

Septic System Operation and Maintenance Program for Henderson Watershed Protection Area

The Risk-Based O&M Program was developed by an advisory committee who began their work on December 10, 2003. The committee members were stakeholders representing the Shellfish Protection District committees, WRIA 13 watershed committee, real estate industry, master builders, on-site sewage industry, Puget Sound Action Team, State Department of Health, shellfish industry, and watershed residents.

The program was adopted by the BOH by resolution on November 21, 2005. The rates and charges were adopted by the BOCC by resolution.

Henderson Watershed Protection Area Boundary

The program boundary is limited to the area within the Henderson Inlet Watershed Shellfish Protection District that most likely is affecting the water quality of Henderson Inlet. This area is called *Henderson Watershed Protection Area*.

***Sanitary Code: Article IV,
Appendix A***

The program area includes those properties on and within the physical boundary of the map. If any portion of the property is within the boundary, the property is considered to be within the program area. Rates and charges shall apply to those properties where any portion of the wastewater system, including a building and any collection, transport, treatment, and disposal components, is within the program area. There will be an annual review of the map to consider new information and make adjustments as warranted by the information. A copy of these detailed maps shall be maintained by Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department.

***RCW 90.72 and
Shellfish Protection
District Ordinance 12679***

Henderson Watershed Protection Area is established as an 'Area of Special Concern' per Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary code, which allows for an enhanced operation and maintenance program.

***Sanitary Code: Article IV,
Section 16.3
Section 22.2***

- Requirements** for septic systems within the area shall be
- < Renewable Operational Certificates for all septic systems.
 - < Operational Certificates must be kept current and renewed on prescribed schedule.
 - < Requirements for renewal shall include system evaluations:
 - **Low-risk** systems shall require documentation of routine maintenance and visual inspection every renewal cycle.
 - **High-risk** systems shall require dye test evaluations every other renewal cycle.
 - < Any maintenance activities currently required for on-site sewage systems with operational certificates under the countywide operation and maintenance program shall still be required.

Sanitary Code: Article IV, Appendix A

Sanitary Code: Article IV, Section 16

Determination of Risk Level shall be as follows:

- < Ranking criteria shall be used to determine “risk” that a system poses to public health and water quality. Criteria shall be based on soil type, proximity to water, and other appropriate criteria.
 - High-risk** is an on-site sewage system that, if failing, would pose a high risk to public health by contributing to water quality degradation.
 - Low-risk** is an on-site sewage system that, if failing, would pose a lower risk to public health and would be less likely to contribute to water quality.

Department Policy and Procedures

Requirements for evaluation:

High-risk

- < High-risk systems shall require dye test evaluations every other renewal cycle and routine maintenance and visual inspection every renewal cycle.
- < County staff conduct the dye-test evaluations for the high-risk systems. Homeowners shall have the option to use a private contractor to conduct the evaluation. These private contractors shall be trained and approved by the County. The cost for these dye-test evaluations by qualified private providers shall be a set amount paid with the annual program fees collected by the County. The County will pay the private providers for those evaluations.

**Article IV, Section 22.3.2.7
Article IV, Appendix A, 4c**

Low-risk

- < Low-risk systems shall require documentation of routine maintenance and visual inspection every renewal cycle.
- < Inspections for low risk systems shall be done by certified professionals.
- < County staff will conduct a 10% quality control check of all professionals.

Article IV, Section 22.3

Enforcement for the program renewal conditions:

- < Homeowners are required to maintain a current O&M certificate at all times. **Article IV, Section 16.3.2**
- < Those owners who do not renew their required operational certificates are be in violation of the Sanitary Code. **Article IV, Section 16.3.3**
- < Renewal of certificates requires that all the conditions be met before a new certificate is issued. **Article IV, Section 16.3.5.1**
- < Failing septic systems must be repaired in accordance with the County's Sanitary Code. **Article IV, Section 17**
- < If a septic system is in the process of repair, then the renewal cycle shall be flexible in order to accommodate the repair. **Department Policy and Procedures**
- < A certificate cannot be issued on a failing system nor on a repair until the repair is complete and an as-built drawing of the repair has been received and approved. **Article IV, Section 15.1.7, 15.4.3, and 16.3.5.41**

The following is the schedule for O&M certificate renewals: (*Due date refers to the certificate renewal due date.*)

Department Policy and Procedures

- 60 days prior to due date renewal notice is sent
- 30 days after due date warning letter is sent
- 60 days after due date notice of violation is sent
- Thereafter all enforcement options available to bring system into compliance

