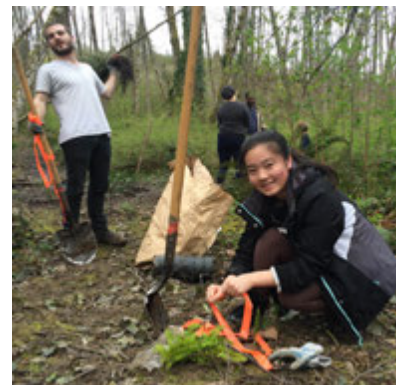




# NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT





LOCAL FOOD • HEALTHY FORESTS • CLEAN WATER

# BETTER GROUND



**Back row:** Josh Monaghan, Alex Martinsons, Kristen Reichardt, Ben Axt, Matt Maria, Jason Mirro, Jacobus Saperstein

**Middle row:** Paul Borne, Mike Lasecki, Liz Clark, Brandy Reid, Brett Anderson, Emmett Wild, Mark Musick

**Front row:** Bea Covington, Stacie Powers, Ann Horner, Jessica Saavedra, Mary Embleton

**Kneeling:** Courtney Naumann, Melissa Tatro, Rachel Konrady, John Rosapepe

**Not pictured:** Erin Ericson, Dierdre Grace, Amy Beth Holmes, Shanna Hobbs, Adam Jackson, Ava Souza, Nikki Wolf

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear King County Executive Constantine and Councilmembers,

It gives me great pleasure to transmit to you King Conservation District's **2016 Annual Report**.

King Conservation District (KCD) serves 35 member jurisdictions (34 cities and King County), with a total population of 1.8 million and growing. Our **2016 Annual Report** summarizes KCD's programs and services for King County residents and member jurisdictions, working with our partners for Local Food, Healthy Forests, and Clean Water.

I first became acquainted with King Conservation District when I served on the King Conservation District/King County Task Force in 2013. After learning about the breadth and depth of KCD's impact on natural resource conservation, I ran and won a seat on the Board of Supervisors in 2014. Coming from a long career as a forest management professional, dedicating my time and expertise to this organization is a labor of love. I am excited to once again share with our partners at King County the tremendous progress we have made toward our renewed and expanded commitment to work with landowners, agencies, and non-profit organizations in stewarding and improving our natural resources.

2016 was a big year for KCD. We strengthened old friendships and built new ones. We launched a small farm mobile poultry processing loan program, began a workshop series to help vulnerable communities grow their own food, reached out to thousands of King County residents at the NW Flower and Garden Show, King County Fair, CHOMPI, and area farmers markets, and partnered with King County cities to restore urban shorelines and increase urban tree canopy. Perhaps most exciting, in the final quarter of 2016, we enthusiastically welcomed our new Executive Director, Bea Covington.

Throughout this past year, our KCD Advisory Committee and its ad hoc working groups provided the guidance and expertise to ensure that our new programs are responsive and effective and our traditional programs continue to serve our region well.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the King County Executive and Council to continue enhancing our region's natural resources and ensuring that King County embraces its future with resiliency and collaboration.

Sincerely yours,



Dick Ryon, Board of Supervisors Chair, 2016  
King Conservation District  
May, 2017

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# OVERVIEW

King Conservation District is a special purpose district established in 1949 by the Washington Conservation Commission to provide landowners with assistance to protect and enhance natural resources. KCD is a metropolitan conservation district, serving 35 member jurisdictions (34 cities and King County) with a combined population of 1.8 million people and growing.

KCD's program of work brings the region together around a common set of natural resource investments based on the following priorities:

- Regional Food System & Sustainable Agriculture
- Rural Farm Plans & Technical Assistance
- Urban Farm Plans & Technical Assistance
- Rural Forestry & Urban Tree Canopy Enhancement
- Shoreline and Riparian Education and Assistance
- Expanded Landowner Incentive Program

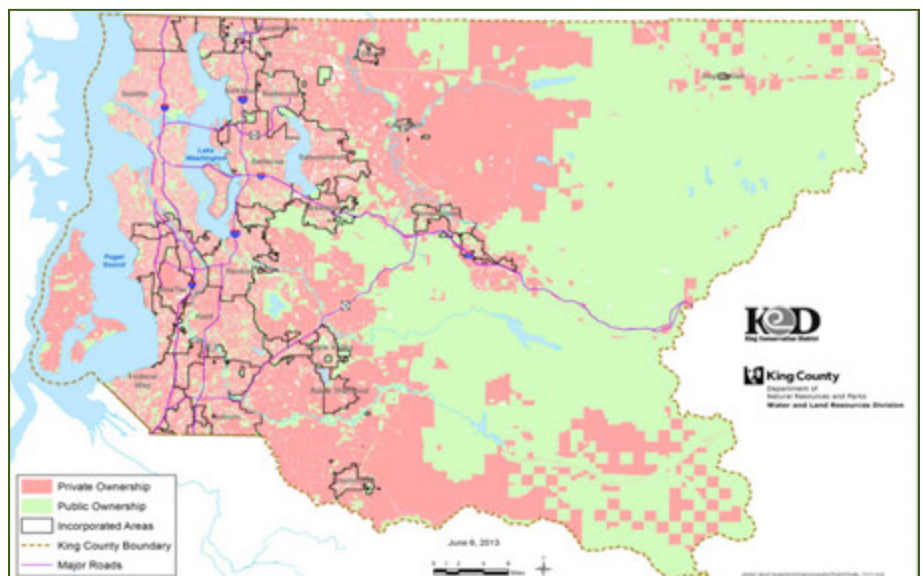
KCD implements its expanded work plan in collaboration with member jurisdictions, community organizations and private landowners. With increased emphasis on serving the needs of both rural and urban constituents, the 2016 work plan and budget enabled KCD to respond to increased demands for local food, healthy forests and clean water.



## WHO WE ARE

There are more than 300,000 parcels in private ownership in King County. King Conservation District's mission is to help landowners steward their natural resources. Like conservation districts across the state and the nation, KCD has a decades-long legacy of supporting land managers in voluntary management of natural resources.

Because KCD is an independent, non-regulatory agency, it is seen by many landowners as a trusted mentor and partner, providing education, technical assistance, and financial incentives to help people implement measures to improve the sustainability and productivity of their land.





# OVERVIEW

## HOW WE WORK

Conservation districts were created at the center of our nation's first national environmental crisis, the dust bowl of the 1930s. Our unique mission places us squarely in the center of many human-natural resource intersections. It's our job to help people understand why a healthy environment is essential to them and then give them the tools they need to do something about it.

Conservation districts work to improve or protect natural resources on private lands with an "incentive-based" approach to stewardship based on a three-pronged approach:

- Education to foster voluntary stewardship;
- Direct technical assistance and support services;
- Financial incentives for implementing best management practices.

Increasingly, KCD has developed mechanisms for working with urban landowners and organizations. As our region continues to urbanize, we must build and expand our tools for greening our cities, growing food creatively and efficiently, and creating habitat amongst the asphalt. For our region to be resilient in the face of climate change, population growth, and other pressures, we must work together to re-build the natural resources that mitigate the demands of the built environment while supporting a viable local economy.

This annual report outlines KCD's progress in 2016 towards the five-year goals it developed with its partners in 2015.



## OUR PARTNERS

King Conservation District is committed to building relationships and working alongside a dedicated cadre of public servants and private citizens to identify the region's most pressing natural resource needs and develop essential, effective, and equitable tools for addressing those needs. Some of those tools are part of Conservation Districts' traditional programs. Others—such as fixing a broken regional food system and expanding the tree canopy across the built environment—are new.

KCD's current partners include:

Sound Cities Association, including multiple cities across King County	Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition	Sustainable Seattle
City of Seattle	Forterra	Tilth Alliance
King County Executive	Green River Coalition	World Relief
King County Council	Green River College	Washington State University
King County Agriculture Commission	Highline College	University of Washington
King County Forestry Commission	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Zero Waste Washington
	The Nature Conservancy	Private Urban Landowners
	NW Agriculture Business Center	Private Rural Landowners

We are proud of this work, honored to share a table with some of the region's most critical thinkers, and excited about what lies ahead.

## KCD 2016 ROCK AWARDS

### WILDLIFE STEWARDS OF THE YEAR

Dolder Farm, Carnation



### CONSERVATION LANDOWNER AWARD

Cedar River Montessori School



### BEST PARTNERING ORGANIZATION AWARD

Normandy Park Community Club



### LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION AWARD

City of Renton



### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Alan Surrat



### CONSERVATION LEADER

Shawn Bunney



# KCD RECOGNIZED

## RACHEL KONRADY & ERIN ERICSON HONORED FOR NEWAUKUM PROJECT

In October Mark Clark, Executive Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission, presented KCD staff members Rachel Konrady and Erin Ericson with the 2016 Northwest Area Employee of the Year Awards, along with staff at Snohomish and Skagit Conservation Districts who had collaborated in implementing the National Resource Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Rachel and Erin were recognized for their work implementing the Newaukum Watershed Project, an early-action project focused on improving salmon habitat in the Newaukum Creek watershed on the Enumclaw Plateau.



# LOCAL FOOD — REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

King Conservation District's Regional Food System program was launched in 2015 as part of the organization's 5-Year Implementation Plan. It responds to findings and recommendations of the Puget Sound Regional Council's Food Policy Blueprint, the City of Seattle Food Action Plan, and King County's Local Food Initiative.

The program addresses three key areas needing development to build a robust, thriving, and resilient local and regional food system: **1)** Increased production through both more acres in production and more producers; **2)** Expanded demand for local food products by a broader palette of local consumers; and **3)** better access to locally-grown, healthy foods by low-income and other under-served residents.

Funds are awarded through both a competitive grant and a strategic initiative process. In 2016, the submitters were asked to show a direct link to King County's Local Food Initiative's 140 action items.

The competitive grant portion of the program uses an open application process to fund food system-related projects with demonstrated public benefit and a link to improving working lands in King County. The program is designed to support projects that contribute to the economic viability of local farmers, encourage new farmers, expand acreage in food production, improve food access, and increase demand for King County farm products. Eligible applicants include farmers, producer networks, marketing cooperatives, farmers' markets, businesses, schools, special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and jurisdictions within the KCD service area.

Each year, KCD seeks input from food system stakeholders to identify critical strategic initiatives for the year. KCD defines potential strategic initiatives as Local Food Initiative priority projects that can be clearly described in a scope of work and have been forwarded for action from broad stakeholder input.

KCD developed the program and set funding priorities in partnership with its Advisory Committee and Advisory Committee Regional Food System Working Group. Each year, proposal screening and ranking is done by external food system stakeholder expert panels. Final grant funding recommendations are reviewed and forwarded by the Advisory Committee to the KCD Board of Supervisors for funding decisions in the fall.

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS

In 2016, the Advisory Committee Regional Food System Working Group recommended 11 projects for funding under the competitive grants portion of the program. Seven addressed production issues, two focused primarily on demand and two were targeted towards improving food access. In total \$742,445 was awarded. These projects invest across the food system in production, access and demand projects.

Production focused projects will help farmers start and expand their operations. These investments aim to increase the acres in food production and the number of farmers working the land. Production related projects include business and market planning support from the Northwest Agricultural Business Center, FarmLink from Tilth Alliance which connects new farmers to the land, and the Sustainable Agriculture Education/ VIVA Incubator farm, training the next generation of farmers.



