

Stream Team

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • FALL 2006



Disappearing Forest Haunted Hike

Follow the trail from the Land of Denial to the Land of Change and unlock the mysteries behind the Tale of the Disappearing Forest.

October 14, 4-7:30pm (last hike departs 6:30)
(Alternate "rain date" Oct. 21)
Priest Point Park Rose Garden
East Bay Drive NE, Olympia

Learn about Stream Team and forest ecology during this entertaining, engaging, and educational event brought to you by the City of Olympia, Stream Team, and Capital Playhouse!

- **Take the Haunted Hike and solve the mystery:** The trees and shrubs are dying and the wild creatures are thirsty. What is happening to the forest and can it be saved? Watch the story unfold as you meet mysterious and familiar creatures along the trail. Can you make it through without giving up all your tokens?
- **Take part in educational activities, make and take crafts, and face painting!**
- **Listen to spellbinding tales** told by story-

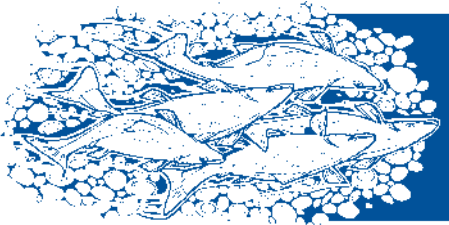


teller Rebecca Hom at 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm.

Costumes are encouraged but not required. Event content is geared to ages 6 and up. Youth under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers Needed: This popular event drew nearly 900 visitors last year! We need at least 50 volunteers to help with event staffing, setup, activities, mystery hike, props, decorations and more. For more information or to volunteer, please call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

Get "Chummy" with Salmon!



This fall at McLane Creek, you can learn about the chum salmon run as you witness the salmon spawning! From 10am-2pm over Thanksgiving weekend, and Saturdays and Sundays until December 17, Stream Team Salmon Stewards will be stationed at a viewing spot along the McLane Creek

Nature Trail to answer your questions about this fascinating process.

Each year thousands of chum salmon make the long journey home to McLane Creek to continue the cycle of life and death. The salmon transform from silver to a dull pale green with purplish streaks and pale blotches. Males develop sharp, canine-like teeth.

Chum don't travel far beyond the tidal zone to spawn. The female chum finds a suitable area in the stream with plenty of gravel and

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STREAM TEAM
OLYMPIA • LACEY • TUMWATER
THURSTON COUNTY



(Left) Heidi Kirk, Lucy DeCosta, & Elan Marmaduke sample macros in the Deschutes River. (Right) Lucy DeCosta, Caren Gibbs, Ineke Berhitue, & Anita Benson remove macros clinging to rocks.

What's All the Buzz About Macros?

Stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies – Stream Team volunteers found these bugs and many more while gathering samples of benthic macroinvertebrates (stream bugs) this summer. A record 59 volunteers signed up to help with stream bug monitoring. The monitoring program provides valuable information about stream health to the Thurston County Environmental Health Dept. and to the volunteers who participate.

First-time volunteers, Danielle Lin and her husband Adam, commented that since the training was presented in lay terms, the volunteers were able to understand the science behind the macro monitoring program. Another “newbie,” Heather Taylor, got involved because her 9-year-old son, Phoenix, wanted to monitor. Heather said they hike along streams all the time, and stream bug monitoring has provided them with new insight about stream health.

Danielle and Adam Lin brought along their 6-month-old son, who also happens to be named Phoenix. Danielle and Adam thought macro monitoring would be a great opportunity for the whole family to do something environmentally sound and scientifically minded.

Margaret Hancock, a second-year volunteer, monitored last year with her grandson. Since he was out of town this year, she monitored with

her daughter and family. Margaret especially liked the lab activity when they separated the bugs from the inorganic matter. “It was just as exciting as if we were ten years old!” Margaret exclaimed. Ben Pollard, another first-time volunteer, said it was fascinating. Ben used to design fish ladders for Alaska Fish & Game. He monitored two streams this year, Little McAllister and Ellis Creek, and noted how interesting it was to observe variations between streams.

The stream bug monitoring program attracts a variety of volunteers: students, retirees, environmental professionals, families, and individuals. One thing they all seem to have in common is a desire to get involved in helping to enhance and protect the environment. In addition, the volunteers also demonstrated an enthusiasm that helped the time fly by. Phoenix Taylor said he loved monitoring and it was exactly what he thought it was going to be like. He’s already asked his mom to monitor next year.

