



PUGET
SOUNDKEEPER®

GRATITUDE REPORT

2019

Protecting & Preserving the Waters of Puget Sound
www.pugetsoundkeeper.org



WELCOME TO PUGET SOUNDKEEPER'S 2019 GRATITUDE REPORT



On behalf of the board and staff at Puget Soundkeeper, I would like to thank you for helping make 2019 another successful year for clean water protection.

Together, we fought back against federal rollbacks of clean water laws and regulations. We continued our long-standing practice of holding polluters accountable, and negotiated several favorable settlements that directly reduce the amount of toxic pollution entering Puget Sound. These court victories also provided more than \$1.3 million in settlement funds to support restoration throughout Puget Sound and its vital tributaries, including the Skagit, Duwamish, and Puyallup Rivers.

Your generous support makes our success possible.

Soundkeeper patrols and volunteer stewards maintained vigilance over our local waterways, cleaning up marine debris, conducting water quality monitoring, and ensuring compliance at industrial and recreational sites.

And, our Lost Urban Creeks Project staff continued to partner with Unleash the Brilliance, a remarkable group of students who have been studying the Springbrook Creek in Kent, learning field-based science, and exploring the watershed by foot and by kayak, from small tributary to open Sound.

At Puget Soundkeeper, we speak out for clean water in many ways. Our Soundkeeper patrol boat is a quiet, but constant, presence. Soundkeeper volunteers multiply our stewardship reach, whether surveying salmon or tracing the source of marine debris gathered from a local beach. And always, we are ready to speak out, literally, to testify in Olympia or in a court of law about the importance of clean water to our communities and all the living systems that depend on Puget Sound.

Together, we are the keepers of these waters. We are the stewards of our home.

Thank you for being a part of this remarkable movement, this community that is committed to making a difference in the health of Puget Sound. We could not do this without your support.

I hope you are inspired by this report and the insights it provides. All gifts – large and small – make a lasting difference for Puget Soundkeeper and the waterways and communities we serve.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walt Tabler".

Walt Tabler
Board President

STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION



MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUPS

2,956 volunteers
140 cleanup events
14,041 pounds of trash removed



INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Puget Soundkeeper partnered with Ocean Conservancy’s International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), the largest volunteer project in service to our oceans. Soundkeeper volunteers removed trash from beaches and waterways, documenting types and sources of debris to build solutions to prevent marine litter.

Read the 2019 Puget Sound Coastal Cleanup Report at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org.

2019 Top ICC Trash Finds:



PLASTIC PIECES
3,471 in Puget Sound
5,716,331 worldwide



STYROFOAM PIECES
5,724 in Puget Sound
3,728,712 worldwide



PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS
612 in Puget Sound
964,541 worldwide



RESEARCHING MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION

Scientists everywhere are finding microplastics in our air, soil, and drinking water. Ocean currents and wind, move these tiny, sesame-seed sized plastics to every part of the globe, affecting waterways, agriculture, and wildlife. Because plastic does not biodegrade, it is a pollutant that remains in the marine environment for centuries and can cause digestion and immune system impacts to wildlife.

In 2019, 36 volunteers collected water samples from ocean beach and river access points across Puget Sound and were trained to identify microplastics in water samples. These community scientists found microplastics in all 69 samples. Of the 911 microplastics found, 90% of them were filaments – plastic fibers that are commonly found in synthetic clothing. This work is a part of a growing body of research on the global impact of plastic pollution and helps inform Soundkeeper’s advocacy and civic engagement programs.

Read the full 2019 Microplastics Report at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org.



URBAN RUNOFF SALMON MORTALITY SURVEYS



During the salmon run each fall, coho salmon enter the Duwamish River from Elliott Bay, and then swim up Longfellow Creek to spawn. Historically, Longfellow Creek contained populations of coho, chum, and Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout. Because of area development, Longfellow Creek, like many urban creeks, suffers from habitat and water quality degradation. Today, as coho migrate through urban streams like Longfellow Creek, they encounter a chemical cocktail of toxic runoff from roadways and other paved surfaces.

For the fourth consecutive year, Puget Soundkeeper assembled a team of volunteers to conduct daily salmon surveys on Longfellow Creek to document “Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome” (URMS) or premature death due to stormwater pollution in coho salmon. These surveys help Soundkeeper and research partners understand URMS, recommend areas for restoration, and develop policy solutions to prevent toxic stormwater.



MUSSEL MONITORING



The Mussel Watch project enlists Soundkeeper volunteers to install cages of mussels at urban beaches. Mussels provide a comprehensive look at what pollutants are present in a body of water over a period of time.

