

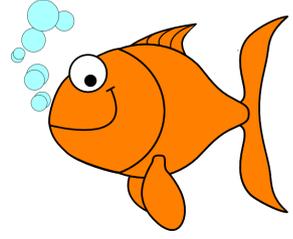
# THE RUNOFF

A quarterly stormwater newsletter brought to you by the City of Gig Harbor

VOL. 4, SUMMER 2021

## Don't Let it Loose!

Your cute, low maintenance pet goldfish sure can cause a lot of problems! Especially when it comes to stormwater and water quality. Goldfish are considered an invasive species and can harm native habitat.



When conditions are right, goldfish can grow up to the size of a football and be upwards of 4 pounds! We don't want these environmental mayhem makers to get into our local waters.

Eradication of goldfish or other invasive species will be required if found in local City stormwater facilities. This can be a very costly venture. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that billions of dollars are spent per year on prevention, detection, control, management, outreach and habitat restoration of invasive species.

Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends that if you can no longer take care of a pet (such as aquarium fish, frogs, or turtles) to contact your local pet store or animal shelter to rehome the pet. **Never, ever release into the wild.** Your pet may become an invasive species that native wildlife may not have the defenses to compete against.

---

## Stormwater Hero

A round of applause for the environmental eyes and ears of North Gig Harbor, Mr. Jerry Gammill.

Jerry has been a resident of Gig Harbor for 6 years and has become a great advocate for his community. He has been instrumental in the Harbor Hill Resident Owners Association stormwater pond maintenance and recently assisted in placing over 300 stormwater catch basin markers in the Harbor Hill neighborhoods.

Many of us here at the City know that Jerry has invasive plants (such as scotch broom and blackberry) shaking in their roots! He is a huge advocate for removing invasive plant species and worked with Pierce County to have the "scotch broom smack down" dumpster available for residents to dispose scotch broom. He can also tell you every location in the City that scotch broom is showing to be a nuisance .

We are happy to work with Jerry and are grateful for his persistence in helping the environment. Keep those observations and comments coming, Jerry!



**Do you know a stormwater hero?** Nominate someone and let us know!

**SPILLS HAPPEN! Help us find them.**

Gig Harbor Pollution Hotline: 253-851-6170

Pierce County Pollution Hotline: 253-798-4274

## IDDE—Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination

At the City we are constantly thinking about stormwater, even when it's not raining! During the warm weather months, illicit discharges can be easier to spot because the pollution is not being washed down the drain regularly by rain.

The City is under the regulation of the Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit. The permit mandates permittees to prepare and implement an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program. This means we actively look for IDDEs and respond quickly when they are found.

Some examples of IDDE include:

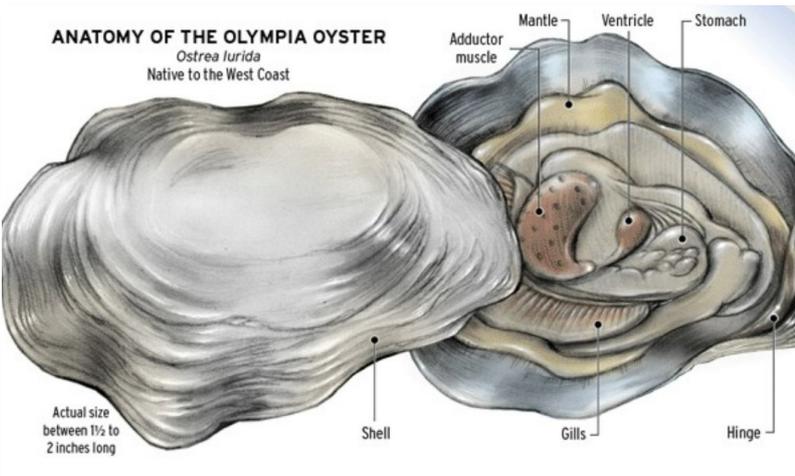
- Illegal dumping practices
- Broken sewer lines, sewage overflows or backups
- Gas, oil or vehicle fluids
- Mud or turbid runoff from construction sites
- Concrete washout water or concrete activities
- Suds, solvents, or paints
- Runoff from uncovered or unmaintained dumpster
- Draining of swimming pools that have not been dechlorinated

**If you see anything that looks like an IDDE, please call the City so we can get it cleaned up quickly and provide education to those responsible.**



## KGI Corner

Join the KGI Watershed Council for a field trip to Penrose State Park on July 22 @ 10:30 am. Pacific Lutheran University Professor Mike Behrens will be leading a guided tour of the Olympia Oyster Test Plots.



Are you looking for something to do this summer? KGI recently had a general meeting talking all about volunteer opportunities (recording and contacts can be found on the KGI website). There are some great groups to work with including Harbor Wild Watch, Pierce County Stream Team, Greater Gig Harbor Foundation, and more!

[Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council | Pierce County, WA - Official Website \(piercecountywa.gov\)](https://www.piercecountywa.gov/)

Want to learn more about stormwater in the City of Gig Harbor, check out our [Story Map](#).

Comments or questions?

Bri Ellis  
Stormwater Engineering Technician  
bellis@gigharborwa.gov  
253-358-5635

Next edition: Fall 2021