



## INTRODUCTION

The 2019 KCD Program of Work continues the progress made on initiatives identified as essential regional priorities by the Conservation Panel, Task Force, and KCD Advisory Committee. These include activities and partnerships that will help build a regional, sustainable, and equitable food system, improve the health of our forests, neighborhood tree canopies, shorelines and ensure clean water for all.

The 2019 Program of Work outlines the ways in which KCD will continue to implement its programs in year three of the five-year plan in response to guidance received from the KCD Advisory Committee.

## THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As the pressures of climate change and population increases begin to be felt in common and extraordinary ways, our region is challenged to develop tools to adapt and succeed. Efforts are underway to understand and develop strategies to combat systemic barriers to healthy fresh food for all, expand tree canopies in dense neighborhoods and protect our rural forests, and ensure that our region's people, plants, and animals have clean water.

Conservation districts were created at the center of our nation's first national environmental crisis – the dust bowl. 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, especially on the nearly 50% of land that's under private control. Growing stewards is what conservation districts do – wherever those stewards may

be – on the farm, in neighborhood backyards, or working alongside friends to restore a stream or park.

We provide broad messaging to elevate natural resource conservation among a diverse constituency. We teach workshops and classes and host tours of demonstration projects to bring essential information on stewardship to interested people. And we work hand-in-hand, often bringing financial resources, with landowners to help them steward natural resources on their land for the public's benefit. **Education, technical assistance, and cost-share**, it's how conservation districts help people build better ground.

In the face of climate change impacts, food production and access barriers, and development pressures on the natural environment, King Conservation District stands ready with our partners to continue to leverage the region's existing expertise and passion for this place and make a difference.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The 2013 King Conservation District/King County Conservation Panel and Task Force roundtables examined the region's existing programs and identified specific needs that were not being addressed in natural resource conservation. In 2014 and 2015, KCD worked with a broad-based Advisory Committee to develop an implementation plan for work in the following areas:

- Regional Food System
- Rural Agriculture
- Urban Agriculture
- Rural Small Lot Forest Health Management
- Urban Forest Health Management
- Shorelines and Riparian Habitat
- Landowner Incentive Program
- Community Engagement
- Member Jurisdiction Grants

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

KCD's proposed guiding principles to direct and leverage our resources equitably and effectively include:

- Strive to fund projects and programs across a geographically diverse landscape
- Proposed projects are encouraged to address multiple natural resource priorities
- Proposed projects should seek to align with established regional policy and research and planning processes
- Proposed projects are encouraged to address economic as well as environmental challenges
- Projects are encouraged to address equity and social justice directly or indirectly
- We strive to coordinate with local jurisdiction conservation programs and initiatives where they exist

## PARTNERSHIP

KCD is committed to delivering these regional programs in close collaboration with our Advisory Committee and other stakeholders. In order for KCD resources to have the greatest impact, we build partnerships that direct funds towards effective but underfunded existing programs, innovative pilot projects, and, especially, partnerships across municipalities, organizations, and individuals with congruent goals to build regional capacity and translate into on-the-ground improvements.

Criteria for grants, loans, services, and other resource allocation have been developed jointly by KCD staff and the KCD Advisory Committee, through the leadership of its Executive Committee, and through the KCD Board for consideration and action.



# THE ROAD TO 2025

Welcome to King Conservation District's **2019 Program of Work!** Created in partnership with our 15 member Advisory Committee, and built on the foundation of a collaborative stakeholder driven process which identified natural resource gaps in the region, the **2019 Program of Work** is built from our **2015 Five-Year Implementation Plan**.

The **2019 Program of Work** outlines the final year of our Five-Year Implementation Plan. While the Program of Work speaks directly to the direction of our Implementation Plan, funded by Rates and Charges, sprinkled throughout the document are also the ways in which our work is adapting as the needs and demographics of King County change and evolve. Much of what KCD was directed to focus on in 2014 through the Conservation Panel and Task Force was nuts and bolts – on-the-ground restoration work. And the metrics established in 2015 reflect that.

The reality that has unfolded over the past three years is that KCD is increasingly being asked to serve as a convener, a lever, a connector whose local funding mechanism enables us to form partnerships that attract state and federal funds and resources that make those precious local dollars go farther.

Thus, KCD is striving to reach our 2015 commitments while responding agilely to the developing priorities of our partners and constituents in ways that expand our impact in the region. We are doing both – delivering on the ground improvements and providing expertise, resources, and infrastructure that enable and empower others to tackle the formidable natural resource challenges we all face.

