

# Lacamas Creek Partnership for clean water

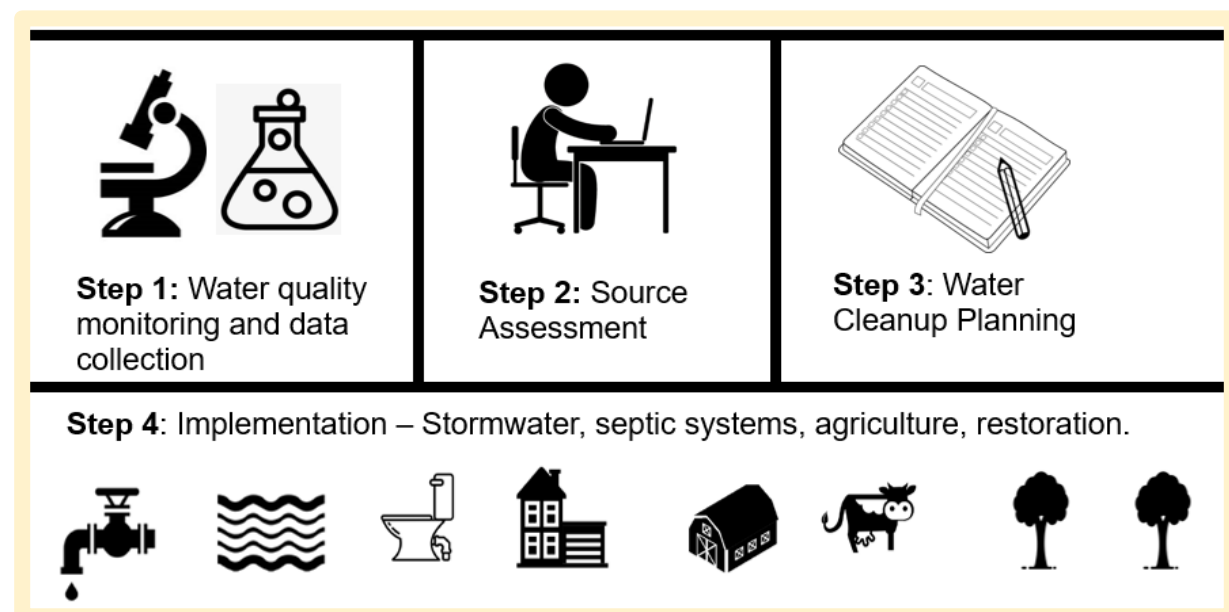
## What is the Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water?



The Lacamas Creek watershed is on Washington State's polluted waters list for warm water temperatures, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and pH impairments, which drives the need to develop a *Water Cleanup Plan*. To develop this plan, the Lacamas Creek Partnership will work collaboratively with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, non-profits, watershed groups, and private landowners to develop and implement a Water Cleanup Plan, focused on implementation. The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will lead the Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water. Supporting partners are Clark County, City of Camas, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Clark Conservation District, and the United State Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS).

## What are the four main steps for Water Cleanup?

One of the main questions Ecology tries to answer through a Water Cleanup Plan is, "How much pollution needs to be reduced to achieve clean water?" To answer this question there are four main steps to the water cleanup process. First, Ecology completes water quality monitoring and data collection. Second, Ecology completes a Source Assessment study to identify critical areas for water quality improvement. Third, results from the study are used to develop a Water Cleanup Plan, focused on implementation. Finally, in step four, the Lacamas Creek Partnership works to implement water quality best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater, septic systems, agriculture, and restoration.



# Lacamas Creek Partnership

for clean water

## Timeline for Lacamas Creek Partnership

- June 2021** – Begin water quality monitoring and data collection.
- October 2021** – Complete water quality monitoring.
- August 2022** – Complete technical analysis of water quality data.
- April 2023** – Complete Draft Source Assessment Report identifying critical areas for water quality improvement.
- May 2023** – Water Cleanup Plan begins focused on implementation.

## Report an environmental issue

Environmental agencies rely on residents and visitors of watersheds to be the, “eyes and ears” for the environment. If the public observes pollution issues, they are encouraged to submit a report online at [ecology.wa.gov/ReportAnIssue](https://ecology.wa.gov/ReportAnIssue), or by emailing calling [swroerts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:swroerts@ecy.wa.gov) or calling 360-407-6300.

