



**NATURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP
KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



LOCAL FOOD • HEALTHY FORESTS • CLEAN WATER

BETTER GROUND



Back row: Josh Monaghan, Mike Lasecki, Adam Jackson, Amy Holmes, Erin Ericson, Brandy Reed, Jay Mirro, Emmett Wild, Emily Carlson

Middle row: Chauncey Foster, Liz Clark, Jarrett Griesemer, Ava Souza, Nikki Marschke, Kristen Reichardt, Jessica Saavedra, Debra Meisinger, Ann Horner

Kneeling: Melissa Tatro, Ben Axt, Dave Clelland, Rachel Konrady, Deirdre Grace, Shanna Hobbs

Not pictured: Paul Borne, Mary Embleton, Jacobus Saperstein

GOALS

Protect and enhance natural resources through voluntary stewardship of soil, air, plants, animals, humans, and energy

Support the design and implementation of practices that balance water resources protection and use

Support economically and environmentally viable working lands and sustainable open space

Expand and enhance KCD's education program

Update Grant Program to better serve KCD member jurisdictions

Expand collaboration with Washington conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, and businesses

Secure sufficient and stable funding to meet constituent needs for KCD services

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Appendix A: 2015 Grant Awards

Attachment 1: 2015 Implementation Plan

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear King County Executive Constantine and Councilmembers,

The King Conservation District (KCD) serves 35 member jurisdictions (34 cities and King County), with a total population of 1.8 million. Our 2015 Annual Report summarizes KCD's programs and services for King County residents and member jurisdictions, including habitat restoration, public education, technical assistance, financial incentives, and expanded grant funding.



I have been proud to serve on KCD's Board of Supervisors since the spring of 2014 and am pleased to serve as its current Chair. This past year has seen significant change in KCD's funding levels, breadth and depth of its partnerships, and the range of constituents our organizations directly serves. But, one thing remains constant: an absolute commitment to the highest caliber of work and a dedication to outcomes that make King County a better place to live.

KCD continues to benefit immensely from the engagement and guidance of the King Conservation District Advisory Committee. This body of committed elected officials and community leaders helps bring diverse voices into our body of work and enables us to reach a wider spectrum of stakeholders and partners.

Finally, it is with deep gratitude to the King County Executive and County Council for your continued and expanded support for the King Conservation District that we take this opportunity to highlight our goals, accomplishments, and new ventures in 2015. It is my great pleasure to share this report on our first year of our new five-year Implementation Plan.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dick Ryon". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dick Ryon, Board of Supervisors Chair, 2016
King Conservation District
March, 2016

ROCK!

KCD 2015 ROCK AWARDS

KCD LEADERSHIP AWARD

LARRY PHILLIPS



KCD CONSERVATION LEADER AWARD

CYNTHIA KRASS



BEST PARTNER AWARD

RANDY SANDIN & THE AG PERMIT TEAM



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSERVATION AWARD - CITY OF KIRKLAND



KCD SERVICE AWARD

SARAH TOMT



ROCK!

CONSERVATION LANDOWNERS OF THE YEAR - SUSAN & BARRY HEISER



**KCD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
BRENDA SULLIVAN**



**VOLUNTEER GROUP OF THE YEAR
MICROSOFT**



**WILDLIFE STEWARDS OF THE YEAR
THE SOIN FAMILY**



LOCAL FOOD



When the multi-generational Van Erem family of Maple Valley sits down to a Sunday chicken dinner, they know exactly where and how that bird was raised.

Processing the chickens and turkeys that feed their family throughout the year became much easier after renting equipment made available by King Conservation District.

“In the past, we could only do a few birds at a time”, said Holiday Van Erem, “now we can process a year’s worth and free up space to begin raising our heritage turkeys”.

The Maple Valley multi-generational Van Erem family lives on just over three acres that is home to pigs, chickens, turkeys, ducks and a large vegetable garden. “If my 4-year-old daughter isn’t sure if she likes a vegetable, we simply walk out to the garden and give it a try,” notes Paul Van Erem, “Knowing where our food is grown, raised and processed is important to us. We had looked at purchasing this same equipment, but the cost was prohibitive, so it was great to know that we could rent it from KCD for just \$25.00.”

On a recent, sunny Saturday, the Van Erem’s processed 28 Cornish Cross chickens weighing between 6-7 pounds each. “Having the cones and a large stainless steel scalding tank made the operation much easier, but the plucking drum was by far the most appreciated”, notes Paul, “having a bird plucked clean in less than 3 minutes moves the process along much faster than doing the work by hand.”

Knowing the potential popularity of the equipment, the Van Erem’s intend to secure their rental reservation to process the family’s Thanksgiving turkeys before word gets out.



A plucked bird in under 3 minutes!

Find out more at: <http://kingcd.org/tools-poultry-equipment.htm>

LOCAL FOOD

For landowners seeking to put conservation practices on the ground, our planning programs are often the first step. Our staff collaborates with landowners to identify their site-specific resource concerns and develop their conservation plan. Some landowners are then able to get the work done on their own, while many landowners continue working with KCD's implementation staff to accomplish identified tasks.

In 2015, KCD launched its Regional Food System program and a smaller Urban Agriculture program, both described below.

PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

This program provides farm conservation planning services to farm and livestock owners within the District, including licensed dairies and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Upon completion of a conservation plan, the land user has made decisions to manage natural resources consistent with the resource needs recommended by District staff. A farm conservation plan may be used by the landowner to meet the requirements of other agencies and programs, including: King County Codes-Title 21A.30 (Livestock Management), 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.

Program Highlights

- Served 205 planning customers
- Delivered 69 Farm Conservation Plans, including 2 dairy plans
- Developed plans that serve 1,912 acres
- Conducted 134 follow-ups

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Nutrient Management Services is an umbrella program that includes several related services focused on helping KCD cooperators implement different elements of nutrient management plans. These services were each developed to address hurdles that our cooperators identified to us as they worked on implementing their nutrient management practices. The services include:

Manure Spreader Service

KCD loans out a small manure spreader to loan to cooperators to help them turn manure from an environmental liability to an asset on their property. This service includes scheduling, delivery, and pick up

LOCAL FOOD

Manure Match

KCD offers a manure match service to connect farmers, nurseries, and gardeners seeking manure to livestock owners who have surplus. We maintain a list of available manure sources, some promotion to farm and garden audiences, and providing the manure share list to interested parties via KCD's website, e-mail and phone inquiries. This service is one small part of helping cooperators with surplus manure to develop responsible plans for manure utilization, and thus avoid stockpiling waste that can become an environmental liability.

