks in the Study Area.

This pre-assessment memorandum summarizes the review of relevant data and previous planning documentation to inform work on subsequent project tasks for the Stormwater Park Analysis. This memorandum includes a brief background to provide context, a summary of previous stormwater planning efforts, a summary of previous park planning efforts, and a list of compiled data that is expected to inform watershed prioritization and stormwater park siting.

Background

Kitsap County is one of the most densely populated counties in the state and faces challenges with polluted runoff, flooding, erosive peak storm flows, and other impacts of development. Through a proactive stormwater management program, the County has made steady progress in implementing the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit (2024-2029) (NPDES Permit).

Regulatory and Policy Context

A guiding principle in the County is the pledge to limit pollution and preserve water as a resource rather than treating it as a waste stream. This principle started with the "Water is a Resource" policy, originally

[1] The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Environmental Protection Agency, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

passed in 2009 and reaffirmed in 2016 by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners (Kitsap County 2020a). Most recently, the County's ***Stormwater Strategic Plan*** (Kitsap County 2025) sets a vision for the next five years to be a recognized leader in sustainable stormwater management by adapting to environmental change, mitigating human impacts upon watersheds and treating water as a resource. The County's strategy outlines several important focal areas, of which "creating an environment where communities, citizens, and natural habitats can thrive" aligns with the vision for this Stormwater Park Analysis project.

On June 28, 2021, the Kitsap County Stormwater Manual and Title 12 (Stormwater Drainage) were updated to encourage the use of regional facilities as alternative stormwater facilities (Ord. 599-2021). The County utilizes its Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) along with targeted planning efforts like the SMAP process to identify, prioritize, and implement regional stormwater facilities. The County's Stormwater CFP focuses on correction of drainage problems that are not likely to be financed by the County's road fund, and improvement of water quality and associated beneficial uses.

Water Quality Context

Ecology assesses water bodies based on level of impairment. Those not meeting water quality standards are listed on the 303(d) list as "impaired" water bodies. The Union River, Dyes Inlet (including the Port Washington Narrows), Sinclair Inlet, and Liberty Bay are 303(d) listed water bodies based on fecal coliform pollution. Because of this, all the mentioned waterbodies have an established total maximum daily load (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria. Stormwater runoff has been identified as an important contributor to the fecal coliform pollution in these water bodies. Figure 1 shows the 303(d)-listing status of receiving waters within the County based on Ecology's Water Quality Atlas Map (Ecology 2025).

The Kitsap Public Health District (2025) performed water sampling in primary contact waterbodies, where people are likely to become submerged or ingest water through recreational activities. The County's Public Health District identified 6 streams with high bacteria levels, 11 with periodic high bacteria, and 47 streams with low bacteria levels. The following streams failed the high bacteria standard set by Ecology:

- Daniels Creek (Pearson, WA)
- Perry Creek (Pearson, WA)
- Little Scandia Creek (Pearson, WA)
- Keyport Creek (Keyport, WA)
- Lofall Creek (Lofall, WA)
- Wilson Creek (Banner, WA)

Additionally, Island Lake, Kitsap Lake, and Long Lake had issued lake advisories in the last calendar year for elevated bacteria and toxic algae (Kitsap Public Health District 2025). Of these lakes, Long Lake is a 303(d)-listed water for total phosphorus (Ecology 2025).