# LOCAL FOOD — REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

Access projects will increase the consumption of healthy local food in some of our more vulnerable communities. Access-related projects include the Elk Run Farm run by South King County Food Coalition, and the Farmer's Market EBT program.

Demand projects focus on increasing the local market demand side of the system. Demand related projects include farmer support to a new Food Coop in the Delridge neighborhood, and a smart-phone ordering system for Vashon farmers.

## COMPETITIVE GRANTS AWARDED IN 2016

Organization	Project Title	Amount	Project Description	LFI Goal Addressed
Northwest Agriculture Business Center	Cooperative Development and Planning for Value-Added Infrastructure	\$100,000	Northwest Agriculture Business Center will support business planning, site assessment, and implementation strategies for food processing facilities in King County in conjunction with ongoing work to provide technical services to cooperatively owned businesses.	Production
Delridge Grocery Cooperative	Linking Local Producers to an Urban, Food Desert Market	\$100,000	Delridge Grocery Cooperative will provide healthful, affordable, locally grown food to members of a food desert community in SW Seattle, creating a new local market for King County farmers while improving racial and economic equity through food access and cooperative business ownership.	Demand
South King County Food Coalition	Elk Run Farm	\$50,047	South King County Food Coalition will increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income families and educate volunteers and food bank customers about locally grown produce to encourage increased consumption of these important foods.	Production/ Demand
Forterra	Expanding Food Access in South King County through Wellness Hubs	\$54,345	Forterra will reduce food disparities in refugee communities in South King County by creating a community garden and wellness hub to improve the overall health and economic stability of this under-served population.	Access
Seattle Tilth	FarmLink: Connecting Farmers with Land and Landowners with Farmers	\$57,400	Seattle Tilth will help King County meet its Local Food Initiative goals by building on the capacity of Washington FarmLink to connect farmers and landowners through an online portal, educational workshops, networking events, and technical assistance.	Production
Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust	Matsuda Farm Startup Project	\$50,000	Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust will convert nine acres of the recently conserved Matsuda Farm from hay production to food production for the benefit of the Vashon Island community.	Production
Vashon Island Growers Trust	Order and Pick-Up Smart-phone App	\$41,300	Vashon Island Growers Association will develop and pilot a mobile website that enables commuters to order fresh, local customized produce and products and pick them up on their way home at day's end.	Demand

# LOCAL FOOD — REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

Organization	Project Title	Amount	Project Description	LFI Goal Addressed
Sustainable Agriculture Education and Viva Farms	SAGe Sammamish Valley Student Farm & Viva Farms Metro Farm Incubator	\$95,970	Sustainable Agriculture Education and Viva Farms will increase the number farmers and farming enterprises through training and development support to increase King County food system resiliency and sustainability.	Production
Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment	Strengthening Farmers Market EBT/Fresh Bucks Access in King County	\$100,000	Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment will support 12 King County farmers markets to implement the Fresh Bucks program. Markets will expand their customer base and build a peer network to share systems for streamlining market operations to serve SNAP recipients.	Access
Washington State Department of Agriculture	Bridging the GAPs Workshops for King County Produce Growers	\$38,648	Washington State Department of Agriculture will provide four workshops and intensive technical assistance to help King County farmers obtain voluntary USDA GAP certification and/or meet new mandatory FDA Produce Safety rules.	Production
Washington State University King County Extension	WSU Extension on Demand	\$54,735	Washington State University King County Extension will provide on-demand recorded workshops on farming topics for King County residents.	Production

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

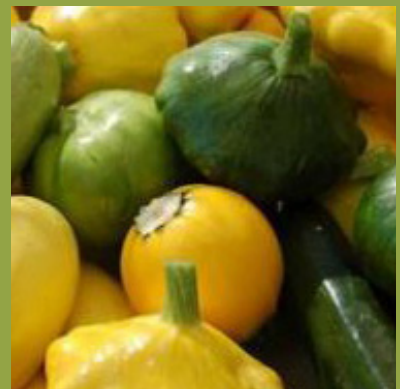
In 2016, KCD continued strategic funding to two initiatives that were started in 2015. The first recognized that institutional marketing opportunities hold some of the biggest opportunities for increasing local market demand. The Local Institutional Food Team (LIFT) investments seek to reduce barriers to farmers and institutions seeking to grow this market. The second initiative, the Metrics Project, seeks to develop a clear, coordinated food system metrics dashboard and map to ensure that we can measure and track our food system impacts.

Looking to the future, in the winter of 2016-2017, District staff conducted extensive stakeholder input to develop revised funding priorities for grants and strategic initiatives for 2017.

### Strategic initiative Grants Awarded in 2016

Organization	Amount	Grant Program Goals
Local Institutional Food Team (LIFT)	\$25,000	More demand for locally grown food Greater access to locally grown fruits and vegetables for vulnerable populations
King County Metrics Project	\$125,000	More food acres and more new farmers

# REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PROFILE



## SNOQUALMIE VALLEY FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXPANDS MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL GROWERS

The Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative was launched with the support of a \$10,000 KCD Regional Food System Grant to provide growers with access to new markets, including institutions, restaurants, and local residents. The cooperative serves twenty-one farms ranging in size from less than an acre to more than 80 acres.

The co-op's first major project was a 15-week CSA pilot program at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland. Thirty patients were offered a variety of fresh, nutrient-dense produce, a weekly newsletter with tips from both farmers and doctors, and monthly cooking classes at the hospital. The pilot was so successful Evergreen Hospital is now opening the CSA to its nearly 4,000 area employees.

Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Coop sells in bulk to restaurants, school districts, institutional cafeterias, and caterers for special events. The farmers also offer a 20-week Veggie Box subscription, with a weekly selection of fresh fruits and vegetables. Drop-off locations include Duvall, Carnation, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Issaquah, Renton, Burien, Wallingford, Greenwood, Kirkland, and Woodinville.



# LOCAL FOOD — RURAL AGRICULTURE

Assisting rural agricultural landowners is what KCD has done since its inception. Services include planning, technical assistance, small farm equipment loans, and watershed improvements.

## PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This program provides farm natural resource technical assessments, recommendations and farm conservation planning services to farm and livestock owners within the District. The whole-farm natural resource assessment is the foundational step in determining opportunities and priorities for conservation actions to improve conditions including water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat. For about 25% of our requests, the resource planner develops a formal farm conservation plan. The conservation plan formally documents the land user's decisions to manage natural resources consistent with the resource needs recommended by District staff. A farm conservation assessment report or conservation plan may be used by the landowner to meet the requirements of other agencies and programs, including: King County Codes [Titles 21A.30 (Livestock Management) and 21A.24 (Critical Areas)], King County Programs [Agricultural Drainage Assistance, Best Management Practice Cost Share, Public Benefit Rating System (property tax incentives)], Dairy Nutrient Management Act of 1998 [RCW 90.64], the Clean Water Act [33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. (1972)]. In Washington state, dairy farms are some of the most heavily regulated farm operations. KCD provides manure management technical assistance and planning to help dairies comply with environmental regulations.

RURAL AGRICULTURE <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
Farm Planning Services	750 Farm Service Customers 340 Farm Conservation Plans 10 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	150 Farm Service Customers	294 Farm Service Customers
		68 Farm Conservation Plans	56 Farm Conservation Plans
		2 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	2 Dairy Nutrient Plans
	750 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	150 Farm Plan Follow-Up Engagements	225 Farm Plan Follow-Up Engagements
Manure Spreader Loan Program	150 Landowners	30 Landowners	40 Landowners
Hay Probe Loan Program	100 Landowners	20 Farmers	4 Landowners
Broadcast Spreader Loan Program	125 Landowners	25 Landowners	0
Targeting Natural Resource Areas of Concern	3 Sub-basins Targeted	1 every other year	2 Sub-Basins Targeted: Newaukum Creek and Snoqualmie River
	250 Farm Service Customers	50 Farm Service Customers	91 Farm Service Customers
	100 Sub-basin Targeted Farm Plans	20 Sub-basin Targeted Farm Plans	25 Targeted Sub-Basin Farm Conservation Plans

<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.

In 2016, we made significant progress towards achieving the goals articulated in our 5-Year Implementation Plan and made tactical adjustments in response to lessons learned and experience gained.

# LOCAL FOOD — RURAL AGRICULTURE

## SHIFTING FARM CONSERVATION PLANNING SERVICES

Over the last decade, the KCD farm team has been seeking ways to be more targeted and effective with our farm services as the demand for our services has continued to grow. This has included shifting some of our services away from historic conservation plans to farm natural resource assessments and action recommendations, which are a more practical and action-oriented approach. This is allowing us to serve more customers at a lower service cost.

In the 2015 Implementation Plan, we planned to serve 1000 farm plan customers—750 across King County and 250 in targeted sub-basin areas—and write 450 plans over the 5-year period. In the first 2 years of the current plan we have already fulfilled 590 service requests, nearly 50% more than planned. In 2016, while the number of Farm Conservation Plans across the county was lower than the target, the number of customers taking advantage of KCD farm services was nearly double the projected goal. In addition to the 81 total Farm Plans, KCD staff delivered 172 “technical assists.”<sup>2</sup> As we continue to emphasize and improve our natural resource assessments for farms we are improving the resource assessment screening and thus, shifting many services away from the classic (and more time consuming) whole farm conservation plans to more practical, BMP-specific action plans, such as Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) Contract plans.

Currently we are on track to deliver 375 traditional farm plans by the end of 2019, that would be 75 less plans than our top end goal. At the same time, we anticipate that we will have also delivered 125 LIP Contract plans and have served an additional 450 farm service requests.

<sup>1</sup> Based on “Benchmarks” as outlined on page 19 of the 2015 adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.

<sup>2</sup> Farm Plans follow a Natural Resource Conservation Service protocol and specifically evaluate and address 9 key resource areas of concern. Technical assists are slightly less formal plans that, while still addressing specific resource areas of concern, do not provide the full gamut of assessment that is typically found in a Farm Plan. For many cooperators, this “technical assist” approach addresses their concerns.

## EQUIPMENT LOAN

One of the key constraints that new and emerging farmers face is access to equipment. Specialized equipment is often expensive and has limited, specific use—although, when it is needed, access is critical. A key role that Conservation Districts can play that directly supports local farmers, and ultimately strengthens the entire food system, is the supporting equipment loan programs to address these critical needs. KCD periodically seeks input from cooperators and partners.

Hay probes are used to determine the nutritional content of hay so that ranchers can determine what, if any supplemental nutrition is needed. Demand for this implement has been lower than we anticipated. Because its use has limited conservation impact, going into 2017, rather than attempting to determine the cause and shift tactics to increase use, we are putting priority on other equipment that has higher conservation impacts (such as the no-till seeder and a drop spreader).

In 2016 the broadcast spreader was not used because it was damaged early in the program year. Due to the age of the implement it was determined that replacement would be more cost effective than repair. In 2017, we will seek funding for a new drop spreader to address the ongoing need for this type of implement.

# LOCAL FOOD — RURAL AGRICULTURE

In response to KCD Regional Food System Program needs analysis in 2015, KCD purchased two new farm implements to loan out to farmers. In 2016 KCD initiated the loan programs for both small scale Poultry Processor and a no-till seed drill. In 2016, 28 cooperators took advantage of the Poultry Processor Equipment loan program. In 2016 use of the EcoDrill was piloted on 2 farms. In 2017, we will continue to expand the loan program for these two new pieces of equipment.