Program Highlights

- 49 Manure spreader loans

WATERSHED TARGETING

Initially launched through a grant from The Russell Family Foundation , the King County Flood District, and WRIA 10 Grant Program, KCD's pilot project to work with landowners in a targeted, high-need watershed sub-basin has proven an effective approach in engaging landowners to monitor, steward, and improve water quality. In its 2015-2019 Implementation Plan, KCD committed to working within a new sub-basin every two years, in addition to the organization's traditional First-Come, First-Served approach.

Boise Creek Community Project – major work wrap-up

This community involvement initiative engaged landowners and land managers to reduce nutrient levels in Boise Creek as part of a coordinated, multiagency/ partner effort. Partners included King County, Pierce Conservation District, the City of Enumclaw, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Puyallup Indian Tribe, Washington State Departments of Agriculture and Ecology. This project was funded by generous grant support from The Russell Family Foundation and the King County Flood District, WRIA 10 Grant Program.

In this initiative, KCD coordinated a mix of community engagement events, activities, services, and opportunities to encourage property owners, farmers, and residents in the Boise Creek sub basin to get involved with conservation and stewardship activities on their property and in the community. Launched in 2013, this program has trained 123 King County residents how to monitor the health of Boise Creek through scientific sampling.

LOCAL FOOD

Program Highlights

- 8 partner events
- 9 community events
- 6 training events for new Stream Stewards
- 138 sampling events
- 266 volunteer hours

Newaukum Creek - new watershed initiative

With funding from rates and charges, and partner funding from American Farmland Trust, NRCS, the WSCC, and Dept of Ecology, KCD has expanded the sub-basin program into the Newaukum sub-basin. 2015's efforts focused on securing the funding for this work and developing the partnerships to begin implementation in 2016 through 2019. The Newaukum basin presented significant farming land use and was a priority for multiple partners, many of whom were able to bring funding to leverage our work's impact.

Snoqualmie Valley – engaging farm community in regional planning

In late 2015, KCD partnered with King County to provide outreach and support to Snoqualmie Valley farmers in discussions concerning strategies for balancing the needs of agriculture, salmon recovery, and flood safety in the valley. In 2015, those efforts focused on conducting “kitchen table”- style consultations with farmers in support of the Snoqualmie Farm/Fish/Flood Advisory Committee. 2015 was a particularly complex year for farmers in the context of this work as they faced an unusually dry summer, followed by multiple floods beginning in October. The opportunity for KCD farm and food staff to meet farmers on their farms and hear, first-hand, their visions for the future, the challenges they face and the kind of support they could truly benefit from helps KCD root its services in customer needs.

Second Creek/Pussyfoot Creek- futurewatershed initiative

Building on the Boise Creek and Newaukum sub-basin work, KCD prioritized Second Creek/Pussyfoot Creek because it is a priority of the Department of Ecology and the Muckleshoot Tribe and represents an area of the County in which KCD has had less presence in the past. KCD is currently exploring partnerships and opportunities to leverage funding to bring this sub-basin into our work plan in 2016 and beyond.

LOCAL FOOD

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM **NEW!**

In 2015, the King Conservation District established a new Regional Food System Program based on goals in the action plans of the King County Local Food Initiative and the Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council, and on personal engagement with a wide range of local food system advisors.

RECOMMENDED EARLY ACTIONS

The King Conservation District hit the ground running with a series of Early Action Projects based on the following criteria:

- Actions identified in regional planning goals and by numerous stakeholders.
- Critical early steps toward meeting regional food system economic goals.
- Clearly defined as a specific project or activity.
- Could be accomplished by KCD staff or through contracted work.

KCD REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM

The KCD Regional Food System Grant Program is based on action plans of the King County Local Food Initiative and the Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Council. The program funds 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 co-operatives, farmers markets, businesses, schools, special districts, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and jurisdictions within the KCD service area. Grant guidelines and application procedures are currently being developed, along with the following selection criteria.

Program Highlights

- Developed new regional grant program to support and expand the regional food economy
- Awarded \$900,000 in grants to support over 20 projects, based significantly on the recommendations of the Local Food Initiative
- Funded 9 Early Action Projects based on over 50 interviews with food system practitioners, policymakers, and others

See page 12 for projects that were awarded 2015 funding.

LOCAL FOOD

Organization	Project Title	Amount	Project Description	Early Action or Grant
Nelli Farms	Pasture-Raised Poultry & Egg Cooperative Start-up	\$80,000	Establish a poultry and egg cooperative to help King County farmers increase the profitability of egg sales.	Grant
Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment	King County Farmers Market Access Coordination	\$ 49,086	Provide coordination and support to farmers markets to expand access for low income shoppers through use of SNAP and Fresh Bucks incentives.	Grant
Northwest Agriculture Business Center	Food Hub Development for King County Farmers	\$ 95,000	Increase production, distribution, and consumption of sustainably produced food within King County by providing food hub sales, aggregation, and delivery services.	Grant
Highline College	Urban Agriculture/Agroforestry/Food Security	\$80,000	Expand educational access for south King County immigrant-refugee communities and youth to become growers/producers in dense urban environments.	Grant
SnoValley Tilth	Experience Farming Project Infrastructure Upgrades	\$31,295	Upgrade critical infrastructure for Experience Farming Project site to increase production capacity for participating farm businesses.	Grant
King County Agriculture Program	Beefing Up Infrastructure Needs for King County USDA Meat Processing	\$120,000	Establish USDA slaughter services through a partnership between the King County Agriculture Program, livestock producers, and membership organizations such as SnoValley Tilth and the Puget Sound Meat Producers Cooperative.	Grant
Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance	Launching a Successful Watershed Improvement District	\$95,650	Launch the first watershed improvement district in the Snoqualmie Valley to address key barriers to food production, including water supply, water rights and agricultural drainage.	Grant
Washington State University	Bringing WSU Extension Expertise to King County Farmers	\$99,852	Provide Cultivating Success courses, agriculture workshops, and other programs for King County farmers.	Grant
HumanLinks Foundation / 21 Acres	Hedgerow Trial to Attract Beneficial Insects to Farm Edges	\$12,995	Construct a native plant hedgerow at 21 Acres Farm to determine the prevalence of beneficial and pollinator insect populations.	Grant
KCD	Farm Equipment Loan	\$50,000	Develop loan program for small scale chicken processor and no-till drill	Early Action
King County	FARM King County	\$50,000	Launch single portal and coordinated inter-agency staff resources to be a one-stop-shop for new farmers	Early Action
KCD	LIFT	\$25,000	Local Institutional Food Team – develop single portal and coordinated inter-agency staff resources to help institutions source food locally	Early Action
City of Seattle/Wa State Farmers Market Association	Farmers Market Coordinating Support	\$50,000	Expand use of EBT and vouchers for low-income shoppers in south King County	Early Action
Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Co-op	Model Farm Cooperative	\$10,000	Support launch of King County's first organic produce farmer's cooperative	Early Action
City of Auburn	Good Food Bag	\$10,000	Support coordination among Seattle Tilth, WaCAN!, Auburn Farmers Market to launch use of EBT and expand access to fresh produce for low-income consumers	Early Action
KCD	Building Metrics for the Food System	\$40,000	Worked with partners to pilot benchmark assessment in Snoqualmie Ag Production District	Early Action