To capture what's needed now and what roles KCD should continue or move toward in the future, we began an intensive and collaborative strategic planning exercise in the fall of 2017 across all our programs, old and new, that will continue into 2019 and inform our next five year plan. Currently, in the spring of 2018, we are engaging our Advisory Committee in that work and will expand that conversation to the broader community in the coming months – and in 2019, we will incorporate what we learn through that engagement into a full proposal to bring in front of the Metropolitan King County Council in the summer of that year.

The graphic following illustrates the KCD's strategic planning journey.

## THE ROAD TO 2020



**Washington's 44 conservation districts were created with the following mission:**

**Enabling Legislation - RCW 89.08**

Whereas, there is a pressing need for the conservation of renewable resources in all areas of the state, whether urban, suburban, or rural, and that the benefits of resource practices, programs, and projects, ... should be available to all such areas; therefore, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of the renewable resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of flood water and sediment damages, and for furthering agricultural and nonagricultural phases of conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state...

As KCD embarked upon our Strategic Planning, we identified Theory of Change as an effective and appropriate tool for supporting the work ahead. Briefly, this tool enables an organization to reflect and analyze – to lay out what a program hopes to do, why they hope to do it, what assumptions they hold about the program, and what they hope to accomplish through the program. It is a tool that will allow KCD to:

- Articulate connections between program activities and intended outcomes
- Highlight the importance of pathways- how to connect what we are doing with what we hope to accomplish
- Draw distinctions between outcomes we can directly affect and those that we contribute to

In developing our process, we established the following underlying assumptions:

- KCD has a historic book of work that is appropriate and should likely continue
- The focus of KCD's programs (either directly or indirectly) are King County residents and rate payers
- Refining and retargeting existing programmatic activities could improve effectiveness (new program areas may not be needed)
- Program and focus areas are bound by the constraints/limits outline in the RCS

As we move through 2019, in addition to the activities outlined here in our Program of Work, KCD staff will continue this strategic planning conversation with our existing and new stakeholders. We are committed to a 2020-2025 plan that responds to evolving community needs and priorities and expands the partnerships that improve the quality of life for King County residents.

# REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM



In 2015, the King Conservation District established the **Regional Food System Program** based on the King County Kitchen Cabinet and the Puget Sound Regional Council action plans, and on personal engagement with a wide range of local food system advisors. Drawing on this community input, KCD is implementing a series of initiatives that will contribute to the economic viability of local farmers, encourage more new farmers, expand acreage in food production, improve food access, and increase demand for local farm products.

The 2019 KCD budget includes ongoing funding for the Regional Food System Grant Program. Eligible applicants include farmers, producer networks, governments, marketing cooperatives, farmers market, and nonprofit organizations.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

In 2019, King Conservation District will continue to work with partners and technical experts to further improve the Regional Food System Grant Program. Goals include to better sync this program to increase ability for grant applicants to leverage these funds to bring other resources to the region, including funding from the USDA, EPA, and state sources. Program staff in 2019 will include a full time Program Manager, support from a Program Assistant, and other KCD staff support, as needed.

## PROGRAM AND SERVICES

This Grant Program seeks to fund a wide range of efforts to strengthen the food system in accordance with the below selection criteria developed by KCD staff and Board in collaboration with the KCD Advisory Committee.

<b>Anticipated Rates &amp; Charges Expenditure</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Staff, Consulting	\$196,500	\$196,500
Grant Funds	\$900,000	\$900,000
	<b>\$1,096,500*</b>	<b>\$1,096,500*</b>

*\* Current funded activities include Farm Planning and Outreach staff and contractor support time*

## GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Provides direct benefit for food producers and agricultural lands:
  - a. Addresses infrastructure needs or gaps.
  - b. Targets natural resource priorities on farmland.
  - c. Increases demand for King County farm products.
2. Aligns with goals in the Kitchen Cabinet Action Plan and Puget Sound Regional Food Policy Action Plan.
3. Aligns with KCD guiding principles.
4. Project is sustainable and/or replicable.

## DRAFT 2019 GRANT APPLICATION TIMELINE\*

Early April	Letter of Intent deadline.
Late April	Invitations for full grant proposals.
May	Community Presentation Workshop.
June	Final proposal deadline.
September	Grant awards announced.

\*Note that these dates may shift as we look at process improvements for 2019. A final timeline will be in place and announced in February 2019.

## 2019 STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Strategic Initiatives are projects that:

- Are specific actions identified in regional planning goals and by numerous stakeholders
- Address critical steps toward meeting regional food system economic goals
- Could be accomplished by KCD staff or through contracted work, and
- Can be clearly defined as a specific project or activity.

