

Mission Creek Sanitary Survey Data
performed by Amy Georgeson and Wendy Mathews
1/1/08 to 3/31/08

During the 1st quarter of 2008, Mason County Public Health (MCPH) Staff identified 84 parcels directly adjacent to (Big) Mission Creek. Then information from 53 properties that have septic systems was obtained from their parcel files. Additionally, 28 sites were determined to be vacant and 3 sites have their parcel files checked out to other departments.

Sanitary Survey Field Work

Total Number of Properties	84
Sanitary Surveys Completed	18
Vacant Residences	4
Vacant Land	28
Denied Access	4
Surveys to be completed	30

Sites that have not had Sanitary Surveys Completed

Sites that have never been visited	10
Sites that will need to be visited at later times	6
Sites with 1-2 visits with no one home	5
Sites with 3-4 visits with no one home	4
Sites that have medical conditions	2
Parcel file with another department	3

What has been found in the Sanitary Surveys

Staff initiated one dye test, based off of a previous dye test where dye was identified, but there were not elevated fecal coliform levels. One site the owner provided information about how she checks the tank to ensure that no effluent is making it out to her drainfield, because the drainfield is not accepting water. She was under the impression that the Belfair Sewer would be coming out to her area and she explained that that was why she has not completed any repairs at the site. We informed her that the sewer would not be extending outside of the Belfair Urban Growth Area. We also provided information about Shorebank Loan program. After the survey process, we sent a letter requesting her to repair her system. Another site, that no one has been home at, has their septic tank uncovered. We are not sure what the reasoning for this is.

Six of the sites that have been surveyed have been identified as “No Apparent Problem”(NAP). Four sites have been identified as higher level of concern, five sites have been identified as medium level of concern and one site has been identified as low level of concern (these do not count the two sites discussed above). The level of concern is based on several factors including the proximity of the drainfield and septic system to Mission Creek, the observed condition of the drainfield, the ratio of number of occupants at a house versus the septic system designed size.

In addition, of the inspections completed, 13 sites have a total of 18 dogs, only 4 sites had no dogs. One site had 2 horses. Most owners claim to pick up their pet’s waste, however, we noticed that many dogs roam free and mostly likely their waste is not always being picked up.