

2025 Reporting Metrics

Program Area	2024 Value	2025 Value
Land Preservation		
Number of new acres acquired or otherwise protected	52 acres	1,056 acres
Number of development units removed from the watershed	17 units removed	35 units removed
Total cumulative acres in protected status	<i>New metric</i>	3,872 acres
Number of property owners contacted	<i>New metric</i>	736 contacts
Number of acres managed per year and type of management activities	<i>New metric</i>	Acres of native plants installed: 14.5 Acres of invasive plants managed: 61 Acres of forest management activities: 3.4

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Stormwater Management		
Additional pounds of phosphorus reduced per year through phosphorus treatment and flow control capital projects	21.4 pounds/year	10.03 pounds/year
Percentage of upland development draining to public outfalls managed by capital stormwater facilities	<i>New metric</i>	City manages 99% of 458 acres of upland development draining to its outfalls, which includes 370 developed acres inside City Limits and 88 developed acres from outside City Limits. County manages 24% of 1,702 acres of upland development draining to its outfalls.
Number of outfalls that have best available capital stormwater treatment within the City limits and the urbanized areas of the County	<i>New metric</i>	36 of 45 outfalls
Pounds of phosphorus reduced per year through voluntary residential improvements	-0.95 pounds/year (City)	0.51 pounds/year
Number of properties with completed residential stormwater projects per year	27 new properties	27 new properties
Number of square feet of private property improved through voluntary residential projects per year	<i>New metric</i>	104,348 square feet
Number of private stormwater facility inspections completed per year	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Will be measured in 2029</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about water quality impacts and engage in behaviors to reduce these impacts, as measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	--	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>

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Land Use		
Acres of phosphorus-neutral properties developed or re-developed in accordance with land use regulations within City limits.	<i>New metric</i>	1.15 acres
Acres of developed surface treated by phosphorus-limiting Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed to meet requirements of land use regulations within City limits.	0.04 acres	0.83 acres
Acres of newly established Native Vegetation Protection Areas (NVPAs) through new development and redevelopment in City limits.	0 acres	0.32 acres
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about seasonal construction, special building, and clearing regulations measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey.	2024 survey results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of homeowners who are aware of regulations applying to seasonal timing of construction: 52% • Proportion of homeowners who intentionally do construction only during the seasonal work window: 52% • Proportion of homeowners who are aware of special regulations that apply to construction and landscaping activities in the watershed: 35% 	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>

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Monitoring and Data		
Number of lake water quality samples collected per year	1,194 samples	1,194 samples
Number of tributary water quality samples collected per year	131 samples	129 samples
Number of stormwater samples collected per year	<i>New metric</i>	City: 42 samples, 208 data points County: 127 samples, 11 data points
Hazardous Materials		
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about proper hazardous materials disposal measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	2024 survey results: 61%	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Number and type of spills, illicit discharges, or hazardous material incidents reported in the watershed, and incident specific responses	14 incidents	10 incidents
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about how to report spills, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	2024 survey results: 48%	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Number of staff trained in spill prevention and response per year	6 (City only)	50 City and County Staff

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Recreation		
Number of pet waste stations maintained in the watershed per year	31 stations	34 stations
Number of acres of City and County-owned recreational areas managed using IPM strategies	<i>New metric</i>	65 acres (City-owned areas)
Number of acres of impervious surface on City and County-owned recreational areas that follow stormwater BMPs	<i>New metric</i>	4.5 acres (City-owned areas)
Miles of trails maintained with an emphasis on minimizing water quality impacts	22 miles	26.5 miles
Miles of unauthorized, user-built trails decommissioned per year	0.5 miles	0.75 miles (City only)
Number of trailhead amenities added that minimize water quality impacts	<i>New metric</i>	0
Number of directional signs installed	<i>New metric</i>	0
Educational materials provided about water quality concerns, AIS, boating rules, electric-powered boats, and public restrooms	<i>New metric</i>	0
Estimated number of individuals using parks and trails in the watershed per year	206,382 visitors	753,237 visitors
Number and type of informational materials sent to watershed residents per year (see Program Area 9: Education & Engagement)	<i>New metric</i>	<i>See Education & Engagement section</i>
Number of interpretive or informational materials installed, maintained, or distributed per year	<i>New metric</i>	5 interpretive signs maintained

