Whatcom County is required to manage stormwater in the Lake Whatcom watershed and reduce the amount of stormwater pollution entering the lake. The purpose of the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility (LWSU) is to provide additional funding for the county’s efforts to clean up and protect Lake Whatcom water quality. Existing funding sources were not sufficient to meet current and future Lake Whatcom program needs in order to comply with federal Clean Water Act requirements. The LWSU is a county government funding mechanism; no new government entity has been created.

As Lake Whatcom Management Program partners, Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham both provide funding for stormwater management in the Lake Whatcom watershed. The majority of Whatcom County’s costs associated with Lake Whatcom water quality protection are paid for using Flood Tax revenue, which all Whatcom County property owners pay. Since properties within the watershed have a greater impact on water quality than those in other parts of the county, it was determined that watershed property owners should pay for this additional funding need through the new LWSU. Property owners within the City of Bellingham already pay for their portion of Lake Whatcom Stormwater Program expenses through a city stormwater utility fee and a Lake Whatcom watershed protection fee in addition to paying the Flood Tax.

WHAT DOES THE LAKE WHATCOM STORMWATER UTILITY PAY FOR?
The LWSU provides additional funding for county stormwater management programs and activities in the Lake Whatcom watershed. In 2021, the full annual fee was included on property tax statements for the first time. Fees collected through the LWSU are used by the county to supplement the following program areas:

- Program management and administration
- Enhanced outreach and education
- Capital project construction
- Maintenance and small works projects
- Water quality monitoring
- Homeowner incentives/residential retrofits

The utility currently provides approximately 25% of the county’s funding for Lake Whatcom management programs. The remainder will continue to come from other county-wide generated sources and grants.

Accomplishments

- Developed an extended work plan and budget forecast
- Created a quarterly e-newsletter in partnership with the Lake Whatcom Management Program
- Held regular Lake Whatcom outreach coordination meetings with City of Bellingham and Whatcom County staff

2021 PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed and distributed a Lake Whatcom Stewardship Survey to evaluate interest in volunteer opportunities in the watershed
- Expanded the pet waste program reach by adding an additional spring event
- Continued to promote proper yard waste management behavior
- Promoted the septic maintenance rebate program opportunity and processed 17 rebate applications
- Installed a Modular Wetland System that treats stormwater runoff from 22 acres of development and initiated three additional capital improvement projects
- Secured a one-million-dollar Water Quality Combined Financial Assistance grant from the Department of Ecology to aid in funding the design and construction of the Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project
- Designed two small works construction projects that will be built in 2022
- Expanded the Homeowner Incentive Program to basin three, making the program available throughout the entire watershed

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

In 2021, Whatcom County continued to develop and manage the new Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility, which provides supplemental funding for efforts to protect Lake Whatcom. The full annual fee was collected for the first time in 2021, totaling approximately $870,000. The utility fees are assessed on developed lots with impervious surfaces in the watershed outside of city limits. A five-year work plan outlining activities within the six LWSU program areas, as well as a budget forecast were developed in 2021. LWSU program management and administration activities in 2021 included:

- Developing annual budget proposal and work plan
- Compiling quarterly and annual financial reports
- Drafting annual progress report
- Responding to public inquiries, emails, phone calls
- Generating the annual LWSU service fee roll
- Responding to rate adjustment requests and fee inquiries
- Investigating and responding to citizen reports/complaints of stormwater-related problems (flooding, pollution, drainage, erosion issues)
- Updating the Stormwater Incident Database and Inquiry Log

TRIBUTARY MONITORING

For the past decade, Whatcom County has participated in a joint effort with the City of Bellingham and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District to monitor Lake Whatcom tributaries. Tributary monitoring data are used to determine water quality trends and fill data gaps in the model used to determine how much phosphorus is entering Lake Whatcom. LWSU funds are allocated to contribute to the tributary monitoring project and in the future, LWSU funding will be applied towards a focused sampling effort in the urbanized areas of the watershed.
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Stormwater capital improvement projects (CIPs) are construction projects that replace or improve old stormwater drainage systems to protect water quality and reduce the risk of flooding. CIPs typically include stormwater facilities like treatment swales, vaults, and infiltration basins that remove pollutants from stormwater. Capital projects are designed to reduce the risk of flooding by improving stormwater flow capacity and protect Lake Whatcom water quality, which is the drinking water source for more than 100,000 residents in Whatcom County. Degraded water quality entering the lake requires the installation of treatment facilities where feasible.