## DEPLOYING A MULTI-YEAR APPROACH AND PLAN

In the 2015 Implementation Plan, we envisioned a steady identification and build-out of a comprehensive multi-year approach in order to target natural resource areas of concern as identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and focus our efforts in regards to soil health, water quality, forest health, etc. in priority watersheds and basins.

Early in 2015, we developed our screening criteria for to identify basins for inclusion in this approach. Those criteria were:

- 1 Is the sub-basin prioritized either for salmon recovery or Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans, with significant impacts linked to agriculture?
- 2 Is the land use in the sub-basin primarily agricultural?
- 3 Are partners already poised to bring additional technical assistance and cost share in this priority area?

An additional screen we are looking at for future areas include:

- Is the sub-basin historically under-served by the KCD Farm Services?

Application of these criteria led to the prioritization of the Newaukum Creek sub-basin and the Snoqualmie River basin. Highlights from this approach include interviews with 50 farm operators in the target basins and the development of a farmability decision modeling test project that will allow farmers to better quantify the relative qualities of different farmland and prioritize areas for riparian benefit that will have minimum to no impact on farmland.

In 2016 outreach and engagement work continued in these targeted basins. In addition to work in these two basins, work continued in the Boise Creek sub-basin (where KCD has been engaging since 2013), bringing the total number of sub-basins where KCD is applying this targeted approach to three.

Partnerships have been formed and strengthened with the following organizations: Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, SnoValley Tilth, Snoqualmie Watershed Improvement District, American Farmland Trust, WSU Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department of Ecology, Green River Coalition, King County (multiple departments) and the City of Enumclaw.

We leveraged these collaborations and relationships to secure additional grant funding—over \$500,000 in cost share and technical assistance funding through 2019—from the Washington Department of Ecology, NRCS, and the Washington State Conservation Commission. Work in these basins will continue through 2017.



# LOCAL FOOD — RURAL AGRICULTURE

Although only one sub-basin remains to be targeted in order to meet the stated program goal for the current 5-year plan, in 2017 research will be done and the same criteria will be used to identify two additional sub-basins for potential engagement beginning in 2018.

In 2016, we made significant progress towards achieving the goals articulated in our 5-Year Implementation Plan and made tactical adjustments in response to lessons learned and experience gained.

## SUB-BASIN FOCUSED OUTREACH & ASSISTANCE

In 2015, KCD developed a multi-year approach to identifying priority sub-basins, which includes input and collaboration with other regional partners (King County and the Department of Ecology) and takes into account identified water quality impairments, presence and extent of agricultural land use, and opportunities for collaborative work and funding. As a result of this approach, **KCD has already reached initial 5-year program goals by bringing in significant additional funds and seeking collaboration and partnerships with other agencies.**

In 2016, King Conservation District continued its collaborative work with King County and the Washington State Department of Ecology in targeting three sub-basin watersheds for outreach and monitoring to improve water quality. In addition to exceeding program goals of delivering 20 farm conservation plans per year in these sub-basin areas, KCD staff began developing a social marketing approach for working with residents to understand, test, and improve the conditions in their watershed. With the goal of ultimately de-listing the creeks in these watersheds, KCD is engaging and enlisting the efforts of landowners and community organizations. Other key partners include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, American Farmland Trust, Washington State Department of Ecology, Green River Coalition, Washington State Conservation Commission and others.

Overall, the goals of KCD's planning and technical assistance work in rural agriculture focus on increasing voluntary stewardship of working lands, increasing the number of KCD-recommended practices implemented, and helping landowners meet natural resource practices required by code.



# RURAL AGRICULTURE PROFILE



## KCD AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE PROGRAM EXPANDS ACREAGE IN FOOD PRODUCTION

In 2016 KCD was awarded a \$214,000 King County Flood Control District grant to provide expanded drainage services to landowners. Our goal is to enable more farmers to participate in the King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) through a combination of technical assistance, matching grants, and enabling farmers to complete their own drainage maintenance. In addition, we conducted a county-wide assessment of drainage needs as the basis for future planning.

In collaboration with King County Water & Land Resources Division, the KCD program cleared more than five miles of blocked drainage channels that had caused flooding on farms in the Snoqualmie Valley, Sammamish Valley and the Enumclaw Plateau. The drainage projects enabled participating farmers to put into production 128 acres that had been too wet to farm, and enhanced production on an additional 481 acres.

In addition to implementing major drainage projects, KCD conducted farmer surveys to quantify drainage needs across King County. A total of 135 farmers responded to the surveys, reporting an estimated 3,239 acres impacted by poor drainage. Survey data is being used as the basis for program planning.

# LOCAL FOOD — URBAN AGRICULTURE

King Conservation District's Urban Agriculture program was developed in partnership with our Advisory Committee. The program seeks to bring KCD's technical expertise in food, farming, and natural resource conservation to its urban constituents and expand food producing green infrastructure in under-served King County communities.

Building an urban agriculture program enables KCD to engage with communities in ways that are fresh and innovative. For example, in the summer of 2016, KCD's Mt. Adams Institute AmeriCorps intern initiated a pilot project to demonstrate the ancient European gardening technique Hügelkultur at KCD's collaborative urban farm CitySoil Farm. With its compact profile and soil-growing and moisture-retention characteristics, Hügelkultur quickly became a favorite topic among KCD's urban constituents. Offering expertise and resources to schools, individuals, non-profits, and churches, KCD is helping expand access to healthy food and teaching important lessons on soil health, water quality, habitat, and natural resource stewardship in the urban landscape.

URBAN AGRICULTURE <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
5 Free Soil Test Program	Expand Soil Nutrient Testing Program—1000 New Users	200 per year	Conducted 1,525 soil nutrient tests
Engage new gardeners	Engage 500 New Gardeners	Engage 100 New Gardeners	350 @ Northwest Flower & Garden Show 75 @ King County Farmers Markets 35 @ King County Fair 25 @ CHOMP!
Assist member jurisdictions with urban ag-friendly code revisions	Assist 15 Jurisdictions with Code Audits	Assist 3 cities interested in starting community gardens	Des Moines—scoping Kent—Hillside Community Church Tukwila—workshop SeaTac—workshop
Urban food production technical assistance	100 Urban Farm Technical Assists	20 Urban Farm Technical Assists	22 participants

<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.

In 2016, KCD partnered with a variety of organizations to expand and deliver assistance to urban food producers. New Start Alternative High School in Burien received free GroCo® and technical assistance and was featured on King 5 News. A vision and the beginning of partnership began at Hillside Community Church in Kent to embark on turning 1 acre of parking lot into a community garden open to all. Highline College and interested Des Moines staff and residents began discussing ways to turn under-utilized park space into thriving, vibrant food gardens. Meanwhile, KCD staff participated in regional Communities of Interest to offer support and resources where needed and appropriate.

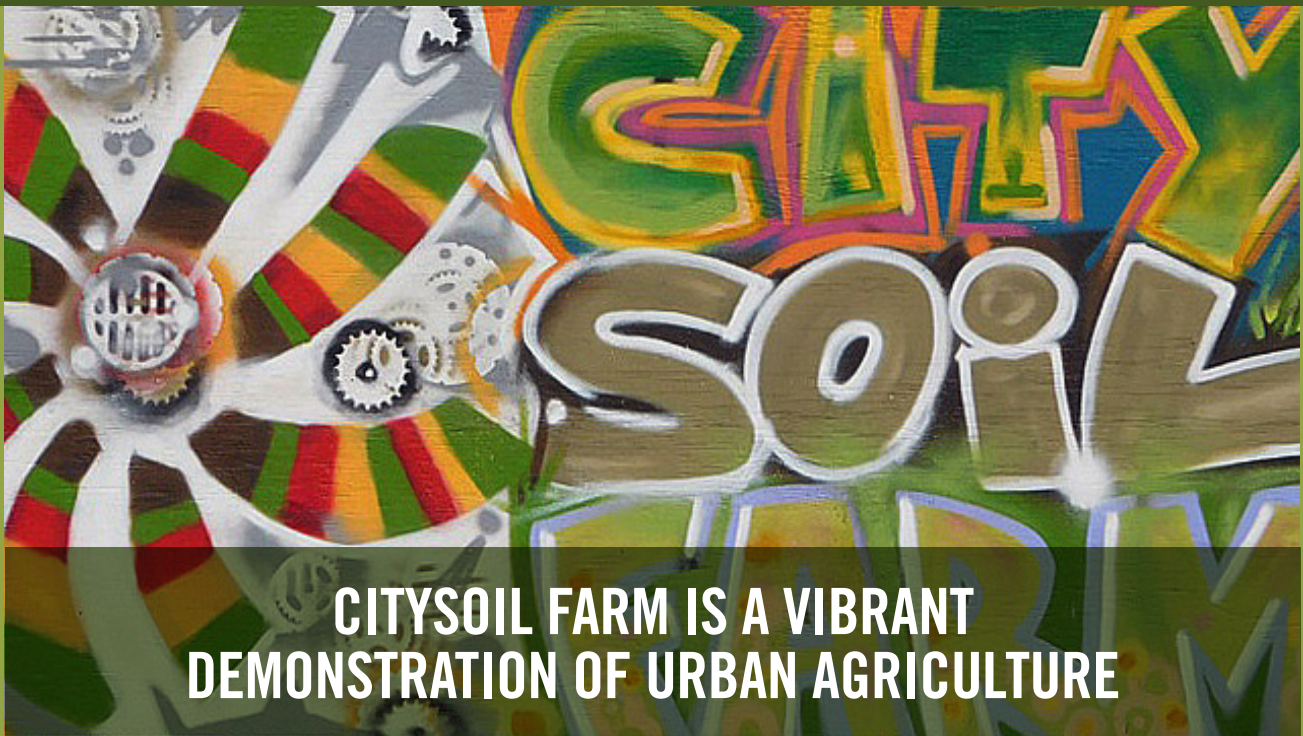
## DID YOU KNOW?

GroCo™ made with Loop is a local soil amendment produced by King County Water Treatment Division and used on production crops in eastern Washington.

In 2016, King County WTD and KCD developed a strategy for enabling low-income and under-served communities in King County to access up to 100 cubic yards of GroCo™ per year free of charge for food production.