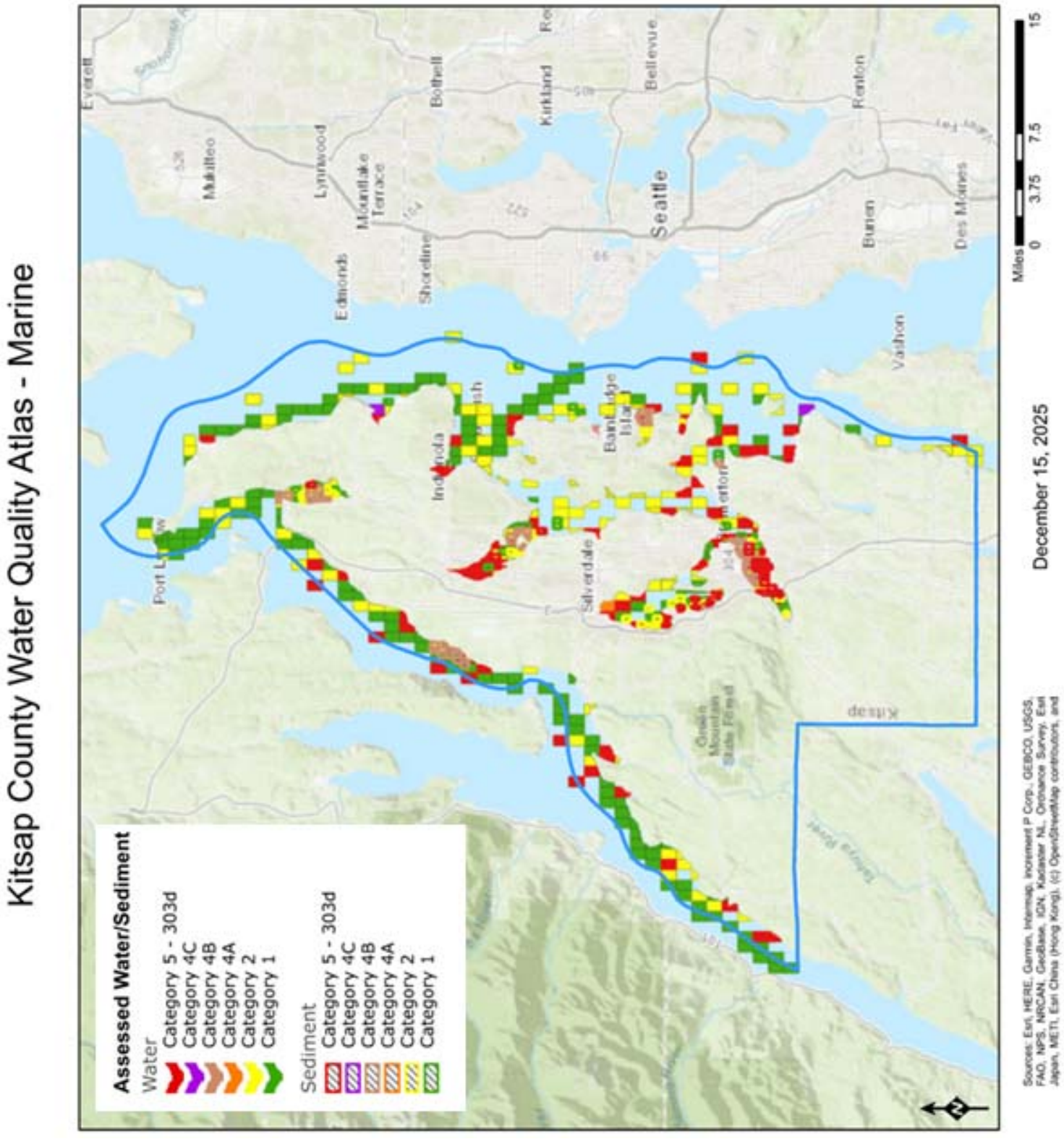

Figure 1. Kitsap County Water Quality Atlas Map (Ecology 2025)

Stormwater Park Context

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) defines stormwater parks as "community facilities that both manage stormwater from a larger area (regional stormwater facility) and provide recreational opportunities (parks, trails, open space, community gardens, etc.)" (PSRC 2025). Stormwater parks expand access to green space and recreation, especially in underserved neighborhoods, while improving resilience to climate change through enhanced stormwater management and increased vegetation. These parks offer new recreational and educational opportunities by implementing community amenities and multi-benefit infrastructure, drawing funding from diverse sources. Figure 2 below showcases an example stormwater park in Manchester, unincorporated Kitsap County, where the stormwater park treats stormwater prior to draining into Puget Sound, reduces flooding, and provides a community amenity (PSRC 2018). This was the County's first stormwater park.

Figure 2. Manchester Stormwater Park (Parametrix 2025)

Previous Stormwater Assessments and Planning

Planning for future stormwater parks is driven in part by regional and jurisdiction-specific stormwater initiatives and planning efforts.

Regional Planning

The PSRC was awarded a Puget Sound National Estuary Program grant to help synthesize the development of new stormwater parks in the region. The ***Stormwater Parks for Water Quality and Human Health (Central Puget Sound Stormwater Parks)*** *(PSRC 2021)* fact sheet includes stormwater parks in Arlington, Bellevue, Poulsbo, Seattle, Shoreline, Tacoma, and Kitsap County (Manchester), with

the following key lessons learned regarding design, collaboration, public engagement, maintenance, and funding:

1. Collaboration and Interdepartmental Coordination
    a. **Multidisciplinary teams** (stormwater, natural resources, planning, and parks staff) result in successful stormwater parks.
    b. **Early coordination** with other departments can help identify opportunities for multi-benefit projects.
    c. **Integrated planning** for the needs and interests among utilities, transportation, parks, and community departments increases political support for the planning, permitting, and developing of projects.
2. Design and Functionality
    a. **Multi-functionality** when well sited, such as stormwater treatment, flow/flood control, stormwater education, wastewater treatment, waterfront access, wetland creation, and other recreational activities.
    b. **Cost savings** from the implementation of a regional green infrastructure facility rather than multiple parcel-by-parcel systems or gray infrastructure.
    c. **Maintenance integration** in the project design helps make ongoing maintenance easier.
    d. **Due diligence** in design and permitting to avoid setbacks.
    e. **Flexibility** in the design can enable a facility to treat a larger area.
    f. **Climate change considerations** when choosing the location and design of the facility, as there is a greater need for stormwater infrastructure.
3. Public Engagement and Political Support
    a. **Early public outreach** to the public leads to greater public acceptance.
    b. **Incorporating amenities** to fulfill community needs.
    c. **Addressing community concerns** and implementing solutions in the design and the operational plan of the park.
    d. **A political champion** can help address issues with innovative projects.
    e. **Zoning codes** should permit for the development of a stormwater park.
4. Funding and Financial Strategies
    a. **Diverse funding** from a combination of sources, including public works, stormwater and sewer utilities, park bonds, and state grants (Ecology).
    b. **Developer contribution** in the form of funding and/or land to projects that protect water quality.
    c. **Fee strategies** to fund regional facilities include charging development projects in the basin a fee-in-lieu of constructing onsite stormwater management or charging basin fees on quantity of impervious surface and discounting for adding green infrastructure.
    d. **Grant applications** can be broken up by identifying which portion of the land is for stormwater and which is for recreation.
5. Management and Maintenance
    a. **Goal setting** helps guide the project and keep it moving forwards.
    b. **Formal agreements** for maintenance, such as Interlocal Agreements (ILA), can help address issues and delegate responsibilities when multiple partners are involved.

c. **Regular monitoring and data collection** (such as wetland or water quality monitoring) is crucial in showcasing the performance of the SWP.
d. **Volunteer assistance** can be utilized for monitoring the SWPs for community service or educational projects.