Stream Team is thankful for all the volunteers who help make our stream bug monitoring program a success. If you’re wondering what the buzz is all about, plan on getting involved next year and see for yourself! Watch for information in the Spring Newsletter.

Getting “Chummy” with Salmon *(from page 1)*

sufficient water flow to dig a series of nests with her tail, called a redd. Males vie with each other to fertilize the eggs in each nest.

The females stay near their nests as long as possible to protect them from other females searching for places to dig nests.

Chum are the second largest species of salmon, after Chinook. Their remarkable journey home not only helps sustain the chum population in South Puget Sound, but also other fish, wildlife and the forests. Their carcasses, like that of the other salmon species,

are an important food source for hundreds of animal species and nutrients from their carcasses help fertilize the forest soils. So, while you are observing the chum, look around at the beauty of the forest and thank the salmon for fulfilling their role in keeping the forests and the animals alive.

Directions to McLane Creek Nature Trail: Take Evergreen State College exit from northbound Highway 101. Then take the Mud Bay exit. At the stop sign, turn left onto Delphi Road. At 3.4 miles, turn right at the DNR McLane Creek Nature Trail sign.

October

October 1 • 10am-4pm

Tumwater Harvest Festival – FREE!

Tumwater Falls Park

Celebrate the return of the salmon and our pioneer history with Salmon Stewards talks, salmon-themed craft activities, river walks, "FIN" the 25' walk-in salmon, and delicious, reasonably priced barbequed salmon dinners. For info, call Debbie at 360-754-4148.

October 8 • 2-4 pm

South Sound Geologic History Talk

Thurston County Courthouse
Bldg 1, Room 152

October 14 • 4pm-7:30pm*

**"Tale of the Disappearing Forest"
Haunted Hike**

(October 21 rain date)

**Last hike leaves at 6:30pm*

Priest Point Park Rose Garden

Take the Haunted Hike and solve the Forest Mystery! Take part in educational activities, make & take crafts, face painting, and listen to the spellbinding tales of storyteller Rebecca Hom. For more info, see article on page one.

Haunted Hike Volunteers Needed!

We need at least 50 volunteers to help with this fun family event. For info, or to volunteer, call Patricia @ 360-570-5841.

November

November 4 • 10am-12pm

Deschutes River

Revegetation Project

Meet at Tumwater Golf Course Clubhouse. For info, call Debbie @ 360-754-4148

November 15 • 6pm-9pm

**Naturescaping Workshop
for Water & Wildlife**

Thurston County Courthouse
Bldg 1, Room 152

To register, contact Erica @ 360-754-3588 x110 or ericag@wsu.edu

November 18 • 9:30am-11:30 am

McLane Creek

Chum Salmon Steward Training

McLane Creek Nature Trail (off Delphi Rd.)

November 23-26 • 10am-2pm

**Salmon Viewing at McLane Creek
with Salmon Stewards**

Specific Days/Dates:

Thursday, Nov. 23; Friday, November 24
Saturday Nov. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 26.
Offered through Dec. 17. See December listing for specific days/dates.

December

December 2-17 • 10am-2pm

**Salmon Viewing at McLane Creek
with Salmon Stewards**

Specific Days/Dates:

Saturday, Dec. 2; Sunday, Dec. 3
Saturday Dec. 9; Sunday, Dec. 10
Saturday, Dec. 16; & Sunday Dec. 17



PLEASE NOTE: Citizens requiring special accommodations should call the Event Coordinator at least one week prior to the event.

NEW BANNER! Watch for this new street banner designed to educate the public about salmon protection.



We're All Salmon Stewards

Take Care. Take Action.

avoid pesticides • choose natural fertilizers • drive less • conserve water



Visit www.olympiawa.gov or call 360-753-8454 to learn more.

Team News

LACEY

Thanks to the many volunteers that helped make this summer a success. 18 volunteers from Timberline High School spent over 40 hours marking storm drains in south Lacey. Kathy Evans, Jessica Moore, and Hillary Lyons were instrumental in collecting macroinvertebrate samples at Woodland Creek. At Fox Creek, hours of hard work collecting macros were put in by Heather and Phoenix Taylor, Lalena Amiotte, and Jennifer Green.