Going forward, approximately $250,000 from the LWSU fund is budgeted per year for capital improvement project design and construction costs. LWSU funding supplements existing capital project funding from the real estate excise tax (REET III, grants and other funding sources (see Table 5 in Financial Report). At present, REET funds adequately cover construction costs; however, variability in future REET allocations and the annual increase in construction costs may present financial challenges going forward. The LWSU funding will help supplement project budgets and enable the county to reliably carry out the capital improvement program needed to protect Lake Whatcom.

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:**

**Silver Beach Creek**

A stormwater construction project designed to improve the water quality entering Silver Beach Creek from Savannah Park, was completed by Whatcom County in 2021. This project modified the existing stormwater system on Woodlake Road by installing a Modular Wetland System and new storm pipe to reduce phosphorus loading of Lake Whatcom. The new stormwater system provides treatment for about 22 acres of development. The LWSU contributed to this project through staff time spent on contracting and public meetings.

**FUTURE PROJECTS:**

**Sudden Valley Stormwater Improvements - Marigold Drive**

The Lake Whatcom Comprehensive Stormwater Plan identifies drainage areas within Sudden Valley as areas for water quality improvements. In 2021, Stormwater staff finalized a memorandum of understanding between the Sudden Valley Community Association and Whatcom County for ongoing capital project coordination in the Lake Whatcom watershed.

A REET-funded stormwater improvements project on Marigold Drive in Sudden Valley is under design and slated for construction in 2022. This project will provide water quality improvements by installing 660 feet of new pipe and a stormwater filter vault to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading of Lake Whatcom. The LWSU contributed staff time for project outreach and public meeting assistance in 2021.

**Academy Road Stormwater Improvements**

The Academy Road Stormwater Improvements project is an upgrade to a stormwater capital project initially completed in 2015. These upgrades will resolve issues that have prevented the facility from meeting water quality treatment objectives.

The original project was a collaboration between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the treatment of runoff from approximately 80 acres. Project elements included a pretreatment unit, media filtration system, high flow bypass, and a vegetated buffer along the lakefront. Following a full evaluation of the system’s performance and a season of flow monitoring, a design firm was selected to upgrade the current treatment system. The development of the design includes input from the City of Bellingham as a continuation of this joint jurisdictional project. The construction of this project is slated for summer of 2023. The LWSU contributed approximately $11,500 of staff time and consultant contracts for this project in 2021.

**Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project**

This pilot project aims to improve water quality in Lake Whatcom by renovating a previously-installed bioretention facility in the Geneva neighborhood. A newly-developed High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) will replace the initial soil mix that was installed over a decade ago. The media will provide treatment for total suspended solids, dissolved copper, dissolved zinc, bacteria, and total phosphorus. A grant agreement between the Department of Ecology and Whatcom County to perform this work and monitor the performance of the new HPBSM was signed in January 2022. The county is expecting to begin design in March 2022 and construction is anticipated for 2023. The LWSU contributed approximately $40,000 toward the design of this project in 2021 and will be contributing additional funding in 2022 (see Table 5 in Financial Report).

Marigold Drive will see a number of important improvements that will help reduce phosphorus and sediment loading of Lake Whatcom.
LWSU coordinates with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) programs on the maintenance of stormwater drainage facilities in county road rights-of-way. M&O is responsible for the maintenance of drainage facilities along county roads. Whatcom County’s NPDES permit requires additional stormwater system inspection and maintenance in the Lake Whatcom watershed. LWSU works to assist Whatcom County with the maintenance of stormwater systems and enhance the level of service provided by M&O and required by the NPDES permit.

- Of the 900 publicly-owned catch basins in the Lake Whatcom watershed, 719 were inspected, 338 were cleaned, 24 were repaired, and 1 was replaced. The next round of inspections in Lake Whatcom is scheduled to begin in spring of 2022.
- 23 filter vaults were cleaned and their cartridges replaced (total of 248 cartridges). See below for more details.
- 15 county-owned flow control facilities, treatment facilities, and stream restoration locations were regularly maintained (e.g. monitoring, watering, weeding, mowing, invasive plant removal, tree removal, and trash/debris removal) by M&O and the Sheriff’s correction crew. This number excludes filter vaults and focuses on ponds, bioswales, and other features that require vegetation maintenance within LWSU.
- Debris was removed from trash racks prior to and during storm events.