Working with our Regional Food System Program Advisory Committee Working Group, we have identified a number of strategic initiative funding areas that address multiple stakeholder needs, and leverage stakeholder input for greater impact. These will be addressed through a separate RFP process, with a specific scope of services and budget, and will be addressed through a contract for services rather than a grant agreement and will cover the following topic areas:

- Direct Marketing Support
- Institutional Purchasing Support
- Farmers Market Manager Support
- Dairy Support
- Communities of Color Capacity Building

The people of King County appreciate the value and benefits of enjoying locally grown food. You see it at farmers markets, grocers, restaurants, wineries and breweries that promote food and beverages proudly made right here in our community. It's a way to support local farms, eat healthier, reduce our carbon footprint, and reflect our region's distinct culture. Together, we're making it possible for more people in King County to participate in our local food economy, creating a more sustainable and accessible source for locally grown food.



*King County Executive Dow Constantine*

## 2019 EQUIPMENT LOAN

KCD will continue to offer the loan of two new pieces of equipment to small farmers:

### 2017 GRANTS AWARDED

Organization	Project Title	Amount	Project Description
Pike Place Market Foundation	Pilot Individual Development Account Program for Beginning Farmers	\$16,050	Pike Place Market Foundation will pilot an individual development account program with a cohort of five second generation farmers at the Market in order to give farmers the ability to finance their farms through the combination of financial education and a savings incentive program. For more information contact Leigh Newman-Bell, Farm Development Coordinator, Leigh.NB@pikeplacemarket.org.
Goose and Gander Farm	Addressing the Farm Infrastructure Gap	\$99,919	Goose and Gander Farm will develop a shared aggregation and cold storage site for Snoqualmie Valley farms and farm organizations. For more information, contact Meredith Molli, meredithmolli@gmail.com
Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative	SnoValley Farmers Cooperative Market Boost Project	\$82,811	With the aim of moving the Snoqualmie Valley Farmers Cooperative to financial self-sufficiency, this project funds three items most crucial to the SVFC's success: a delivery vehicle, staff time for sales and marketing, and promotional materials. For more information, contact Brad Johnson, General Manager, snovalleycoop@gmail.com.
Shared Soil	Shared Soil	\$27,546	Shared Soil increases land access and supports collective farming practices by providing rentable farmland in Enumclaw, WA for beginner, immigrant, and socially disadvantaged farmers who are ready to transition off the Tilth Alliance Farm Works incubator and expand their farm businesses. For more information, contact Lily Gottlieb-McHale, lilygottliebmcchale@gmail.com.
Public Health – Seattle and King County	Gathering Around the Table for 'Dulet' - Building a Safe Meat Supply Chain by and for the East African Community in King County	\$97,500	Public Health – Seattle and King County seeks to replace an unsafe and sometimes illegal meat supply chain with a safe, legal, local, and culturally appropriate meat supply chain for King County's 100,000 person and growing East African immigrant population by working with a partnership of producers, processors, distributors, consumers and agencies. For more information, contact Dr. Eyob Mazengia, Eyob.Mazengia@kingcounty.gov.
Sno-Valley Tilth	Growing Farm Businesses	\$54,581	Sno-Valley Tilth as developed a three-strategy business training program focused on helping established producers in Snoqualmie Valley grow their farm operations and increase productivity through education, mentorship, and small-group consultations. For more information, contact Melissa Borsting, Executive Director, melissa@snovalleytilth.org.
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks	Working Farmland Partnership Pilot Project	\$99,558	King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks will develop a pilot project to test the concept of a focused, multi-partner, ground-based effort to link farmers looking to establish or expand their farming business with landowners that want to bring underutilized land back into production. For more information, contact Mike Lufkin, Local Food Economy Manager, Michael.Lufkin@kingcounty.gov
The Food Innovation Network	Creating a Replicable & Scalable Pathway for South King County Urban Agriculture	\$53,539	The Food Innovation Network will improve land access and business opportunities for urban agriculture in South King County by: 1) by establishing the South King Urban Agriculture Network; 2) identifying and securing land for community gardens and urban farms; and 3) linking potential growers to land and resources for urban agriculture production and business development. For more information, contact Kara Martin, Program Manager, kara@foodinnovationnetwork.org.
Highline College	Highline College Community-Centered Urban Agriculture Program	\$75,902	Highline College will partner with the City of Des Moines to identify and increase the amount of farmable land for use by the College and the community in order to improve local food security, improve land use, and to provide a venue to educate and develop new farmers. For more information contact Bobby Butler, Urban Ag Program Manager, bbutler@highline.edu.

## BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks for KCD's Regional Food System five-year Implementation Plan include:

KCD proposes to continue to deliver a robust program of grants and services that address the following regional goals:

- Production- More Food Acres and More New Farmers
- Demand- More Demand for Locally Grown Food
- Access- Greater Access to fruit and vegetables by most vulnerable in our communities

In 2019, KCD proposes to commit over \$1,000,000 to the expansion and stabilization of a sustainable, equitable, and resilient regional food system. In the 2016 awards, on average, each \$1 KCD has committed is leveraging an additional \$1.30. We look forward to working to further strengthen this leveraging power.





# RURAL AGRICULTURE

United States Dept. Of Agriculture statistics show that King County farmers produced \$120 million worth of Agricultural products in 2012. About \$90 million of that total are food products. The county ranks 18th in value of agricultural production of the state's 39 counties. King County consumers spend \$6 billion on food.

Between 1992 and 2012, we lost nearly 31 million acres of land. That's 175 acres an hour, or 3 acres every single minute  
*American Farmland Trust*

Farmers are the stewards of over 60,000 acres of farmed and farmable lands in King County. Enabling their stewardship of our shared water, soil, and habitat resources requires supporting those efforts in meaningful ways. Placing expensive regulatory burdens on farmers without committing the technical and financial resources to help land managers implement environmental practices runs the very real risk of losing that farmland to bankruptcy, abandonment, or development.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District has increased its support of rural farmers through both increasing the number of plans to self-selected clients as well as expanded pilot efforts on sub-basin targeting to improve water, soil, and habitat quality in watersheds that exhibit poor benchmarks.

Anticipated Rates and Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff and Consulting	\$725,814	\$725,814
	<b>\$725,814**</b>	<b>\$725,814**</b>

\* Current funded activities include Natural Resource Planning and Technical Assistance and Livestock Owners Workshops and Farm Tours

\*\*See the Landowner Incentive Program section of this document for additional funding in the form of cost-share allocated for rural and urban agriculture stewardship practices.



## PROGRAM AND SERVICES

- **Continue a multi-year plan to deploy targeted farm planning services** approach county wide to key targeted natural resource concern areas, for example, PIC approach-targeting water quality impaired sub-basins with significant commercial farming land use (5 -10 watersheds prioritized; may result in 10+ year plan).

**KCD Staff**

- **Continue targeting 1 natural resource concern area for outreach each 2 years**, ensuring a comprehensive approach to conservation

**KCD Staff**

- **Serving 250 farming customers in targeted natural resource areas** (90% result in site visits to assess natural resource concerns and solutions) across KCD's five-year Implementation Plan.

**KCD Staff**

- **Delivering 100 farm plans in targeted natural resource areas** (25% regulatory nexus; 10% Current/PBRS nexus; 65% stewardship nexus only) across KCD's five-year Implementation Plan.

**KCD Staff**

- **Connect land managers and farmers with financial assistance** to make identified improvements.

**KCD Staff**

- **Continue agricultural drainage services based on level of available funding.** When funding is secured, tasks will include landowner outreach and technical assistance, ranking and selecting drainage projects, managing contractors for dredging and waterway crossing projects, and collaborating with other organizations and agencies to promote drainage maintenance.

**KCD Staff**

## BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks for KCD's Rural Agriculture five-year Implementation Plan include:

- **Maintain level of county-wide farm natural resource planning support.** This program currently addresses water quality, salmon habitat, and farm productivity goals, as defined through regional planning efforts and local, state, and national Best Management Practices.
  - 1000 farming service customers, 250 in priority sub-basin areas
  - Up to 450 farm conservation plans, of which 10 are dairy nutrient management plans, 100 are in priority sub-basin areas
  - Follow up on 750 farm plans to document implementation
  - Loan Manure Spreader to 150 landowners
- **Continue to build out a multi-year plan to deploy targeted farm planning services county-wide.** For example, target water quality impaired watershed sub-basins with significant commercial farming land use (5 -10 watersheds prioritized; may result in 10+ year plan). This will include quantitative monitoring to evaluate on-the-ground and in-the-water progress at reaching improvement goals.
- **Target 1 natural resource concern area for outreach each 2 years**, ensuring a comprehensive approach to conservation and investing in 3 areas over 5 years. (This program was in BETA in 2014, funded by outside grants)

# COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

“Urban agriculture can play an important role in increasing food security, building community, and improving the environment. Local governments occupy a key role in ensuring that cultivation, processing, and sales of locally-produced food occurs in appropriate locations with few barriers. Urban agriculture activities include home gardening in front and back yards, planting strips and roots; keeping livestock, beekeeping, larger urban farms, private and public community gardens, production and sale of value-added products like jams and pickles, and on-site sales of locally-produced food.”