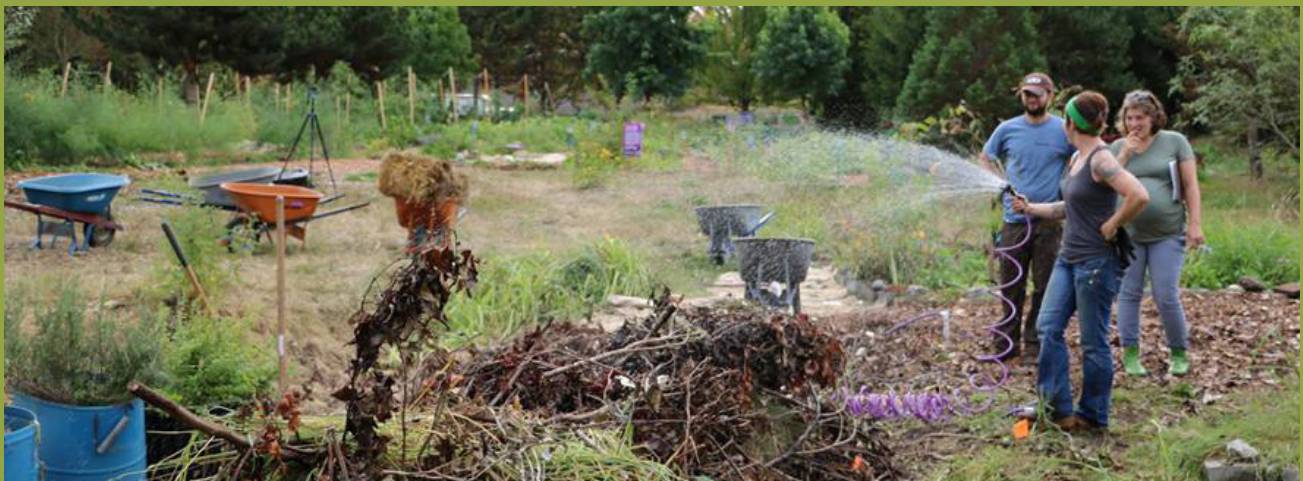
# URBAN AGRICULTURE PROFILE



## CITYSOIL FARM IS A VIBRANT DEMONSTRATION OF URBAN AGRICULTURE

CitySoil Farm is a 1.5 acre learning and giving garden located at the King County South Treatment Plant in Renton. King Conservation District, Wastewater Treatment Division, Seattle Tilth, and DIRT Corps are collaborating to develop the farm to demonstrate the potential for more community food projects across King County.

CitySoil Farm incorporates the successful use of GroCo™ compost made with Loop® biosolids and reclaimed water for urban agriculture. The farm also provides volunteer and community education opportunities to expand knowledge of soil, food, and agriculture. Over the 17-week 2016 growing season, CitySoil Farm volunteers have harvested and donated two tons of fresh produce to local food banks.



# HEALTHY FORESTS

King Conservation District provides programs and services to assist small acreage non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF) landowners and local member jurisdictions with conservation of forest land. Forests cover two-thirds of the land area in King County, and over 364,000 acres of these forests are in private ownership. The residents of King County value these forestlands for their social, economic and ecological benefits: The recreational opportunities and scenic beauty afforded by forests are central to the quality of life in King County; Pacific Northwest forests are among the most productive in the world; and King County forests provide direct and tangible benefits to entire watersheds by intercepting, evaporating and transpiring rainfall, recharging groundwater and releasing storm water slowly to receiving waterways, sequestering carbon, and providing fish and wildlife habitat.

## RURAL FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT (RURAL FORESTRY)

KCD's Rural Forest Health Management Program works with small-lot forest landowners across unincorporated King County to increase the resilience of forested landscape and capture ecological, recreational and other values. KCD partners with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension to serve rural residential, forest landowners and Homeowner Associations. This protects and enhances woodlots and smaller stands of forest, reduce forest fragmentation, and captures the ecological benefits and the potential economic value of forests.

The goals for the program are: to **1)** improve the management of small (5 or fewer acres), non-industrial private lands; **2)** increase forest landowner access to forest health education and programming; **3)** direct program activities to address regional scale gaps in technical programming and prioritize delivery of services where services are limited or unavailable.

The 2016 outcomes of the program included engaging 37 landowners in planning forest stewardship practices and supporting implementation of forest stewardship practices on 291 acres of small acreage forest land. The full range of outcomes for the 2016 program year are presented in the table below.

Rural Small Lot Forest Health <sup>1</sup>	5-Year Plan	2016 Goal	2016 Actual
Rural Forest Health Management	1125 Acres of Rural Forest/ Woodlot Treated and Planted	225 acres planted	291 acres treated, an additional 95.45 acres contracted <sup>2</sup>
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	90,000-180,000 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	18,000-36,000 trees planted	21,150 <sup>3</sup>
Rural Forest Health Management	Engage 90 Small Forest Landowners in Planning and Implementing BMPs	18 Landowners Engaged	37 Landowners Engaged
	5 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshops	1 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshop	1 Workshop Series
Landowner Incentive Program	\$750,000 in cost share with small acreage rural forest landowners	\$150,000 in cost share with small acreage rural forest landowners	\$174,626.25
<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020. <sup>2</sup> Based on acres reported in conjunction with LIP <sup>3</sup> Based on plants to be installed in conjunction with LIP			



# RURAL FORESTS PROFILE



Lorrie Joeschke considers herself lucky that a code enforcement officer paid a visit to her newly purchased undeveloped 5 acres of forested land on Lake McDonald in Renton. The complaint was found to be unsubstantiated and Joeschke was then referred to King Conservation District for assistance. Having been drawn to the property of alders and large growth cedar trees, she was a bit overwhelmed with the rules and regulations that dictated how she could develop the land to stable her horses. "I was thrilled to find that there was a non-regulatory agency like KCD that would help me not only avoid making mistakes, but create an ideal plan for improving the property with my needs in mind," said Joeschke. She recently completed the Coached Forest Stewardship Course and now has a forest management plan in place, "I am thinking about taking the course a second time, I found it that helpful."

# HEALTHY FORESTS

## URBAN FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

KCD's Urban Forest Health Management program works collaboratively with King County jurisdictions to implement urban forestry program objectives.

The goals for the program are: **1)** to engage community stakeholders in an urban forestry project selection process; **2)** to facilitate an annual RFP process to identify and select urban forestry projects; and **3)** to identify and implement urban forestry projects with at least 15 Member Jurisdictions enhancing at least 30 acres of urban forest habitat over a 5-year period.



In 2016, KCD again worked with the Urban Forest Health Management Working Group of the Advisory Committee to facilitate a competitive, open RFP process. This process resulted in the selection of five projects for implementation in partnership with the cities of Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Redmond and Seattle. This puts this program ahead of its benchmarks as outlined in the adopted 5-Year Implementation Plan.

The full range of outcomes for the 2016 program year outcomes are presented in the table below.

URBAN FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
Urban Forest Health Management/Bareroot Plant Sale	70 Acres of Urban Forest/Upland Treated and Planted	14 Acres Treated and Planted <sup>2</sup>	35.45 acres treated
	172,00 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	34,400 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	35,287 trees and shrubs installed
	Plan and Implement Tailored Urban Forest Retention and Restoration Initiatives in 15 Cities	Launch Initiatives in 3 Cities	Clyde Hill, Hunts Point, Yarrow Point, Redmond and Seattle
Landowner Incentive Program	Award \$750,000 in cost share	Award \$150,000 in LIP cost share	\$157,551
<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 9 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020. <sup>2</sup> Based on contract awards in conjunction with LIP.			



# URBAN FORESTS PROFILE



## KCD URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM HELPS COMMUNITY FORESTS GROW

KCD supports urban forestry initiatives that bridge stewardship across public and private land. Through the development of partnerships between member jurisdiction cities and local community groups, we are able to pull together resources to expand on-the-ground stewardship efforts.

In 2016 we initiated a series of projects in Bothell, including a city-wide urban tree canopy assessment and associated report covering 8,741 acres, development of a customized online tool for canopy planning, and forest health assessments for two public forest areas.

KCD developed a forest stewardship plan for the 64-acre North Creek Forest, which is home to more than 100 plant species and a diverse array of wildlife. The forest also filters water and protects habitat for endangered salmon in nearby streams. In addition to writing the management plan for the North Creek Forest, we assisted with securing Washington DNR funds for four weeks of Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew time to remove invasive species and expand plantings of native trees and shrubs in the City of Bothell's new community forest.

# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

King County's landscape is a diverse mosaic of mountains, forests, rivers, lakes and marine habitats and hosts a number of species that are listed as threatened or endangered, including steelhead, Chinook and chum. The service area for King Conservation District includes numerous shoreline properties with nearly 2,000 miles of marine and freshwater shoreline. Over 2/3 of these properties are held in private ownership.

KCD works to protect and improve our region's freshwater and marine shoreline resources by helping landowners and residents steward habitat, including implementing protection and enhancement practices. KCD provides education, technical assistance services, and implementation service to help shoreline homeowners and landowners plan and implement shoreline protection and enhancement practices that improve water quality, soil conservation and fish and wildlife habitat.

The hallmarks of conservation district work are the principles of voluntary stewardship and private land owner engagement. As non-regulatory entities conservation districts meet land owners where they are and work collaboratively with them to implement conservation improvements that will benefit not only the individual land owner, but the larger community as well.

First articulated by sociologist Everett Rogers in 1962, conservation districts have always utilized an approach that moves willing participants through an "arc of engagement" from awareness and education on to technical assistance and ultimately through to implementation and adoption.<sup>1</sup>



The Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Programs at KCD have been employing this "arc of engagement" approach for over 20 years with rural shoreline landowners. As a result of the Conservation Panel and Task Force process, KCD began a new initiative to engage urban shoreline owners, using this approach, as part of the 2015-2020 plan of work. In 2015, KCD also reinvigorated its utilization of this approach to engage marine shoreline homeowners..

In addition to laying out the arc of engagement, Rogers also identified a phenomena of acceleration with respect to rates of adoption of new innovations, and articulated the concept of "critical mass" (as the level of adoptees required for further adoption of innovation to be self-sustaining) While it is convenient, for planning purposes, to divide cumulative 5-year goals into 5 one-year increments, Rogers' work, and subsequent research into behavior change and the adoption of innovations demonstrates that this approach often does not play out so neatly, particularly when changing or adopting new behaviors. In 2016 KCD made great progress towards identifying willing shoreline cooperators and moving them into the "arc of engagement."

With final development and implementation of a new social marketing-based urban shoreline landowner curriculum, KCD expects to see a strong level of engagement that assists these shoreline property-owners in moving from knowledge to action. Less encouraging are the challenges faced by the KCD Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) where regulatory limits placed on the establishment of riparian buffers on properties enrolled in the Farmland Preservation Program are at odds with the interests of agricultural landowners who desire to install CREP buffers. KCD is redirecting its approach to strategically engage CREP eligible landowners so that we can increase delivery of a much desired program that improves riparian conditions while simultaneously supporting the viability of local agriculture through a land rental payment system.

<sup>1</sup> Rogers, Everett M., Diffusion of Innovations, pg. 172.

# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

The full range of outcomes for the 2016 program year are presented in the table below.