Previous findings showed four highly carcinogenic compounds (PAHs, PCBs, PBDEs, and DDTs) were found in every mussel sample, regardless of location. The highest concentrations were found in Elliott Bay, Salmon Bay, Commencement Bay in Tacoma, and Sinclair Inlet near Bremerton.

Toxic contaminants enter through stormwater runoff, combined sewer overflows, industrial sites, and agricultural pollution.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



"I became a Puget Soundkeeper volunteer in 2012 when I returned to Seattle after living in Yakima for fifteen years. I was curious about the Duwamish Waterway as a Superfund Site. Motoring across Elliott Bay to see and learn about the industrial cleanup, meeting committed environmentalists on each trip, and making friends with the Puget Soundkeeper staff endeared me to volunteering.

Two years ago I started kayak cleanups on Lake Union. The amount of litter we collect in two hours makes a difference on the Lake Union shoreline. I love being on the water, meeting other volunteers and hauling in tires, computers, plastic, and metal. We never know what we will find!

The moment I feel I am making a difference is when I actually make a monetary donation to Puget Soundkeeper.

Protecting our watershed and water quality in Puget Sound is essential. It takes skilled and dedicated people like those at Puget Soundkeeper to make sure we can depend on the quality of the water we need in our region."

- Martha Fleming



LOST URBAN CREEKS

The Lost Urban Creeks Project highlights and restores freshwater streams while also mentoring local youth in environmental literacy, water quality monitoring, restoration techniques, and community building. Lost urban creeks often flow through communities most impacted by pollution and social injustice, highlighting environmental inequities in our region.

Springbrook Creek flows through South King County and historically supported healthy runs of Chinook salmon. But now, as Springbrook Creek flows through developed areas of Kent and Renton, it is quickly surrounded by parking lots and impervious surfaces that contribute to pollution from stormwater runoff.

In 2019, youth contributed over 2,000 hours of paid work to restore the health of Springbrook Creek. Youth interns monitored eight locations throughout the watershed for Water and Air Temperature, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Specific Conductance, Turbidity, Total Dissolved Solids, Nitrates, and Salinity and presented their scientific findings at the 2019 Green-Duwamish Watershed Symposium.

Interns also created an advisory board, developed a logo for the project, planted native plants at the Black River Riparian Forest, and conducted outreach at regional events to raise awareness of the Lost Urban Creeks Project and their efforts to restore Springbrook Creek.

"I am really impressed with the work of the youth and the project team of the Lost Urban Creeks Project. Springbrook Creek is a remarkable creek, which has existed for thousands of years, mostly in a healthy state, until recent history. The team's findings confirm water quality issues, which make the creek unhealthy for salmon at times, but also show that it has the potential to be rehabilitated. My hope is that with this project, the team can get the attention of elected officials and others who can help them move the creek in a healthier direction."

- Eric Adman, Sno-King Watershed Council

CLEAN MARINA WASHINGTON



Clean Marina Washington is an incentive-based certification program aimed at evaluating, celebrating, and improving marina operations in Puget Sound. Soundkeeper educated more than 1,000 boaters on clean boating practices and engaged 81 marinas in protecting Puget Sound.

Learn more about Clean Marina Washington at www.cleanmarinawashington.org.

ADVOCACY & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



CLEAN WATER DEFENSE

Defending Washington's Water Quality Standards



Puget Soundkeeper rallied the region in opposing the rollback of Washington's Water Quality Standards by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a rollback that would increase health risks from toxic pollution into waterways, threatening communities that rely on locally caught fish, and the salmon and orcas whales that rely on clean water to survive.

More than 1,000 members took action by signing Soundkeeper's petition to the EPA. Over 100 ralliers attended Soundkeeper's first Pack the Room event to give public testimony at EPA's Seattle Headquarters.

MARINE DEBRIS & PLASTICS

Stopping Plastic Pollution

In the 2019 Washington State Legislature, Puget Soundkeeper successfully advocated for the Plastic Packaging Stewardship Bill, which requires the Department of Ecology to evaluate the amount and types of packaging sold, managed, and disposed of in the State of Washington. The study will provide recommendations to the State to meet goals of reducing plastic waste and achieving 100 percent recyclable, reusable, or compostable packaging in all goods sold in Washington State by January 1, 2025.



CLEAN & SAFE ENERGY

Reducing Risk of an Oil Spill

Puget Soundkeeper successfully advocated for House Bill 1578 which sets tug escort requirements for oil tankers and articulated tug barges transiting through Rosario Strait and connected waterways.

Soundkeeper and its partners also successfully stopped the expansion of a petrochemical plant in Skagit County. In an agreement with the owners of Anacortes Oil Refinery, the company withdrew plans to manufacture and export 15,000 barrels per day of mixed xylenes – petrochemicals used to make plastics – through the Salish Sea.

