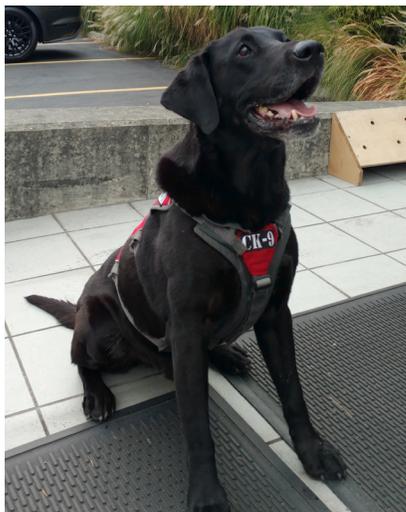




## SPU's 'Paws-On' Approach to Pollution Prevention



Sampson, a smart, loyal, Labrador Retriever, is more than just a Very Good Boy. He's a highly-skilled member of Seattle Public Utilities' Source Control and Pollution Prevention team, which protects our local water bodies by monitoring pollutants, like PCBs, in our storm drain system.

PCBs, banned by the EPA in 1979 as a hazard to human and environmental health, were historically used in electrical equipment and building material. While no longer used, they're still present in old buildings and in the mud and sediment around industrial sites like Seattle's Lower Duwamish Waterway.

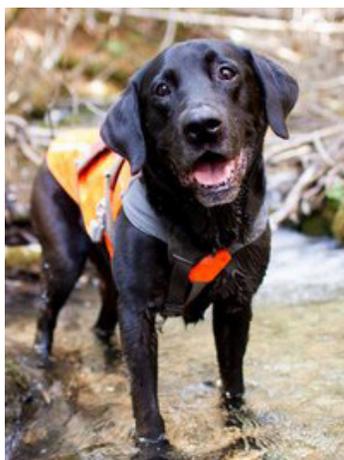
PCBs are generally considered to be odorless, but Mike Jeffers, a SPU Source Control team member, suspected otherwise. After learning about the University of Washington's Conservation Canines program—a program that trains dogs to help track the scat of endangered species—Jeffers and colleague Beth Schmoyer decided to find out if a detection dog's skill could be applied to tracking down PCBs in pipes and other drainage structures along the Duwamish. They figured if they could train a dog to detect PCBs, they could spend less time and money testing samples and more time keeping PCBs out of our waterways.

"We wanted to see if a canine tracker could actually detect PCBs," says Jeffers, "and it worked!"

As it turns out, Sampson, a pound rescue dog, is a regular Sherlock Holmes when it comes to sniffing out PCBs. Sampson can detect scents down to parts per trillion—that's more sensitive than the special tools SPU usually uses to identify the toxic chemicals.

"It was definitely thinking outside the box," says Kevin Buckley, a SPU Strategic Advisor who helped obtain a grant from the Department of Ecology to fund Sampson's first year of employment. Buckley says he's impressed by the scientific rigor and innovative thinking that went in to making the effort a success.

In fact, Sampson's first year was so successful that the Department of Ecology provided additional grant funding so that SPU can bring on a second dog/handler team in the coming year. If results continue to be promising, the Source Control Team will look at making these furry detectives a permanent part of SPU's pollution control work.



*Photo Credit: Conservation Canines*

## Spring Clean 2019

It's time for Seattle's annual neighborhood cleanup program: Spring Clean!

This April and May, join your neighbors and enhance the health and beauty of our city by picking up litter, stenciling storm drains, removing invasive weeds, and painting out graffiti.

SPU provides FREE supplies like bags, gloves, and safety vests, plus free waste pickup and disposal.

To register go to at [www.seattle.gov/util/springclean](http://www.seattle.gov/util/springclean) or call the Spring Clean hotline at **206-233-7187**.



## Contact Us

### 24/7 Emergency Services

(e.g. urgent flooding, hydrant leaks)  
• (206) 386-1800

### Report Problems

(e.g. graffiti, illegal dumping, needles)  
• [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)  
• [www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp](http://www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp)  
• (206) 684-7587

### Customer Service

• [www.seattle.gov/util](http://www.seattle.gov/util)  
• [www.seattle.gov/util/EmailUs](http://www.seattle.gov/util/EmailUs)  
• (206) 684-3000 Mon-Fri, 7:30am-6pm

## Connecting With Community Through Art

A lot of SPU's infrastructure is hard for the public to see because it's hidden underground (like the 1,900 miles of pipe that bring drinking water to your home or the 477 miles of sewer line that take your wastewater away). That's why when we have the opportunity to create new public space as part of our work, we take extra care to make sure it reflects the values of the communities it serves.



Taylor Creek flowing into Lake Washington.

In southeast Seattle, SPU is restoring Taylor Creek to make it passable for young Chinook salmon and reduce flooding. This work includes turning a site that currently holds five vacant houses into a forested, urban natural area where the community will be able to walk along a pathway to Lake Washington, stopping at creek viewpoints along the way.

As part of the design process, we're working with Brooklyn artist Olalekan Jeyfious (through a partnership with the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture) to create way-finding artwork for the forested area.

To inform his artwork, Jeyfious worked with nearly 60 students in southeast Seattle to learn what would make them feel welcome in and have a sense of ownership of the new natural area. The students created collages of their visions for their neighborhood, which included calls for perseverance and messages of peace.

"In his past work, Olalekan reflected communities through images representing their history and shared cultural experiences," says Jason Sharply, SPU's Taylor Creek project manager. "After his exploration of the site and his engagement with youth, we're excited to see what he'll unveil here. We want Taylor Creek to be an inviting space for southeast Seattle communities for years to come."



Students from the East African Community Center in Southeast Seattle show off their collage ideas for new artwork at Taylor Creek. Brooklyn artist Olalekan Jeyfious pictured bottom left.

Construction of the Taylor Creek project is anticipated to begin in early 2021. Learn more about the project go to [www.seattle.gov/util/TaylorCreek](http://www.seattle.gov/util/TaylorCreek).

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.  
如需口譯服務請電 206-684-3000。

통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000 번으로 전화해 주십시오.  
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Para sa serbisyo ng tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.  
Mướn yêu cầu dịch vụ thông dịch xin gọi số 206-684-3000.

# \$SAVE

## Utility Discount Program

Is your household income at or below 70% of the state median income? You may be eligible to get a discount of 50% on your Seattle Public Utilities bill and 60% on your Seattle City Light bill through the City of Seattle's Utility Discount Program.

Learn more: [www.seattle.gov/mybill](http://www.seattle.gov/mybill) or call 206-684-0268.

## \$100 Toilet Rebates

Save water and money by replacing your old toilet. Customers who replace a toilet installed before 2004 with a new eligible toilet may qualify for a \$100 rebate!

Learn more: [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org) or call 206-615-1282.

## Free Auto Leaks Workshop

Oil and other auto fluids that leak from your car can end up in our local waterways. Join SPU for a **FREE** Auto Leaks Workshop. You'll have your car inspected, learn to find and and fix leaks, and get a free maintenance check kit.

Register for upcoming workshops at [www.seattle.gov/util/autoleaks](http://www.seattle.gov/util/autoleaks).

## Recycle It App

Never forget your collection day again with SPU's new Recycle It app!



Recycle It helps you get reminders about your next collection day, look up how to sort items into the correct cart, and report solid waste service issues.

Download the app today - just search *Seattle Recycling and Garbage* in the App Store or Google Play.

Learn more: [www.seattle.gov/recycleit](http://www.seattle.gov/recycleit)