These past stormwater park-related planning efforts and lessons learned will be critical to inform work on subsequent project tasks for the current Stormwater Park Analysis.

Jurisdictional Planning

The County's stormwater facilities overlap with the incorporated Cities of Bremerton, Port Orchard, and Poulsbo, as well as lands of the Suquamish and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes. Collaborating with regional stakeholders and partners is critical for effective regional efforts to restore and enhance water quality across the County.

The 2019 NPDES Permit issued by Ecology required planning under the SMAP process to focus on prioritizing a sub-watershed basin where stormwater management programs and capital projects could have measurable effects on water quality. The following sections summarize the SMAP and other watershed assessments undertaken by the County and other Working Group partners. Figure 3 at the end of this section depicts all the prioritized watersheds in the County.

These watershed assessments and prioritization can be helpful for the current Stormwater Park Analysis to illuminate areas where stormwater park investments may be the most impactful.

Kitsap County

SMAP

Kitsap County is located on the Kitsap peninsula within the Puget Sound region, encompassing most of the peninsula, including Bainbridge Island and Blake Island. The County encompasses a total area of 566 square miles, of which 395 square miles are land, and 171 square miles are water. Kitsap's SMAP focused on watersheds greater than one square mile draining to water bodies within the County, excluding incorporated areas (Kitsap County 2020).

The SMAP study performed basin prioritization based on beneficial use and impairment criteria that help quantify pressure of development. The basins were evaluated based on land use, jurisdiction (urban growth areas), aquatic recreation, and water quality/basin health. The following basins were ranked the highest in the prioritization process:

1. East Dyes
2. Clear Creek
3. Long Lake
4. Burley Lagoon

The East Dyes priority basin consists of several residential and agricultural parcels that were developed before issuance of Ecology NPDES stormwater permits, and as such, the basin has little to no stormwater runoff mitigation. The SMAP identified opportunities for improvement for shellfish harvesting, swimming beaches, and habitat restoration within the basin.

Watershed Assessments

Kitsap Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 15, is one of the designated major watersheds in Washington (WA) state. ***The Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan – WRIA 15 Kitsap Watershed*** (Ecology et al 2024) includes a summary of all the subbasins in the watershed and projects and actions identified to offset consumptive use and improved habitats, as required by the Washington State Legislature Streamflow Restoration law (RCW 90.04). WRIA 15 encompasses the entire Kitsap peninsula and surrounding islands, including the major rivers, Union River, Tahuya River, and Dewatto River, which all drain to the Hood Canal. There are numerous small, lowland stream systems that drain to Puget Sound and Hood Canal with several salmonid species present. Of these species, three are listed as threatened: the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, Puget Sound steelhead, and Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon.

Development and population growth in the Puget Sound lowlands region has substantially altered WRIA 15 from its historic conditions and impacted natural stream habitat forming processes. The primary limiting factors in freshwaters of WRIA 15 include (Ecology et al 2024):

- Channel and streambed degradation
- Increased peak flows
- Low streamflow
- Loss of upland forest cover
- Loss of riparian forest
- Loss of floodplain connectivity and habitats
- Degradation of wetland and shoreline habitats
- Conversion of wetlands to open water habitats
- Fish passage barriers
- Lack of large wood
- Fine sediment

The suggested actions to achieve a Net Ecological Benefit (NEB) in the WRIA 15 Plan are water offset projects and habitat projects. Water offset projects quantify streamflow benefit and contribute to offset consumptive use, with projects such as Low Impact Development (LID), Stream Augmentation, and Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR). Habitat projects contribute towards achieving NEB by improving the ecosystem function and resilience of aquatic systems, supporting the recovery of threatened or endangered salmonids, and protecting instream resources, including important native aquatic species (Ecology 2024 et al).

Retrofit Planning

The County's ***Buildable Lands Report*** (Berk Consulting Inc. & Heartland LLC. 2021) lists nine reasonable measures to guide the development of service and infrastructure investment in unincorporated urban growth areas (UGAs) for future development. One of the measures is to provide for regional stormwater facilities. The most recent developed facilities include the award-winning Manchester and Whispering Firs Stormwater Parks.

The County's 2024 ***Stormwater 6-Year Proposed Capital Facility Plan (CFP) Budget & Schedule*** identifies roughly $17 million in stormwater water quality and asset retrofit investments from 2025 to 2030, of which approximately $7 million are supported by Ecology grants. Understanding the current slate of priority capital projects will be helpful in identifying areas where stormwater treatment is being planned but not yet implemented. This serves two purposes. It helps avoid duplicating efforts where treatment is occurring by other means but also helps illuminate where opportunities may be present to leverage future work.

