

Kelsey Creek Watershed



A watershed is an area of land that all drains into one place like a stream or lake. As a watershed becomes populated, sidewalks, streets, parking lots, and buildings replace natural undeveloped areas.

When rain hits natural, vegetated land, it is slowed down and partially soaked up by the ground and filtered by plants. When rain hits streets and other hard, impervious surfaces (surfaces that can't absorb water), it runs off quickly, collecting pollutants as it travels to a stream or lake. This runoff can carry a variety of harmful pollutants into streams.

The storm drain system is designed to carry rainwater to our local streams, lakes, and wetlands which eventually flow into our large lakes and out to Puget Sound. The sewer is a completely separate system where water from inside your home (toilets, showers, sinks) gets treated before being released into Puget Sound. Dumping pollutants down storm drains or into surface water is not only harmful to water quality – it's against the law in Bellevue.

You share this area of land that all drains to Kelsey Creek with approximately

- 22,500 people
- 20,000 cars
- 5,600 dogs
- Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon
- Countless varieties of wildlife



In Kelsey Creek Watershed:



- Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon return to Kelsey Creek to spawn every year
- The population was 22,494 in 2000
- 4.40 square miles of land drain into Kelsey Creek
- There are over 5,000 people living per square mile
- Kelsey Creek has almost 9.5 miles of open stream
- The largest land use is residential (single & multi family), over 46%
- 40% if the land is impervious surface (like streets and rooftops) that water cannot flow through
- Only 13.28% of the land is used by Commercial/Office/Industrial/Institutional/Government
- About 2,350 storm drains are scattered throughout the watershed
- 50 miles of storm drain pipe carry runoff from storm drains to Kelsey Creek

Fish Friendly Car Washing



The 2006 ACS (American Community Survey) Census reports there are 1.99 vehicles per household on the Eastside. With almost 10,000 households in the watershed, that's almost 20,000 cars!

Wash your car at a commercial car wash because they send the dirty waste water to the sewer for treatment. Soaps dissolve the protective mucous layer on fish and natural oils in the gills making fish more susceptible to diseases. Even biodegradable soap pollutes water. It requires the microorganisms in soil to properly break down.

Car wash water contains:

- Petroleum hydrocarbons
- Phosphorous and nitrogen containing detergents
- Heavy Metals
- Surfactants
- Fine sediments

Still want to wash your car in the driveway? Google “waterless car wash” to find car washing products that do not require water. This is fantastic fish-friendly way to wash your car if you’re trying to wash away everyday road grime and prevent pollution.

Holding a fundraising car wash? The most fish-friendly option, and a great way to earn a lot of money, is to sell car wash coupons. You can get them from Brown Bear or the Puget Sound Car Wash Association:

<http://www.brownbear.com/charity/>
<http://www.charitycarwash.org/>

The Scoop on Dog Poop



Research conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association shows that 37.4 percent of Washington State households own dogs, with an average of 1.5 dogs per dog-owning household. There are approximately 10,000 households in the Kelsey Creek Watershed. That means the watershed has around 5,600 resident canines! At 0.33 pounds of solid waste per dog per day, they produce 1,851 pounds of raw sewage every day!

Scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash. Pet waste contains harmful microorganisms that can be transferred to humans.

The most comprehensive source of pet waste information in the area comes from our neighbors to the north, Snohomish County: www.petwaste.surfacewater.info

Reducing Yard Chemicals



In 1987-1995, USGS studied pesticides in Puget Sound Streams. Eighteen different pesticides were found in Kelsey Creek (referred to as Mercer Creek in the study): <http://wa.water.usgs.gov/pubs/fs/fs067/pest.a.html>

For more information on Natural Yard Care, visit: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/natural_lawn_intro.htm

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