OLYMPIA



▲ (L to R): Roosevelt Elementary Peace Scouts Madygrace Gonzalez-Nunez, Brynn Dunbeck, Aurora Strauss-Reeves, and Hannah Turlove volunteer to help stencil storm drains.

Our new seal-shaped stencil reads “Keep Clean and Clear; Drains to Budd Inlet,” and that is just what people will do when they see the 200+ marked drains in 15 Olympia neighborhoods! Volunteers have been busy applying the new stencil, designed by Olympia artist Nikki McClure, as part of our “Be Nice To Budd” Campaign.

Gita Moulton stenciled an astounding 51 drains in her West Olympia neighborhood. Donna Snow along with Ann Kohlbry, and her daughters Sara and Emily, stenciled Devon Loop Neighborhood with the new seal stencil. Chris Hempleman and Ann Butler stenciled drains near 8th & Rogers

and Southwest Neighborhood. Mary Firman tackled the Ken Lake area by stenciling 62 drains. Many more volunteers marked drains as part of their “Be Nice To Budd” pledge, taken at Arts Walk.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped spread this important message!

Olympia streams have taken new shapes and paths since last winter’s rushing waters. Volunteers doing macroinvertebrate monitoring braved steep paths, heavy bushwhacking, sticky mud, and stinging nettles.

We started the season at Mission Creek as Caren Gibbs and her daughter, Tatyanna, worked alongside sampler extraordinaire Roberta Woods, battling for samples amongst the mighty skunk cabbage. The experience will help Tatyanna earn a Girl Scout badge.

Newcomers Sue Duffy, Linda Carroll, Mikel Debuse-Losh, Mel Bilodeau, and Ben Pollard were joined by sampling master Nicki Johnson. Dodging stinging nettles and devil’s club, volunteers headed down the steep ravine to monitor the ever-changing Ellis Creek. An evening of interesting sample specimens and adventurous bushwhacking was had by all.

Moxlie Creek was an exciting trip with experienced samplers Michelle Williams, Anne Mills, and Roberta Woods helping newcomers, Bill and Lydia Marks, and Scott Mazzone fight their way through overgrown vegetation in Watershed Park.

Bright and early on a Saturday morning, volunteers Kate Trafton, Dennis Downing, and Josh Oliver traveled the manicured trail of the Indian Creek Stormwater Facility to reach an exposed area of Indian Creek. After making their way through the dense salmonberry and Indian plum they were able to find some nice-sized riffles among the gravel and silt.

Schneider Creek was the last stream monitored. Scott Mazzone, on his second Olympia stream this year, helped fellow volunteers Adam Lin and Danielle Moore wrap up another great season.

Thank you, bug sampling volunteers! Your hard work, inquisitive minds, and adventurous spirits will pay off in the macro monitoring results. Watch for them in next year’s Stream Team Newsletter.

The Chinook salmon returned to the 5th Avenue Bridge early this year. First sightings were reported on August 15th. A constant stream of visitors gather to watch hundreds of Chinook below the dam. Salmon Stewards Lisa & Chris Cooley, Diane Skov, Kathy Evans, Shannon Claeson, Rich Kalman, and Linda Hurtado began volunteering early at the bridge to answer questions about the salmon. Their enthusiastic, “spur of the moment” salmon stewarding is appreciated by Stream Team and the 5th Avenue Bridge visitors!

TUMWATER



▲ Gary Lucas removes tansy ragwort from the banks of the Deschutes River.

During July, seven hardy Stream Team volunteers, Bret Benraven, Sherri Beatley, Gary Lucas, Vickie Tuvey, Eric & Gary Wilburn, and Diana Willie, pulled the noxious weed tansy ragwort from the banks of the Deschutes River at Pioneer Park. Thanks to these and other Stream Team volunteers, tansy removal

Team News *(Continued from page 4)*

efforts are paying off. Less tansy was found along the Deschutes this year, and only one plant was found at Percival Creek.

Macro monitoring took place on two Tumwater streams in August. Margaret Hancock, George Harmon, Tricia Keich, Anne Kelly-Glasoe, Judy Oliver, and Mackensie Veeder monitored Percival Creek at South Puget Sound Community College. The Deschutes River at Pioneer Park was monitored by Anita Benson, Ineke Berhitue, Caren and Tatyana Gibbs, Heidi Kirk, and Sam and Jeff Jenson. Both groups carefully followed monitoring protocol to ensure quality data. Thank you, monitors!