LOCAL FOOD



Dr. Kris Knox and patient, Christina Harris

Dr. Kris Knox of EvergreenHealth in Woodinville is taking an unorthodox approach to medicine, but one that was orthodox centuries ago. Believing as Hippocrates said, "Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food," last year Dr. Knox began prescribing local fruits and vegetables to her patients.

Working with the Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Coop, which was launched through a grant from King Conservation District to help area farmers aggregate their produce to create CSA boxes, Dr. Knox prescribed a weekly dose of nutritious food to her patient, Christina Harris, along with 34 others from EvergreenHealth's concierge practice.

EvergreenHealth is now inviting over 4,000 employees to participate in the CSA program this growing season which is opening new opportunities for King County farmers to expand their market share of locally grown agricultural products that include fruits, vegetables, eggs, grass fed beef and artisan cheeses.

WHAT IS A CSA?

Typically, a farmer charges a membership or subscription fee up front for a box of freshly picked produce and other farm products each week throughout the growing season (usually June through October) delivered to a pre-determined drop off location.

CSAs are an excellent way to support local farmers by providing a reliable, up front income source. CSAs benefit consumers by ensuring a source of the fresh, local farm products, introducing new foods and recipes, and developing a closer relationship between farmer and consumer.

Looking for a CSA in your area?
Visit: www.pugetsoundfresh.org

\$900,000 grant money available

Grants to support access to, production of and demand for King County agricultural products

LOCAL FOOD

URBAN AGRICULTURE **NEW!**

KCD committed to developing an urban agriculture program that would focus initially on 3 primary areas: increased soil testing, helping interested cities amend their comprehensive plans to be more urban-ag friendly, and developing a series of demonstration projects.

Program highlights:

Soil samples - KCD provides up to five free soil samples to each resident in our District, a service that normally costs \$20 per sample. Through increased education and engagement, KCD tested 1,382 soil samples for King County residents.

Code and policy support to cities – KCD answered several requests by cities to review their comprehensive plan language and/or provide model language in 2015. In addition, KCD provided significant support to an urban agriculture project in Burien, working with King County and others to prevent a 70-year-old nursery from being lost to development before options to keep the site agricultural were explored. The outcome is that the site is under a five-year lease to an emerging company that produces root stock for fruit trees and berries.

Demonstration Projects launch – KCD is partnering with the King County Wastewater Treatment Division at the South Treatment Plant (KCWTD), Seattle Tilth, and Harvest Pierce County to develop its inaugural urban agriculture demonstration/teaching urban farm. We are excited about this partnership and hope to use its success to replicate this program across other KCWTD sites and potentially other King County-owned properties, as well as sites controlled by interested cities.

Program Highlights

- Conducted 1,382 soil tests for a total of 558 residents
- Provided support for comprehensive plan code review for municipal partners
- Supported community partnerships that preserve, initiate, or expand urban agriculture opportunities, including Bel-R Greenhouses in Burien and King County Wastewater Treatment Division's CitySoil urban farm in Renton
- Developed partnership with Pierce Conservation District to adapt their Harvest Pierce County community food program to KCD's needs



LOCAL FOOD

Local Food and Farming Partnerships - 2015

- KCD Advisory Committee
- KC Fish, Farm, and Flood Advisory Committee
- King County's Local Food Initiative (Kitchen Cabinet)
- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Washington State Association of Conservation Districts
- KC Agricultural Permit Team
- KC Agricultural Commission
- KC Flood Control District
- Interagency and partner coordination on working farm services

LOCAL FOOD



King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert

Bobbi Lindemulder of West Valley Beef partnered with KCD to clear agricultural drainage ditches at her family's dairy in rural Duvall. "In Western Washington, drainage systems are really the key to successful farming and we could not have done this work without financial assistance from KCD and the County," notes Lindemulder. Improved drainage systems benefit fish passage, agricultural production and access to local food in urban areas.

2015 KCD AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE PROGRAM

Implemented five major projects

Returned 115 acres of land to full production

Improved drainage on an additional 185 acres

HEALTHY FORESTS

King Conservation District provides programs and services to assist small acreage non-industrial private forest 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 FORESTS

King Conservation District Rural Forest Health Management Program (Rural Forestry) works with small-lot forest landowners across unincorporated King County to increase the resilience of the forested landscape and capture the ecological, recreational and other values of forests by helping land-owners actively manage forestlands and open space areas. KCD partners with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension to serve rural residential, small private forest landowners and Homeowner Associations on protecting and enhancing woodlots and smaller stands of forest, reducing forest fragmentation, and capturing the ecological benefits and in some cases the economic value of forests.

Program Highlights

- Enter into 2 year contract with WSU Cooperative Extension to provide forest health management education services in King County
- Participate in interviewing and selecting a King County Extension Forestry Education Program Coordinator
- Support the offering of forest health 2 Forest Stewardship Coached Planning workshop series (one in-person and 1 on-line), Vashon Forest Landowner Field Day, Special Forest Products workshop on Forest Edibles, a workshop on Legal Issues 101 for Forest Owners, a workshop on managing forest safety and security, 1 Twilight Tour addressing alder management.
- Collaborate with KC DNR WLRD to conduct a GIS-based analysis and mapping project that identifies unincorporated KC forested parcels eligible for KCD technical services, and coordinate with the Basin Stewards Program to identify priority geographic areas to strategically target KCD technical services to meet cross-entity priorities.
- Secured placement of an AmeriCorps IP to support the Urban Forestry Program (shared with Rural Forest Health Management)

HEALTHY FORESTS

URBAN FORESTS **NEW!**

KCD's Urban Forest Health Management (Urban Forestry) Program assists urban landowners with enhancing urban forest canopy cover and upland habitat conditions on private property. Urban forest health management services are prioritized in collaboration with the King Conservation District Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group and King Conservation District Advisory Committee. Services associated with this program focus on improving natural resource conditions on private property, and on private parcels contiguous with public lands



to improve the success of protection and enhancement activities on public holdings and easements. 5-year performance measures for this program include implementing or expanding urban forest health management program activities within the boundaries of at least 15 separate jurisdictions, and will enhance at least 30 acres of upland forest and habitat in partnership with landowners, residents and departments within those jurisdictions.