**FILTER VAULT MAINTENANCE**

A filter vault is an underground structure containing barrel-shaped filter cartridges. The cartridges trap sediment and absorb pollutants from stormwater runoff flowing through the system. The cartridges contain a material called “media” that absorbs pollutants. The media used throughout the Lake Whatcom watershed is designed to remove phosphorus.

Maintenance is performed on an annual basis. It includes disposing of the soiled treatment media, replacing the old cartridges, and replacing them with cartridges containing fresh media. The old cartridges are sent back to the manufacturer to be cleaned and reused. A vactor truck is used to remove any sediment deposited in the vault since the last cleaning. Special safety protocol is required because our staff must enter the vaults to perform this maintenance. While in the vault, an inspection is performed to check for any needed repairs. The pretreatment vault, located upstream of the filter vault, is cleaned at the same time.

There are a total of 23 filter vaults containing 248 cartridges within the Lake Whatcom watershed. Each vault ranges in size, containing anywhere from one to 33 cartridges. Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility funds pay for the annual maintenance of the vaults, which cost approximately $82,500 in 2021.

**PRIVATE STORMWATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**

The county launched an enhanced Private Stormwater System (PSS) Maintenance Program in 2021 with the goal of helping homeowners’ associations and other PSS owners to evaluate their system’s maintenance needs, understand their obligations, and ensure that facilities are maintained properly. Participants receive a free inspection report that assesses their system’s condition and identifies specific maintenance/repair actions. The county now offers increased technical and financial assistance with permitting and maintenance activities. Two inspection reports were completed in 2021.

Education is an important component of this program. As an alternative to in-person workshops, the county partnered with the Whatcom Conservation District to produce a series of five videos and a comprehensive manual aimed at helping PSS owners understand their obligations, and ensure that facilities are maintained properly. Participants receive a free manual aimed at helping PSS owners understand their obligations, and ensure that facilities are maintained properly. Participants receive a free inspection report that assesses their system’s condition and identifies specific maintenance/repair actions. The county now offers increased technical and financial assistance with permitting and maintenance activities. Two inspection reports were completed in 2021.

Education is an important component of this program. As an alternative to in-person workshops, the county partnered with the Whatcom Conservation District to produce a series of five videos and a comprehensive manual aimed at helping PSS owners understand and evaluate their systems. Postcards were mailed to homeowner association members in the watershed inviting them to participate in the virtual workshop in early 2021. The new virtual workshop series is available on the county’s website [whatcomcounty.us/2877/](http://whatcomcounty.us/2877/).

Additional education components of the program include an updated maintenance manual and a reference list of contractors who provide services related to stormwater facility maintenance.

**SMALL WORKS PROJECTS**

The LWSU small works program aims to address chronic maintenance and repair projects in the Lake Whatcom watershed. All small works projects identified through NPDES inspections, citizen complaints, or subwatershed master planning efforts are evaluated and ranked based on time, cost, severity, access, permitting and other factors in order to develop work plans and prioritize drainage improvement projects.

Two small works projects were initiated in 2021 to improve drainage and reduce flooding on Brookview Court and Fremont Avenue. Both projects are in the design/permitting phase and will be constructed in 2022.
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Lake Whatcom education and outreach programs seek to increase public awareness of stormwater problems and promote voluntary actions that help protect and restore water quality. LWSU funding allows the Whatcom County Stormwater Division to expand existing outreach programs and create new educational opportunities. Some activities are provided in coordination with Lake Whatcom Management Program partners like the City of Bellingham.

GENERAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES IN 2021 INCLUDED:
- Mailed “Our Watershed,” the LWSU’s annual newsletter to over 5,000 utility ratepayers in November 2021. The newsletter provides information on stormwater management activities funded by the utility and watershed stewardship actions residents can take.
- Delivered the new quarterly “Lake Whatcom Lowdown” e-newsletter to over 300 interested citizens with information about stormwater education, habitat restoration, capital improvement projects, and upcoming events.
- Attended monthly Lake Whatcom outreach coordination meetings with the City of Bellingham.
- Developed a Lake Whatcom Stewardship Survey (received 135 responses) that guided the direction of the new volunteer program.
- Updated the county LWSU and Lake Whatcom Management Program websites.
- Posted educational information related to stormwater and events on the Whatcom County Public Works Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor social media accounts.
- Promoted the Whatcom County septic system evaluation and rebate programs.
- Developed and distributed outreach messaging about the importance of yard waste management during the spring and fall through radio ads, postcards, social media posts, and e-newsletter articles directing people to whatcomcounty.us/yardwaste.

