PUGET SOUNDKEEPER

2023 IMPACT REPORT

PUGET SOUNDKEEPER®

Established in 1984

Puget Soundkeeper acknowledges that we are on the land of many Coast Salish peoples and their ancestors. We acknowledge the past and present harms to Indigenous and marginalized peoples, and the land and waters of this region. We honor the ancestors and those today who continue to steward the land and the Salish Sea. We pledge to care for this ecosystem by taking action to protect and enhance our shared waters.

MISSION

Puget Soundkeeper's mission is to protect and enhance the waters of Puget Sound for the health and restoration of our aquatic ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

VISION

We envision Puget Sound teeming with diverse marine life and providing safe opportunities for swimming, fishing, recreation, and sustainable economic activity. We seek a Sound that supports the lifeways and traditional cultural practices of Indigenous peoples, provides all communities with a clean, healthy place to live and work, and once again is home to an abundance of salmon and orca.

WELCOME

Welcome to Puget Soundkeeper's 40th anniversary year! It is with immense pride and gratitude that we commemorate four decades of unwavering commitment to the protection of clean water in Puget Sound.

I invite you to reflect on our 2023 accomplishments in the context of our 40-year history. The pivotal moments, transformative projects, and inspiring stories from our past shape our actions and values today.

It's my hope that you see yourself and your passion for Puget Sound reflected in this longer story, from the early days of grassroots activism to our present-day initiatives. Let our shared dedication inspire you to join us in 2024.

See you on the water,

Sean T. Dixon
Soundkeeper & Executive Director

Tell Us Your Soundkeeper Story!

Do you have a memorable Soundkeeper moment to share? Maybe you remember your first time joining a cleanup or seeing salmon in our urban streams. We want to hear from you! Use the QR code or follow this link to fill out our storytelling prompt.

LAW & POLICY PRIORITIES: 4 FOR 40

Puget Soundkeeper has identified four priority areas for our 40th anniversary year and onward into the immediate future. These four topics reflect a culmination of our recent work and opportunities for both organizational growth and expert leadership.

1 | Enforcement Mapping Project (EMP)

Soundkeeper will pilot a new mapping tool in 2024 to reflect water pollution issues and Clean Water Act enforcement in the Duwamish Valley. We will expand this exciting project to our entire jurisdiction in the coming years.

2 | Climate Resilience

Soundkeeper will work with communities impacted by king tides, flooding, and urban heat islands—climate resilience and environmental justice issues relevant to our watershed and water cycle. Soundkeeper also advocates for solutions to historic nutrient pollution caused by industrial animal farming, marine industries, and municipal wastewater management. Watch for more work on habitat restoration and nutrient management in 2024.

3 | Stormwater Advocacy

Soundkeeper is working towards comprehensive stormwater runoff management through its Clean Water Act and Washington State stormwater permit advocacy. The Department of Ecology will review both municipal and industrial stormwater permitting in 2024, so watch for opportunities to get involved with advocacy.

4 | 6PPD-quinone

As described above, Soundkeeper works on road runoff and stormwater management, but we are also involved in researching secondary tire markets, green infrastructure design and planning, end-of-life management and tire disposal, and tire procurement practices. Get involved during the 2024 legislative session and join our new Salmon & Legacy Tires project along the Green-Duwamish River.

SAVE THE DATES!

40th Anniversary Events

February 17
Bird Fest with Environmental Science Center

March 23
World Water Day celebration

April 13
Members-only Duwamish River cruise

May 25
Low-tide naturalist walk

June 8
World Oceans Day brunch

July 5
Seattle Summer Cleanup on Lake Union

September 21
Salute to the Sound Annual Auction and Gala

October 31
Trash or Treat Halloween walking cleanup

November 16
Longfellow Creek salmon tour

Stay tuned for more events throughout the year!

A Brief History of Puget Soundkeeper

1984
Puget Sound Alliance (PSA) is founded to address water quality issues in Puget Sound. Within a year, 400 individuals and 44 organizations have joined the Alliance.

1985
Puget Sound Alliance sends its first newsletter, saying, "Together we can restore and maintain this living system of Puget Sound. Indeed, the very quality of life we enjoy here depends upon this concerted action."

1986
State legislature passes funding for statewide wastewater facility improvement, thanks in part to pressure from Puget Sound Alliance.

1989
Navy Homeport Settlement is reached in a major victory: six environmental groups, including PSA reach an out-of-court agreement with the U.S. Navy on dredging and disposing of toxic sediment.

1990
Puget Sound Alliance debuts the Puget Soundkeeper program and is one of the six founding members of the global Waterkeeper Alliance.

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Car Tires & Coho Salmon

Each fall, coho salmon return to urban creeks and streams in search of spawning habitat. When entering urban waterways like West Seattle's Longfellow Creek or North Seattle's Pipers Creek, they encounter toxic stormwater recently washed off city streets. This chemical cocktail includes the tire chemical derivative 6PPD-quinone, which is lethal to coho salmon and steelhead, even at very small concentrations.

Soundkeeper is thrilled to announce that it was awarded a Washington Department of Ecology Public Participation Grant to fund a new program, Salmon & Legacy Debris. This two-year project will map legacy debris in the Duwamish River, provide outreach and education around 6PPD-quinone, and connect community members to cleanup opportunities.

GET INVOLVED!

Want to be part of our Salmon & Legacy Tires cleanup team? We're looking for folks with specific skill sets for certain volunteer roles. Use the QR code or follow this link to complete our volunteer interest form.

