



**CITY OF KIRKLAND  
PUBLIC WORKS**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Julie Underwood, Interim Public Works Director and Deputy City Manager  
Sarah R. Olson, Public Works Deputy Director – Engineering & Planning  
Kelli Jones, Surface Water Manager  
Rachel Konrady, Surface Water Planning Supervisor

**Date:** September 9, 2025

**Subject:** **Proclamation of Stormwater Awareness Week October 6-11, 2025**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Mayor proclaims October 6-11, 2025, as “Stormwater Awareness Week” in Kirkland.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- Stormwater runoff is the largest contributor of pollutants to our waterways.
- Through the Mayor’s proclamation of Stormwater Awareness Week from October 6-11, 2025, the City recognizes and highlights the many programs and projects that protect and enhance our natural environment through stormwater management.

**BACKGROUND:**

Stormwater runoff is the largest contributor of pollutants to our waterways. It picks up pollutants like oil, chemicals, fertilizer, pet waste, and soap and carries these pollutants to the nearest storm drain. In Kirkland, all storm drains lead to the nearest creek, wetland or Lake Washington.

The Washington Stormwater Center (WSC) is coordinating with municipal, industrial, and construction permittees, regulatory agencies, and partners to host Stormwater Awareness Week 2025. Establishing Stormwater Awareness Week highlights what is being done across the state to reduce the impacts of stormwater on our freshwater resources. It creates actionable practices through local, regional, and statewide programs. Kirkland joins our partners for the second time in celebrating Stormwater Awareness Week. On August 15, 2025, Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson proclaimed October 6-11, 2025, as Stormwater Awareness Week.

This proclamation was requested by the City’s stormwater division staff. Because it is not currently included on the City Council’s adopted 2025-2026 proclamation calendar, it will be

issued by the Mayor rather than on behalf of the full Council, consistent with Council Policies and Procedure.

#### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The City implements many programs and projects under our guiding plans—the Surface Water Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> and the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan<sup>2</sup>—that protect and enhance the natural environment and comply with regulations. These plans describe the action the City’s stormwater utility will take to achieve our goals: to reduce flooding in our streets and neighborhoods; build and maintain drainage infrastructure; improve water quality and aquatic habitat in our streams, lakes, and wetlands; and educate and engage our community.

As part of the implementation of the Surface Water Strategic Plan, the City published its second annual Surface Water Utility Annual Progress Report<sup>3</sup> in the second quarter of 2025 detailing progress made on the Surface Water Strategic Plan and highlighting progress made toward each utility goal. Staff will continue collecting data for the yearly progress report, to be provided annually in the spring following each calendar year of program implementation.

This is the City’s second year celebrating Stormwater Awareness Week, and staff is currently building an outreach plan to highlight work completed by the City, showcasing the City’s efforts to protect and enhance our streams, lakes, and wetlands from the impacts of stormwater. This will also include the installation of Rainworks art, which is a temporary, creative art installation that is revealed when it rains.

Attachment 1 includes pictures highlighting the City’s work completed towards reducing the impact of stormwater on our environment this year.

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

Staff will continue to develop the outreach plan for Stormwater Awareness Week. The Mayor will issue the proclamation on October 7, during Stormwater Awareness Week. Look for materials in *This Week in Kirkland*, the City’s Facebook and Instagram pages, and the *Kirkland Conserves* newsletter.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1 – Photos of City Staff Implementing Stormwater Programs  
Attachment 2 – Stormwater Awareness Week Proclamation

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<sup>1</sup> Surface Water Strategic Plan: [https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/4/public-works/surface-water/sw-master-plan/2023finalkirklandsurfacewatermasterplan\\_compressed.pdf](https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/4/public-works/surface-water/sw-master-plan/2023finalkirklandsurfacewatermasterplan_compressed.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Stormwater Management Program Plan: <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/public-works/surface-water/sw-management-plan/2024-kirkland-stormwater-management-program-plan.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> 2024 Surface Water Utility Annual Progress Report: <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/public-works/surface-water/2024-sw-utility-annual-progress-report-published-2025.pdf>



# A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

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## Stormwater Awareness Week

**October 6-11, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, stormwater comes from precipitation that falls on hard surfaces and does not soak into the ground, becoming runoff, which may become polluted due to tire wear particles and vehicle fluids, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria, sediments, litter, and/or pet waste as it runs along roads, sidewalks, parking lots, roofs, lawns; and

**WHEREAS**, runoff flows into the storm system that eventually flows, mostly untreated, into our waterways, including wetlands, streams, lakes, and the Puget Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, plants and soil filter water and improve water quality, and onsite improvements, such as porous pavement, stormwater ponds, native plants, rain gardens, bioswales, and other best management practices, help prevent pollution and treat stormwater runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kirkland City Council's Goal of Sustainable Environment guides the City "to protect our natural environment through sustainable goals and practices"; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington Governor Bob Ferguson proclaimed "October 6-11, 2025, as Stormwater Awareness Week" in Washington State, which is an opportunity for our community to recognize the potential to prevent pollution of stormwater that flows to our wetlands, streams, lakes, the Puget Sound, and other water bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State and the City of Kirkland are leaders in promoting pollution prevention and mitigation of our stormwater discharges, and by focusing attention on pollution prevention in stormwater runoff, the City and the State can continue to meet the challenges associated with polluted runoff;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, Mayor Kelli Curtis proclaims the week of October 6 – 11, 2025 as "Stormwater Awareness Week" in Kirkland and calls upon all community members to help protect our waters by participating in stormwater awareness events and activities this week and throughout the year.

Signed this 7th day of October 2025

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Kelli Curtis, Mayor