Program Highlights

- Formed and convened the KCD Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group, facilitated 4 UFI Working Group meeting
- Facilitated an Urban Forestry RFP that identified and selected 4 MJ urban forestry implementation projects and 4 MJ urban forestry technical support projects
- Initiated contracting on 4 MJ urban forestry projects
- Secured placement of an AmeriCorps IP to support the Urban Forestry Program (shared with Rural Forest Health Management)

Summary of 2015 Urban Forestry Services

Partner Jurisdiction	Technical Assistance Project	Implementation Project
Bothell	--	1
K4C (KC Cities Climate Change Group)	1	--
Kirkland	1	--
Lake Forest Park	--	1
Sammamish	1	--
Shoreline	--	1
Snoqualmie	--	1
Medina	1	--
TOTAL	4	4

HEALTHY FORESTS



Lisa Clemons

When Lisa Clemons and her family moved to a 10-acre wooded property on Vashon-Maury Island, they knew they wanted to conserve and steward the remaining forested sections of the historic property. By attending Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses offered through WSU Extension in partnership with King Conservation District, they learned to identify tree species, recognize invasive and noxious weeds and determine wildfire risks. "We went from knowing nothing, to learning how to manage what is here and feeling confident in our ability to preserve the forest for future generations," notes Clemons.

GIVING SMALL LOT FORESTED LANDOWNERS THE TOOLS TO:

Recognize invasive and noxious weeds

Determine wildfire risk

Identify tree species

Decide if tree thinning is necessary

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

King Conservation District provides education, services, and financial assistance to help landowners and land managers implement natural resource management practices that protect water quality, conserve soils, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

RURAL FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

The primary focus of this program is to serve KCD cooperators participating in the KCD Farm 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 addressed protection and enhancement of other sensitive areas such as steep slopes.



For more information on the details of these services, visit our website at Kingcd.org.

Program Highlights

- Planned and installed 11 buffer enhancement plans
- Enhanced 7,145 linear feet of aquatic area shoreline
- Enhanced 6 acres of aquatic area buffer
- Installed 13,518 native trees and shrubs
- Conducted maintenance on 50 aquatic area enhancement project sites

Summary of 2015 Aquatic Area Enhancement Practices:

Best Management Practice	Project Quantity	Acres	Linear Feet	Quantity Plants
Hedgegrow	5	3.4	5,010	7,771
Riparian Forest Buffer	5	2.1	1,870	4,647
Wetland Habitat Enhancement	1	.5	265	1,100
TOTAL	11	6	7,145	13,518

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

URBAN FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT SERVICES **NEW!**

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.

Program Highlights

- Planned and installed 5 aquatic buffer enhancement projects
- Enhanced 1,550 linear feet of aquatic area shoreline
- Enhanced 1.2 acres of aquatic area buffer
- Installed 2,960 native trees and shrubs
- Convened the Held 3 meetings with the Urban Shorelines Working Group; facilitated 3 meeting to outline an approach to geographically distribute program services, and conceptualize an outreach toolkit to support collaboration between KCD and MJs on service delivery within incorporated boundaries.

Summary of 2015 Urban Shoreline Practices:

Best Management Practice	Project Quantity	Acres	Linear Feet	Quantity Plants
Hedgegrow	1	0.015	210	90
Riparian Forest Buffer	4	1.2	1,340	2,870
Wetland Habitat Enhancement	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5	1.2	1,550	2,960

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Projects supported by this program are planned and implemented consistent with standard practices included in the NRSC FOTG and other professional standards when NRSC standards are not applicable. The Engineering Program also supports other KCD programs and services, including providing technical and planning assistance related to farm conservation plan development; developing Best Management Practices for LIP cost-share eligible practices; designing and implementing aquatic area restoration projects and providing streamlined JARPA services for partner landowners, organizations and agencies;; and participating on KCD Board of Supervisors Science, Engineering and Program Development Subcommittee.

Program Highlights

- Completed design and/or planning process for 3 bridges, 1 Culvert replacement , 1 bulkhead removal project, 1 Dairy waste storage-related practice, 1 dike repair
- Provided design and permit support to 1 existing, completed livestock bridge design
- Constructed 1 sand separator (Keller), 1 FFFPP bridge, 1 stream crossing bridge, and 1 dike repair project.
- Provided technical assistance and site visit reports in association with the preparation of 3 Farm Management Plans
- Provided technical assistance and site visit reports in association with 3 FFFPP projects

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

Summary of 2015 Engineering Practices:

Best Management Practice	Quantity Planned	Quantity Implemented	Acres	Linear Feet	Miles Habitat Opened
Access Road	0	0	0	0	n/a
Animal Walkways	0	0	0	0	n/a
Fish Passage	2	1	n/a	n/a	3.41
Open Channel	0	0	0	0	n/a
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Bulkhead Removal)	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stream Crossing	3	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sub-Surface Drainage	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surface Drainage	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stream Habitat Improvement	0	0	0	0	n/a
Underground Outlet	0	0	n/a	0	n/a
Waste Storage Facility	1	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dike Repair	1	1	n/a	125	n/a
TOTAL	8	4	0	125	3.41

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND 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 (NRCS), and the Washington State Conservation Commission acting through the King Conservation District.

Program Highlights

- Continued planning of 5 CREP buffer projects
- Planned and received approval for 2 replanting projects
- Completed installation of 1 new CREP Project
- Conducted initial site visits on 2 properties
- Oversaw maintenance on 5 previously installed CREP contracts

Summary of 2015 CREP Practices:

Best Management Practice	Planned	Installed	Acres Planned	Acres Installed	Linear Feet Planned	Feet Installed	Quantity Plants
Hedgegrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Riparian Forest Buffer	5	2	17.5	3.4	1,247	1,247	1,510
Livestock Crossing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Watering Facility	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Buffer Fencing	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	5	1	17.5	3.4	1,247	1,247	1,510

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

WETLAND PLANT COOPERATIVE AND NATIVE PLANT HOLDING FACILITY

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.

