

Public Works Environmental Services

Updates from the Solid Waste & Recycling and Surface Water Divisions

Help Scientists Measure Lake Levels at Steel Lake



The next time you're on the dock at Steel Lake you may notice some new signage there. Scientists recently installed a sign along with a lake level measuring stick, or gauge, as part of the Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists and Satellites Project (LOCSS.) The University of Washington, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and NASA are using satellites and data recorded by citizen scientists to better understand how lake levels change over time.

Participating in the project is easy!

All you have to do is find the sign, read the lake level gauge, and text the water level to the number on the sign. Do it once, or come back every day. You can then [go online](#) and check out all the data that citizen scientists have collected for Steel Lake, or any of the other lakes being monitored in Washington and North Carolina.

Learn more [here](#) about what scientists are learning from studying lake levels.

Dumping Yard Waste is Dangerous (and Illegal)

Lawn clippings and other types of yard waste are inevitable by-products of maintaining your property. All of that yard waste has to go somewhere, and unfortunately, it sometimes gets dumped where it shouldn't: on hillsides or other natural areas. This is both dangerous and illegal. Here are three reasons not to dump your yard waste:

1. When yard waste gets dumped on hillsides, it can make the slope less stable and increase the risk of a landslide.
2. If the yard debris was treated with pesticides and then dumped near a waterway, those chemicals can seep into the water, creating a dangerous and unhealthy environment for both people and wildlife.
3. Sometimes our yard waste contains invasive plant species without us knowing. When that material gets dumped in a public area or a storm pond, those invasives can get introduced to new areas and then have the opportunity to spread even further.



So what **should** you do with yard waste? Check out these [four options](#) for getting rid of excess yard waste that doesn't fit in your curbside cart.

Wanted: Stream Team Volunteers



Do you love being outside?

Do you want to learn a new skill?

Are you curious about what your City is doing to protect water quality?

Do you want to have a positive impact on your community and meet like-minded people?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Stream Team is for you! We are recruiting volunteers who will help with water quality monitoring and data collection at specific sites in Federal Way.

No prior experience is necessary. All you need is an interest in your community and the desire to learn something new, and we will train you on the rest.

If you are interested in signing up or just curious to learn more, email SWM@cityoffederalway.com.

Cleanup LIFT discount - eligible customers receive \$12 off the cost to dispose of garbage and recyclables, each visit.

Starting Jan. 1, 2019, King County's new Cleanup LIFT program makes it more affordable for low-income customers to dispose of materials at King County's recycling and garbage transfer facilities.

Here's how it works

1. Who can get the discount?

Customers must meet these criteria:

- ✓ Currently enrolled in ProviderOne, EBT, or ORCA LIFT (To enroll in these programs, call the Community Health Access Program at 1-800-756-5437 (Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or visit kingcounty.gov/health/access)



- ✓ Live in King County - outside the City of Seattle and the City of Milton (They are part of different solid waste systems.)

2. How much money can you save?

- ✓ You can save \$12 off the cost to dispose of garbage, and to recycle yard waste, clean wood, and refrigerant-type appliances at King County recycling and garbage transfer facilities. The discount is good for each type of material, every visit.



Restrictions: Not offered at the City of Seattle's North and South transfer stations. Does not apply to the charitable organizations fee, special waste fees, or the unsecured load fee.
Not available to businesses.

3. How do you get the discount?

- ✓ Just show your ProviderOne, EBT, or ORCA LIFT card when you enter a King County recycling and garbage transfer facility.



clean
up LIFT

Welcome Gabe, SWM Summer Water Quality Intern

The SWM Division is excited to welcome Gabe Chavez to

the Water Quality team for the summer. Gabe will be spending a lot of time out in the field, assisting with water quality monitoring, program planning, and data management.

Gabe comes to us with a background in forest ecology, habitat restoration, and outdoor programming. He has done everything from conducting ecological monitoring of mountain lakes in Olympic National Park, to removing invasive plants from tidal mudflats, to conducting trail work for the City of Mercer Island. In his free time, you can find him out rock climbing, on backcountry trails, playing music, or settling in with a good book.



Can You Spot The Invasive New Zealand Mudsail?



Don't be fooled by the tiny size of the New Zealand Mudsail. These small animals are an invasive species from New Zealand that have no natural predators in North America, multiply very quickly, and can cause economic and environmental problems in our waterways. Once they have been found in a body of water, they are nearly impossible to get rid of.

New Zealand Mudsails have no nutritional value, yet they crowd out native stream insects that provide a healthy food source for fish and other freshwater species. Scientists are concerned that they could even change the

water chemistry of streams, disrupting the natural ecosystem.

Find out [how to spot New Zealand Mudsails](#) and how you can help prevent them from spreading.

[Recycling Website](#)

[Surface Water Website](#)

[City Event Calendar](#)

[Report a Problem](#)