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Aquatic Invasive Species		
Number of watercraft inspections conducted	12,304 inspections	15,572 inspections
Number of watercraft decontaminations conducted	4 decontaminations	5 decontaminations
Number of people who completed the online AIS Awareness Course	3,032 people	3,571 people
Number of non-boating visitors interacted with at check stations	738 people	1,161 people
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about AIS and compliance with inspection requirements, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	2024 survey results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of respondents who are aware of AIS concerns in the lake: 55% • Proportion of recent boat users who are aware of AIS concerns in the lake: 75% • Proportion of recent boat users who participated in the boat inspection program: 71% 	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Number of sheriff patrols on Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish to enforce AIS compliance	<i>New metric</i>	31 patrols
Number of zebra and quagga mussels identified per year	<i>New metric</i>	0 identifications
Number of new AIS introductions per year	0	0 new introductions
Number and type of surveys, monitoring events, and sampling completed each year	<i>New metric</i>	15 plankton tows, 20 eDNA samples

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Utilities and Transportation		
Estimated gallons of water conserved in the City of Bellingham and Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District service areas per year	455,397 gallons	377,250 gallons
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable of water conservation concerns related to water supply from Lake Whatcom, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey.	2024 survey results: 36%	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Number of households that receive drinking water from Bellingham's Water Treatment Plant, the District's water systems, or directly from Lake Whatcom that participate in residential rebate programs each year	<i>New metric</i>	21 households
Average monthly compliance rate (%) of OSS in the Lake Whatcom watershed per year	67%	69%
Proportion of OSS by evaluation results (satisfactory; maintenance needed; failure) in the Lake Whatcom watershed per year	Satis: 299 (80%) Maint: 72 (19%) Failure: 1 (1%)	Satis: 326 (79%) Maint: 82 (20%) Fail: 3 (1%)
Summary of OSS failures in the Lake Whatcom watershed per year	1 failure was corrected	All 3 failures have new installed OSS
Number of sewer failures (overflows) in the Lake Whatcom watershed per year	1 failure	3 failures
Number of sewer overflows that reach Lake Whatcom per year	1 overflow	1 overflow
Pounds of phosphorus removed through operations and maintenance activities	40 pounds	40 pounds
Number of catch basins cleaned and repaired	4 cleaned; 2 repaired	345 cleaned; 17 repaired
Proportion of watershed residents who have used alternative methods of transportation in the past year, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	2024 survey results: 32%	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>

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Education and Engagement		
Number and type of information materials sent to watershed residents per year	12,239 items	7,629 items
Number of unique visitors to Lake Whatcom Management Program website per year	8,898 active users	9,500 active users
Number of participants in the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey every five years	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Level of watershed residents' knowledge of and participation in key stewardship practices, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who pick up pet waste on walks and at home	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who use watershed-friendly vehicle care practices	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who choose not to use chemical weed killers on their yard	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who use 0% phosphorus fertilizer	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Proportion of watershed residents who maintain their septic systems	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Same as above</i>
Number of students who participate in youth education programs each year, including the Bellingham Water School Program offered by the City to fifth grade students in the Bellingham School District	920 students	995 students

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Program Area	2024 Value	2025 Value
Administration		
Number and type of meetings held per year	<i>New metric</i>	33 meetings total across policy, technical, outreach, and coordination types
Climate Action		
Complete Lake Whatcom Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)	<i>New metric</i>	RFP complete; In progress
Number and type of educational materials created from CVA activities and results	<i>New metric</i>	In progress
Forest Management		
Acres of timber harvested and replanted on forestlands per year	130.1 acres (City-owned lands)	246 acres harvested (City-owned lands)
Acres of land treated with herbicides on forestlands per year	64 acres	0.005 acres
Feet of forest roads maintained	<i>New metric</i>	42,540 feet
Feet of forest roads abandoned	0	0
Proportion of watershed residents who are knowledgeable about wildfire risk reduction work, measured every five years through the Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey	<i>New metric</i>	<i>Will be measured by Lake Whatcom Watershed Survey in 2029</i>
Number of watershed residents who have participated in a wildfire risk assessment	<i>New metric</i>	42 homeowners