In addition to providing technical services and growing native plants, the WPC serves as an informal training facility for local youth and adults, who gain experience in horticulture and stream and wetland enhancement techniques, as well as leadership skills through volunteer service at the WPC. The WPC is also an informal recycled materials demonstration site where recycled materials are utilized in plant production. The WPC proudly utilizes reclaimed water for irrigation. Reclaimed water is provided free of charge by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division East Section Reclamation Plant, and allows KCD to conserve potable drinking water and support the reduction of discharged wastewater into local waterways.

Program Highlights

- Propagated approximately 6,750 new plants and maintain 15,100 plants in existing inventory
- Provided technical assistance to 45 freshwater aquatic area enhancement projects on urban, suburban and rural residential properties, of which 8 received technical assistance site visit reports.
- Provided plant material for implementation of 19 KCD sponsored conservation projects
- Maintained facility and install irrigation controller, including installing electrical power delivery system

Summary of 2015 Native Plant and Technical Assistance Activity:

Type of Project Supported	Number of Projects	Quantity of Plants
KCD Aquatic Area Enhancement Projects	19	4,563
WPC Volunteers	17	456
Landowner Project Assistance	0	0
Organization/Agency Project Assistance	2	299
TOTAL	38	5,318

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

BAREROOT PLANT SALE

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.

Program Highlights

- 49,590 native plants sold
- \$83,647 in gross sales including sales taxes collected
- 729 total customers, including 543 pre-orders

Summary of 2015 Bareroot Plant Sale Activities:

Plant Sale	Quantity of Plants Sold	Number of Customers	Acres of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	Acres of Upland Habitat Enhanced
2015 Bareroot Plant Sale	49,590	729	1.5	5.5

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The King Conservation District 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.

Program Highlights

- Facilitated 121 volunteer events where more than 772 volunteers donated 2,872 hours of service
- Connected 184 volunteers to more than one KCD volunteer event
- Began development of a volunteer recognition system, including initial preparation of a service schedule for volunteer recognition items and activities.
- Partnered with two organizations on volunteer events, Oxbow Organic Farm and Education Center and EarthCorps.

Summary of 2015 Volunteer Project Activity:

Type of Project Supported	Number of Projects	Volunteers Connected	Hours Donated
Wetland Plant Cooperative	28	282	874.5
Aquatic Area Enhancement Projects	14	307	1,204.5
Longfellow Creek Enhancement Projects	11	122	406
Totem Lake Habitat Enhancement Projects	1	25	25
Bareroot Plant Sale	2	6	29
Stream Stewards	63	16	276
Other	2	14	57
TOTAL	121	772	2,872

CLEAN WATER - SHORELINES AND HABITAT

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 LIP and the WSCC Capital Budget program. The workshop component of this program is budgeted under the Education Group.

Program Highlights

- Conducted technical assistance site visits to assess natural resource management concerns on 2 properties and provided recommendations to address those concerns.
- Continue planning and designing creosote bulkhead removal project. 100% design level completed on bulkhead; dock and ramp issues pending KC SMP update.
- Implemented 1 marine riparian enhancement project.
- Prepared a final technical review draft of the Shoreline Bulkhead Removal & Alternative Shore Protection Practice Handbook
- Participated in abbreviated Green Shores for Homes training course
- Supported implementation of the Mason CD Shore Friendly grant by sharing KCD resources and participating in multi-CD collaboration and training

Summary of 2015 Marine Shoreline Practices:

Best Management Practice	Quantity Site Visits	Projects Planned	Projects Installed	Acres Installed	Feet Installed	Quantity Plants
Hedgerow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riparian Forest Buffer	1	1	1	.25	90	400
Buffer Fencing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building Set-Back From Critical Area	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulkhead Removal	n/a	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	1	1	1	.25	90	400

CLEAN WATER



Robert Beresford

As caretaker of the Carrie Lewith Home in Lake Forest Park, Robert Beresford, manages just over 5 acres on Lyons Creek. In hopes of restoring the creek to its former salmon bearing days, Beresford partnered with KCD's Urban Shoreline program to restore over 32,000 square feet of creek shoreline covered in invasive weeds. "Now this section of Lyons Creek is ready to welcome salmon," says Beresford.

32,000 Square Feet of riparian habitat restored

1,080 native trees and shrubs planted

465 feet of salmon bearing urban shoreline improved

EDUCATION

KCD provides education that promotes the sustainable uses of natural resources by understanding the natural resource conservation and natural resource management practices. KCD education programs include classes, workshops, tours and other field-based learning opportunities that focus on water quality protection, soil conservation, livestock management, aquatic area enhancement, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Audiences served by KCD education programs include livestock owners, agriculture operators, and rural, urban, and suburban landowners.

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 2015, KCD coordinated the Northwest regional event in 2015 in cooperation with the Maple Valley Arboretum Foundation and the City of Maple Valley.



Program Highlights

NW Regional Envirothon Competition

- Recruited and registered 4 teams from King County area high schools for the 2015 NW Regional Envirothon.
- Assisted these teams with competition preparation.
- Planned and hosted the 2015 NW Regional Envirothon Competition.

Washington State Envirothon Competition

- Supported the winning King County team registration for state event.
- Assisted the winning King County team with competition preparation.
- Assisted with state event planning.
- Participated in state event.

Washington State Envirothon Committee

- Participated in 11 planning and management meetings.
- Performed Treasurer duties.
- Attended annual meeting.
- Assisted in searching for grant and other funding sources for the Washington State Envirothon Committee.
- Rebuilt the Washington State Envirothon website.

EDUCATION

Summary of 2015 Envirothon Activities:

Participating School District	Number of Teams (Number of Students)	Event
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (Bellevue, Sammamish, Newport, and Renton High Schools)	2 (10 students)	NW Regional Envirothon
Sammamish High School	2 (10 students)	NW Regional Envirothon
Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (Bellevue, Sammamish, Newport, and Renton High Schools)	1 (5 students)	WA State Envirothon
TOTAL	5 (25 students)	3

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.

Program Highlights

- Facilitated 8 workshops, 2 each of the following:
- Get Wet! Stream & Wetland Buffer Protection for Livestock Owners
- Record Rainfall? Record Mud! Mud Management for Livestock Owners
- Got Livestock? Got Manure! Manure Management for Livestock Owners
- Becoming a Grass Farmer - Pasture Management for Livestock Owners

Summary of 2015 Land and Water Stewardship Workshops:

Workshop Title	Number Facilitated	Number of Participants
Stream & Wetland Buffer Protection for Livestock Owners	2	10
Mud Management for Livestock Owners	2	9
Manure Management for Livestock Owners	2	10
Pasture Management for Livestock Owners	2	19
TOTAL	8	51

EDUCATION

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.