City of Bremerton

SMAP

The city of Bremerton is located on the west side of the Sinclair Inlet, and it has a total of 24 stormwater basins within the city limits. For its Receiving Water Conditions Assessment, the 24 basins were aggregated into 12 basin groups which are between 0.7 and 23.8 square miles in size. Six of the groups were screened out based on size, level of development, and jurisdiction overlap, and the remaining six were evaluated based on existing water quality conditions, pollutant loading, existing stormwater treatment, and existing and potential future development. Based on this analysis, the following three basins were prioritized for SMAP development and associated implementation plan (Bremerton Public Works and Utilities et al 2023):

1. Kitsap Lake
2. Oyster & Ostrich Bay
3. West Narrows

Both Oyster & Ostrich Bay and Kitsap Lake basins have moderate levels of impairment and high levels of beneficial use. Receiving waters in these basins are expected to benefit from a restoration management focus, with a high priority for stormwater retrofits (Bremerton Public Works and Utilities et al 2023).

Watershed Assessments

Kitsap Lake is the largest lake in the Chico Creek Watershed, and it has been designated impaired for both fecal coliform and total phosphorus. The Kitsap Lake Watershed covers 1,600 acres and is 65% within Bremerton, with the remaining within unincorporated Kitsap County. Kitsap Lake Park on the southern end of the lake is a 35-acre wetland that provides the only freshwater recreation resource in

Bremerton. The ***Kitsap Lake Watershed Plan*** (Bremerton Public Works and Utilities 2025) details the past and current efforts to improve water quality in the lake. Extensive lake management efforts, as well as capital improvement projects such as retrofits and a culvert replacement, have been implemented to improve water quality within the lake. Approximately 230 acres of new UGA will be added to the Kitsap Lake Watershed in 2025. With this addition, the City of Bremerton is continuing to protect and improve water quality in Kitsap Lake by following the guidelines and requirements of the NPDES stormwater permit, following LID principles, and continuing current efforts for illicit discharge detection and elimination (Bremerton Public Works and Utilities 2025).

The ***Gorst Creek Watershed Characterization & Framework Plan*** details the watershed characterization study and plan prepared in 2013 (AECOM et al) that served to guide water quality, habitat, and land use plans and activities across the approximate 6,570-acre watershed. The watershed is partially located within the City of Bremerton's UGA and unincorporated Kitsap County. The plan forecasts a nearly one hundred thousand resident increase within the UGA and unincorporated rural areas between 2010 and 2030. The purpose of this 20-year plan is to integrate scientific information about water and habitat processes with a land use vision to create a more sustainable, economically viable, low impact development pattern; mitigate and prevent additional lowland flooding and stream surcharge; promote habitat preservation and restoration; and conserve lands important to the overall ecological health of the watershed and ultimately Puget Sound. The plan identifies areas of restoration for re-establishment of habitat, including wetlands, and tools identified for areas of development included clustered and low impact development and habitat restoration (AECOM et al 2013).

City of Port Orchard

SMAP

City of Port Orchard is located on the east side of the Sinclair Inlet, and has a total of 18 delineated watersheds within the city limits, of which seven are less than the 1 square mile recommended size for SMAP evaluation. Other jurisdictions with influence over the city's watershed include City of Bremerton, unincorporated Kitsap County, Mason County, and Pierce County. Twelve watersheds were considered for SMAP prioritization with the following analysis criteria: basin size, jurisdictional control, water conditions, water resource uses, stormwater management influence, future growth, and equity. The watersheds were assessed for major stormwater impacts, potential management actions, and existing plans or projects documented (Herrera 2022a). The following five basins were identified as candidates for further watershed management evaluation (Herrera 2022b):

1. Lower Blackjack Creek
2. Ross Creek
3. Ruby Creek
4. Anderson Creek
5. Johnson Creek

The top three basins were identified as having a restoration management goal, with a proactive retrofit strategy. Of these basins, Lower Blackjack Creek and Ross Creek have higher levels of existing development and Ruby Creek has potential for growth. The 3.87-acre Lower Blackjack Creek basin was selected as the city's highest priority watershed. The basin has a greater concentration of older development for retrofit opportunities, and it promotes other plans and projects, most notably the 2017 ***Blackjack Creek Watershed Assessment and Protection and Restoration Plan*** by the Suquamish Tribe (Herrera 2022b) described below.

City of Poulsbo

SMAP

City of Poulsbo is located at the tip of Liberty Bay, with the 22,000-acre Liberty Bay watershed encompassing the entirety of the city limits. The city conducted a receiving water assessment on the nine primary streams contributing to the watershed, of which five are all or partly within the city limits. The following were listed as the top five prioritized basins:

1. South Fork Dogfish Creek
2. Central Poulsbo
3. West Poulsbo
4. Poulsbo Creek
5. Bjorgen Creek

The 647-acre South Fork Dogfish Creek basin was determined to be the top priority basin based on its high ranking for the receiving water assessment, beneficial uses, and stormwater management potential. Additional criteria with significant influence on the ranking were freshwater quality, land use, salmonid fish habitat, high-capacity road miles and untreated total impervious area (Poulsbo 2022).