Students from Tumwater Parks & Recreation's Old Town Youth Program have been working to apply new colorful storm drain markers which read "Dump No Waste; Drains to Waterways" next to Tumwater storm drains. Many thanks to these hard-working students and their leader, Charlie Groth. Since there are about 6,000 storm drains in Tumwater, they could use some additional assistance. Please call Debbie at 360-754-4148 if you can help out.

THURSTON COUNTY

Many enthusiastic Stream Team volunteers helped monitor for macroinvertebrates at three Thurston County sites this summer. Don Eveleth, Jack Havens, Heather Brown, Dennis Matsuda, Mike Leigh, and Ernie Paul hiked down to and across Green Cove Creek to sample on a sunny summer day. Crossing the creek gave them a chance to really get their feet wet! Gary Lucas, Ben Pollard, Kathryn Wright, Jessica Moore, and Roberta Woods helped collect samples from Little McAllister on an especially hot day. Thanks for keeping the enthusiasm up despite the heat!

Danielle & Adam Lin and their 6-month old son, Phoenix, along with Sherry Waller, Mikel Debus-Losh, Cara Appel, Jimmy Riley, Liz Werner, and Emily Conrad all hiked into

McLane Creek on a beautiful day to collect samples at an equally beautiful spot along the shady riffles. A great big thank you to all who helped monitor this summer! The time you spent gathering and sorting is really appreciated.

Volunteers stenciled over 214 storm drains this summer in Thurston County. Thanks to all the summer stencilers: Nammy and Elizabeth Tran (Capital City Golf Course); Mingta, David, and Angela Lin (Cedrona); Dan and Carol Schlender (Rich Road); Nancy Smith and Girl Scout Troop 768 (Newcastle); Margaret and Michael Scheppke and Girl Scout Troop 314 (Cougar Ridge); Miri Murayama, Tony and Ryan Oda (Deschutes Ridge SE); John Romero (Timberlake); Jessica Tallon and Danny Veenhonwer (Kinwood Estates and Kinwood Place); Connie Sterner and family (Wilderness SE); and Elizabeth Stanton (Madera). There is still time in early fall to stencil your neighborhood. If you are interested in stenciling, call Cynthia Park at 360-357-4230.



Staff News

Farewell from Susie Vanderburg

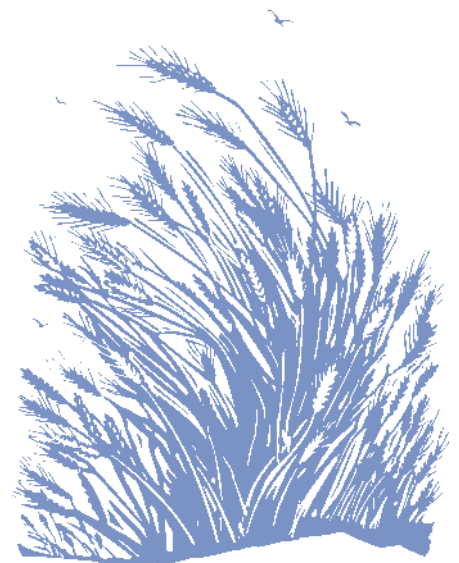
Being the Thurston County Stream Team coordinator for the last thirteen years has been the high point of my career. I feel honored to have worked with all of you. Your dedication and wonderful work have made such a difference to our South Sound streams. In unincorporated Thurston County alone, Stream Team volunteers planted over 10,000 trees in the past thirteen years! I'll miss you all, but I am ready to sail a new course with the WA State Conservation Commission.

Goodbye and thank you!



Stream Team Volunteers: Remember to track your volunteer hours with a Kudo Kard!

As your hours add up, you become eligible for great Stream Team items like t-shirts, hats and mugs! Pick up a Kudo Kard the next time you volunteer for a project.