Program Highlights

- Conducted 8 farm tours to feature farms that have implemented best management practices.
- Conducted 6 agriculture classes on emerging and priority best management practices.

Summary of 2015 Farm Tours and Agriculture Topic Classes:

Event	Location or Title	Number of Participants
Farm Tour	Seattle Mounted Police, Session 1	62
Farm Tour	Seattle Mounted Police, Session 2	28
Farm Tour / Ag Class	Triple J Ranch, Innovations in Horsekeeping	22
Farm Tour	Soggy Bottom Farm	40
Farm Tour	Laughing Horse Farm	19
Farm Tour	Trinity Ranch	14
Farm Tour	Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center	17
Farm Tour	Scarecrow Dairy	6
Ag Class	Shopping for Horse Property	10
Ag Class	Food Waste to Fertilizer	7
Ag Class	Septic & Wellhead Care & Maintenance	17
Total		242

EDUCATION

K-12 STORMWATER EDUCATION **NEW!**

The 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. The Envirothon is a natural-resource competition and is also its own budgeted program. 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.

Program Highlights

- Developed outreach materials for Water on Wheels, Environmental Detectives, and Envirothon for both member jurisdiction and school district distribution.
- Distributed outreach materials to 13 member jurisdictions with NPDES Phase II permits.
- Built a database of contacts at member jurisdiction cities and school districts for future communications.

Summary of 2015 Stormwater Education Activities:

Jurisdiction Contacted	Program Marketing Materials	Program Marketing Meetings	Service Contracts Initiated
Sammamish	1	2	--
Shoreline	1	--	--
Newcastle	1	--	--
Bothell	1	--	--
Kenmore	1		
Lake Forest Park	1	--	--
Woodinville	1		
Renton	1	--	--
Des Moines	1	--	--
Kirkland	1	--	--
Maple Valley	1	--	--
Mercer Island	1	--	--
Snoqualmie	1	--	--
TOTAL	13	2	--

EDUCATION

URBAN SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM **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.

Program Highlights

- Worked with a dedicated team of stakeholders to develop a program responsive to municipal needs.
- Drafted an RFP requesting the services of a curriculum writer to develop an education program for urban shoreline landowners.

WHERE THE WATER BEGINS – MARINE SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION WORKSHOP

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.

Program Highlights

- Facilitated 2 Where the Water Begins workshops (Vashon 6/6/15 and Discovery Park 6/20/15) serving 70 homeowners/landowners. (23 workshop attendees requested technical assistance site visit.)

June 6, 2015	Vashon Island	46	16
June 20, 2015	Discovery Park ELX (Northwest King)	24	7
July 2015	Cancelled due to venue limitations in South King County	--	--
Total		70	23

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.

Program Highlights

- Award 101 new cost-share contracts. Of these awards, 77 are agriculture & livestock management practices, 9 are Forest Health Management Practices, and 15 are freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement Practices.
- Manage 282 previously awarded cost-share contracts, including administering cost-share reimbursement, conducting site visit to verify practice implementation, and closing contracts
- Coordinate annual program review for policy revisions to be implemented in 2016

Summary of 2015 LIP Projects & Awards:

Best Management Practice	Contracts Awarded	Acres	Linear Feet	Quantity Plants	Funding Level
Agricultural & Livestock Management	77	278.78	8,053	0	\$315,733.83
Forest Health Management	9	121.8	0	9,678	\$141,858.75
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	15	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$99,604.76
TOTAL	101	35.9	800	10,613	\$557,197.34

MEMBER JURISDICTION GRANTS

The KCD Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Forum Grant Program awards grants for natural resource improvement projects in partnership with 35 King County jurisdictions that are members of the District and the WRIA 7, 8, and 9 watershed forums. Projects can include education and outreach, pilot and demonstration, capacity building, and on-the-ground improvement projects implemented by community organizations and cities in King County.

Grant Program Category	2014 Grant Funding Level
Member Jurisdiction Grants Program	\$1,200,000.00

The goals of the program are to:

- **Promote** the implementation of natural resource improvement actions by jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, tribes, and other land managers and owners
- **Assist** in the development of partnerships between jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and the watershed forums in order fulfill KCD’s mission of promoting sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible stewardship.
- **Support** the natural resource improvement priorities of jurisdictions, watershed forums, non-profit organizations, tribes and other land managers and owners.
- **Effectively and efficiently administer** the Member Jurisdiction & WRIA Forum Grant program by collecting biannual progress and expense reports, performing grant close out reviews and site visits, reviewing new grant applications, coordinating the award of and amendments to grant agreements, and notifying member jurisdictions of funding available. Continually working to improve the program.
- **Encouraging Monitoring and Maintenance** of our grant projects by working with grantees to plan for at least three years to ensure long term sustainability and success of our financial investments.

MEMBER JURISDICTION GRANTS

Program Highlights

- **Grant Awards** – For a complete list of grants awarded please see Appendix A.
- In total 40 grant awards were made totaling \$1,163,355
 - In 2015, 2 grants were awarded with leftover KCD-WRIA funds. The City of Bothell was awarded a **KCD-WRIA 8** grant for the Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration Phase 3 Construction. The City of Issaquah received \$75,292 in additional funding for the Lower Lewis Creek Restoration bringing the total KCD-WRIA 8 funds awarded this project to \$325,292
 - **38 Member Jurisdiction grants** were awarded to the cities of Shoreline, Woodinville, Sammamish, Renton, Newcastle, Mercer Island, Kirkland and more.
 - In cooperation with Seattle Public Utilities and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, the **KCD-Seattle Community Partnership Grant Program** received 39 letters of interest requesting \$1.3 million dollars in funding. The City recommended and KCD awarded 19 grants for a total of \$383,665.
 - KCD and Seattle Public Utilities worked cooperatively to craft a process that met mutual goals of natural resource conservation and community engagement.
 - An objective team of reviewers committed many hours of their time and worked with KCD to evaluate the proposals
 - Two workshops were held in March at the Northeast and Beacon Hill Library Branches in Seattle to promote the grant program and guide potential applications. Over 50 total attendees were able to meet with City and KCD staff, as well as other organizations doing similar work to talk about their projects.
- **Grant reporting** was collected from over 100 open grants managed by one program staff.
- **Grant close-outs and site visits** occur throughout the year
 - 9 WRIA grants were closed out in 2015.
 - 26 Member Jurisdiction grants were closed out in 2015
- **Grant program policy development**
 - Grant applicants continue to use the application developed in partnership with a grant subcommittee of the KCD-KC Task Force. The subcommittee included representatives from KCD, Seattle, King County, Bellevue, Redmond, Snoqualmie, and Auburn. The subcommittee recommended a pilot grant application form to be adopted in 2014. The intent of revising the pilot grant application form was to make the application process more transparent, eliminate duplicative questions, and increase ease of application by member jurisdictions. Many applicants commented that the new form is easier to use.
- **Grant amendment requests** are submitted throughout the year and are processed by staff, the grant subcommittee, and the Board of Supervisors as detailed in the amendment approval authority document. Grant amendment documents are available on the KCD webpage. Numerous grant amendment requests were processed and approved.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