Suquamish Tribe

Watershed Assessments

The ***Blackjack Creek Watershed Assessment and Protection and Restoration Plan*** (ESA 2017) report includes a summary overview of watershed assessment findings, a set of strategies for addressing degraded watershed processes, and 46 recommendations for the protection and restoration of ecological processes and habitats in the 12.3-square mile Blackjack Creek watershed. The watershed is considered one of the largest and most productive salmon watersheds in the south Kitsap subregion, which is why the Suquamish Tribe is focused on protecting and restoring processes and habitat functions that support the recovery and self-maintenance, resilience and persistence of native salmonid populations and their life history diversity.

Recommended actions for the protection and restoration of salmonid habitat in the Blackjack Creek watershed are presented below by subbasin:

1. Lower Blackjack Creek
2. Middle Blackjack Creek
3. Upper Blackjack Creek
4. Ruby Creek
5. Square Creek
6. Square Lake

The protection strategies within these basins focus on increasing habitat protection through direct acquisition and conservation easements, improving protection of natural systems through strengthened and/or enforced land use regulations, and protecting instream flow conditions for salmonids. The restoration strategies focus on restoring impaired or altered watershed processes with the objective of improving quality and quantity of salmonid habitat in the watershed (ESA 2017).

The ***Chico Creek Watershed Assessment for the Identification of Protection and Restoration Actions*** (Natural Systems Design, Inc & ICF, International, 2014) report synthesizes information compiled from technical assessments of the Chico Creek watershed and provides recommendations for protection and restoration strategies and actions that will maintain and/or improve watershed, riparian, floodplain and stream habitat conditions for salmonids. The Chico Creek watershed covers 16.3 square miles in eastern Kitsap County and supports natural production of native salmonid populations; however, timber harvest, mining, road construction, and residential/commercial development have altered watershed processes in the basin and limit salmonid productivity.

Recommended strategies were developed to guide long-term protection and restoration actions in the watershed. The long-term objective is to restore the dynamic channel processes necessary to support a sustainable and resilient stream, floodplain, and riparian ecosystem. The core long-term recommendation is establishing a viable stream corridor that encompasses a restored floodplain, the channel migration zone, and a riparian corridor. The valley bottom along Chico Creek is among the most intensively developed parts of the watershed and habitat forming processes are generally impaired throughout all segments of the creek. The long-term restoration actions in developed areas included the establishment of conservation easements, and/or coordination of land acquisition in the stream corridor to restore dynamic processes (Natural Systems Design, Inc & ICF, International, 2014).

The ***Curley Creek Watershed Assessment and Protection and Restoration Plan*** (Suquamish Tribe 2017) report described the watershed processes and habitat conditions for salmonids in the 15-square mile Curley Creek Watershed located in southeastern Kitsap County. The watershed is divided into three subbasin areas: Curley Creek, Salmonberry Creek, and Long Lake, including tributary inflows to Long Lake other than Salmonberry Creek. These subbasins were evaluated based on Key Ecological Attributes, which may be patterns of biological structure and composition, ecological processes, environmental regimes, or other environmental constraints.

The Long Lake Shoreline is the most highly developed of the riparian areas in the watershed, with a highly modified shoreline by residential development. Curley Creek discharges into Yukon Harbor, which is heavily impacted by residential development resulting in extensive armoring of the shoreline. Salmonberry Creek is under conversion of land for residential development, since the west side of the basin is within an Urban Growth Area. Opportunities to protect remaining areas of undeveloped shoreline should be pursued via conservation easement, acquisition, or other means. Other common recommended actions within the basins include dedicated stream corridors for habitat protection, riparian restoration and management, further shoreline armoring prevention, floodplain and channel migration zone restoration, and wood placement (Suquamish Tribe 2017).

