



A view of Kristoferson barn and Mt. Baker.

**Residents of Triangle Cove watershed - we have news for you!
There is grant funding to help protect and clean up Triangle Cove, and you can help!**

Want to hear more about the health of your watershed?

Enjoy some snacks and spend an evening learning about what's happening in Triangle Cove. You will also learn about programs that can help fund improvements that protect water, reduce erosion, and restore native vegetation. Kathleen Parvin, R.S., Island County Public Health, will give an update on the septic survey (sanitary survey) recently completed. No registration is required, all are welcome! Call Kathleen for more information on the septic survey at 360-387-3443 ext. 240.

Second Annual Open House
August 14, 2014, 5:30 - 7 PM
Camano Multi-Purpose Center
("blue building next to CASA")
141 E Camano Drive, Camano Island

Fall Farm Tour and Spreader Demonstration

Snohomish Conservation District has a small manure spreader available to loan to Triangle Cove watershed residents who want to make better use of animal wastes. We'll be demonstrating the spreader at Kristoferson farm this fall so come see for yourself how easy it can be!

Date to be determined

Email kathryn@snohomishcd.org if you are interested

Funding for your projects

Everyone can use help from time to time, and Triangle Cove Watershed residents can get funding for septic inspections and to repair a failing septic. Cost-share is also available to fence animals out of streams, add a stream buffer and more! To learn what qualifies, call Kristin at the Conservation District, 425-377-7017.

News for the Triangle Cove Watershed

Kathleen Parvin, R.S., Environmental Health Specialist, Island County Public Health

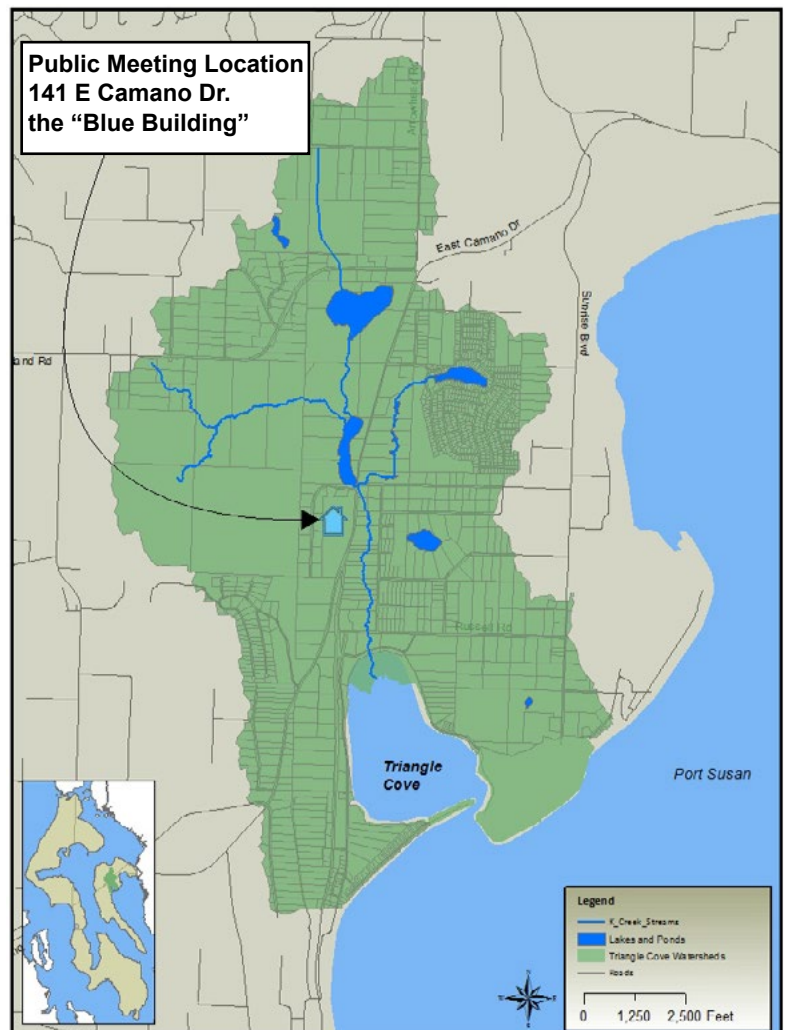
The Triangle Cove watershed makes up one of the largest drainage basins on Camano Island. The basin includes areas like Camaloch, Camaloch Golf Course, Camano Hills, Camano Plaza, Barnum Point, and Driftwood Shores. How you manage water runoff from your property makes a difference to those living downstream, and we all live downstream!

This spring, all drainage into Triangle Cove that was sampled for fecal coliform bacteria consistently met water quality standards. All drainage ways except Kristoferson Creek are now dry for the summer season. Fall and winter sampling results may demonstrate a change in water quality during the rainy season when the drainage ways begin flowing again.

Work was completed in March on the Sanitary Survey of all of the Triangle Cove Shoreline. Results of the survey will be used to improve the rate of septic system inspections. A high percentage of septic system inspections find a deficiency that needs to be corrected. Fixing a small problem now might cost less than \$1000 and prevent a system failure that could cost \$20,000 or more later. Your septic system may be out of sight but it should not be out of mind. Funding is available for septic inspections and repairs.

Learn more about our Homeowner Septic Training (HOST) Program. Go to www.islandcountyeh.org and type HOST into the search bar. Watch the Septic 101 video or sign up for our next class on Monday September 8, 2014 at Four Springs Preserve. Septic 101 provides the basics of owning and operating an on-site septic system.