King Conservation District continued to engage and support a broad-based Advisory Committee to begin implementing a five-year Implementation Plan and Budget approved by the Metropolitan King County Council in November 2014. The structure of the Advisory Committee can be seen below:

KCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE: A STAKEHOLDER'S GROUP

	Member	Alternate
King Conservation District Board of Supervisors		
King County	Appointed by Chair of KC Council	
	Appointed by KC Executive	
City of Seattle Staff		
City of Bellevue		
Equity & Social Justice	Appointed by KC Executive	
Environmental Partners	Appointed by KCD	

	Member	Alternate
Sound Cities Association		
	SCA Appointments shall strive for geographic balance	
Landowners	Ag Comm	Appointed by Ag Commission
	Forest Comm	Appointed by Forest Commission
	Rural	Appointed by KCD
	Urban	Appointed by KCD

Program Highlights

The Advisory Committee met each month January through November in 2015. Throughout the year, partnerships were built and strengthened. The Advisory Committee, some members of which had served on either the Conservation Panel or Task Force, helped KCD develop the specifics of the first year of its 5-year Implementation Plan. The Advisory Committee continues to be a cornerstone of KCD's new program development, assisting KCD with policy and constituent engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS

KCD's Engagement programs are designed to communicate the activities of KCD in ways that are meaningful to our key constituents and the broader community. They include inter-governmental relations and non-governmental organization relations, which specifically target building relationships with key jurisdictional partners within KCD's boundaries and in the Puget Sound region and other stakeholder engagement, which focuses specifically on current co-operators and more broadly on all citizens of the District.

Program Highlights

- Strengthened relationship with KCD Advisory Committee in 2015
- KCD partnered with Snohomish, Mason, and Pierce conservation districts to continue developing Better Ground as a conservation district brand and build synergistic capacity across our districts



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROGRAM MARKETING

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.

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



Program Highlights

- Participated with an exhibition booth for the second time in the Northwest Flower and Garden showing, engaging over 1,000 attendees and disseminating information about our free soil testing and other available services.
- Participated in at least 1 farmers market per week throughout the season to educate target audiences about our services and our support for local farms and farmers as well as hear first hand the challenges these markets and their farmers face.
- Website homepage refinement and increased updating and usage
- Colorful, interesting, and informative monthly emailed newsletter read by nearly 3,000 in 2015
- Dynamic, rapidly updated, and well-used Facebook page
- Strategic email alerts for key events and developments
- Event sponsorship in support of local food system, watershed improvement, and related topics
- Program and jurisdictional factsheets
- Special Publications
- Communication support to staff and Board
- Recognition Awards – Annual Meeting Event and Rock Awards
- Exhibits and other presence at fairs, festivals, and trade shows

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

KCD Board members and senior staff met with legislators to raise literacy about the new revenue tool of Rates and Charges, the impacts KCD and other conservation districts have in protecting natural resources, and other issues of interest to state and local lawmakers.



Program Highlights

- Met with over 30 state legislators in late February during Legislative Days, followed up through phone calls and letters
- Recognition among many state legislators that private landowners of all types of properties are a key component of resource conservation and stewardship
- Support from jurisdictional leaders for KCD's commitment to the Advisory Committee process to build strong working relationships with its partners going forward

GENERAL PUBLIC LITERACY

In response to the Conservation Panel and Task Force's strong recommendation that King Conservation District expand its effort to raise awareness of its services and impact, KCD engaged in a multi-prong campaign to begin that process.

Program Highlights

- Reached shoppers at 20+ farmers markets, a key constituent audience
- Increased general literacy of KCD, conservation districts overall, voluntary stewardship
- Increased web traffic, Facebook subscribers, and e-newsletter requests

BOARD GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The King Conservation District Board of Supervisors is responsible for all policy and funding decisions of KCD. The Board is composed of five Supervisors: Three are elected at large throughout the District, and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission. All members of the Board of Supervisors are volunteers and serve three-year terms. In cooperation with the Executive Director, the Board Chair manages monthly meetings of the Board and provides leadership and direction to the Board.

The Board's primary responsibilities are strategic planning and policy development. The annual workload of the Board includes the setting of annual priorities as well as oversight and approval of the Annual Work Plan & Budget in coordination with the Executive Director and KCD management staff. Throughout the year, the Board reviews and approves proposals to KCD for its grant funding. The Board also adopts KCD policy congruent with the Washington State Conservation Commission, including the holding of an annual supervisor election, and other requirements set out by State law and policy. The Board sets policy regarding personnel and the allocation of KCD funding to meet its needs. Supervisors also serve on various regional boards and commissions, attend outside meetings, represent KCD to the Conservation Commission and the Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and engage with legislators and stakeholders throughout the District.

The activities of the Board of Supervisors include the staffing and administration expenses for Board activities, which includes the cost of running the annual Supervisor election, the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, and outside legal coverage.