From River to Forest and Back Again

Throughout Puget Sound a variety of groups have been working for years to repair streams and rivers by replanting riparian zones, installing woody debris and new gravel, and replacing failing culverts with bridges or other newly-designed fish passageways. We often refer to our efforts as “restoration work,” but what we are really doing is “enhancement.” True restoration would involve removing the entire built environment from our watersheds, a course of action which, obviously, is not feasible in today’s world. This doesn’t mean that enhancement work is not worth the effort. On the contrary, enhancement projects do make a significant contribution to providing habitat for aquatic species. However, if we want to protect river systems that have not yet been impacted by urban development, then we need to understand how a healthy northwest river functions. To gain this understanding, scientists are studying pristine systems such as the Queets River in the Olympic National Park. What they’re learning from this “living laboratory” is that a river system is all about transformation and large woody debris.

Studying the Queets River has taught scientists that there is only a superficial boundary between land and water. When a river, over the centuries,

moves across its floodplain, forests are steadily claimed by the river as banks are undercut. Conversely, the riverbed is constantly transforming into forest as log jams stabilize areas where trees can then take hold. The river and the forest aren’t really separate entities – they are part of a dynamic system – an ever-changing mosaic.

Studies have shown that the Queets River migrates across its floodplain every 800 to 900 years. Understanding this fact enables us to view the floodplain as a huge bank of wood in varying stages of growth. First, the river erodes the banks along bends where the river’s energy is high, thus recruiting new wood into the system. As large woody debris accumulates in slower areas of the river, log jams build on the banks and collect sediment, allowing willows to colonize the newly built-up “land.” Over time, alders move in, shading out the willows; then other forest species follow, like spruce, cedar, and hemlock, seeded by old growth trees that line the terraces above the floodplain. A thousand years later, the river will return to reclaim these trees, and the cycle continues.

For more information on the Queets River study, visit www.fish.washington.edu/people/naiman/Queets/index.html

Black Lake Ditch to Get Much-Needed Wood

Instream wood is crucial to the health of small streams because it creates pool habitat for fish refuge, and helps in the natural movement and storage of sediment in the stream. Historic logging operations in the Olympia area, as elsewhere in the Puget Sound, removed much of this beneficial wood in many area streams. Today, we find far less wood than we would expect to find in undisturbed watersheds. This lack of wood is compounded by an increase in winter flows as a result of stormwater runoff.

Streams in Olympia are relatively small, but they play a significant role in maintaining populations of fish that use them. Coho and chum salmon, and sea-run cutthroat, and steelhead are found in Olympia streams.

In the summer of 2004, Olympia staff and several volunteers including Dennis Matsuda, Terence Lee, and Diane McAbee conducted a series of habitat and instream wood surveys on five Olympia streams. Of these streams, the poorest quality habitat was found in upper Black Lake Ditch, having only three to seven pieces of wood per 100 meter sections. (The lower section of the Black Lake Ditch, close to the convergence with Percival Creek had up to 50 pieces per 100 meters, a respectable amount!). Ideally, a stream that is healthy for juvenile fish has a 50:50 pool to riffle ratio, but upper Black Lake Ditch only had 7% of the habitat as pools; hardly enough to protect young fish during any season.



▲ *Newly installed wood structure at Black Lake Ditch.*

Black Lake Ditch, as its name implies, is a human-made ditch. In 1922, the Black Lake ditch was excavated to drain the lake’s extensive wetlands to Percival Creek, Olympia’s largest creek system. Ironically, the ditch created a mix of high quality spawning and rearing habitat as well as access to Black Lake and its numerous tributaries, except that the ditch does not have adequate riparian cover or woody debris in the ditch.

History Talks: Making the Connection

By Patricia Pyle

"So what does touring around Thurston County have to do with keeping our streams clean?" my husband asked after participating on the recent History & Geology Tour of Thurston County.

Since February, City of Olympia Stream Team has organized "first Sunday" local history talks and walks. The impetus for the series was purely selfish: I wanted to learn more about our local history and thought that if I wanted this knowledge, most likely, other people would also be interested. Local history, geology, and native plant uses have been discussed by historians Roger Easton, Shanna Stevenson, Lyn Erickson, and Drew Crooks; geologist Weldon Rau; and plant and park history enthusiasts, Paul Moody and Bob Jacobs.

The popularity of the History Talks has been over-whelming. Seventy five people showed up for the first talk in February on Super Bowl Sunday. Fifty five people attended the bus tour with another 55 signing onto a waiting list for a future bus tour. Over 30 people attended the Watershed and Priest Point Park hikes. The talks have reached a "new" audience not previously involved with Stream Team.