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines Protection & Enhancement Services, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Marine Shorelines, Wetland Plant Cooperative, and Bareroot Plant Sale	18 Miles of Shoreline Replanted and Enhanced	3.6 Miles Replanted or Enhanced <sup>2</sup>	2.55 miles
	235 Acres of Riparian Corridor Replanted and Enhanced	47 Acres Replanted and Enhanced <sup>3</sup>	16.5 Acres Planted and Enhanced
	575,500 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	115,100 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted <sup>4</sup>	33,486 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted
Land & Water Stewardship Workshops, Urban Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 1,100 Freshwater Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	220 Freshwater Landowners Engaged in Education	6 workshops; 60 participants
Where the Water Begins - Marine Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 600 Marine Shoreline Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	120 Marine Landowners Engaged in Education	3 workshops; 57 participants
Rural and Urban Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Improvement Projects	100 Aquatic Area Projects Planned and Implemented (25 Acres/9 Miles) Freshwater Aquatic Area)	20 Planting Projects; 5 Acres/1.8 Miles	20 Projects 11.4 Acres 1.9 Miles
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	20-40 CREP Projects (30 Acres/ 7.5 Miles) Planned and Implemented	4-8 CREP Projects/6 Acres/1.5 Miles Planned and Implemented	2 Projects 3.53 Acres 0.64 Miles
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$562,500 to Implement Freshwater and Marine Aquatic Area Shoreline Improvement and Enhancement	\$112,500 Awarded	\$198,729 Awarded <sup>5</sup>
<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 22 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020. <sup>2</sup> Portions of this metric are also expressed in the CREP and LIP figures <sup>3</sup> Portions of this metric are also expressed in the CREP and LIP figures <sup>4</sup> Portions of this metric are also expressed in the CREP and LIP figures <sup>5</sup> Based on contract awards in conjunction with LIP			

# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

## RURAL FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT SERVICES



The primary focus of this program is to serve KCD cooperators participating in the KCD Farm Conservation Management Program by planning and implementing stream and wetland buffer protection and livestock exclusion fencing practices detailed in individual landowner Farm Conservation Plans. Other natural resource conservation and management concerns addressed by the program include water quality protection; soil erosion prevention; stream, wetland, and estuarine protection and enhancement; fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement. Occasionally, the program also addresses

protection and enhancement of other sensitive areas such as steep slopes.

The goals of the Rural Freshwater Shorelines Protection & Enhancement Services Program include **1)** assisting agricultural landowners with planning and installing aquatic area protection and enhancement practices, and **2)** maintaining installed projects sites to ensure successful establishment of riparian areas and wetland buffers.

The 2016 outcomes of the Volunteer Program included planning and implementing 10 projects, establishing 7 acres of buffer along 1.25 miles of shoreline.

## URBAN FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT SERVICES



KCD provides assistance to urban freshwater shoreline landowners, including private landowners, organizations, schools and businesses on implementing aquatic area enhancement projects. The primary focus of this program is to serve KCD cooperators who have property within the incorporated boundary of member jurisdictions (35 total). Improvements include water quality protection; soil erosion prevention; fish and wildlife habitat protection and enhancement.

The goals of the Urban Freshwater Shorelines Protection & Enhancement Services Program include **1)** assisting urban/residential homeowners with planning and installing aquatic area protection and enhancement practices, **2)** maintaining installed project sites to ensure successful establishment of riparian areas and wetland buffers, and **3)** conducting program activities and delivering homeowner services in collaboration with member jurisdictions.

The 2016 outcomes of Urban Freshwater Shoreline Protection & Enhancement Services include planning and implementing 11 projects, establishing 4.3 acres of buffer along .65 miles of shorelines.



# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

## CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)



The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) compensates agriculture landowners for setting aside, planting, and maintaining riparian buffers to restore fish habitat on private agricultural lands adjacent to depressed or critical condition salmon streams and rivers. CREP is a joint effort of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Washington State Conservation Commission acting through the King Conservation District. While the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is housed in the Shoreline and Habitat section, the program touches many components across KCD's efforts.

The goals of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program include **1)** assisting agricultural landowners with planning and installing CREP-based aquatic area protection and enhancement practices, and **2)** maintaining installed projects sites to ensure successful establishment of riparian areas and wetland buffers.

The 2016 outcomes of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program included planning 5 new projects and installing 2 projects, establishing 3.53 acres of buffer along 1.3 miles of shoreline.

## WETLAND PLANT COOPERATIVE AND BAREROOT PLANT SALE



The KCD Wetland Plant Cooperative and Native Plant Holding Facility (WPC) is a plant nursery where native trees, shrubs, herbs, and wetland plants are propagated for stream, wetland, estuarine, and upland habitat enhancement projects. Partnering individuals, organizations, and agencies volunteer at the WPC in trade for technical services and plant material. Community groups in particular benefit by volunteering to obtain assistance on planning and implementing enhancement projects that otherwise could not be implemented due to lack of technical expertise and funding.

The Bareroot Plant Sale provides landowners, organizations, schools, and government agencies with low cost bareroot native plant material for habitat enhancement and native plant landscaping. In addition to receiving low-cost native plants, plant sale customers receive assistance on species selection, information on installing and maintaining plants to achieve high rates of survival, and recommendations related to habitat enhancement.

# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

The goals of the Wetland Plant Cooperative include **1)** supporting installation of KCD planned shoreline enhancement projects, and **2)** providing project planning and implementation support to homeowners, landowners, organizations and agencies on aquatic area enhancement projects.

The 2016 outcomes of the Wetland Plant Cooperative Program included supporting 21 KCD shoreline projects with 3,919 plants, 25 volunteer homeowner/landowner projects with 423 plants, and 2 agency partner projects with 17 plants.

The goals of the Bareroot Plant Sale include **1)** promoting and supporting landscaping with natives trees and shrubs, **2)** supporting homeowners, landowners, organizations and agencies on upland and aquatic area enhancement project implementation, and **3)** raising public awareness about the value and role of native plants.

The 2016 outcomes of the Bareroot Plant Sale Program included providing over 55,000 native trees and shrubs to 922 customers, establishing 6.5 acres of enhanced upland and 1.6 acres of enhanced shoreline.

## MARINE SHORELINE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT SERVICES



The Marine Shoreline Landowner Assistance Program provides workshops, site visits, and limited cost-share funding to help landowners improve critical natural resources associated with Puget Sound marine shorelines. Workshops focus on the ecology of the Puget Sound marine near-shore environment, coastal geological processes, and vegetation management. In combination, these topics provide an overview of how landowners can promote stable natural shorelines, reduce the risk of bluff erosion and landslides, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Workshop participants may request a free site visit to learn about natural resource management concerns specific

to their marine shoreline properties. Cost-share is budgeted through the KCD Landowner Incentive Program and the Washington State Conservation Commission Capital Budget program. The workshop component of this program is budgeted under the Education Group.

The goals of the Marine Shoreline Protection and Enhancement Services Program include **1)** assisting marine shoreline homeowner/landowners with resource management technical assistance and planning and services, and **2)** leveraging resources to assist homeowners/landowners with implementing critical fish and wildlife habitat enhancement projects on marine shorelines.

The 2016 outcomes of the Marine Shoreline Protection and Enhancement Services Program included assisting 30 marine shoreline property owners with assessing and documenting resource management concerns and corresponding improvement actions; implementing one KCD planned marine bulkhead removal project.

# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

## URBAN SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION – NEW!



KCD offers a targeted shoreline education curriculum that promotes and supports the protection and enhancement of freshwater shorelines through vegetated buffers and reduced pollutants in surface water runoff on private property in the urbanized and incorporated areas of King County. Workshop participants may request a free site visit to learn about natural resource management concerns specific to their shoreline properties. The workshop technical assistance component of this program is budgeted under the Urban Shoreline Protection

and Enhancement Services Program associated with the Implementation & Natural Resources Conservation Group.

The goals of the Urban Shoreline Landowner Education Program include **1)** inspiring freshwater shoreline homeowners/landowners to drive the protection of our region's shorelines and contribute to the overall health of Puget Sound, and **2)** increasing homeowner/landowner literacy levels around freshwater shoreline ecology, physical processes, the role of riparian vegetation and how to protect and enhance shoreline habitat.

The 2016 outcomes of the Urban Shoreline Landowner Education Program included initiating the development of a social marketing-based curriculum for urban shorelines protection and enhancement education curriculum; and developing a second workshop for urban shoreline landowners and facilitating 4 of these workshops with 47 participants.

## LAND & WATER STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOPS



This program is a series of four workshops in which livestock owners learn about planning and implementing natural resource management practices to protect water quality, conserve soils, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Subsequent to participating in these workshops, livestock owners have the option to work with KCD staff on a customized Farm Conservation Plan for their property, and/or the design and installation of an aquatic area buffer protection and enhancement plan.

The goals of the Land and Water Stewardship Workshops include **1)** inspiring freshwater rural shoreline landowners to drive the protection of our region's shorelines and contribute to the overall health of Puget Sound, **2)** increasing livestock owner literacy levels around freshwater shoreline ecology, physical processes, the role of riparian vegetation and how to protect and enhance shoreline habitat, and **3)** providing aquatic area protection and enhancement project planning and installation tools to rural shoreline landowners for self-directed project installation.

The 2016 outcomes of the Land and Water Stewardship Workshops included facilitating 8 workshops for 91 landowner participants.



# CLEAN WATER – SHORELINES & HABITAT

## WHERE THE WATER BEGINS – MARINE SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS



*Where the Water Begins* provides access to educational content for landowners of marine shorelines. Workshops focus on the ecology of the Puget Sound marine near-shore environment, coastal geological processes, and vegetation management. In combination, these topics provide an overview of how landowners can promote stable natural shorelines, reduce the risk of bluff erosion and landslides, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. Workshop participants may request a free site visit to learn about natural resource management concerns specific to their marine shoreline properties.

The goals of *Where the Water Begins* Workshops include **1)** inspiring marine shoreline homeowners/landowners to drive the protection of our region's shorelines and contribute to the overall health of Puget Sound, and **2)** increasing homeowner/landowner literacy levels around marine nearshore ecology, coastal-geological processes, the role of marine riparian vegetation and how to protect and enhance marine shoreline habitat.

The 2016 outcomes of the Urban Shoreline Landowner Education Program included facilitating 3 workshops and field trips for 57 participants.





# URBAN SHORELINES PROFILE



## KCD URBAN SHORELINES PROGRAM RESTORES PROPERTY WITH TWO STREAMS

In support of efforts to restore Puget Sound salmon runs, KCD initiated the Urban Shorelines & Riparian Habitat Improvement Program to provide education, technical assistance, and project implementation for urban landowners with properties near freshwater shorelines and riparian habitats. Selected projects focus on invasive species control, water temperature improvement, and erosion and sediment control through management of invasive species and establishment of native plants.

KCD implemented a major habitat restoration project in 2016 at the Strayer residence in Normandy Park that is bordered by two salmon-bearing streams. Walker Creek flows through the west side of the property and Sequoia Creek flows through the east side. The total project enhanced 6,500 sq ft of riparian area along Walker Creek and 5,000 sq ft along Sequoia Creek.

Prior to the habitat restoration, the riparian area along Sequoia Creek had been carpeted with English Ivy, with Salmonberry scattered throughout. And the Walker Creek riparian area had Himalayan Blackberry and English Ivy.

KCD's Washington Conservation Corps crews removed invasive species along the creeks and re-planted the area with 40 trees and 492 shrubs. The trees include Cascara, Sitka Spruce, and Western Red Cedar. In wetter areas close to the streams the crews planted Black Twinberry, Pacific Ninebark, Peafruted Rose, Red Elderberry, Red Osier Dogwood, and Salmonberry. Drier upland areas were planted with native Hazelnut, Indian Plum, Nootka Rose, Ocean Spray, Snowberry, Thimbleberry, and Vine Maple. The crews also planted 20 Sword Ferns as groundcovers in moist, full shade to partially sunny areas along Sequoia Creek. The plants will protect the soil, provide shade to cool the two streams, and provide wildlife habitat.

# CLEAN WATER — BUILDING THE FUTURE

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



KCD's Volunteer Program supports KCD outreach and education activities, and implementation of KCD conservation efforts. The volunteer program increases public awareness of KCD programs and services while volunteers gain knowledge about local natural resource management concerns, such as restoration of watershed functions, and gain experience implementing practices to address those concerns. While the Volunteer Program is housed in the Shoreline and Habitat section, the program touches many components across KCD's efforts.