*Urban Agriculture Blueprint, Regional Food Policy Council*

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District works with our member jurisdiction cities, King County, Seattle Tilth, Cascade Harvest Coalition, Pike Place Market, the Regional Food Policy Council, and others across the food system spectrum to identify opportunities to develop urban agriculture.

Anticipated Rates & Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff, Consulting and Demonstration Project Costs	\$173,871	\$173,871
Soil Testing	\$17,929	\$17,929
	<b>\$191,800**</b>	<b>\$191,800**</b>

\* Current funded activities include soil testing within the District’s Nutrient Management Services Program

\*\* See the Landowner Incentive Program section of this document for additional funding in the form of cost-share allocated for rural and urban agriculture stewardship practices. KCD will also look to the newly published Regional Food Policy Council 2014-2017 Action Plan for guidance and potential strategies.

## PROGRAM AND SERVICES

- 1. Soil Fertility** - help urban farmers and gardeners understand how to manage soil fertility, including soil testing and cover cropping, food cycle, and natural resource cycles through practical workshops, site specific technical expertise, soil testing program, and pilot cover cropping incentives.
- 2. Farm friendly cities** - Continue to offer support to cities to review comprehensive plans and local regulations to target changes that help cities make updates to become more urban agriculture friendly.
- 3. Food growing in low income communities** - Continue to partner with cities, King County and community leaders on opportunistic, demonstration projects. Demonstration projects include CitySoil in Renton, Hillside Paradise Plots in Kent and community-based gardens across King County. Continue to partner with King County Wastewater Treatment Division to offer GrowCo to low-income-serving gardens.



## BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks for KCD's Urban Agriculture five-year Implementation Plan include:

- **Continue to develop and build urban farming-related natural resource planning support** through coordination with member jurisdictions and the KCD Advisory Committee.
- **Continue to market and expand soil fertility services to promote responsible fertilizer practices** (increase gardener involvement by at least 100 new gardeners annually, engaging at least 500 new gardeners over 5 years); In 2015, KCD tested nearly 1,400 soil samples.
- **Grow current soil testing program and customers into a more comprehensive urban conservation program** focused on growing healthy local food and protecting and enhancing urban water quality.
- **Assist urban farm planning across the District** so that a total of 100 urban farms have received planning and other assistance across King County by the end of 2019.

For many city regions in relatively temperate climates, Urban Agriculture contributes much to the sustainability of the food needs of their cities and thus to urban sustainability. They could contribute more under two conditions: 1) that agricultural land and farming activities are really protected from unnecessary urban development such as industrial parks and residential subdivisions that still get parachuted in many developed countries onto prime, quality farmland, even with the support of governments; and 2) that more attention is given to the many new emerging forms of agriculture, particularly forms of agriculture that involve intensive small scale farms that have few negative environmental consequences.

*Christopher Bryant,  
Professor, University of Montreal  
The Nature of Cities*



# RURAL SMALL LOT FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

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.



For these reasons, the King County Rural Forest Commission has recommended promoting and supporting the retention and enhancement of our valuable forested landscape by maintaining a strong focus on incentives and services for small lot forest owners.

King Conservation District 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 landowners actively manage forestlands and open space areas. KCD has expanded this effort by enhancing its partnerships with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension, and rural residential and small private forest landowners to protect and enhance woodlots and smaller stands of forest, reduce forest fragmentation, and capture the ecological benefits and in some cases the economic value of forests.

## 2019 PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District works with King County, WSU Cooperative Extension and other partners to continue implementing a program that promotes forest health on private lands through workshops, one-on-one education, and technical and financial incentives to plan and implement best management practices. Program resources needed are shown below.

Anticipated Rates & Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff and Consulting	\$92,523	\$92,523
AmeriCorps Intern & Other contracted	\$52,500	\$52,500
Materials/supplies, facility rentals	\$10,000	\$10,000
	<b>\$165,023**</b>	<b>\$165,023**</b>

\* Current funded activities include providing technical guidance, cost-share application development, and project materials to landowners and residents who independently plan and implement forest health management practices.

