

# **Water and Water system: why should we care?**

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



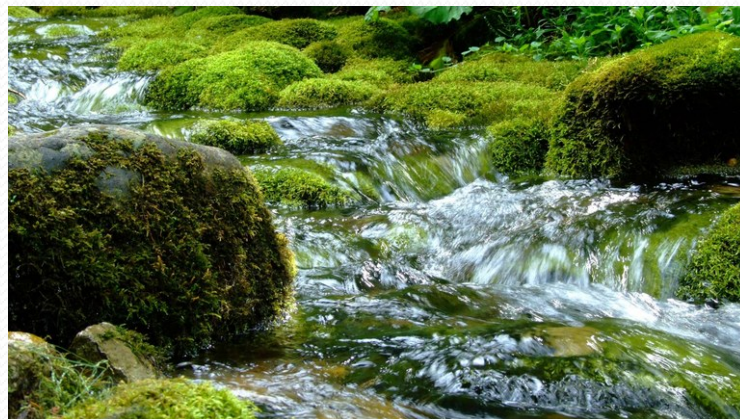
**Water = Life**



**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



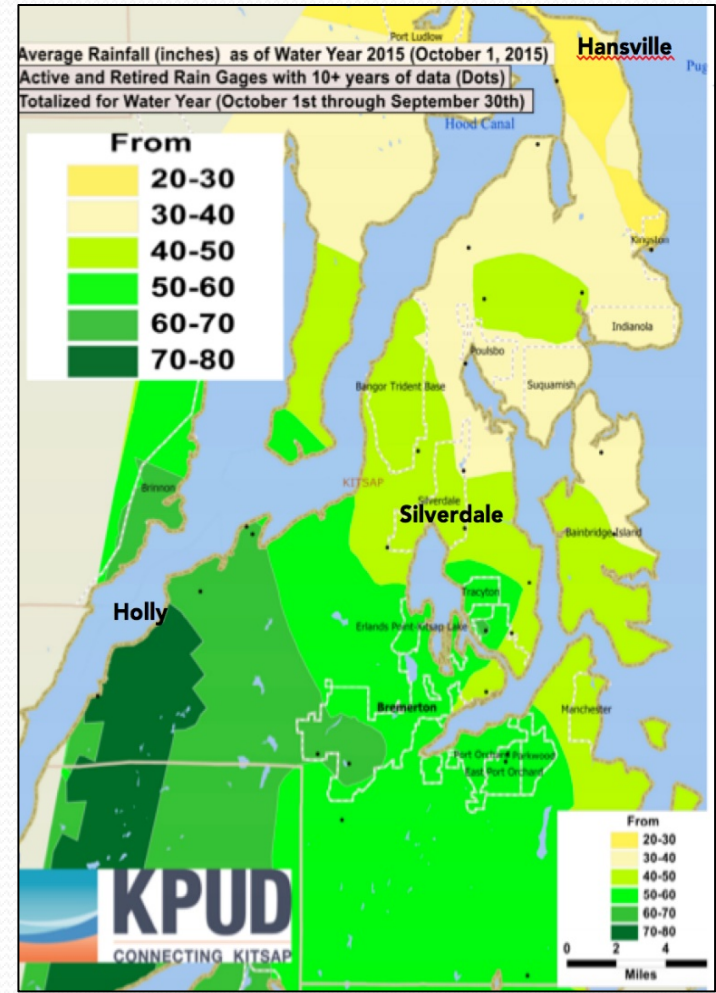
- Bremerton Watershed/Casad Dam
- Bremerton Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Green Stormwater Projects

- 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



# Created

## *A Practical Guide to Kitsap Water*

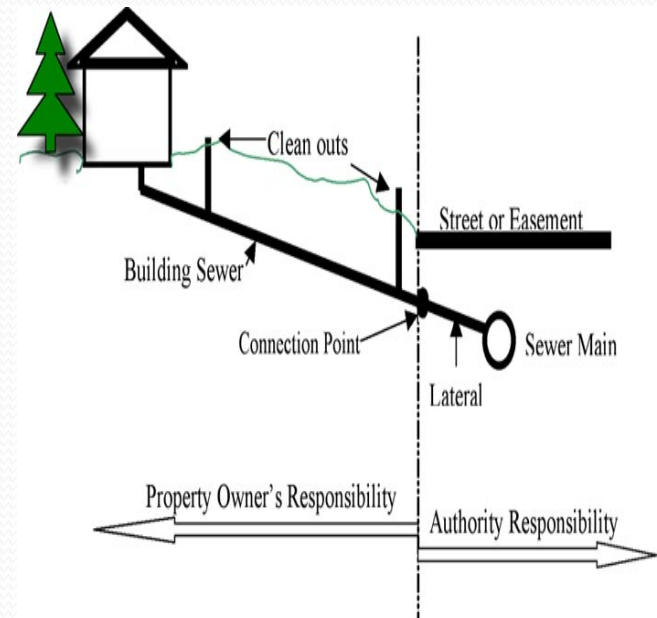


- Kitsap's sources of water
- Basic water systems
- Resources and links to more information



# 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

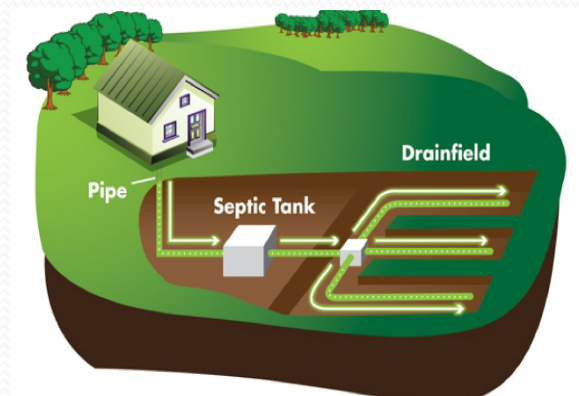
## *Drinking Water*

- 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!