The goals of the Volunteer Program include **1)** recruiting and connecting new volunteers to project-based learning opportunities, and **2)** building partnerships with agencies and organizations to address mutual service learning goals.

The 2016 outcomes of the Volunteer Program included connecting 773 volunteers who donated 2,600 hours of services on 164 project-based learning opportunities.

## ENVIROTHON



Envirothon is a nationwide environmental literacy competition for high school youth. Sponsoring businesses and organizations include the NRCS, WSCC, and the WACD. KCD participates in the Washington State Envirothon program by recruiting high school teams from King County to participate in the Northwest regional, state, and national Envirothon competitions. In 2016, KCD coordinated the Northwest regional event in cooperation with the King County Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant, Snohomish Conservation District, Skagit Conservation District, and Whatcom Conservation District.

The goals of the Envirothon Program are to **1)** support partner school districts, agencies and NGOs in delivering field-based high school-level education programming on natural resource management topics, and **2)** support the development of future natural resource management workers and professionals.

The 2016 outcomes of the Envirothon Program included facilitating topical training workshops for 15 students considering participation in the program, and recruiting and hosting 2 teams of 10 students to participate in the NW Regional Envirothon Competition, and one team of 5 students to participate in the State Envirothon competition.



# CLEAN WATER — BUILDING THE FUTURE

## FARM TOURS & SPECIAL AGRICULTURE CLASSES



KCD facilitates farm tours and classes on agriculture topics to provide peer education opportunities for members of the livestock community. Farm tours are open house events where a host landowner highlights management practices they've implemented to protect and enhance natural resources on their property. Classes on agriculture topics are offered to provide information on emerging topics relevant to the livestock community. While the Farm Tours & Special Agriculture Classes are housed in the Shoreline and Habitat section, the program touches many components across KCD's efforts.

The goals of the Farm Tour and Special Topic Agriculture Classes Program are to **1)** support peer-to-peer education within the agricultural community, **2)** promote sound natural resource management practices on agricultural properties, and **3)** support voluntary stewardship of natural resources on private lands.

The 2016 outcomes of the Farm Tour and Special Topic Agriculture Classes Program included facilitating 8 farm tours and 8 special topic agriculture classes attended by 347 participants.



# CLEAN WATER – BUILDING THE FUTURE

## K–12 STORMWATER EDUCATION - NEW!



King Conservation District's K-12 Stormwater Education Program provides youth education to students in King County around soil and water conservation and protection. *Water on Wheels* is a classroom based lesson for K-6th grade and includes hands-on games and activities to introduce students to water pollution, watersheds, and soil. *Environmental Detectives* is a half-day activity for 8th grade students in which groups rotate through stations of environmental tests and problem-solving discussions to discover the 'mystery of the dying fish' and learn about water pollutant sources and how humans impact their watershed and ecosystem. All programs meet the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit requirements for cities in King County. These programs are delivered by a partnership between the King Conservation District and member jurisdictions. Funding for the deployment of the program is provided by the member jurisdictions.

The goals of the K-12 Stormwater Education Program are to **1)** increase youth literacy on water pollution sources and solutions by delivering high quality stormwater education, and **2)** support member jurisdictions on NPDES permit-related stormwater education requirements.

The 2016 outcomes of the K-12 Stormwater Education Program included facilitating the *Water on Wheels* curriculum in 18 classrooms of the Renton/Newcastle School District, engaging 495 elementary school students in learning about stormwater and watershed management principles.

CLEAN WATER – BUILDING THE FUTURE <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
Volunteer Program	0	800 volunteers 300 volunteer hours 73 events	733 volunteers 164 projects 2,600 hours
Envirothon	0	Plan and host 1 regional event and 1 state event	Planned and hosted 1 regional and 1 state event
Farm Tours and Special Agricultural Classes	0	8 tours 4 classes	8 tours 8 classes
K–12 Stormwater Education	0	500 students	495 students

<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 22 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.



# SHORELINES EDUCATION PROFILE



## NEARSHORE BOAT TOUR – AUGUST 2016

KCD, in partnership with Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed Forum (WRIA 9), the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Station, and Filson, held an educational forum on the waters of Puget Sound in August of 2016. Salmon recovery was the topic of a special boat tour that focused on nearshore habitat restoration and its importance to the health of Puget Sound. About 100 people participated in the tour, including federal, tribal, state and local elected officials, administrators, and business and environmental leaders.

Event co-coordinator, Doug Osterman (Green/Duwamish (WRIA 9) Salmon Recovery Manager) summed up the importance of gathering environmental partners and representatives of the Puget Sound business community to “observe the dynamic, intricate nearshore landscape that is continuously shaped by water and wind and—perhaps more importantly—the human impacts that effect the ability of the nearshore to support salmon population viability.”

The tour boat left Elliott Bay and traveled south to Burien to observe major restoration projects and discuss challenges that must be addressed to restore the health of Puget Sound.



# LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) promotes stewardship of natural resources on private property by providing cost-share funding to help landowners implement natural resource management practices. Cost-share reimbursement rates for approved projects range from 50% to 90% depending on the natural resource management practice. There is no lifetime maximum on the amount of cost-share funding a landowner can receive through the LIP, but landowners must complete implementation of their current approved practice before applying for a new one.

The goal of the Landowner Incentive Program is to promote the implementation of natural resource management practices detailed in District prepared technical assistance and management plans such as Conservation Farm Management Plans and Forest Health Management Plans.

The 2016 outcomes of the Landowner Incentive Program include awarding 109 contracts for \$686,897, including \$150,000 in project funding for KCD Urban Forestry projects; and managing 430 open cost-share projects.

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM <sup>1</sup>	5-YEAR PLAN	2016 GOAL	2016 ACTUAL
Agricultural & Livestock Management	\$1,218,750 in cost share	\$243,750	\$163,541
Forest Health Management	\$1,500,000 in cost share	\$300,000	\$342,626
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	\$562,000 in cost share	\$112,500	\$198,729
		<b>\$656,250</b>	<b>\$704,896<sup>2</sup></b>
<sup>1</sup> Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 22 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020. <sup>2</sup> Additional funds awarded CY 2016 (2016 actual) are from prior year awards where prior year projects were implemented at lower cost than anticipated or were canceled.			

Note that table numbers are also displayed as part of Local Food, Healthy Forest, and Clean Water metrics.





# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



**Dick Ryon, Chair**

Dick was elected to the KCD Board of Supervisors in 2014. While not having actively worked with farmers, ranchers and dairymen in the agricultural districts in King County, he is no stranger to rural and forest areas, having been employed by Weyerhaeuser Company as a Professional Forester and Land Use Manager in Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties for almost 20 years. Dick also serves on the King County Rural Forest Commission.

Dick brings a continuity of regional natural resource priorities from his participation on the 2013 King County/KCD Task Force/Conservation Panel. The purpose of the Task Force was three fold:  
**1)** Identify the availability of conservation and natural resource programs and services in King County;  
**2)** Identify the needs, both met and unmet for such services and programs, and **3)** Identify the actual and prospective sources of funding to meet such needs.



**Bill Knutsen, Vice-Chair**

Bill Knutsen is no stranger to the changes that have swept across the King County landscape. Bill is a third generation dairy farmer, now retired. He graduated from Northshore schools and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from Central Washington College School of Business.

Bill ran a thriving dairy business with his family in the Bothell area for many years, bottling the milk and delivering it to area homes. Eventually, the family business evolved to include a drive-thru dairy store in the 1970s and 80s. Bill is currently serving his 4th term as a King Conservation District supervisor.

In addition to his service to KCD, Bill has been a King County Ag Commissioner and was president of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association - an organization charged with helping farmers operate profitably. Bill is married, with a son and a daughter and six grandchildren.



**Max Prinsen, Secretary/Auditor**

Max has served on the KCD Board since 2012. Max and his wife Erin founded Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands (SHADOW) in 1999 to protect a unique habitat that includes a rare peat bog in southeast King County Washington. The SHADOW team works to continuously expand and enhance the non-profit's educational programs and protect the fragile ecosystem. SHADOW provides education for schools and the public with outreach to nearby communities.



**Jim Haack**

Jim joined the KCD Advisory Committee in 2014 to help KCD chart its future in supporting conservation across the region. His role, along with numerous other dedicated stakeholders, was to help guide the implementation of the KCD/King County Conservation Panel and Task Force recommendations.

Jim's experience as a boy in the Ozark hills built his conservation values, including passion for the land and for the livestock on it. Fifteen years ago Jim and his wife of 29 years moved their young family to the Snoqualmie Valley.



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Says Jim, "Moving forward, KCD will play a more integrated role in implementing regional food policy and building social equity and will expand its contribution to local solutions for healthy cities facing long-term climate related issues."

Jim strongly believes we have entered a new era in conservation both locally and regionally. "Economically viable farming in King County that supports families and feeds us locally is on the rise. Farmers here, with renewed support, are joining conservationist, cities and non-profit advocacy groups to lead change."



## **Burr Mosby**

A first generation farmer, Burr Mosby was appointed in 2016 to serve a three-year term on the KCD Board by the Washington State Conservation Commission. Burr started farming in 1977 and today Mosby Farms grows 350 acres of vegetables in the valleys of Auburn, Sumner and Orting. The farm supplies produce houses, grocery chains and restaurants in the Pacific Northwest.

Burr and his family are involved in state and local agriculture advocacy and community groups that support agriculture and healthy eating. Mosby Farms believes in giving back to the community and does so by donating produce to local food banks and soup kitchens from Seattle to Orting. Being a good steward of the land is of utmost priority for the future of agriculture, and Burr shares his knowledge from farmer's perspective as a member of the KCD Board of Supervisors.

# ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS



## **Nancy Tosta**

Nancy joined the Board of Supervisors in 2016 as an Associate Supervisor after serving for two years on KCD's Advisory Committee. Nancy's background includes over 40 years of natural resource management, including work in California, Washington, DC, and Puget Sound. Nancy serves as a councilmember for the City of Burien as well as on the Community and Economic Development Committee of the National League of Cities. She is also involved in Puget Sound Regional Council's Food Policy Committee, King County's Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and Sound Cities Association's Public

Issues Committee. When not actively engaged in working to make our region an even better place to live, Nancy enjoys traveling, cooking, gardening, and thinking about complicated problems.



## **Jason Salvo**

Jason Salvo owns and operates Local Roots Farm, an 80 acre diversified, direct market vegetable farm located in the Snoqualmie Valley. Jason joined the KCD board of supervisors in May of 2014. Jason, and his wife, Siri Erickson-Brown, started Local Roots farm way back in 2007, and they have been farming full time ever since. Local Roots Farm sells vegetables through a CSA, to over 50 area restaurants and at the Broadway Sunday Farmers Market. Before starting the farm, Jason was very briefly an attorney. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law Magna Cum Laude, and was on Law

Review. When he's not driving a tractor, Jason enjoys cooking, spending time with his two kids, and skiing.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## CONNECTION, COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

I am so excited to be leading the KCD team! Over the course of my career I've gotten to do some really interesting things and work with some amazingly talented people. Based on the work that I've seen and the people I've met since coming on board in October of 2016, I am confident that this chapter will far outshine any to date. What excites me most about my work as the Executive Director of King Conservation District are the concepts of connection, collaboration and partnership.