\*\* See the Landowner Incentive Program section of this document for additional funding in the form of cost-share allocated for rural forest health stewardship practices.

## 2019 PROGRAM AND SERVICES

The range of opportunities includes:

- **Support WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshops** in King County to rural non-commercial small forest landowners.  
**Washington Sate University (WSU) (Grant or Contract)**
- **Target current and increased technical site assessment and support** services to non-commercial rural forest landowners (under 5 acres). Capitalize on synergistic opportunities on properties with combined farm and woodlot land uses (see Regional Food System section of this document. )  
**KCD Staff**
- **Target new technical assistance and implementation services to homeowners associations** with Native Growth Protection Areas, forest buffers and other open space management areas.  
**KCD Staff**
- **Conduct outreach to rural non-commercial small forest landowners** to directly market the range of forestry services available across agencies in King County.  
**KCD Staff in partnership with WSU, King County and others**
- **Collaborate with local and regional service providers on enhancing economic development incentives to support small scale forestry** and on conservation programs that help maintain forest health in the urban/rural interface.  
**KCD Staff in partnership with WSU, KC and others**
- **Collaborate with local and regional service providers on delivering regional fire fuels reduction efforts** to small non-commercial forest landowners.  
**KCD Staff in partnership with KC and others**

## BENCHMARKS

KCD will continue to deliver a robust program of outreach and technical services to the rural community. The goal is to help King County landowners implement forest health management practices on parcels where forest stands are under five acres. KCD will look for opportunities to increase contiguous acres of small acreage privately held forest stands that are actively stewarded and restored, where possible.

Benchmarks for KCD's Rural Forestry 5-year Implementation Plan include:

- 225 acres of woodlot treated and planted annually, a total of 1,125 acres over five year Implementation Plan
- 18,000 to 36,000 native trees and shrubs planted on forest land
- \$144,900 of private sector funding secured annually, for a total of \$724,500 private sector funding leveraged on forest health management
- 18 small forest landowners engaged annually, resulting in 90+ Small forest landowners engaged in planning and implementing best management practices through KCD technical services
- One WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Workshop annually held in King County, 5 workshops over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- \$150,000 annually in KCD LIP cost-share funding awarded for contracts with small private forest landowners to implemented best management practices, \$750,000 over the 5-Year Implementation Plan



# URBAN FOREST HEALTH MANAGEMENT

King Conservation District is tasked with one of the most interesting and multi-faceted opportunities facing any conservation district: to extend its traditional reach and work in the backyards, public easements, and parks and open spaces in the incorporated landscapes of the 34 cities we are proud to call our partners. Healthy trees and forests are important attributes in our communities – they increase property values, decrease crime rates, and bring well-studied health benefits to communities. Urban forestry programs across the country are expanding their historical focus on aesthetics and heat islands to include wildlife habitat in cities, storm water management, water quality improvement, pollution abatement and carbon sequestration.

KCD is working with local cities on tree canopy mapping and modeling projects to inform future urban forest and stormwater management practices in our region.

As managed growth concentrates development within the Urban Growth Boundary, healthy urban forests, tree canopies and street trees become even more necessary. KCD works to increase the resilience of urban tree canopies and capture the ecological, recreational and other values of green infrastructure by helping residents and landowners actively manage urban trees in yards and public open spaces. KCD will build on its successful partnerships with member cities to expand conservation of urban tree canopies and grow green infrastructure where it is deemed most needed.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District will continue working with our member jurisdictions and other partners to continue a program that increases street trees and urban tree canopy coverage and build green infrastructure in communities across King County. We will build on existing programs and utilize other available resources when available. The Urban forest Health Management Program resources needed are shown below.

Anticipated Rates & Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff and Consulting	\$111,056	\$111,056
AmeriCorps Intern	\$13,575	\$13,575
Materials/supplies, facility rentals	\$30,000	\$30,000
	<b>\$154,631**</b>	<b>\$154,631**</b>

*\* Current funded activities include providing technical assistance, planning and implementation service, and project materials to jurisdictions and residents on urban forest health management projects.*

*\*\* See the Landowner Incentive Program section of this document for additional funding in the form of cost-share allocated for urban trees, canopy and green infrastructure stewardship practices.*



## PROGRAM AND SERVICES

The range of opportunities includes:

### FOR LANDOWNER LITERACY

- **Provide workshops, classes and tours to neighborhood residents** on improving forest/tree ecosystem functions and values, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing storm water runoff, and sequestering atmospheric carbon by planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs.

