

A message from the Kirkland Public Works Department

Dear Kirkland Community Member:

Last fall and winter, Kirkland experienced extreme rainstorms with very heavy rainfall in a short period of time. This resulted in the flooding of roads, parking lots, and some buildings in parts of Kirkland.

This mailer provides details on:

- Why we're seeing heavier storms and more flooding in Kirkland.
- What the City of Kirkland is doing to address drainage issues.
- *Wet Weather Preparation Tips* - What Kirkland community members can do to help reduce flooding and mitigate flood impacts.

When it comes to flood preparation, we all have a role to play. Let's work together as we prepare for potential flooding in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and to get prepared.

Sincerely,



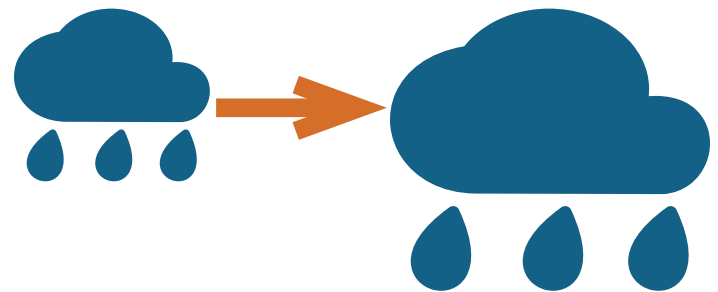
Julie Underwood
Director
Public Works Department



WHY ARE WE SEEING MORE FLOODING IN KIRKLAND?

Weather patterns are changing in our region and we expect an increased frequency of intense rainstorms in Kirkland in future years – which may result in increased occurrences of flooding.

Kirkland's stormwater drainage system has generally been constructed based on historic precipitation patterns and a targeted level of service. It can manage the runoff from most storms, but more frequent, larger and more intense storms may create more runoff than the system can handle. During more intense storms, drainage pipes, ditches, and stream channels may be overwhelmed by the volume of rainwater and result in flooding.

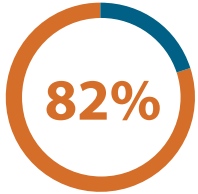


Heavy rainfall events that can cause flooding and property damage are expected to become more frequent and intense through the 21st century.

IS NEW CONSTRUCTION ADDING TO THE PROBLEM?

Most of Kirkland's stormwater infrastructure was built many years ago and was not designed for the increased rainstorm intensity in the city. The Storm and Surface Water Division is striving to solve old problems caused by former development practices while preventing new problems.

New developments in Kirkland meet strict stormwater control requirements. As feasible, the goal is for each property to soak up, clean, and slow the flow of runoff, reducing the volume of water released to the City's stormwater drainage system.



Percent of properties in Kirkland developed with minimal to no stormwater controls and have not yet redeveloped.



579

Development permits reviewed in 2020 for compliance with requirements to soak up, clean, and slow the flow of runoff onsite.

WHAT IS THE CITY OF KIRKLAND DOING?

City of Kirkland staff worked hard in 2020 to reduce flooding and to help alleviate flooding impacts. Flood reduction is one of the primary goals of Kirkland's Storm and Surface Water Division.



9,800

Storm drains, vaults and tanks inspected and maintained as needed.



140,000

Feet of pipes and ditches cleaned, maintained, and repaired.



628

Structures added to Kirkland's stormwater system to clean and manage runoff.

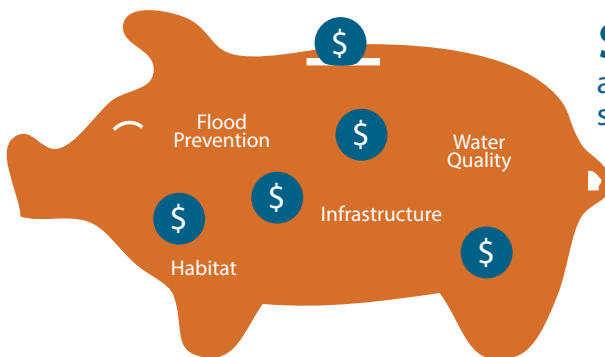


154

Flooding and drainage calls responded to by on-call maintenance staff.

HOW IS KIRKLAND INVESTING IN THE FUTURE?

The City of Kirkland will continue to prioritize and construct projects to help reduce drainage and flooding problems. But the City needs to balance the funds available each year between those projects and other infrastructure needs, including water quality and stream and lake health.



\$2.8 million annually allocated to construct storm and surface water projects.



\$500,000 annually invested in replacement of aging and failing stormwater infrastructure and flood reduction.

Wet Weather Preparation Tips

Summer is a great time to plan ahead and prepare for the next storm season!

Know your flood hazard

If you were mailed this brochure, your home or property is in or near an area that experienced flooding in 2020 that was reported to the City of Kirkland.



Consider buying flood insurance

Standard homeowner's insurance does not cover loss cause by flooding, and there can be a 30-day waiting period on new flood insurance policies.

Contact your insurance agent to learn more and decide if flood insurance is right for you.

Protect your family and pets

- ◆ Elevate your furnace, water heater, washer/dryer, and electric panel if they are susceptible to flooding.
- ◆ Elevate any household chemicals or valuables that you store on your property.
- ◆ If your property is at risk of flooding and it is safe to do so, move items in your basement and garage to higher ground or raise them off the floor.



Prepare your property's drainage system

- ◆ Inspect and maintain any drainage structures, including roof gutters, on your property. Check to make sure that no debris is blocking the structure and water can flow freely.
- ◆ Test your sump pump to make sure it is in good working order before a storm. Consider installing a pump with battery backup in case of power outages.
- ◆ Water can cause unstable slopes and erosion. Check your property for signs of earth movement, such as leaning trees, or cracks in the soil or sidewalks. If you have a problem, contact a soils engineer (search online for "Engineers Geotechnical Soils") to evaluate the situation.
- ◆ Keep a supply of sandbags on-hand. City of Kirkland has 2 sandbag filling stations, open immediately after Labor Day through Memorial Day. Each self-serve station offers free sand and bags for the Kirkland community. Shovels are not provided. The stations are located at the Public Works Maintenance Center (915 8th Street) and the North Kirkland Community Center (12421 103rd Ave NE).

Prevent neighborhood flooding

- ◆ Do not rake or blow leaves from your property into the street. You could be billed for clean-up by the City if found doing so. Dispose of leaves in your gray yard waste cart.
- ◆ Clear leaves, debris, and snow from storm drains and ditches close to your property to keep them from clogging and causing a backup during heavy rainfall. Dispose of debris in your gray yard waste cart, if you have room to do so.
- ◆ Call 425-587-3900 if flooding is severe and you are unable to clear the storm drain.



Report Spills & Flooding in Kirkland
425-587-3900

Crews on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

Report non-urgent drainage issues via the Our Kirkland portal at
kirklandwa.qscend.com/ourkirkland/



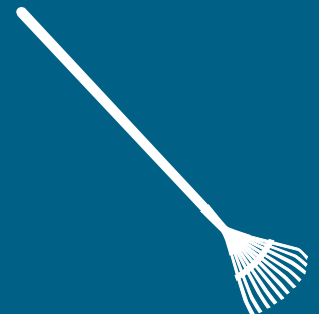
Kirkland Public Works
Storm & Surface Water Division
123 5th Ave
Kirkland, WA 98033

www.kirklandwa.gov/stormwater

stormwater@kirklandwa.gov

Prepare for Wet Weather

Information on storm and flood preparedness in Kirkland



If you received this brochure in the mail, your home or property is in or near an area that experienced flooding in 2020 that was reported to the City of Kirkland.