Conservation Districts were formed out of the need to re-establish connections—connections between farmers and the land they tilled, between urbanites and the food they ate, between a nation and the value of its natural resource base. KCD embodies and embraces all these connections and many, many more.

We are connecting farmers to agricultural land—through our agricultural drainage program to bring hundreds of acres back into production; our support to help launch the Snoqualmie Valley Water Improvement District, and our sponsorship of Washington State University's Cultivating Success education program,

We are connecting consumers of food with our local bounty, producers, and opportunities to grow in non-traditional spaces—through our support to launch the Farm King County Web Site; our Regional Food System grants to launch the Cascadia Egg Co-Op and other small producer initiatives and our work with community gardens like Burien's Shark Garden High School program, Renton's CitySoil, and Hillside Paradise Plots in Kent.

We are connecting producers to markets—launching and coordinating the Local Institutional Food Team with key food system partners and supporting both new farmers markets and capacity building for farmers' markets county-wide.

We are connecting the residents of King county to their forests—through our rural program to help landowners with small woods stands to maintain healthy forests and protect against fire, pests, and climate change and our urban forestry program to expand tree canopy across King County cities.

We are connecting residents to their waterscapes—working with landowners to steward their marine and freshwater shorelines, including restoration of salmon spawning areas and prevention of erosion.

We are connecting residents to wildlife through habitat restoration on farms, in backyards, and in partnership with our municipal partners,

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

And, finally, we are connecting communities – using our member jurisdiction grants to strengthen our relationships with our city partners and work together to get natural resource conservation practices on the ground on public lands.

I am an “agricultural and natural resource” economist by training. Most people, if they think about economics at all, think about interest rates, Janet Yellen and the Federal Reserve, or Paul Krugman and his op-ed column in the New York Times. Those are both arenas where economists play, but for those of us on the ag and natural resource side of the house—our focus is a bit different. We are drawn to puzzles related to optimal farm enterprise mixes, returns to natural capital assets, impacts of food and farm policy on agricultural livelihoods, questions about linkages and supply chains that connect producers and consumers of food, habitat values and the role of forest and farm systems in maintaining the social and ecological health of our environment. We must continually examine what tools help us build the carrying capacity of the region in which we live, and how can we best deploy those tools.

Prior to joining KCD, these themes and topics formed the bread and butter of nearly 20 years of my professional work as an economist. These puzzles, challenges, and opportunities are the daily bread and butter work of KCD and will remain so into the future.

The other guiding principles that have shaped my work, and will continue to shape the work of KCD, are the concepts of collaboration and partnership. As a certified mediator and as someone who has designed and facilitated consensus based collaborative public processes around resource management issues, I am acutely aware of the need for all KCD’s work to be collaborative and grounded in partnership. Some of the best work that we have done has been done in partnership—partnership with King County, with the City of Seattle, with the 34 cities across King County that are part of the KCD family, and with local and regional non-profit organizations, the private sector and the landowners with whom we work directly.

Collaboration, connection and partnership served us well in 2016 (as they have since 1949). We look forward to continued collaboration with our existing partners and to making new connections and forming new partnerships as we move forward into 2017 and beyond.



Bea Covington, Executive Director  
King Conservation District



# ENGAGEMENT

Of the four primary concerns raised by the King County/KCD Conservation Panel Task Force in 2013, two revolved around a lack of robust stakeholder engagement by KCD. The Panel and Task Force recommended the establishment of a broad and diverse Advisory Committee with dedicated seats for traditional and contemporary stakeholders and asked that KCD aggressively move toward broad and strategic community involvement that would raise regional leadership and overall literacy about KCD's programs, services, and impact.

## KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

King Conservation District continued to engage and support a broad-based Advisory Committee to deliver the 5-Year Implementation Plan and Budget approved by the Metropolitan King County Council in November 2014.

The structure of the Advisory Committee can be seen in the following chart:

	MEMBER	ALTERNATE		MEMBER	ALTERNATE
<b>King Conservation District Board of Supervisors</b>			<b>Sound Cities Association</b>		
	Appointed by KCD				
				SCA Appointees shall strive for geographic balance	
<b>King County</b>	Appointed by Chair of KC Council				
	Appointed by KC Executive				
<b>City of Seattle Staff</b>	Appointed by City of Seattle		<b>Landowners</b>	<b>Ag Com</b>	Appointed by Ag Commission
<b>City of Bellevue</b>	Appointed by City of Bellevue			<b>Forest Com</b>	Appointed by Forest Commission
<b>Equity &amp; Social Justice</b>	Appointed by KC Executive			<b>Rural</b>	Appointed by KCD
<b>Environmental Partners</b>	Appointed by KCD			<b>Urban</b>	Appointed by KCD

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Advisory Committee met each month January through November in 2016 and held a celebration that shone a spotlight on several projects in December. Throughout the year, partnerships were built and strengthened, including expanding key relationships with local non-profit organizations, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, and member cities. The Advisory Committee continues to be a cornerstone of KCD's program implementation and evolution, assisting KCD with policy and constituent engagement.



# ENGAGEMENT

## PARTNERSHIPS



KCD actively seeks to partner with organizations whose missions complement our own and to collaborate on efforts that leverage strengths and resources to extend natural resource conservation more broadly and deeply than we could accomplish on our own. In 2016, KCD partnered with the Puget Sound Conservation District Caucus to coordinate and align regional services; with community organizations to host or support fairs, forums, work parties, demonstration projects, and other events; and neighboring conservation districts to continue to promote Better Ground as a unifying theme for Conservation Districts.

## PROGRAM MARKETING & PUBLIC LITERACY



KCD's program marketing promotes programs and services to our target audiences. These promotions include core programs, services and events as well as those conducted by partner groups. In marketing KCD programs, Engagement staff coordinates with other KCD staff to develop program materials and events. Wherever possible, Engagement staff reaches out to new or existing partners to cross-promote and leverage opportunities to educate residents about the suite of services available and the impact of our programs.

Engagement staff promotes programs and events through the KCD website, email blasts, social media, printed publications, fact sheets, fliers, paid advertisements, earned local media and partner communication networks, as well as participation in events, forums, and networks.

In 2016, KCD projects and/or partners were featured in King 5 News stories numerous times, with stories ranging from neighbors banding together to restore a local stream to high school students building their own food garden with support from KCD to our work helping farmers reclaim farmland previously too wet to farm.

## LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

In 2016, KCD met with over 30 state lawmakers to ensure their understanding of our impact in their districts and explore opportunities to showcase the impact cooperators and other constituents are having in their communities.



# GRANTS

## KCD WRIA 9 GRANTS

### **City of Kent – Leber Homestead Project**

**\$200,000**

Create off-channel habitat adjacent to Mill Creek near its confluence with the Green River to increase floodplain refuge and rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook Salmon as well as for other species.

For more information contact Matt Knox, 253-856-5551, [mknnox@kentwa.gov](mailto:mknnox@kentwa.gov).

## SEATTLE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

### **Seattle Parks Foundation – Dead Horse Canyon East Restoration**

**\$33,200**

Survey 1.2 acres of Lakeridge Park in southeast Seattle, remove invasive species as identified, install erosion control, plant native plants and maintain the area. In partnership with Rainier Beach Action Coalition, perform community outreach to increase awareness about the park, native plants, and to encourage community members to get involved.

For more information contact Peter Mason, 206-388-6490, [petermason065@gmail.com](mailto:petermason065@gmail.com).

### **Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association – Delridge Wetlands Restoration & Stewardship Project**

**\$45,300**

Restore on-site wetlands to improve quality of stormwater runoff to Longfellow Creek, provide hands-on environmental education, allow public access, and create community supported agriculture for the residents of Delridge.

For more information contact Willard Brown, 206-935-2999, [willard@dnda.org](mailto:willard@dnda.org).

### **Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition – Empowering Youth and the Community**

**\$45,000**

Engage 45 youth from South Park and Georgetown in job training and environmental education to build the Duwamish Valley Youth Corps to engage the broader community in the creation of a list of 30-36 projects in collaboration with community partners who will help develop curriculum and service projects.

For more information contact Hannah Kett, 206-359-1774, [hannah@duwamishcleanup.org](mailto:hannah@duwamishcleanup.org).

### **Associated Recreation Council – Explore Roxhill Bog: Headwaters of Longfellow Creek**

**\$28,760**

Create an education program for elementary students focused on stormwater and water quality in the Longfellow Creek watershed.

For more information contact Jeanie Murphy-Ouellette, 206-233-2637, [Jeanie.Murphy-Ouellette@seattle.gov](mailto:Jeanie.Murphy-Ouellette@seattle.gov).

### **Islandwood – Urban Watershed Education Project**

**\$30,000**

Partner with Seattle Public Schools to develop curriculum and field trips to Brightwater Wastewater Treatment center for students to learn more about the impact of humans on water quality.

For more information contact Kate Bedient, 206-263-9524, [kateb@islandwood.org](mailto:kateb@islandwood.org).

### **Environmental Coalition of South Seattle – Environmental Stewardship Program**

**\$40,000**

Reach multi-lingual and multi-cultural communities with information about actions they can take to address environmental issues such as stormwater pollution and green stormwater infrastructure. Workshops will be held along with in-home visits.

For more information contact Judith Panlasigui, 206-767-0432x1006, [judith@ecoss.org](mailto:judith@ecoss.org).

### **Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust – Rattlesnake Ledge Trail Improvement**

**\$25,000**

Repair key areas of the trail where significant erosion has taken place to improve drainage, re-vegetate damaged natural areas, and stabilize slopes.

For more information contact Mackenzie Dolstad, 206-382-5565x29, [mackenzie.dolstad@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:mackenzie.dolstad@mtsgreenway.org).

### **Seattle Aquarium – Beach Naturalist and Salmon Journey Programs**

**10,948**

Partner with community groups to offer field-trip based education program focused on Puget Sound and salmon.

For more information contact Janice Mathisen, 206-386-4365, [j.mathisen@seattleaquarium.org](mailto:j.mathisen@seattleaquarium.org).



# GRANTS

## Seattle Tilth – Good Food Bag Expansion

**\$50,000**

Expand the Good Food Bag Program to 20 new child care centers while making improvements to efficiency at distribution sites.

For more information contact Derek Farmer, 206-200-2933, [derekfarmer@seattletilth.org](mailto:derekfarmer@seattletilth.org).

## Earth Corps – Burke Gilman Trail Pollinator Habitat

**\$45,000**

Improve pollinator habitat along the trail and create a best management practice document to guide the implementation of similar projects across the city.

For more information contact Matthew Schwartz, 206-322-9296 X 206, [Matthew@earthcorps.org](mailto:Matthew@earthcorps.org).

## Stewardship Supplies

**\$15,000**

Provide stewardship supplies such as native plants, mulch, tools, and cisterns to water plantings for community gardens and orchard needs. Recipient organizations to be determined.

For more information contact Jessica Saavedra, 425-282-1906, [Jessica.Saavedra@kingcd.org](mailto:Jessica.Saavedra@kingcd.org).

## Northwest Agricultural Business Center – Holistic Look at Food Choices Workshops

**\$18,000**

Develop an educational workshop series covering a breadth of food systems topics in collaboration with community partners.

For more information contact Rachel Tefft, 508-737-2285, [racheltefft15@gmail.com](mailto:racheltefft15@gmail.com).