The expansion would have caused a dramatic increase in energy use required for the refinery, resulting in a climate impact equivalent to adding 75,000 vehicles to the road and an additional 120 new vessel transits each year through Southern Resident Orca critical habitat, increasing vessel impacts and risk of a disastrous petrochemical spill.

POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF

Managing Toxic Stormwater Runoff



In 2019, Puget Soundkeeper advocated for orca recovery bills including the Model Toxics Control Act Reform Bill of 2019, which created dedicated revenue streams for toxic cleanups and green infrastructure in Washington State through a state barrel tax on petroleum products.

Soundkeeper also worked with Washington Environmental Council to issue an updated Nature's Scorecard, a tool evaluating all 83 Puget Sound municipal stormwater permittees in their efforts to integrate Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques to manage stormwater runoff into their codes.

Since the first Scorecard was issued in 2017, 28 municipalities have made improvements.

See your city's score and urge your city to invest more in retrofits at www.naturescorecard.com.

MONITORING & ENFORCEMENT



49 kayak patrols **10** boat patrols
3 air patrols **42** hotline reports

2019 SUCCESSFUL LEGAL SETTLEMENTS



Seattle Iron & Metals: \$1 million worth of improvements & \$200,000
APM Pacific Terminals Tacoma, LLC: \$368,000
Total Terminals International & Port of Seattle: \$735,000



\$1.3 MILLION WON IN 2019 TO REPAIR OUR WATERWAYS

Puget Soundkeeper uses the law to reduce toxic pollution from entering Puget Sound and to bring polluters into compliance. Under the Clean Water Act, settlement funds are granted to local water quality restoration projects via the Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund.

Since its inception in 2012, the fund has awarded over \$6.5 million in grants to local projects related to conservation, restoration, and environmental justice work.

SETTLEMENT AWARDEE HIGHLIGHT

Duwamish Floating Wetlands Water Quality Monitoring Project

The Puget Sound Stewardship & Mitigation Fund awarded \$24,929 from the legal settlement Puget Soundkeeper v. Samson Tug and Barge, et al. to The Green Futures Lab to train community scientists in gathering and managing water quality and habitat data from four floating wetland “Biobarges” deployed on the Duwamish River.



Why Floating Wetlands?

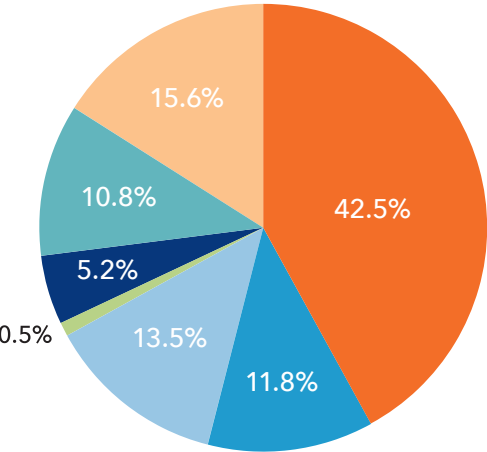
Floating wetlands support the hydroponic growth of native wetland vegetation, mimicking natural wetlands by improving water quality and providing aquatic habitat. Benefits include carbon sequestration; reduction of aquatic pollutants and water temperature; increased oxygen; invertebrate food chain reconnections; habitat improvement; and shoreline beautification and protection.

Learn more about settlement awardees at www.pugetsoundkeeper.org.



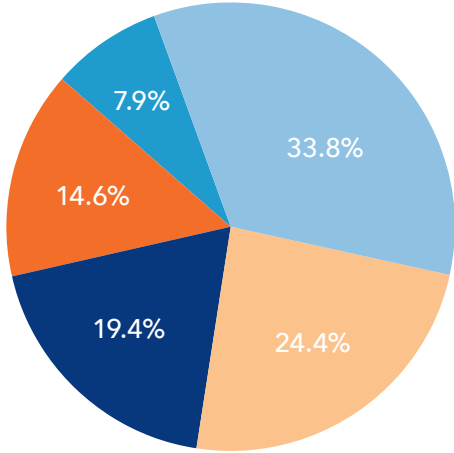
2019 FINANCIALS

Income	\$ 1,446,362
Program Expenses	983,375
Management and General Expenses	107,329
Fundraising Expenses	261,959
Net Assets	93,699



INCOME: \$1,446,362

Foundation Support	\$ 614,884
Business & Corporate Support	171,286
Individual Support	195,235
Earthshare Income	7,409
Government Grants	75,910
Special Events Net Income	156,045
Interest & Other Income	225,593



EXPENSES: \$1,352,663

Soundkeeper Program	\$ 456,773
Outreach Program	329,693
Fund Development	261,959
Pollution Prevention Program	196,909
Management & General	107,329

Puget Soundkeeper is proud to be a member of the following:



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