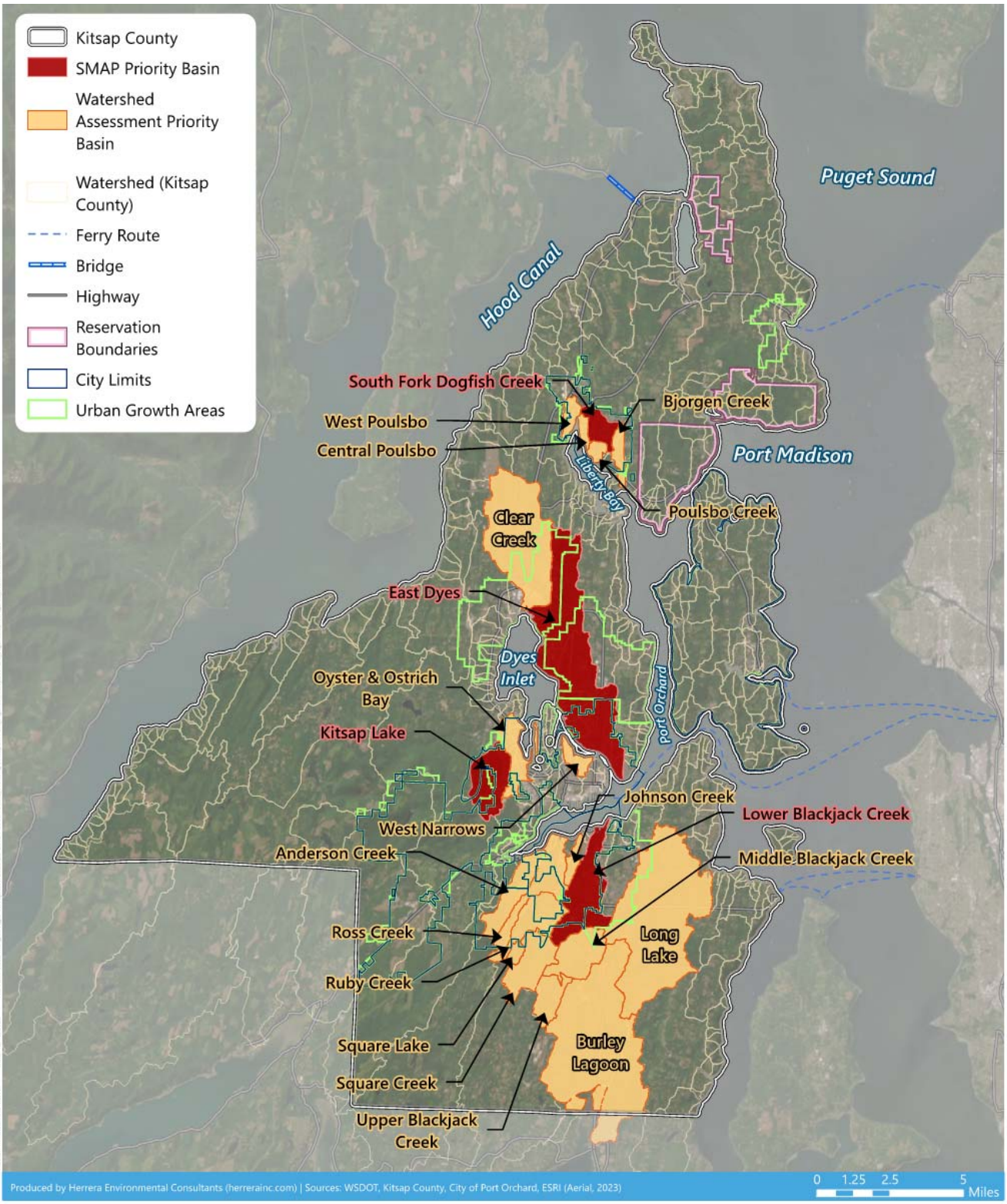

Figure 3. Kitsap County Watershed Status Map

Previous Park Planning Efforts

In addition to understanding future stormwater needs and investments, planning for future stormwater parks is also driven by regional and jurisdiction-specific park and open space planning efforts.

Regional Planning

The PSRC ***Regional Open Space Conservation Plan*** *(2018)* maps the regional open space network and identifies priority conservation actions needed to sustain the region's open spaces and critical ecological systems. As the region keeps growing in population, the demand for new housing and commercial areas increases, which can lead to the gradual loss of open space in the region. The state Growth Management Act (GMA) requires comprehensive planning for jurisdictions in the region. Goals of the GMA include reducing sprawl by concentrating growth in urban areas and protecting natural resources and open spaces. Under the GMA, cities and counties designate UGAs, focusing growth within urban areas while limiting growth outside of these areas.

Jurisdictional Planning

Cities and counties conducting planning under the GMA must follow guidelines that ensure adequate park space for growing populations. To be eligible for grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), cities and counties must develop a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) and update it on a six-year cycle. PROS Plans typically provide a strategic roadmap for developing and improving park facilities, acquiring new park properties, and expanding recreational opportunities based on public input.

PROS Plans have recently been updated for Kitsap County (2025) and the Cities of Bremerton (2025), Port Orchard (2022), and Poulsbo (2021). For cities with slightly older PROS Plans (Port Orchard and Poulsbo), more recent park planning efforts in the cities' Comprehensive Plans were also reviewed. These PROS and other park plans will be helpful for the current Stormwater Park Analysis to illuminate areas where stormwater parks could align with already planned investments or identified deficiencies in current and/or future park infrastructure.

Kitsap County

The County PROS Plan established six key goals:

- Promote a sustainable parks system that fosters opportunities for both active and passive recreation, encourages healthy lifestyles, safeguards natural habitats, and preserves and enhances significant environmental and historical resources.
- Develop and implement natural resource management plans to protect biodiversity and cultural resources, establish buffer zones and wildlife corridors, adopt sustainable land management

practices, and preserve cultural heritage sites through interpretive signage, educational programs, and collaboration with local tribes and cultural experts.

- Integrate sustainable design into park planning and development to minimize environmental impact and enhance resource efficiency by incorporating green infrastructure, adopting native landscaping, and implementing energy-efficient practices.
- Enhance visitor amenities and services to improve accessibility and overall experience in County parks by upgrading trail signage, expanding parking and accessibility features, and implementing technology solutions for better engagement.
- Enhance event and athletic facilities through infrastructure improvements, efficient management, and revenue-generating strategies to support local recreation and attract regional events. Position Kitsap County as a premier recreation destination by showcasing its unique assets, supporting local businesses, and promoting sustainable practices.
- Ensure high standards in park maintenance and operations by establishing standardized management practices and effectively allocating resources to sustain park facilities and natural settings.

These goals reflect the County's commitment to creating vibrant, resilient, and inclusive parks and open spaces while addressing future growth and environmental challenges.

