Program Development & Accomplishment Timeline

1992 - 1999

1992: Joint Resolution adopted to establish common goals for Lake Whatcom watershed

1992: City stormwater capital improvement program began

1993: Sudden Valley Community Association began density reduction program to remove 1,400 potential dwelling units

1998: Lake Whatcom Management Program (LWMP) established by Interlocal Agreement

1998: Lake Whatcom placed on Washington's list of polluted water bodies due to low dissolved oxygen levels; Tributary creeks listed for high bacteria levels; Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process began.

1999: County Water Resource Protection Overlay District and Stormwater Special District established

1999: LWMP 1999 Work Plan adopted

2000 - 2004

2000: LWMP 2000-2004 Work Plan adopted

2000: City stormwater capital improvement program expands to address phosphorus

2000: Interjurisdictional Coordinating Team (ICT) created to coordinate activities and programs between jurisdictions

2001: City adopted first land use regulations for new development on properties that drain to Basin 1 (Lake Whatcom Reservoir Regulatory Chapter [BMC 16.80])

2001: City stormwater utility established; provided funding for Lake Whatcom protection

2001: City Lake Whatcom Property Acquisition Program began

2001: Watershed Advisory Board established

2002: County rezone reduced 1,800 potential dwelling units

2005 - 2009

2005: LWMP 2005-2009 Work Plan adopted

2005: City and county passed phosphorus fertilizer ban

2005: City and county banned boats with carbureted 2-stroke engines

2006: County stormwater capital improvement program with focus on phosphorus treatment began

2008: Lake Whatcom Policy Group formed

2008: City Residential Stormwater Retrofit Program began

2009: City amended the Lake Whatcom Reservoir Regulatory Chapter

2010 - 2014

2010: LWMP 2010-2014 Work Plan adopted

2011: Homeowner Incentive Program launched

2012: Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program began

2013: County amended Title 20 to create the Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District to reduce impacts from development and land use activities

2014: Sudden Valley Community Association joined Policy Group

2014: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) finalized reconveyance of 7,800 acres in the watershed to Whatcom County Parks

2015 - 2019

2015: LWMP 2015-2019 Work Plan adopted

2016: Lake Whatcom TMDL for phosphorus and fecal coliform approved by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

2016: New phosphorus loading model developed

2017: Homeowner Incentive Program revised and expanded

2019: Began update of lake response model

2019: County Lake Whatcom stormwater utility established to provide funding for Lake Whatcom protection

2019: City and county National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permits issued (TMDL response requirements included in the new permit)