In 2021, the Stormwater Division partnered with the Natural Resources Division to conduct and enhance the ongoing, county-wide pet waste education and outreach program. The goal of the program is to reduce fecal coliform pollution (a target pollutant identified in the Lake Whatcom watershed) from dog waste by encouraging residents and visitors to scoop, bag and trash the waste.

2021 COUNTY-WIDE PET WASTE PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
- Continued the online pledge program. During the course of the year, 168 “Scoop the Poop” pledges were received by community members.
- Continued to provide and expand the Pet Waste Ambassador Program. Ambassadors receive a kit including a yard sign, tips for talking to neighbors about picking up pet waste, and scooping incentive tools to distribute. In 2021, 54 ambassador program kits were distributed to community members. A survey was distributed to establish program baselines, provide insight into how ambassadors were interacting with members of their communities, and to identify areas for potential improvement. Forty-three ambassadors responded to the survey. Feedback from the survey was used to guide program improvements.
- Partnered with local humane societies, doggie day care businesses, and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association to provide scooping outreach materials and incentives.
- Partnered with the City of Bellingham on a “We Scoop” photo contest event, in which 64 county residents participated.
- Updated the Public Works pet waste website whatcomcounty.us/scooppoop and Facebook page with program messaging regularly.

Specific actions to reach residents within the Lake Whatcom watershed area included:
- Developing a self-guided tour along the Hertz Trail in Lake Whatcom Park to educate trail users about water quality problems and stewardship solutions. County staff visited the Hertz Trail dressed as “poop fairies” to encourage dog owners using the trail to scoop it, bag it, and trash it.
- Working with Sudden Valley to approve the ambassador program yard signs for their residents.
- Advertising the pet waste program in the LWSU newsletter and e-newsletter.
- Promoting the program through paid Facebook ads and watershed-specific NextDoor app posts.

Outreach efforts like the above postcard focus on simple, easy things people can do to help protect Lake Whatcom.

“Our Watershed” newsletter is delivered annually. Education remains a core part of our mission to improve and protect water quality.

Our Services
In 2021, the LWSU provided education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of stormwater problems and promote voluntary actions that help protect and restore water quality. Information on stormwater management activities funded by the utility and watershed stewardship actions residents can take. LWSU funding allows the Whatcom County Stormwater Division to expand existing outreach programs and create new educational opportunities.


Our materials use illustrations and humor to prompt dog owners to be actively involved in protecting Lake Whatcom.

Help protect our water.
Manage your leaves and other yard debris.

STOP POO-LUTION
Rain and poop don’t mix. Protect our water.

Take the “We Scoop” pledge to receive a free leash clip to help you carry your bags. whatcomcounty.us/scooppoop

Our outreach efforts focus on simple, easy things people can do to help protect Lake Whatcom.
NEW HOMEOWNER OUTREACH

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP GUIDEBOOK MAILING
The Stewards of the Lake: A Guide to Living in the Lake Whatcom Watershed was sent in May 2021 to new watershed homeowners who did not receive the guidebook in 2020. In 2021, LWSU funding supported staff time to assist with print/mail quotes and the development of a mailing list for sending the guidebook to new residents in the LWSU. This guide will be mailed annually to new watershed residents. Many Lake Whatcom Management Program partners also contributed staff resources to this project. Visit this link to view the guide: lakewhatcom.whatcomcounty.org/guide

QUARTERLY NEW HOMEOWNER POSTCARD
A new postcard was developed in coordination with City of Bellingham staff and sent to new homeowners in 2021. The postcard shares ways to learn about and get involved in Lake Whatcom protection efforts. This postcard will be mailed quarterly to new watershed residents. The LWSU funds the print/mail costs for residents living within the LWSU area.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
A new Lake Whatcom volunteer program was launched in August 2021. Volunteer options include reporting flooding, erosion, and pollution problems, litter pick up, storm drain clearing and marking, photo sharing, and serving as a pet waste ambassador. Participation has been minimal. Staff are looking at ways to streamline the program for efficiency and create new in-person event opportunities that will expand participation in 2022. LWSU funding was used to purchase litter pick-up kits, which are free to volunteers signing up for the program.