Park Inventory

The County's park system spans approximately 11,400 acres of parklands across 74 park sites, including 4 neighborhood parks, 4 regional parks, 15 community parks, 13 special use parks, 35 nature parks, and 3 mini-parks. These parks were assessed in the PROS Plan via a rating system that considers structural integrity, user safety, aesthetic appeal, and maintenance status. Parks were rated based on a 1-5 rating scale. Higher assessment ratings (4–5) indicate minimal intervention needs, while lower ratings (1–2) signal a need for significant repairs, safety measures, or possible closures to address liability concerns. Of the 43 parks rated, 13 received higher assessment ratings (4-5), while 5 received lower ratings (1-2).

Capital Facilities Plan

The capital improvement projects identified in the PROS Plan include land acquisition for new or expanded parks, access and trail improvements, facility and amenity improvements, new park development or redevelopment, and natural resource restoration. A total of 88 near-term (next 1-6 years) and 57 long-term projects (next 6-20 years) were identified in the PROS Plan.

City of Bremerton

The City of Bremerton adopted an updated PROS Plan in December 2025. The Plan encompassed seven key goals:

- Develop a Park & Recreation system that is functional, diversified, attractive, and available to all segments of Bremerton's population.
- Maintain parks and facilities to protect assets and ensure the park system is clean, green, and safe
- Provide and/or facilitate a variety of recreation opportunities for a spectrum of ages, interests, and abilities
- Foster public involvement in the operation & programming of the park system
- Develop cost recovery and expense tracking for revenue generating facilities to ensure financially responsible operation
- Provide trail opportunities connecting parks, natural lands, and neighborhoods
- Protect and manage natural resources to enhance ecological health, improve climate resilience, and provide safe, accessible opportunities for the public to enjoy natural areas.

The goals are influenced by the policies established in the City's updated Comprehensive Plan, which promotes community health by locating amenities in ways that promote social interaction, encouraging open space along the waterfront and providing recreation space and trails that connect neighborhoods and communities.

Park Inventory

The City of Bremerton manages a total of 319 acres of parkland distributed among the following nine facility types:

- Regional Parks (1)
- Community Parks (3)
- Neighborhood Parks (8)
- Pocket Parks (11)
- Natural Areas (4)
- Plazas (6)
- Streetscapes and Greenways (9)
- Special Facilities (5)

Each of these parks was inventoried and assessed to identify management concerns and to make improvement recommendations. These recommendations ranged from invasive vegetation control to complete park renovation (Kitsap Lake Park).

As part of the park inventory process, the City conducted a gap analysis to identify areas with the greatest need for new parks. The plan identified underserved neighborhoods where residents lack access to a park within a 10-minute walk. These areas are primarily concentrated in central Bremerton, parts of West Hills, and near East Park.

Capital Facilities Plan

The PROS Plan included a CFP action plan that identified 17 short-term projects (next 1 to 6 years) with High and Medium priority ratings. Another 15 projects were identified on the longer-term (20-year) CFP.

Included within the 20-year CFP is opportunistic land acquisition to support new parks in underserved areas to improve equitable park access.

City of Port Orchard

The City of Port Orchard updated its PROS Plan in 2022 and its Comprehensive Plan in 2024 (Port Orchard 2024). The park planning element of the Comprehensive Plan serves as a guide for general parks and recreation improvements while the PROS Plan identifies specific facilities and includes more detailed plans for maintenance, improvements, and/ or additions.

The City's park planning goals are outlined in the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- Increase public access to the marine shoreline.
- Preserve and enhance active and scenic open space by:
  - Enhancing and improving existing park facilities.
  - Discouraging obstructions of scenic views.
- Increase the size and number of parks and open spaces by:
  - Establishing partnerships with other agencies to jointly utilize public facilities.
  - Promoting through public and private investments, the acquisition of open space facilities, and proper maintenance thereof.
  - Using public input to develop plans for public parks.
- Provide parks, trails, and open spaces within walking distance of residents by:
  - Prioritizing historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.
  - Promoting equitable access to recreation opportunities.
  - Providing for a mixture of active and passive open spaces within residential and commercial areas.

Park Inventory

The PROS Plan provides an inventory of every public park, recreation, open space, and trail property within or adjacent to Port Orchard, including 18 properties within Port Orchard. As part of the inventory process, possible improvements were identified at each of the properties.

Capital Improvement Plan

A detailed park-specific CIP or CFP was not included in the 2022 PROS Plan or the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The PROS Plan did include a summary description of the major tasks determined to be necessary to effectively implement the PROS Plan. These included generic tasks aimed at implementing the possible improvements identified during the park inventory process.

City of Poulsbo

The City of Poulsbo updated their PROS Plan in 2021 to reflect capital planning projects through 2027. The city's Comprehensive Plan was updated in 2024. The park element of the Comprehensive Plan largely repeats the goals and key initiatives in the PROS Plan. Those goals include:

- Acquiring land for public park use.
- Developing public parks to their highest potential in order to offer a high quality, inclusive and equitable park system.
- Provide wise stewardship of the resources within Poulsbo's parks and recreation system.
- Create a hybrid system of on-street facilities, off-street links, and shared-use paths to create a continuous and complete network for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Park Inventory

The City of Poulsbo owns 20 parks covering collectively over 136 acres. These parks include nine neighborhood parks, three community parks, four regional parks, and six natural/open space areas (two parks have more than one designation).