SALUTE TO THE SOUND 2023

Maritime High School Principal Jamila Gordon accepts the Inspiration Award on behalf of her team of educators

Thank you for a wonderful evening!

In October 2023, Puget Soundkeeper staff and board members were thrilled to celebrate our 20th annual Salute to the Sound Gala and Auction this year! Even better, we were able to honor the visionary team at Maritime High School as our Inspiration Award Recipient and hear from Representative Pramila Jayapal as our keynote speaker.

SAVE THE DATE for this year's Salute to the Sound
Saturday, September 21, 2024
Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle

1993

Puget Soundkeeper's case against the City of Bremerton makes history as the first public interest lawsuit in Washington State brought under the Clean Water Act's "citizen suit" provision.

1996

Puget Soundkeeper and Citizens for a Healthy Bay (now Communities for a Healthy Bay) begin an educational partnership for boater and marina education in Commencement Bay.

1998

North Sound Baykeeper and Commencement Baykeeper launch their respective programs.

2001

Lower Duwamish Waterway declared a Superfund site by the Environmental Protection Agency; Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (now Duwamish River Community Coalition) forms.

2005

Clean Marina Washington launches in partnership with EnviroStars, and is based on previous boater and marina education projects.

2023 BY-THE-NUMBERS

2,000+

volunteers protecting Puget Sound

5

science communication videos created by Lost Urban Creeks youth leaders

52

total paddle cleanups on Lake Union, Lake Washington, the Duwamish River, and the Green River

15

community science workshops on microplastics, water quality monitoring, and cleanup protocol

$525,725

in Clean Water Act settlement payments funding 15 water quality and environmental justice projects throughout Puget Sound

22

Salmon Survey volunteers monitoring Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome in Longfellow Creek

7,000+

pounds of marine debris removed from our waterways

3

bills and one budget item passed during the 2023 legislative session to help protect orcas, ban single-use plastics, and support boaters

56

pages of comments submitted to the Department of Ecology, advocating for stronger municipal stormwater controls

52

outreach and education events at schools, festivals, and symposiums

1

visit to D.C. to lobby federal representatives on plastic pollution prevention and Southern Resident Killer Whale protection

300

native plants added to 5,615 square feet of urban riparian buffer, restoring habitat along Springbrook Creek

2009

Soundkeeper and People for Puget Sound win an appeal against the Department of Ecology's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. This major victory requires municipalities to utilize low impact development (LID) where feasible as the preferred method for new development.

2011

Puget Soundkeeper settles with BNSF Railway Company Balmer Yard. The $1.5 million penalty initiates the Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund at the Rose Foundation for People and the Environment.

2017

Lost Urban Creeks youth leadership program forms. Puget Soundkeeper and Unleash The Brilliance partner to create a paid environmental leadership training program for South King County youth.

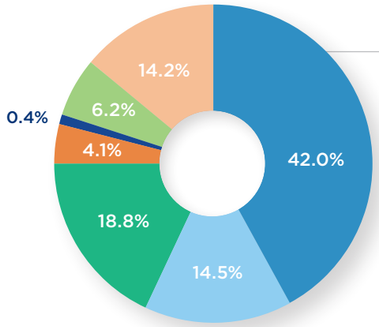
2017

Nature's Scorecard report first published. Puget Soundkeeper and Washington Environmental Council (now Washington Conservation Action) co-publish the first of three reports providing transparency on municipal stormwater projects.

2020

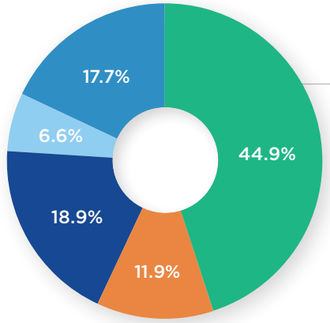
Boeing Military Delivery Center settlement reached. Puget Soundkeeper and Waste Action Project finalize a $750,000 settlement with Boeing, which fills a significant funding gap in salmon habitat restoration along the Green River.

2023 FINANCIALS



INCOME: $1,372,511

Foundation Support	$ 576,042
Business & Corporate Support	194,587
Individual Support	198,984
Government Grants	56,153
EarthShare Income	4,900
Special Events	84,439
Interest & Other Income	257,406



EXPENSES: $1,334,859

Law & Policy Program	$ 598,852
Education & Outreach	159,280
Clean Water Program	235,874
Management & General	88,270
Fund Development	252,583

Your gift removes debris from local waterways and supports youth engagement efforts like Lost Urban Creeks. Give today at **pugetsoundkeeper.org/donate**.

2021

Plastic Bag Ban legislation passed. Soundkeeper and coalition partners in Plastic Free Washington / Washington Sin Plastico help pass a law banning several types of single-use plastic.

2022

Puget Soundkeeper and Communities for a Healthy Bay finalize a consent decree with Electron Hydro LLC, locking the egregious Puyallup River polluter into a clear timeline for Clean Water Act compliance.

2023

Salmon & Legacy Tires project launches, addressing large debris and legacy pollution in the Duwamish and Green Rivers.

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Thank you!

Soundkeeper extends its gratitude to our incredible community of volunteers, advocates, stewards, donors, and everyone who helped protect and enhance Puget Sound in 2023. We couldn't do it without you!

PUGET
SOUNDKEEPER®
Established in 1984

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