### Southwest Regional Office

**Counties:** Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum

**Online:** [Statewide reporting form](#)

**Email:** [swroerts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:swroerts@ecy.wa.gov)

**Phone:** 360-407-6300



# Lacamas Creek Partnership

for clean water

## What are the land uses and jurisdictions?

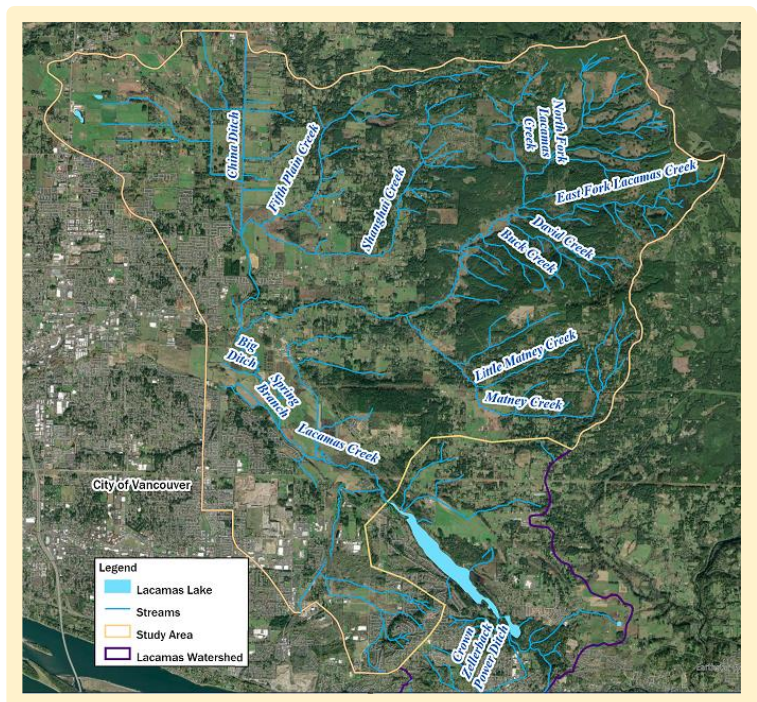
The primary jurisdictions in the Lacamas watershed are Unincorporated Clark County, the City of Camas, and City of Vancouver. Around 88% of the watershed is under Clark County's Phase I Stormwater Permit, 7% is under Camas's Phase II Stormwater Permit, and 4% of the watershed is under Vancouver's Phase II Stormwater Permit. The watershed has construction stormwater and industrial stormwater general permits, and sand and gravel operations. There are currently two dairy operations in the watershed. The Washington Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Dairy Nutrient Management Act regulates these dairies.

Only 22% of the watershed is publicly owned. Federal or city governments in the watershed, own only 1% of the land. Around 13% of the watershed is owned by Clark County, primarily within the 6-square mile Camp Bonneville area. Efforts to engage private landowners in voluntary implementation of water quality BMPs will be necessary for long-term success.

## What is the boundary of Ecology's Study?

Ecology's Source Assessment study will focus on the Lacamas Creek watershed, which is outlined in yellow on the map. The watershed makes up an area of 67 square miles and has a variety of land uses and land cover including forestlands, farm properties, and residential, commercial, and industrial development. The creek flows 18 miles from forested headwaters through rural, agricultural, and residential lands into Lacamas Lake. Currently, the watershed's dominant land cover is 35% forestlands, followed by 25% hay or pasturelands, and 16% development. Today, only 4% of the Lacamas Creek watershed is wetlands.

Lacamas Creek has five major tributaries, which include Matney Creek, Shanghai Creek, Fifth Plain Creek, China Ditch, and Dwyer Creek. There are also many smaller streams within the watershed including Spring Branch and Big Ditch. The study area ends where Lacamas creek enters Lacamas Lake.



Ecology's Source Assessment is focusing on Lacamas Creek, because past studies determined that the majority of nutrient loading to Lacamas Lake that is associated with harmful algal blooms is coming from the Lacamas Creek watershed. Focusing cleanup efforts in the Lacamas Creek watershed may contribute to water quality improvements in Lacamas Lake.