**KCD Staff / WSU Cooperative Extension**

- **Assist neighborhood residents, through increased levels of technical support**, on retaining and restoring their part of the neighborhood forest, improving neighborhood forest ecosystem functions and values, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing storm water runoff, and sequestering atmospheric carbon by planting and maintaining native trees and shrubs.

**KCD Staff in partnership with Member Jurisdictions**

- **Support and/or coordinate public/private partnerships between private parcels and jurisdictions** on restoring buffers adjacent to public easements, parks and other neighborhood open space areas in cities.

**KCD Staff in partnership with Member Jurisdictions**

### FOR SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED JURISDICTIONS

- **Work with jurisdictions to explore opportunities for partnerships with jurisdictions on city forestry initiatives** including monitoring and maintaining healthy tree canopy, developing city forest retention and restoration strategic plans, and conducting public tree inventories & canopy assessments. Engagement on these topics will be through roundtables, K4C meetings, outreach to individual cities, and Urban Forestry Program RFPs.

**KCD Staff in partnership with Member Jurisdictions**

## BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks for KCD's Urban Forest Health Management five -year Implementation Plan include :

- 14 acres annually for a total of 70 acres of urban forest/upland treated and planted
- 34,400 trees and shrubs planted annually, resulting in 1720,000 planted in urban areas over 5 years.
- \$324,400 of private sector funding annually, resulting in \$1,622,000 of private sector funding leveraged on urban forest/upland health annually
- Work with a minimum of 3 King County cities annually, resulting in 15 King County cities over the 5-Year Implementation Plan, in a support and/or coordination role to plan and implement urban forest retention and restoration programs
- \$150,000 KCD funds awarded annually, resulting in \$750,000 KCD funds awarded for projects consistent with the urban forest initiatives in partnership with member jurisdictions over the 5-Year Implementation Plan

# SHORELINES AND RIPARIAN HABITAT

King County’s landscape is a diverse mosaic of mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, and marine habitats. The King Conservation District’s service area includes approximately 2,100 square miles of land, plus nearly 2,000 miles of freshwater and marine shorelines. Where more than 2/3 of the shoreline properties are held in private ownership, a century of intensive logging, agriculture and neighborhood development have degraded these aquatic habitats throughout the region. In 1999, Chinook salmon were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, prompting concerted efforts to restore and protect lakes, rivers and streams. Ongoing concern for the health of Puget Sound has led to the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda strategies and priorities focused on protecting and improving freshwater and marine shorelines and near-shore and in-stream habitats.

Additionally, support for increased technical and educational assistance and capacity-building among shoreline property owners was recommended by the King Conservation District/King County Conservation Panel and Task Force. These regional initiatives acknowledge that efforts to recover the health of these aquatic systems require close collaboration with private property owners whose lands abut freshwater and marine shorelines. KCD currently works to protect and improve freshwater and marine shorelines in our region by helping landowners and residents steward these habitats and implement protection and enhancement practices. KCD has increased the number of acres and miles of enhanced freshwater and marine riparian habitat on private property engaging more landowners and residents through increased levels of education and technical services and financial incentives.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District works with our member jurisdictions and other local and regional partners to deliver a program that increases the acres and miles of enhanced freshwater and marine shoreline on private lands through workshops, one-on-one education, and technical and financial assistance for implementing best management practices. We build on existing programs and utilize other available resources when available. Program resources needed are shown below.

Anticipated Rates & Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff and Consulting	\$536,921	\$536,921
AmeriCorps Intern & Crew & Other Contracted	\$292,210	\$292,210
Other Contracted	\$227,515	\$227,515
Materials/supplies, facility rentals	\$221,938	\$221,938
	<b>\$1,278,584**</b>	<b>\$1,278,584**</b>

*\* Current funded activities include planning, designing and implementing urban and rural residential and rural working lands freshwater and marine aquatic area enhancement projects; engineering and implementing fish passage barrier removal and stream restoration projects; recruiting and coordinating volunteer involvement on projects; providing technical guidance, cost-share application development, and project materials to landowners and residents who independently plan and implement aquatic area enhancement projects.*

*\*\* See the Landowner Incentive Program section of this document for additional funding in the form of cost-share allocated for marine and freshwater shorelines stewardship practices.*

Puget Sound is a unique and vital part of our region. It nourishes our health, economy, environment, and quality of life. A healthy Puget Sound is essential to sustaining a vibrant economy, meeting our obligations to treaty rights, and supporting our need for connection to the natural world. But Puget Sound is in trouble.

Salmon populations are one-third as abundant as they were in 1908 and continue to decline.