HOMEOWNER INCENTIVES / RESIDENTIAL RETROPTS

The Homeowner Incentive Program (HIP) connects landowners living in the Lake Whatcom watershed with the technical and financial assistance they need to take action to improve water quality in the lake. HIP supports the installation of voluntary water quality improvement projects. The county initiated changes to HIP in 2021 to better meet homeowner needs and streamline the program. The program area was expanded to include basin three, adding approximately 3,000 eligible properties and making the program available throughout the entire watershed. A single version of HIP focusing on native landscaping is now offered to all eligible county properties with additional project options available for shoreline properties. Other changes include an increased maximum reimbursement budget and increased homeowner choices for reimbursable expenses. To learn more about HIP, visit lakewhatcomHIP.org.

Outreach to promote participation in HIP included a spring social media campaign and targeted outreach to the basin three waitlist and homeowners already engaged in HIP from previous years who haven’t completed a project. A total of 32 new households engaged in HIP in 2021 with six projects completed. Since 2014, 44 HIP projects have been completed in the county, reducing stormwater pollution from over five acres of residential development. The costs for this program are split between the LWSU and county-wide Flood Control Zone District funds.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE
The Stormwater Division continued to partner with the Natural Resources Division and Whatcom County Health Department to provide septic maintenance outreach in the Lake Whatcom watershed this past year. Funding from the LWSU was used to support the established septic maintenance rebate program (up to $4,000 per year). With LWSU funding, rebates are now available to property owners who complete the Health Department’s septic system homeowner training class and pay a septic professional to complete a maintenance action. Each septic system is eligible for a $200 rebate once every three years. Seventeen rebates for septic system maintenance costs were processed for Lake Whatcom watershed residents in 2021.
2021 Financial Report

Fund Overview
In December 2017, the Whatcom County Council established the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility (LWSU) Service Area under the authority of RCW 36.89 (Ordinance 2017-076). The Service Area includes the entire unincorporated Lake Whatcom watershed. The purpose of the new stormwater utility is to provide additional funding for Whatcom County’s efforts to clean up and protect Lake Whatcom water quality. The county’s existing funding sources were not sufficient to meet current and future Lake Whatcom program needs to comply with state-mandated reductions in phosphorus and meet federal Clean Water Act requirements. In July 2019, following the recommendations of an advisory group of citizens living in the watershed, County Council approved Ordinance No. 2019-053, establishing the utility rates.

Service Charge Rates
The LWSU rates are based on the amount of impervious surface on a parcel, such as pavement, gravel driveways and roofs, that restrict water from soaking into the ground. Fees for single-family residential properties are based on an average impervious area footprint calculated from a sample of residential properties in the service area. There are three impervious footprint tiers with associated annual charges: small, medium, and large (Table 1). Property owners may apply for a lower rate with documentation showing the actual impervious area on their property.

Fees for all other types of properties in the service area are based on the measured amount of impervious area on the parcel divided by 4,200 square feet, which is the average amount of impervious area on a typical residential lot, also known as an “equivalent service unit” (ESU). Starting in 2021, rates charged were equal to the single-family residential medium impervious footprint at $147.52/ESU. Annual rates for non-residential properties vary greatly based on the amount of impervious surface on a parcel.

Fee Roll Process
The fee roll is developed every fall using multiple custom-designed Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Access databases with the most recent aerial photography and assessor data available.

Reference Documents
For more information, read the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Fee Implementation Report at whatcomcounty.us/2830/Lake-Whatcom-Stormwater-Utility.

Fund Balance
All money collected through the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility goes into a dedicated fund within Whatcom County government. That fund will only be used to cover expenses for the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Program and cannot be used for any other purpose.

In 2021, the amount of money collected through the LWSU was approximately $865,000 in service fees (Table 2). This is the amount of supplementary funds currently needed for Whatcom County to comply with permit requirements in the following Lake Whatcom Stormwater Program areas: capital project construction, maintenance and small works, outreach and education, homeowner incentives/residential retrofits, water quality monitoring, and program administration costs associated with managing the stormwater utility. An additional $65,740 was collected through Capital Facilities Charges (CFCs) in 2021, which are one-time fees intended to recover a share of the cost of system capacity needed to serve growth. CFCs are paid at the time of approved project permit issuance authorizing new construction; therefore, the amount collected will vary from year to year.

The utility currently provides approximately 25% of the county’s funding for Lake Whatcom management programs. The remainder will continue to come from other county-wide generated sources and grants. Total revenue, expenditures, and fund balance beginning in 2020 are summarized in Table 2 below and Figure 1, including estimated expenditures for 2022.