Back to my husband's question: "What's this got to do with clean streams?" For me, the answer is easy (and the justification for my involvement in organizing this series): Learning about our local geologic and cultural history brings about an enthusiasm for the landscape and the history it holds. A

sense of pride in knowing a few more facts about our history lingers and can blossom into more seeking and learning. It may spark an "ah-ha" moment later on and bring the person to a new realization about the environment.

Keeping streams clean is going to take active participation by people. Feeling a sense of connection to the environment and pride about the place where we live is vital for sustaining long-term commitments to improve the environment. This is what we are trying to achieve in the Stream Team program through the variety of workshops, action projects, monitoring programs, community outreach, education activities, and now the "First Sunday" History talks and walks. So, if you're interested in learning more about our local geology and cultural history, plan on attending the South Sound Geologic History Tour on October 8.



**South Sound
Geologic History Talk
October 8 • 2-4pm**

*Thurston County Courthouse
Bldg. 1, Room 152*

Deep below our feet, in the soil and rocks left behind by the glaciers, are ancient marine deposits laid down millions of years ago. Learn about these ancient formations, including the 40-45 million-year-old Skookumchuck Formation where 13 coal seams have been mined at the border of Thurston and Lewis Counties. Guest speaker Dr. Weldon Rau helped map these formations while working for the USGS. He is retired from both the USGS and Washington State Geology & Earth Resources Division of DNR.



Roger Easton speaking at former site of Fort Henness in Grand Mound.

Black Lake Wood (continued from page 6)

In 1995, Olympia purchased and enhanced 42 acres of agriculturally-impacted wetlands, straddling a key portion of the ditch, and created a regional stormwater facility. In 2001, Olympia installed a 20-foot culvert to improve salmon access to the ditch and Black Lake. Stream Team and other volunteers have planted 1,000s of trees and shrubs on both sides of the ditch that will eventually shade out and replace the tenacious reed canary grass with a healthy streamside forest.

In June 2005, Olympia and Washington Trout received a Thurston Community Salmon Fund grant to install wood in the upper reach of Black Lake Ditch within the Black Lake Meadows stormwater facility. Wood salvaged from a nearby state road widening project will be installed in the ditch as four small log structures adjacent to the bank. The Washington Conservation Corps will complete the installation this summer. Washington Trout will provide the on-site direction as well as fish use monitoring before and after construction. Look for project updates in future newsletters!



**Not Just for the Birds:
Naturescaping for Water & Wildlife**
November 15 • 6pm-9pm
Thurston County Courthouse, Bldg 1, Rm 152

Do you like watching birds and butterflies? Are you thinking about converting lawnspace into a garden? Join us for our Fall Naturescaping workshop! Find out how to turn your yard into a beautiful landscape that attracts birds and butterflies while reducing the need for watering. The workshop will also cover ways to minimize lawns, how to deal with drainage problems, how to manage stormwater on-site to protect water resources and landscaping ideas for slippery slopes and other tricky spots. Whether you are a novice gardener or a seasoned gardener, "Naturescaping for Water and Wildlife" will provide you with wonderful ideas on how to enhance your landscape in an environmentally friendly way. *To register for this workshop, or for more information, contact Erica Guttman at 360-754-3588 x110 or ericag@wsu.edu.*

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STREAM TEAM MISSION: To protect and enhance the water resources, associated habitats, and wildlife of North Thurston County through citizen education and action.
Stream Team is funded by Storm and Surface Water Utility revenues.

STREAM TEAM INQUIRIES:

In Lacey: City of Lacey Water Resources Program
P.O. Box 3400, Lacey, WA 98509-3400
Attn: Tim Wilson – Tel: 360-438-2687 / TDD: 1-800-833-6388

In Olympia: City of Olympia Water Resources Program
P.O. Box 1967, Olympia, WA 98507
Attn: Patricia Pyle – Tel: 360-570-5841 / TTY: 360-753-8270

In Tumwater: City of Tumwater Public Works
555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98501
Attn: Debbie Smith – Tel: 360-754-4148 / TDD: 1-800-833-6388

In Thurston County: Thurston County Water & Waste Management
921 Lakeridge Dr. SW, Olympia, WA 98502
Tel: 360-754-3355 x6377 / TDD: 360-754-2933

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