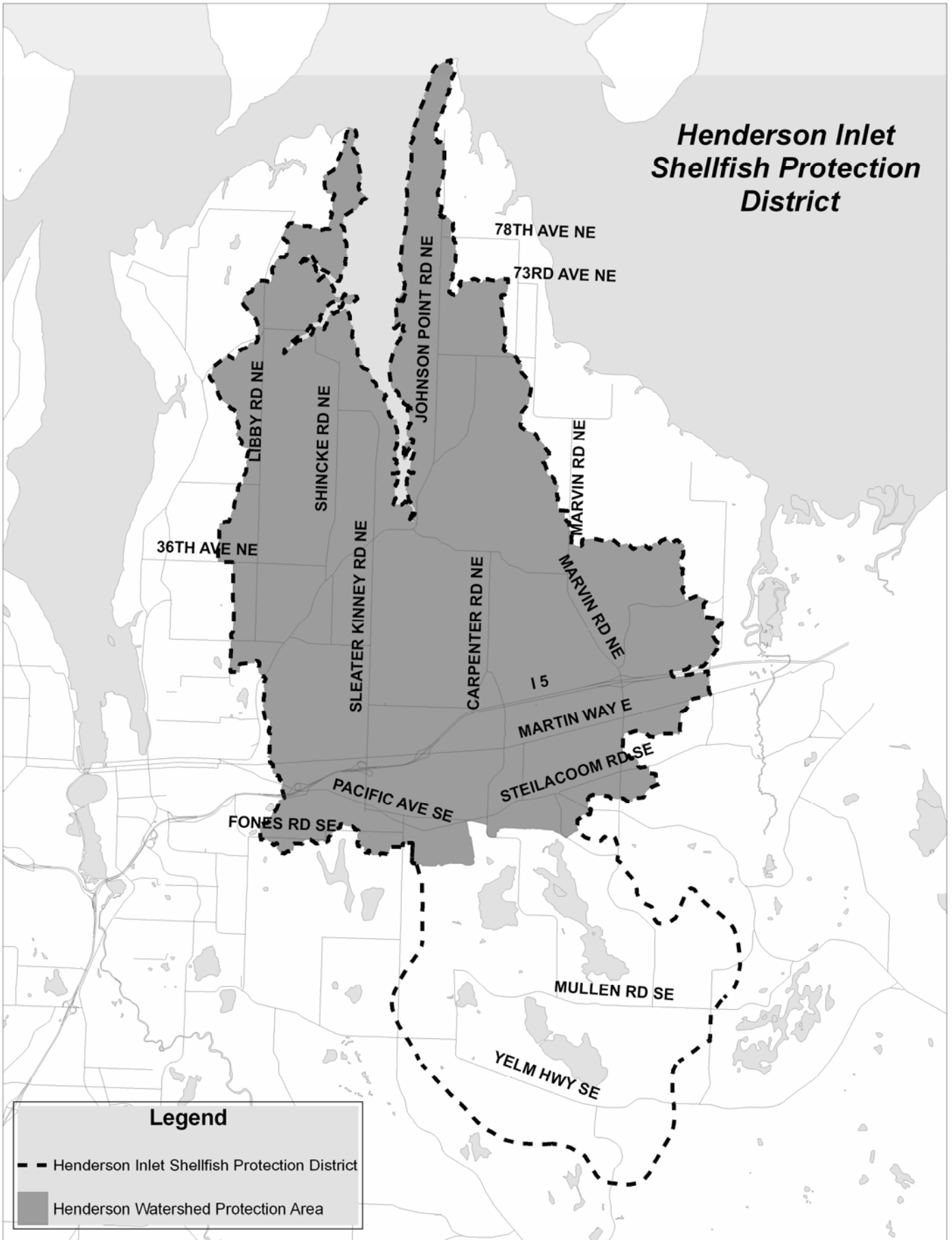
Rates & charges:

- < Rates and charges shall be collected on the property tax statement on the same line as the Stormwater Utility fee **RCW 90.72.70**
- < Annual rates shall be as follows: **Shellfish Protection District Ordinance 12679**
 - Low risk: \$ 32
 - High risk: \$ 87
 - Community \$160
- < Systems within the Program Area shall not be charged the \$25 renewal fee. That cost has been rolled into the annual rate.

Additional products:

- ◆ A 5-year evaluation of the program will be conducted.
- ◆ An annual report shall be available to the Protection Area residents.
- ◆ Adaptive management shall be used to adjust program needs and fees.

Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection District



Ranking for Evaluation Frequency

Frequency	
Dwelling Types	Points
Single Family Residences	1
Multi-Family Unit [<1000 gpd]	2
Community System [$1000 - 3500$ gpd]	6
Larger On-Site Systems [LOSS: >3500 gpd]	8
Commercial (sales and service) < 500 gpd	2
Commercial > 500 gpd	6
Industrial	10
System Types	Points
Gravity and pressure distribution	1
Alternate Systems: Mounds, sandfilters, proprietary (required yearly walkover)	3
Table 6 Repairs	8
Experimental	10
Age of System	Points
Less than 20 years old	0
Older than 20 years	4
Frequency Tally Sheet	Points
Dwelling Type	
System Type	
Age of system	
Total	
Range of points for frequency of inspection	
Every year	> 20
Every other year	9 - 20
Every 3 years	2 - 8

Ranking for Evaluation Type

Type of Inspection	
Soil Types	Points
Class 1, 2, 3, non-restrictive layer 4's	0
Class 4 (with restrictive layer*), 5 and 6	10

* Restrictive soils: Alderwood, Cathcart, Delphi, Dystric Xerochrepts, Kapowsin, Katula, Pheeneey, Schneider, Tenino

Area	Points
Inland	1
Freshwater frontage	6
Marine waterfront	10

Constructed Drainage where water flows	Points
No	0
Yes	4

Intensity Tally Sheet		Points
Soil Type		
Area		
Drainage System		
Total		
Range of points for intensity of inspection		
Pump/stick report and walkover		< 15
Dye Trace alternate cycles		≥ 15
NOTE: There are special requirements for frequency and intensity for certain non-residential systems. Some requirements are based upon law; other requirements are determined by estimated flow, number of employees, materials used on-site, and system type. For example, restaurants are required by law to be inspected every year.		