

2026 Watershed Report

The water quality scores show a **mix of trends across our monitoring sites**, suggesting both progress and challenges across our watersheds. It's important to remember that water quality scores can fluctuate wildly year to year based on many different factors. On each report card, you will find simple actions you can take to improve watershed health.

It's vital that we all continue to take simple actions in our daily lives to help improve Kirkland's streams.

What is a Watershed?

A **watershed** is the area of land that drains water to a specific creek or waterbody. Watersheds are also referred to as "**basins.**"

You can identify what watershed you live in by visiting our online dashboard at www.kirklandwa.gov/kirklandwatersheds.



What We Measure - Watershed Health Indicators

Water Quality Score Guide

	High Concern: 0 - 40
	Moderate Concern: 41 - 80
	Low Concern: 81 - 100

The City of Kirkland Surface & Stormwater team monitors the health of **11 watersheds**. These report cards share the results of monitoring effects and data collected in 2025.

Water quality is a measure of chemical and physical characteristics of the water that affect stream health. A higher score means better water quality. The following defines some of the measured characteristics:

Nitrogen & Phosphorus: Chemicals that come from fertilizers and other nutrient sources. High levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in water result in a lower score. Excess levels cause excessive algae and plant growth.

pH: The measure of how acidic or alkaline the water is. In general, a balanced pH is ideal for plants and animals and results in a higher score.

Temperature: How hot or cold the water is. Unusually high temperatures can reduce the amount of oxygen in the water, creating poor habitat for aquatic life. Cool temperatures result in a higher score.

Oxygen: The amount of oxygen dissolved in water. All aquatic plants and animals need oxygen to survive. High levels of oxygen result in a higher score.

Turbidity: The measure of water clarity. Algae, silt, and toxic materials make the water cloudy and block sunlight from reaching stream plants. Clearer water results in a higher score.



Stream Bugs: These aquatic creatures live on the stream bottom. Most are insects such as mayfly and dragonfly larvae.

Monitoring stream bugs tells us about a stream's biological health. Different species indicate the level of pollution in a stream. More bugs, and more types of bugs result in a higher score.

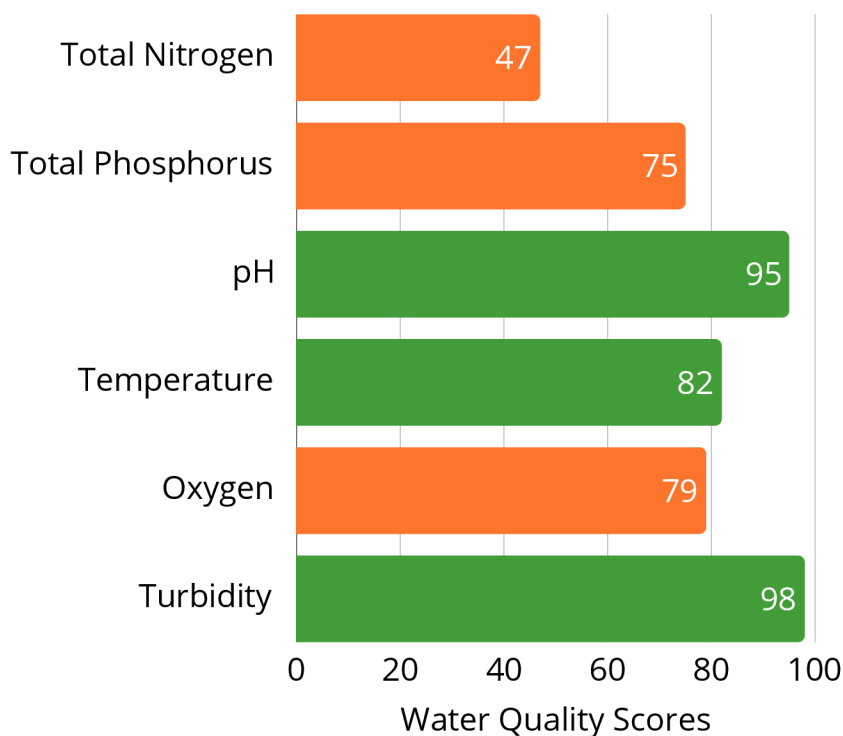


2025 Water Quality Scores - DENNY CREEK

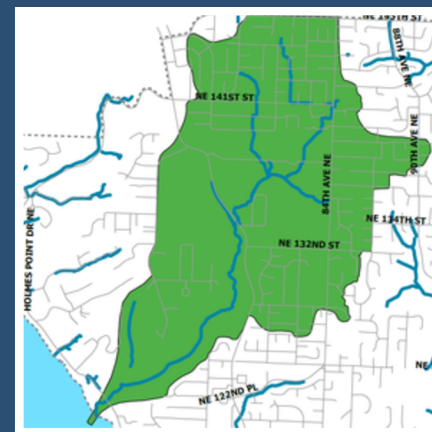


**Overall Health: Some or Low Concern
-4 since 2023**

Elevated amounts of nitrogen is the primary reason this creek did not score higher.



Basin Facts



Basin Area 811 acres

Tree Cover 53%

Impervious Area 25%

- Sockeye, cutthroat trout, juvenile coho, and sculpin have been found in the lower section and the mouth of the creek
- This basin has the 2nd highest forest cover of any basin in Kirkland. This provides quality wildlife habitat and can help decrease the volume of runoff and contaminants entering Denny Creek and Lake Washington.



**Stream Bug
Score (10-50)
28 - Poor**

How can you make the water quality even better?

Let's help out that **Nitrogen** score! You can help clean your creek by limiting your use of **fertilizers and picking up your dog's poop**. These small actions can make a big difference.

Water Quality Score Guide

