

Water and Water system: why should we care?

**Enl!ghten
Kitsap Community Forum
October 18, 2019**



Water = Life



Earth Day = Every Day

WE DEPEND ON WATER IN KITSAP

- As homeowners – for drinking, washing, flushing
- In our community for water quality
- For recreation
- For protection from storms
- To protect our environment



League of Women Voters

- League of Women Voters – Mission
 - *“Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.”*
- How we do this
 - Voter Education
 - Voter registration
 - Candidate Forums
 - Civic Involvement and Education
- Why a Water Committee was formed

In the Beginning

- League members had interests and concerns
- Need to know the basics:
 - Drinking Water
 - Wastewater
 - Stormwater



Field Trips/Meetings



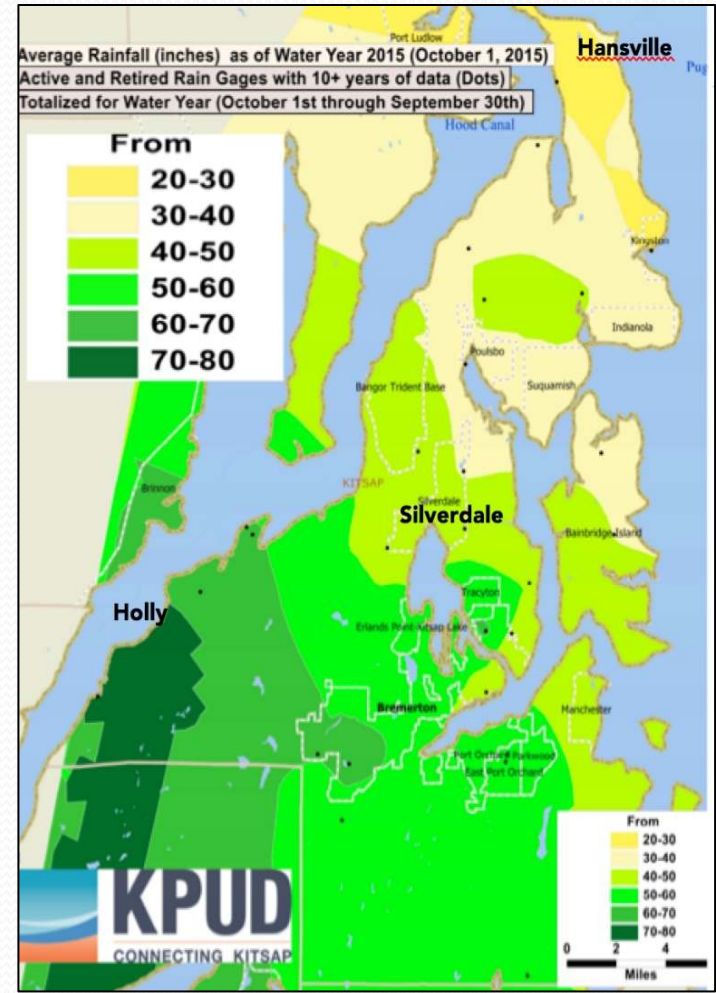
- Bremerton Watershed/Casad Dam
- Bremerton Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Green Stormwater Projects

- Kitsap Public Utility District
- Kitsap Public Health District



Goals of Effort

- Identify the sources of Kitsap water
- Understand how our water is kept clean and safe
- Learn how to protect our water
- Educate the public
- Highlight responsibilities of residents



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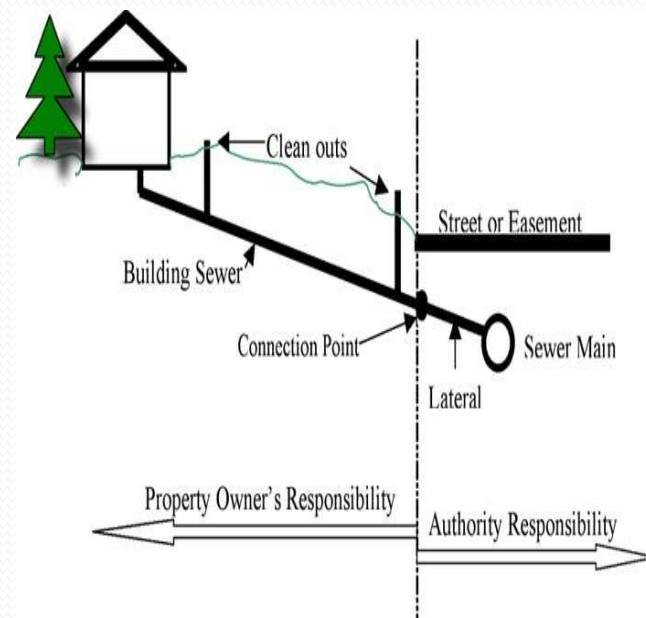
A Practical Guide to Kitsap Water



- Kitsap's sources of water
- Basic water systems
- Resources and links to more information

Our editorial approach to writing the *Guide*

- Plain-spoken language
- Question/Answer format
- Educate about clean water practices



Our AHA! Moments

*“All the water that will ever be on earth
is already here.”*

Kitsap's primary drinking water source:



RAIN!





Our AHA! Moments

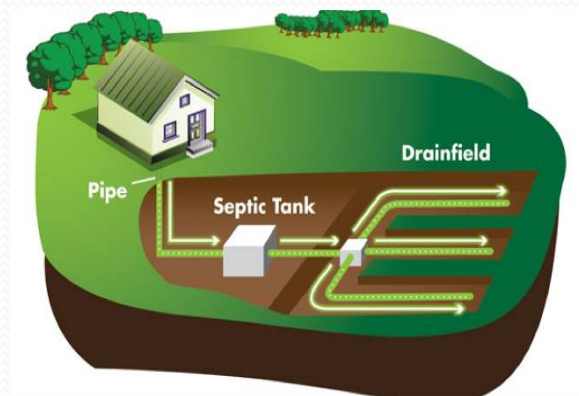
Drinking Water

- Wells pump water to the surface from aquifers.
- Approximately 215,000 people are served by large water systems
- More than 43,000 people are served by unregulated small well systems.
- Water testing is mostly voluntary.

Our AHA! Moments

Wastewater

- More than 50% of Kitsap wastewater is treated by septic systems
- Septic system maintenance -- mostly voluntary



Our AHA! Moments

Stormwater

- Kitsap has amazing new stormwater infrastructure: Keyport, Silverdale, Manchester *but* problems remain due to development and climate change



- Stormwater problems affecting private property are the responsibility of the property owner



Dollar Issue\$

- Aging Systems – Maintenance and replacement
- Group B Wells – Inspection and oversight
- Stormwater Infrastructure – Updating and new construction
- Utilities make major financial and infrastructure decisions and investments.



Take-Aways

- So far, Kitsap has plenty of good water available.
- Individually and as a community, we must take responsibility for protecting our precious water.



Clean Water is a Group Effort!

- It's up to us to understand our water systems.
- Knowledge drives good decision making.
- Hope you will read and share the *Guide*.

Thank You!