Table 2: LWSU Fund Revenue, Expenditures, and Fund Balance, Including 2022 Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 (50% of Fee Collected)</th>
<th>2021 (Full Fee Collected)</th>
<th>2022 (Estimate Only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LWSU Revenue</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWSU Service Charges</td>
<td>$430,275</td>
<td>$865,550</td>
<td>$880,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Facilities Charges</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total LWSU Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>LWSU Expenditures</td>
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<td>Total LWSU Expenditures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income/(Loss)</td>
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<td>$574,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Year Fund Balance</td>
<td>$300,629*</td>
<td>$875,272</td>
<td>$1,005,272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*updated since 2020 financial report
The LWSU program is supported by Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater Division staff. In 2021, LWSU funds paid for approximately 50% of a Natural Resource Specialist III position and 40% of a Program Specialist position. Salary and benefits for staff support are shown by program area in Table 4. LWSU receives additional staff support from Whatcom County Public Works through other county funding sources.

Year-end financial data in this report were compiled February 23, 2022, and while not expected to change, the data are not final until the completion of the annual financial audit. Official financial records are maintained by Whatcom County separately from this report, which is provided for informational purposes only.

**2021 EXPENDITURES**

LWSU expenditures for 2021 totaled $357,132.76. Annual expenses are summarized by program area in Table 3 and Figure 2. Detailed expenses are listed in Table 4. Expenses listed for capital projects are for 2021 only. Since projects span several years and are paid for using multiple sources of revenue, these figures are less than total project costs. In addition, capital project costs vary greatly from year-to-year, resulting in utility revenues outpacing expenditures in some years (e.g., 2020 and 2021), and other years in which project costs are projected to be greater than utility revenues, resulting in an overall reduction in the utility fund balance. For further explanation, see the Capital Improvement Project section on page 4 of this report and Table 5 for project-based budget revenue sources for the two capital improvement projects funded in part by the Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility.

The LWSU program is supported by Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater Division staff. In 2021, LWSU funds paid for approximately 50% of a Natural Resource Specialist III position and 40% of a Program Specialist position. Salary and benefits for staff support are shown by program area in Table 4. LWSU receives additional staff support from Whatcom County Public Works through other county funding sources.

Year-end financial data in this report were compiled February 23, 2022, and while not expected to change, the data are not final until the completion of the annual financial audit. Official financial records are maintained by Whatcom County separately from this report, which is provided for informational purposes only.

![Figure 1: LWSU Income and Expenditures, Including 2022 Estimates](image)

![Figure 2: 2021 LWSU Expenditures by Program](image)

(continued on next page)
Enhanced Education & Outreach

Salary & Benefits $35,658.69
Printing $4,550.34
Postage/Shipping/Freight $4,362.68
Subscriptions $159.99
Contractual Services - Yard/Pet Waste Campaign $3,000.00
Advertising $10.31
Septic System Maintenance Rebates $2,600.00

Pet Waste Program

Salary & Benefits $6,419.66
Office & Op Supplies - Yard Signs $125.18

Watershed Watcher Volunteer Program

Salary & Benefits $2,331.05
Office & Op Supplies - Litter Cleanup Kits $546.57
Intergovernmental Professional Services - Contract with Whatcom Conservation District for Education & Outreach Assistance $6,086.26

Subtotal $65,850.73

Homeowner Incentive Program

50% Program Cost Split with Flood Control Zone District Fund $55,000.00

Subtotal $55,000.00

Total 2021 LWSU Expenditures $357,132.76

Table 5: Project-Based Budgets for Lake Whatcom Capital Projects Funded in Part by LWSU

Academy Road Stormwater Improvements Project-Based Budget (Fund 364100)

| Phase 1 - Constructed in 2015 | Dept of Ecology Grant $50,000.00 |
|                              | City of Bellingham $259,000.00 |
|                              | Operating Transfer In - Flood Fund $180,000.00 |
|                              | Operating Transfer In - REET II $715,000.00 |

| Phase 2 - Scheduled for 2023 | Operating Transfer In - LWSU $86,835.00 |
| TBD - Additional funds will be required to cover construction costs |

Total to Date 1,290,835.00

Geneva Bioretention Pilot Project Project-Based Budget (Fund 393100)

| Construction Scheduled for 2023 | Dept of Ecology Grant $971,250.00 |
|                                | Operating Transfer In - REET II $250,000.00 |
|                                | Operating Transfer In - LWSU $268,000.00 |

Total to Date $1,489,250.00