



*Key Peninsula - Gig Harbor - Islands Watershed
Action Agenda
2020 - 2025*



Action Agenda

Mission

To preserve, protect and restore the KGI Watershed through activities that foster collaboration and involvement.

Vision

To achieve and maintain a healthy and thriving natural environment for all inhabitants.

Purpose

The action agenda ensures that the Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council (KGIWC) sets forth a clear plan to achieving our watershed goals. It converts our priorities into actions and responds to emerging issues in our watershed.

Indicators

- Habitat and water quality support a healthy and biodiverse population of native plants, animals, and aquatic organisms
- Surface water quality benefits the health of fish, shellfish, macroinvertebrates, wildlife, and human populations
- Ample and safe groundwater supports area residents--humans, animals, and plants
- Land development practices protect water resources and environmentally sensitive areas
- Stormwater runoff management protects stream systems with lower peak flows and preserves historic year-round flow levels
- Harvesting rates of natural resources are sustainable and equitable
- Shellfish growing areas are numerous, support biodiverse shorelines, and provide food safe for consumption
- Solid waste is safely stored, and illegal dumping significantly reduced
- Residents report that the local water and environment enhance their health and quality of life.

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Challenges

The Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council (KGI) identified the following items as issues that must be addressed in order to achieve their goals for the watershed.

Continuous Change

Solutions should adapt to current conditions and anticipate the future, not assume that what worked in the past will continue. This means we need to keep learning.

Knowledge

There will always be gaps in our knowledge. However, we must commit to taking actions based on the information we have, even if it is not perfect. We must also continue to support ongoing data collection and research.

Competition

There are tremendous demands for people's time, attention and resources. We have to find ways to make environmental health a higher priority.

Communication

The options for communication have expanded tremendously in recent decades. It also means there are few sure ways of reaching all community members. We must find the most efficient and effective ways of sharing information.

Discord

Our culture is experiencing a time of divisiveness. Our conversations and communication have to convey that the long term goals for the health of our community are shared by all. We need to build coalitions with unexpected allies.





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Strategies, Priority Actions & Outcomes

The Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Council (KGI) developed *Strategies* with the intention of addressing the challenges. The *Strategies* identify actions that members of the Council will pursue, either as a Watershed Council or as liaisons between the Council and other organizations.

The *Priority Actions* are intended to describe tasks the Council hopes to accomplish which will implement the *Strategies*. The *Outcomes* describe indicators that will be used to determine whether or not the *Strategies* are being successfully implemented.

1. Increase communication among watershed residents

The Council will work to establish effective and efficient communication with all watershed residents. This will include developing clear messages and using reliable, science-based data sources. This communication will be reciprocal, providing opportunities for residents' voices to be heard.

Priority Actions

- Increase the number of contacts the Council makes each month
- Increase social media presence & engagement
- Assist our partners in amplifying their outreach efforts
- Provide education to KGI residents on protecting the watershed ecosystem
- Provide opportunities for residents to discuss solutions
- Develop a Communications Plan
- Advertise the availability and successes of the Lu Winsor Grant program

Outcomes

- Consistent attendance of 25 people or more at regular KGI meetings, representing a broader range of organizations and demographics
- Double social media presence
- Make KGI a household name
- Engage with 5,000 residents at education and outreach events and activities
- Increase Lu Winsor applications by 25%



2. Increase engagement among KGI watershed residents

Engagement moves beyond communication to action. The Council will focus on creating opportunities to change behaviors and institutions. We will share the information we have about the Watershed to support good decisions on its behalf.

The Council will also commit to responding to current issues and their impacts on watershed health. At this time, those issues include canopy cover, plastics, homeless encampments, climate change, and human-wildlife conflicts.

Priority Actions

- Assist in the development of tree retention programs and policies
- Amplify water conservation messages and support projects
- Assist Pierce Conservation District's Marine Shoreline Stewardship Program
- Provide a watershed-wide perspective to planning processes rather than parcel by parcel
- Advocate for policies and programs that respond to climate change, sea level rise, and the rights of nature.
- Engage elected officials in watershed projects
- Respond to current events and address community hot topics
- Advocate for stormwater retrofits
- Involve more Kitsap watershed residents



Outcomes

- Stronger tree retention policy by City of GH & Community Plans
- Watershed-based information is integrated into planning processes
- Forums on timely issues will keep the community engaged
- Local awareness of alternatives to traditional shoreline bulkheads
- Regular interchange of ideas with elected and agency officials



3. Track watershed conditions

Tracking watershed conditions is one of the Council's most important roles. Sharing this information is key to making informed decisions. Water quality sampling results will always be one of the primary parameters the Council will track and share, but the Council will also work to provide information on other conditions such as human health, quality of life, water quantity, habitat, and the food web.

Priority Actions

- Collect and publish data used to monitor health of watershed
- Focus on information that illustrates cumulative impacts and trends
- Assist partners in sharing collected data with the community
- Encourage ongoing research of watershed conditions, particularly related to air quality impacts on water quality and aquatic species and around pH
- Host State of the Watershed Forums as an opportunity to share information
- Add Gig Harbor/Colvos Passage to Coastal Catchments Analysis Project

Outcomes

- Watershed data is amplified and published
- Attendance at State of the Watershed forum increases by 25%
- Studies initiated that look at pH and air quality
- Dashboard-type tool installed on website to clearly communicate watershed health
- Improved, watershed-wide map resources





4. Engage watershed residents in hands-on activities

Providing hands-on, interactive opportunities for residents to effect visible change is another component of the Council's role in responding when we identify a need for change. The benefits of hosting hands-on projects are numerous, They engage a wider variety of residents, result in a visible change, and establish a connection between residents and the watershed. By providing small grants to local organizations, the Council is able to support valuable work but also demonstrate that watershed is-

Priority Actions

- Support projects that provide hands-on involvement
- Engage KGI members in restoration projects
- Connect local community groups with restoration opportunities
- Assist local partners in developing restoration projects
- Host field trips that connect residents with watershed locations
- Recognize community members working on behalf of the watershed
- Participate in regional/national/international events (eg. Parks Appreciation Day)
- Engage the community in conversations around safeguarding the environment



Outcomes

- \$25,000+ awarded to KGI watershed projects through the Lu Winsor Small Grants program
- 3 restoration events per year
- Advice and resources provided to 3 community groups for local restoration projects
- Annual field trips showcase watershed resources and stewardship efforts

Key Peninsula-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Boundary





KGI Watershed Council

Promoting wise stewardship of our watershed together

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