# Lacamas Creek Partnership for clean water

## What are some pollution challenges in the watershed?

The water quality challenges suspected in Lacamas Creek are most likely associated with nonpoint source pollution. Future work in the Lacamas Creek watershed will focus on reducing nonpoint source pollution from the following sources.

- **Septic systems**
- **Stormwater**
- **Agriculture and Livestock**
- **Dogs**
- **Wildlife**

Efforts to plant trees and restore natural areas including wetlands, riparian corridors, and floodplains are also a priority.

## How can we fix water quality problems?

Poop Smart Clark is a new pollution identification and correction program that is using water quality data to find and fix sources of pollution in Clark County watersheds. This program is a local-driven collaboration between Clark Conservation District, Clark County, Washington State University Extension, Watershed Alliance of Southwest Washington, USDA NRCS, and Ecology.

Together, Poop Smart partners are utilizing water quality monitoring and bacteria source tracing to identify water quality concerns, and conduct targeted education and outreach to complete agricultural and septic system assistance. The goal is to increase the financial and technical assistance available to private landowners to fix nonpoint source pollution problems on private property, and achieve voluntary compliance with water quality standards.

Poop Smart Clark is administered by Clark Conservation District, which is a non-regulatory organization that can help landowners with natural resource concerns on private property. Poop Smart Clark has funding available to help landowners. If you are a landowner interested in Poop Smart Clark, you can sign up online at <https://clarkcd.org/poopsmart>





# Lacamas Creek Partnership for clean water

## City of Camas Lake Management Planning

The City of Camas will be developing a Lake Management Plan for Lacamas Lake, Round Lake and a smaller adjacent water body, Fallen Leaf Lake, focused on reducing harmful algal blooms and improving water quality conditions in all three lakes. While Ecology develops the Lacamas Creek Source Assessment and Water Cleanup Plan, the City of Camas will be simultaneously developing this plan, in consultation with Clark County, Ecology, and other State agencies. The management plan will consider pollutant sources from Lacamas Creek to the north of the lake, and will also consider pollutant sources from areas on the east, west, and south sides of the lakes, which are outside of Ecology's study boundary. The plan is intended to provide the community options for both short and long-term management strategies to improve water quality and enhance recreational opportunities.

The City of Camas has established a city committee to advise on the Lake Management Planning process. The City is hiring a consulting team to assist in development of the Lake Management Plan with work anticipated to begin in June 2021. Clark County Public Health provides monitoring support at Lacamas Lake through the swim beach monitoring program. Clark County Public Health is the organization responsible for designated swim beach monitoring and issuing swimming advisories in Clark County.

## Contacts

**Devan Rostorfer, Washington State Department of Ecology** [devan.rostorfer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:devan.rostorfer@ecy.wa.gov)

Contact Devan for questions about the Lacamas Creek Partnership for Clean Water.

**Molly Gleason, Washington State Department of Ecology** [molly.gleason@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:molly.gleason@ecy.wa.gov)

Contact Molly for questions about the Lacamas Creek Source Assessment and water quality monitoring.

**Steve Wall, City of Camas** [SWall@cityofcamas.us](mailto:SWall@cityofcamas.us)

Contact Steve for questions on the City of Camas Lake Management Plan.

**Jeff Schnabel, Clark County Clean Water Division** [Jeff.Schnabel@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Schnabel@clark.wa.gov)

Contact Jeff for questions specific to Clark County or water quality monitoring.

**Brian Schlottmann, Clark County Public Health** [brian.schlottmann@clark.wa.gov](mailto:brian.schlottmann@clark.wa.gov)

Contact Brian for questions about lake monitoring, harmful algal blooms, and swimming advisories.

**Zorah Oppenheimer, Clark Conservation District** [zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org](mailto:zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org)

Contact Zorah for questions about Poop Smart Clark, and landowner assistance opportunities.

**Thank you for your commitment to Clean Water!**



[www.tinyurl.com/LacamasPartnership](http://www.tinyurl.com/LacamasPartnership)