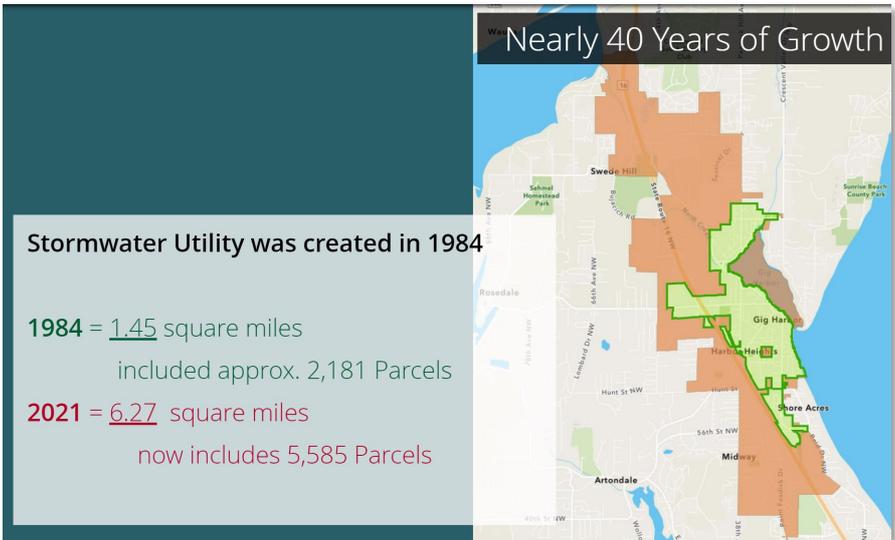


Changing the way Gig Harbor funds its Stormwater Utility

The City of Gig Harbor has had a stormwater utility since 1984. Since then the City has seen significant growth, including the growth of our storm infrastructure. The City is mandated under a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which regulates the discharge of water pollution and requires multiple tasks to be completed by the City. Each of those tasks have associated costs to implement our stormwater management program.

Current stormwater utility costs and perceived rate inequalities are being looked at. Goals for the study includes redefining EBUs (equivalent billing units), establishing new rates, redefining Single Family Resident (SFR), and removing discounts.

Thanks for all that joined us at the Virtual Open House. Recording and more information can be found [here](#).



Stormwater Hero

Our local Department of Ecology Construction Stormwater Inspector, Jess Eakens, is an absolute stormwater hero!

Not only does Jess cover all of Pierce County construction sites, she ventures out to Jefferson County too. She is responsible for checking on over 300 construction sites!

Jess has been instrumental in Ecology and the City maintaining a great working relationship. She is quick to respond to any issues we may have with construction sites and her BMP insight is appreciated. She stops by our quaint, busy harbor town often to make sure contractors are keeping water quality in mind.

She also set a Washington State record with a whopping 53 construction inspections completed in one month. She is what you would call a stormwater champion!

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

Wet Season... AGAIN!

It's that season again, the wet one! As we see heavy rain in our area, keep in mind where all of that stormwater is going.

In Gig Harbor, all stormwater ends up in the Puget Sound. Whether that be via natural streams, hard pipe, or surface runoff. Watch out Gig Harbor Bay, Henderson Bay, and Wollochet Bay—all of our stormwater is untreated and discharging to you!



Next time you are out puddle jumping, think about where all those rain drops are ending up.

History of Water Quality Regulations



As a result of the Industrial and Chemical revolutions, heightened public concerns about deteriorating air quality and urban water supplies contaminated with pollution emerged. In 1970, President Nixon signed executive order to create the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted in 1948, but was rewritten in 1972 to set up pollution control programs and recommendations for wastewater. The CWA has two main objectives: set surface water quality standards and regulate discharge of pollutants.

The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into waters of the United States, unless a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) was obtained. The Water Quality Act of 1987, another component of CWA, focuses specifically on stormwater pollution from industrial and municipal dischargers.

EPA authorized states to implement NPDES permits in the 90's, which is regulated by the Department of Ecology (ECY) in Washington State. ECY issued Phase I and II permits to local jurisdictions. There are currently about a dozen Phase I (populations of 100,000 or more) and over a hundred Phase II (populations of 10,000 or more) permittees in Washington.

City of Gig Harbor has been under ECY's Western Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit since 2007.

KGI Corner

Annual State of the Watershed will be held virtually on October 13 @ 5:30 pm. Discussions will include:



- City of Gig Harbor; Harborview Drive Conservation Property
- Department of Natural Resource; Eelgrass & Kelp Projects
- Penrose State Park; What's Next for Olympia Oyster Restoration
- Pierce County; Climate Presentation
- South Sound Mobile Pump Out Program Update

<https://piercecountywa.zoom.us/j/91439154108?pwd=cmlyZ0dRVjl1ZGZZOFVSQlBoUTMrUT09>

Meeting ID: 914 3915 4108; Passcode: 123162 +12532158782, 91439154108# US (Tacoma)

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

Comments or questions?

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Next edition: Winter 2022

[Past editions](#)