If you have a conventional gravity or conventional pressure system you may also take Septic 201 and become certified to inspect your own system. The usual cost of \$25 for a homeowner septic inspection certification will be waived for verified residents of Triangle Cove watersheds.



Come to the August 14 Open House to learn more!
See arrow above for location of the Camano Multi-Purpose Center

Triangle Cove Watershed

NEWSLETTER

Working with you to improve water quality in your watershed

Island County Public Health

Summer 2014

Top Five Tips for Saving Water at Home

Everyone can help conserve water! The average home uses at least 30% of it's water outdoors. Some experts estimate that as much as 50% of that is lost to evaporation, wind or overwatering. If your water is metered, that's money down the drain. Here are tips to conserve water in and out of the house.

1. Change Your Habits

Turn off the faucet. Make a habit of turning off that faucet rather than letting it run while you soap up dishes, brush your teeth, or wash hands. Use the garbage disposal less or use a worm bin instead. Worms turn kitchen wastes into useable worm compost and work for you 24/7!

2. Replace Showerheads, Maximize Loads and Update Appliances

Try installing low-flow showerheads in every bathroom and faucet aerators at all of the sinks. Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry or lower the water settings for smaller loads. Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® rated models, which use up to 50% less water and electricity.

3. Lawns, Mulch & Irrigation

Consider reducing the size of your lawn and using more native plants. Lawns tend to use the most water. Use drip irrigation in the garden. According to the EPA, drip irrigation uses between 20 to 50 percent less water than in-ground sprinklers. Mulching gardens will help reduce evaporation and defeat water-stealing weeds. Keeping weeds at bay helps you enjoy the summer more and looks nice too!

4. Harvest Water

Harvesting means capturing rain water, which you can then use to water lawns and gardens. There are many types of water harvesting systems like rain barrels and cisterns. You can also harvest water indoors, just place a bowl in the sink while you're washing vegetables or waiting for hot water. Then, use it to water your houseplants.

5. Repair Drips

A drip might not seem like a big deal, but can waste thousands of gallons of water a year. Watch your meter for two hours when no one is using water and see if it moves. If you suspect a drip and need help, ask a professional to help pinpoint the source of a leak and repair it.

Kristoferson Family Heritage Farm

by Lois Ruskell, Snohomish Conservation District

It would be hard for anyone driving south on East Camano Drive not to notice the bucolic looking farm across from Camano Plaza. With a large, picturesque (circa 1914) barn, scenic pond and acres of trees and hay fields, it stands out in a good way. The farm is known as the Kristoferson farm, and is owned by five Kristoferson siblings (Nancy, Betsy, Kris, Melissa and Mona) and their mother Pat, who at 90 still enjoys coming out for family get-togethers. The farm has transitioned from dairy, to sheep, to alpacas and now, to organic hay and a tree canopy (zip line) tour facility. The family has been operating the zip line center for three years and has hosted over 20,000 people.

But there's more to this farm than haying and tourists. This family has worked hard to ensure that future generations can enjoy the farm. That generation, the fifth, is starting to participate more and that makes Mona Campbell, the youngest of the five Kristoferson siblings, very happy. "We treasure it so and we want to maintain it for the next generation", Mona says.

When the last tenants left, the Kristofersons weighed their options. Organic hay was an easy choice as the land produces beautiful lush hay and all of the family can participate in harvest. Local hay is highly desired by horse owners and the market for organic hay was viable. Creating a canopy tour took a lot of research, time and expense at first, but the family felt it would help bring in revenue to keep the farm self-supporting and it would be less of an impact to the environment.

Protecting natural areas and encouraging wildlife, birds, and salmon have long been high on the family's list of priorities. According to Mona, "As we became more aware of best practices, we wanted to get more involved in decisions affecting the natural resources on the farm". Family members signed up for WSU's Forest Stewardship Coached Planning course as well as a WSU Sustainable Small Farm class. They came to Snohomish Conservation District for help with a farm plan to outline resources, soil types, options for landuse and a list of best management practices.

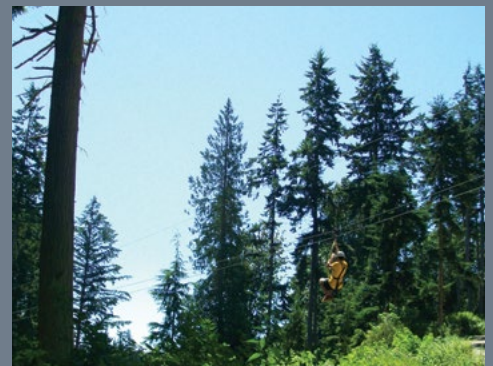
Education and farm plans aren't enough though. It helps to find local expertise, programs and grants to help share the cost of improvements, and on-going support from area experts. The Kristofersons have done their research and have participated in several programs that have helped them make significant improvements. Programs include Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which has cost-shared on two projects: a hardened crossing to protect a small stream leading to a beaver pond and which provides access to forestland and a second project that replaced a crushed culvert that was beyond its life and prevented fish passage. Recently, Kris Kristoferson saw a 7-8" salmon in the stream, which hopefully will be one of many to come. They have also received help from two Department of Natural Resources programs that have helped with timber production. Mona says, "What really has helped us is the expertise out there. It's easy to underestimate that". Mona's Great-Grandfather, Alfred Kristoferson, who purchased the farm in 1912, would likely be proud of his family's stewardship of the land.



Mona Campbell, one of five Kristoferson siblings breathing new life into an old farm.



Sign and organic hay fields at the entrance.



This zipliner has a great 'canopy-view'.



Heritage barn and people mover.



New bridge removes a fish barrier.