# MEMBER JURISDICTION GRANTS

## City of Auburn – International Farmers Market Marketing & SNAP Implementation

**\$20,000**

Continue working in partnership with multiple organizations to raise awareness about the market and healthy food by increased access to food for citizens utilizing SNAP benefits and by providing informational sessions related to food, health, and cooking.

For more information contact Amanda Valdez, 253-266-2726, [avaldez@auburnwa.gov](mailto:avaldez@auburnwa.gov).

## City of Clyde Hill – 2016 Arbor Day Celebration

**\$2,404**

Educate children on the value and proper care of trees through poem and poster contests and tree planting.

For more information contact Courtney Benjamin, 425-453-7800, [courtney@clydehill.org](mailto:courtney@clydehill.org).

## City of Renton - 2016 Farmers Market - Marketing and Promotion

**\$10,500**

Continue and further expand marketing efforts that will focus on social media, holding new activities in Market West, and hosting renowned speakers and chefs. In addition, they will conduct a rapid market assessment to learn how they can improve.

For more information contact Carrie Olson, 425-430-7214, [colson@rentonwa.gov](mailto:colson@rentonwa.gov).

## City of Sammamish - 2016-17 Stormwater Outreach

**\$27,305**

Adapt previously developed classroom stormwater workshops and interactive community event booth activities based on lessons learned from the 2015 program to evaluate the adoption of targeted behaviors by participants.

For more information contact Lisa Werre, 425-295-0573, [lwerre@sammamish.us](mailto:lwerre@sammamish.us).

## City of Woodinville – Tree Games/Arbor Day Celebration

**\$1,097**

Growing the event to include youth educational activities, tree demonstration workshops, and native tree saplings distribution to further the city's commitment to a tree canopy cover of 40% citywide. Activities will focus on proper tree care and ecosystems.

For more information contact Amanda Almgren, 425-877-2285, [AmandaA@ci.woodinville.wa.us](mailto:AmandaA@ci.woodinville.wa.us).

## Environmental Coalition of South Seattle – City of Burien Spill Kit

**\$10,155**

Increase businesses' awareness and understanding of how to responsibly address on-site spills and prevent stormwater pollution by providing a free spill kit containing either universal or oil-only absorbent materials capable of cleaning seven gallons of liquid.

For more information contact Stephen Reilly, 206-767-0432, [stephen@ecoss.org](mailto:stephen@ecoss.org).

# GRANTS

## **Environmental Coalition of South Seattle – City of Sammamish Spill Kit**

**\$6,543**

Increase businesses' awareness and understanding of how to responsibly address onsite spills and prevent stormwater pollution by providing a free spill kit containing either universal or oil-only absorbent materials capable of cleaning seven gallons of liquid.

For more information contact Stephen Reilly, 206-767-0432, [stephen@ecoss.org](mailto:stephen@ecoss.org).

## **King County Agriculture Program – Keeping Farmers Farming**

**\$180,000**

Provides support to several components of the King County Agriculture Program, including assistance to farmers market managers, farm pad development, promoting local food, and working on water rights.

For more information contact Steve Evans, 206-477-4687, [steve.evans@kingcounty.gov](mailto:steve.evans@kingcounty.gov).

## **Seattle Tilth – McAuliffe Park Food System & Conservation Programming**

**\$13,903**

Develop and provide programming at historic 13 acre homestead site in partnership with the City of Kirkland. Activities include engaging community members in utilizing the new learning garden and restoring 1.82 acres of forested area.

For more information contact Colin Groark, 206-633-0451x120, [colingroark@seattletilth.org](mailto:colingroark@seattletilth.org).

## **Weed Warriors – Newcastle Earth Day 2016**

**\$9,000**

Community-wide educational event focusing on the creation of backyard wildlife through the use of native plants, controlling invasive species, and natural alternatives to pesticides and herbicides and engaging the community in restoring a public area.

For more information contact Grace Stiller, 425-228-7927, [gracestiller@comcast.net](mailto:gracestiller@comcast.net).

## **City of Bellevue – Urban Meadow at Bellevue Botanical Garden**

**\$50,000**

In the Bellevue Botanical Garden replace 13,000 square feet of turf with an urban meadow to demonstrate recommended practices for native and waterwise landscaping to reduce the use of chemicals and to create pollinator and wildlife habitat.

For more information contact Nancy Kartes, 425-452-2749, [nkartes@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:nkartes@bellevuewa.gov).

## **City of Bellevue – Lake Hills Greenbelt SE 8th Wetland Buffer Restoration**

**\$30,000**

Restore approximately 10,000 square feet of an environmentally degraded wetland buffer to increase its functionality for stormwater filtration, re-establish native vegetation and enhance wildlife habitat.

For more information contact Rick Bailey, 425-452-6031, [ribailey@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ribailey@bellevuewa.gov).

## **City of Bellevue – Tree Canopy Preservation Outreach Campaign**

**\$25,000**

Provide outreach and education to residents and businesses about the value of preserving and enhancing Bellevue's trees to help the city meet their goal of 40% tree canopy cover.

For more information contact Jennifer Ewing, 425-452-6129, [jewing@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:jewing@bellevuewa.gov).

## **City of Kirkland – Implementing 20-Year Forest & Natural Area Restoration Plan**

**\$59,540**

Support volunteer management as part of implementing plan adopted in 2015 to restore approximately 500 acres of forested natural area park-lands. Maintain 63 acres at 12 target parks. Install 2,000 or more native plants, and recruit at least 2,000 volunteers.

For more information contact Sharon Rodman, 425-587-3305, [srodman@kirklandwa.gov](mailto:srodman@kirklandwa.gov).

## **Futurewise – Algona Community Stewardship Project**

**\$20,941**

Create a pilot community garden, provide hands-on education to elementary-aged youth and residents, and plant street trees in partnership with the City, Hometown Community Services, the Algona community, and school district.

For more information contact Jeanette Ordonez, 206-343-0681x114, [jeanette@futurewise.org](mailto:jeanette@futurewise.org).

## **Des Moines Farmers Market – 2016 Low Income Senior Healthy Eating Initiative**

**\$19,440**

Increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables for low income seniors by implementing a program where participants who've gone through an eligibility application process receive tokens worth \$10 for farm fresh products on a weekly basis.

For more information contact Rikki Marohl, 206-650-3383, [market@dmfm.org](mailto:market@dmfm.org).

# OPERATIONS

KCD's Operations Program includes those activities that focus on managing the processes to produce and distribute products and services to internal and external partners. Activities include managing purchases, inventory control, quality control, storage, logistics and evaluation of processes. By facilitating the flow of information among human resources, accounting, inventory control, and other assets, planning and decision making are made easier. A great deal of focus is on efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Therefore, operations management often includes substantial measurement and analysis of internal processes. The Operations team makes recommendations to and works collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors and staff on projects.

## GENERAL OVERHEAD

KCD's Annual Budget includes expenses for general overhead. Although these do not constitute expenses with specific program deliverables, they provide the operational infrastructure and support for KCD staff to implement on-the-ground work. These expenses are currently referred to as Tier 1 overhead items. The largest expenses of this category are rent, utilities, office equipment, IT and vehicles.

## FINANCE

KCD's Finance team consists of a cross-functional working group that provides all accounting related functions for the organization. These functions include, but are not limited to, annual reporting, audit, budgeting, financial reporting to Board of Supervisors and Executive Director, and external partners accounts payable and receivable, grant funding, contracting, and payroll.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources provides recommendations and strategies for recruitment and employee development, growth and retention. HR's priorities are clustered in eight categories: compensation, HRIS technology, planning, performance management, professional development, workforce recruitment, strategic planning and work culture enhancement. HR works closely with the Board and ED to update its salary schedule and performance-based compensation system, update the personnel policy and employee benefit programs, review employee career development and training programs, and maintain KCD's employee records, as well as maintain team building initiatives with staff.

## LEGAL AND RELATED

The Executive Director and Director of Operations and HR oversee the day-to-day contracting and regulatory interpretation as well as respond to and monitor all legal actions that impact the organization. King Conservation District maintains outside legal counsel to handle issues that arise with KCD's unique and collaborative grant program and contracting responsibilities.



# OPERATIONS

## GENERAL OPERATIONS

General Operations formulates, implements and evaluates administrative policy and programs for all assignments. GO develops pertinent operational and management policies as they affect employees, budgets, logistics and management, as well as provides administrative and analytical support in a wide variety of areas including: special projects, budgets, correspondence, and general maintenance of KCD programs, including managing KCD's facilities, equipment and IT infrastructure.

### PROGRAM GOALS

- Complete the reorganization of the Operations team, adding solid support to programs
- Manage KCD finances to achieve optimal oversight, with a cross functional team to create transparency and with Operational oversight
- Provide operational support to all KCD programs and staff

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Expanded Planning, Implementation and Engagement staff's one-on-one contact with KCD partners and cooperators
- Ensured that all staff was trained in basic first aid and CPR as well as purchased an SED in an ongoing commitment to safety in the workplace
- Operations created the addition of vehicle and safety sub-committees to address issues and create SOPs to continue to support staff
- Finance team established and monitored specific and measurable financial strategic goals on a coordinated, integrated basis, thus enabling KCD to operate efficiently and effectively, while producing timely reports
- Operations partnered with outside entities to create a day of caring by donating clothing, food and toys for families in need during the Holiday season
- Operations combined with Finance helped to link strategic goals to performance and provide timely, useful information to facilitate strategic and operational control decisions
- HR partnered with program managers to screen applicants and then provide the best training possible to turn employees into assets
- HR is in the process of ensuring compensation and performance management processes are in line to maximize staff performance
- HR documented and broadly communicated available recruiting services and hiring options to support program and general staff hiring
- Operations, Finance and HR created an atmosphere of positive relationships to foster work and team collaborations across all programs

# BUDGET

	Rates and Charges			
	2016 Plan of Work	2016 Direct Program Expenses	2016 Direct and Indirect Program Expenses	Difference Between Plan of Work and Actual *
<b>Local Food</b>				
Local Food System	\$1,096,500.00	\$1,069,126.00	\$1,120,524.92	\$24,024.92
Rural Farm Planning Services	\$725,814.00	\$803,615.33	\$1,081,482.74	\$355,668.74
Urban Farm Planning Services	\$191,800.00	\$99,274.00	\$133,773.79	\$(58,026.21)
<b>Healthy Forests</b>				
Urban and Rural Forest Services	\$319,654.00	\$199,478.10	\$270,190.68	\$(49,463)
<b>Clean Water</b>				
Shoreline and Riparian Services	\$1,278,584.00	\$1,082,825.00	\$1,468,566.22	\$189,982.22
<b>Landowner Incentive Program</b>	\$837,182.00	\$776,624.55	\$806,922.83	\$(30,259.17)
<b>Outreach and Community Engagement</b>	\$404,999.00	\$408,154.00	\$536,007.84	\$131,008.84
<b>Member Jurisdiction</b>	\$1,296,507.00	\$1,178,585.00	\$1,225,669.94	\$(70,837.06)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,151,040.00</b>	<b>\$5,617,681.98</b>	<b>\$6,643,138.97</b>	<b>\$492,098.97</b>
Operations and Overhead includes board, rent, supplies, IT and all non program specific expenses. It is allocated across program areas on a per FTE basis.				
* In programs where the 2016 actual exceeds 2016 Program of Work budgeted, the difference represents grants, additional revenue, or funds drawn from KCD reserves.				