Capital Improvement Plan

In addition to existing parkland, the PROS Plan identified parkland acquisition as a critical goal and identified ten potential properties to acquire for new parks or enhancements to existing parks. The plan also identifies 15 additional parkland improvement projects that represent improvements or enhancements to existing park properties.

Other Data Compilation

The Stormwater Park Analysis project will rely heavily on spatial data and analyses to identify, prioritize, and conceptually design stormwater parks in the Study Area. The spatial data presented in Table 1 was compiled from public sources as well as from jurisdictions via a data request. This information will be critical for informing future watershed and stormwater park site prioritization tasks.

Table 1. List of Data Compiled for Future Stormwater Park Planning

Data Type	Layer Name	Source	Date Referenced
Environmental	Environmental Health Hazard Index	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	12/4/2025
Environmental	Fish passage	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	9/30/2024
Environmental	Landfill	Kitsap County Public Health	11/18/2025

Table 1. List of Data Compiled for Future Stormwater Park Planning			
Data Type	**Layer Name**	**Source**	**Date Referenced**
Environmental	Landfill buffers	Kitsap County Public Health	11/18/2025
Environmental	Shoreline	Kitsap County	2/18/2025
Environmental	Total Phosphorus	The Nature Conservancy	11/25/2025
Environmental	Total Suspended Solids	The Nature Conservancy	11/25/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Category I Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Category II Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Combined Soil Type and Stability	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Contours	WA Department of Natural Resources	2024
Geology/Hydrogeology	Geologic Hazards	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Geologically Hazardous Areas	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Soil	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Soil stability	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Soil Stability from Deeter Soil Survey	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Surface Geology	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Geology/Hydrogeology	Surface Geology	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Hydrology	Flooding	Bremerton	11/10/2025
Hydrology	National Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD)	WA	11/7/2025
Hydrology	Rivers	National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)	2023
Hydrology	Rivers and Streams	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Hydrology	Waterbodies	NHD	8/25/2023
Hydrology	Watersheds	Kitsap County	11/21/2025
Hydrology	Watersheds	Port Orchard	11/21/2025
Hydrology	Watersheds	Poulsbo	11/21/2025
Hydrology	Wetlands	Kitsap County	9/3/2025

Table 1. List of Data Compiled for Future Stormwater Park Planning			
Data Type	**Layer Name**	**Source**	**Date Referenced**
Hydrology	Wetlands	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Land Use	Land cover	WA State Geospatial Open Data Portal	2021-2022
Land Use	Land Use - Tree harvesting and conservation	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Land Use	Zoning	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Land Use	Zoning and Land use	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Planning	Buildings	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	Capital projects	Kitsap County Public Works	7/2/2025
Planning	City limits	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	City/county parks	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	Comprehensive Plan 0- Land use Port Gamble	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Planning	Comprehensive Plan Designations	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	County limits	Kitsap County	2/18/2025
Planning	Kitsap County Equity Atlas	Kitsap County	11/16/2022
Planning	Parcels	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	Parcels - Acquired parcels	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Planning	Parcels - Owned by S'Klallam	(GIS Specialist for the Natural Resources Department at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe)	9/10/2025
Planning	Parks	Port Orchard	11/21/2025
Planning	Parks	Poulsbo	11/21/2025
Planning	Paving projects	Kitsap County Public Works	7/2/2025
Planning	Port Gamble Infrastructure	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Planning	Properties: Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	9/10/2025
Planning	Recreation Group Layer	Port Gamble	9/10/2025
Planning	Streets	Kitsap County	9/3/2025

Table 1. List of Data Compiled for Future Stormwater Park Planning			
Data Type	**Layer Name**	**Source**	**Date Referenced**
Planning	Tribal boundaries	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	UGA	Bremerton	11/19/2025
Planning	UGA	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Planning	Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map	WA Department of Health	12/4/2025
Stormwater	Existing BMPs	Kitsap County	6/21/2025
Stormwater	Kitsap County Storm Conveyance	Bremerton	11/13/2025
Stormwater	Kitsap County Storm LID	Bremerton	11/14/2025
Stormwater	Storm Catch basin	Bremerton	11/7/2025
Stormwater	Storm Manhole	Bremerton	11/8/2025
Stormwater	Storm Outfall	Bremerton	11/9/2025
Stormwater	Storm Pipe	Bremerton	11/6/2025
Stormwater	Storm Pond	Bremerton	11/12/2025
Stormwater	Storm Private	Bremerton	11/15/2025
Stormwater	Storm Treatment	Bremerton	11/11/2025
Stormwater	Stormwater	Kitsap County	9/3/2025
Stormwater	Stormwater Network	Port Orchard	11/21/2025
Stormwater	Stormwater Network	Poulsbo	11/21/2025
Utilities	Drinking water wells	Kitsap County Public Health	11/18/2025
Utilities	Septic systems	Kitsap County Public Health	11/18/2025
Utilities	Sewer Lateral	Bremerton	11/17/2025
Utilities	Sewer Main	Bremerton	11/18/2025
Utilities	Sewer Manhole	Bremerton	11/16/2025

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