Program Highlights

General Program

- Secured grant funding for several pilot projects with jurisdictional or other partners
- Board members served on the KCD Advisory Committee and participated in discussions regarding KCD's 2015 Implementation Plan that was adopted by the King County Council in November, 2014
- Effectively raised local literacy regarding conservation district mandates and responsibilities to local stakeholders
- Worked to promote KCD's role concerning natural resource conservation
- Held Annual Board Celebration Meeting to thank and appreciate all its partners throughout the year

Election

- Engaged Advisory Committee in conversation with the Washington State Conservation Commission regarding barriers to voting in KCD elections, other issues
- Tracked Washington State Conservation Commission analysis of voting issues
- Laid the groundwork for more progress on election process in 2015

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 administrative 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 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 effort to commitment to safety in the workplace.
- Streamlined, simplified and created transparency in budget tracking, document storage/retrieval and payroll systems
- 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

KCD RATES AND CHARGES PROGRAM EXPENSES - 2015

REVENUE		
	Rates & Charges Collection	\$6,036,649
	Other Funds (grants, other)	\$584,580
		\$6,621,229
KCD BUDGET TO ACTUAL	BUDGETED	ACTUAL
Food and Farm Programs (1)	\$2,014,114 + \$188,851 ADAP funds	\$2,202,965
<i>(1) A partnership with King County resulted in additional Food and Farm program investments in agriculture drainage projects that brought 75 acres of key farmland back into production and improved drainage on 407 acres.</i>		
Forestry Services (2)	\$319,654 <-\$181,852> 1-time cost savings and Engagement launch support	\$137,802
<i>(2) Cost savings attributed to one-time utilization of in-house staff time, community engagement resources, and delayed hiring of additional staff. All benchmarks for Forest Service programs were met or exceeded. A more closely aligned budget-to-actual funding relationship is expected in Years 2-5.</i>		
Shoreline and Riparian Services	\$1,278,584	\$1,271,910
Landowner Incentive Program	\$837,182	\$857,704
Member Jurisdiction Grants & Services Program <i>inc. grant administration</i> (3)	\$1,296,507 +\$249,958 Admin costs	\$1,546,465
<i>(3) Historically, in expressing KCD's MJ grant program costs, KCD has shown the grant funding only, subsidizing the program's administrative costs across other programs. This budget-to-actual table represents that historic approach in the Budget column but expresses the full cost of the program in the Actual column.</i>		
Community Engagement Advisory Committee (4)	\$404,999 +\$199,399 KCD program launch investment	\$604,384
<i>(4) Additional cost for Community Engagement program was due to needed increases in investments in outreach, communication, and other support to launch KCD's new program initiatives. KCD is using prior fund balance to support community engagement beyond what was originally budgeted.</i>		
TOTAL	\$6,151,040	\$6,621,229

2015 BOARD



Dick Ryon, Chair

Dick was elected to the KCD Board 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 1970's and 80's. 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, 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.

2015 BOARD



Jason Salvo

Jason owns and operates Local Roots Farm, a 20-ish 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 it has been their full time jobs ever since. Local Roots Farm sells vegetables through a CSA, to over 50 area restaurants and at the Broadway Sunday Farmers Market. Before he started farming, 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.



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 their young family to the Snoqualmie Valley.

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."

KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT – RECIPIENT OF THE 2015 GREEN GLOBE AWARD

Imagine if...

Every landowner, public and private, worked together to steward their natural resources so that collectively abundant local food, healthy rural and urban forests, and fresh clean water would be fundamental assets for all to share and enjoy.

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. We work to improve or protect natural resources on private lands through education, technical assistance, and financial support 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.

Since 2012, KCD has committed itself 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 fresh.

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.



"Everyone in our region benefits from the work that the Green Globe recipients are doing, whether it's creating a local farm-to-table pipeline, preserving open spaces, restoring natural habitats, or confronting climate change," said King County Executive Dow Constantine. "Not only are they protecting our environment – they're improving our quality of life." -KingCounty Executive Dow Constantine

GRANT PROGRAM 2015 GRANT AWARDS

The King Conservation District awards grants for projects that directly enhance natural resources, provide education and outreach to increase public awareness, build capacity for natural resource improvement projects, and implement pilot or demonstration projects across King County.

In 2015 KCD awarded \$1,163,355 in grants to more than 30 public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The KCD grants were leveraged by more than \$3,500,000 in matching funds. Below is a list of the funded organizations with brief descriptions of their projects.

Adopt-A-Stream Foundation - Thornton Creek Streamkeepers Rain Garden Program \$35,000

Beacon Food Forest - Beacon Food Forest Stewardship Education Series \$32,681

City Fruit - Right-of-Way to Mini-Orchard \$15,620

City of Auburn - 2015 Auburn International Farmers Market Marketing & Promotion \$20,000

City of Bellevue - Ivy Out \$60,000

City of Bellevue - Energy Outreach Campaign \$30,000

City of Bellevue - City Hall Green Roof \$40,000

City of Bothell - Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration \$40,000

City of Clyde Hill - Arbor Day Celebration \$2,002

City of Issaquah - Lower Issaquah Creek Restoration \$75,292

City of Kent - Green Kent Partnership Year 6 \$55,827

City of Kent - Green Kent Partnership Year 7 \$62,605

City of Kirkland - 2016 Implementation of 20 Year Restoration Plan \$25,595

City of Mercer Island - Calkins Point Shoreline Restoration \$35,000

City of Renton - Renton Farmers Market Promotion \$10,500

City of Sammamish - 2015 Stormwater Outreach \$23,276

City of Seattle - Good Food Program Orchards and Gardens \$16,000

City of Seattle - P-Patch Program Stewardship Supplies \$16,000

GRANT PROGRAM 2015 GRANT AWARDS

City of Seattle - Green Seattle Partnership Stewardship Supplies \$7,000

City of Shoreline - Twin Ponds Vegetation Management Plan \$18,300

City of Shoreline - Soak It Up Rebate Program Survey \$10,900

City of Shoreline - Our P.A.T.C.H Greenhouse \$25,000

City of Shoreline - Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Habitat Restoration \$18,023

City of Woodinville - Tree Games/Arbor Day Celebration \$1,250

Duwamish Tribal Services - Longhouse Upland Reforestation & Native Plant Restoration \$19,235

Earth Corps - Duwamish Alive Stewardship Supplies \$7,000

Fauntleroy Watershed Council - Kilbourne Ravine Riparian & Buffer Project \$21,203

Forterra - Seattle's Tree Ambassadors/Releaf Program \$6,000

King County Agriculture Program - Keeping Farmers Farming \$195,847

Little Red Hen Project - Delridge Learning Garden \$10,169

Magnuson Community Center - Nature Education for All \$22,918

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust - Discovery Park Parking Lot Restoration \$21,000

Newcastle Weed Warriors - Newcastle Earth Day 2015 \$9,000

Seattle Parks Foundation - Cheasty Greenspace Education Signage \$34,689

Seattle Parks Foundation - Yesler Swamp Restoration \$31,940

Seattle Tilth - Urban Food Project \$40,000

Seward Park Audubon Center - Tenacious Roots: Youth Leadership for Conservation Action \$ 11,400

Stewardship Partners - Eckstein Middle School Demonstration Rain Garden \$15,000

The Common Acre - Creston-Duwamish Transmission Corridor Restoration & Nursery \$20,810

White River Valley Museum - Mary Olson Farm Environmental Education \$12,120