Only 64 percent of the major rivers in Puget Sound meet water quality standards.

Hundreds of tons of toxic chemicals and metals end up in Puget Sound each year from cars, wood burning, household pesticide use, pharmaceuticals, and air emissions.

*Action Agenda  
Puget Sound Partnership*

## EXPANDED PROGRAM AND SERVICES

The range of opportunities includes:

### FOR LANDOWNER LITERACY

- **Provide assistance to landowners and residents** in communities that are currently underserved or are disproportionately affected by pollution, including toxics and sedimentation, or habitat degradation.

**KCD in Partnership with Member Jurisdictions/NGOs**

### FOR JURISDICTIONS

- **Continue to help jurisdictions meet their aquatic resource protection and enhancement objectives** through education, technical support and implementation services to landowners and neighborhood/community groups. The range of services to jurisdictions include community organizing, project planning, and implementation services.

**KCD in Partnership with Member Jurisdictions/NGOs**

- **Develop a *Member Jurisdiction Urban Shorelines Outreach Toolkit*** to help City Staff and KCD to work together and support each other in delivering aquatic area protection and enhancement services to urban homeowners and residents. Toolkit elements include City and KCD web materials and resources, publications, social media and other electronic format technical and informational content, City / KCD collaboration events and opportunities.
- **Support jurisdiction efforts to improve freshwater and marine shoreline habitat** in parks and on other public properties. These efforts, currently offered as a contracted service, could be increased. Jurisdiction investments could be augmented by working with landowners of adjacent private holdings.

**KCD in Partnership with Member Jurisdictions/NGOs**

- **Support jurisdiction efforts in targeted shoreline outreach, education and technical services** that promote and support enhanced shoreline buffers and reduced pollutants in surface water runoff.

**KCD in Partnership with Member Jurisdictions/NGOs**

## BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks for KCD's Shoreline and Riparian Habitat five-year Implementation Plan include:

- 3.6 miles of shoreline replanted and enhanced annually, 18 miles over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 47 acres of riparian corridor replanted and enhanced, 235 acres over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 115,100 native trees and shrubs planted, 575,500 over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 220 freshwater aquatic area landowners engaged in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area planting and enhancement practices, 1,100 over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 120 marine shoreline aquatic area landowners engaged in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area planting and enhancement practices, 600 over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 20 freshwater aquatic area planting and enhancement projects planned and implemented by KCD, on a combination of neighborhood and rural residential lands, 100 over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- 4 to 8 CREP projects annually, 20 to 40 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects planned and implemented over the 5-Year Implementation Plan
- \$112,500 annually, \$562,500 KCD LIP cost-share funds awarded for contracts with freshwater and marine aquatic area landowners to implement freshwater and marine shoreline planting and enhancement practices in neighborhoods and rural areas

# LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Landowner Incentive Program is a financial incentive tool that supports best management practices on private property by sharing the cost of implementing those practices between the public and private sector. The ratio of public and private investment in implemented practices depends upon the benefit received by each. Examples of practices supported by the KCD LIP include installing fences to protect streams and wetlands by excluding domesticated livestock, building manure bins to protect water quality by storing and composting livestock waste, installing native plant buffers along streams, wetlands and marine shorelines to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, etc. The LIP program supports KCD's other programs outlined in this Implementation Plan. This cost breakout is a list of the KCD Proposed Program of Work Programs and the LIP allocations assigned to each.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

King Conservation District has increased our region's capacity to protect and enhance natural resources by providing financial incentives complementary to our technical programs and services that support private landowners in meeting the region's expectations that common resources, such as water quality and fish and wildlife habitat be protected and enhanced for the public benefit. We will build on existing programs and utilize other available resources when available. Program resources needed are shown below.

Anticipated Rates & Charges Expenditure	2018	2019
Staff and Consulting	\$180,932	\$180,932
Cost share (landowner matching funds)	\$656,250	\$656,250
Rural Forest Health	\$150,000	\$150,000
Urban Trees, Canopy and Green Infrastructure	\$150,000	\$150,000
Shorelines/Riparian (Marine & Freshwater)	\$112,500	\$112,500
Rural and Urban Agriculture (Water Quality Protection)	\$243,750	\$243,750
	<b>\$837,182</b>	<b>\$837,182</b>

*\* Current funded activities include awarding and administering cost-share funding.*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Engagement program supports the other King Conservation District programs through program marketing, outreach, and communication. In addition, Community Engagement works to raise literacy among residents, public agencies, and non-profits about the services we provide, the impact of our organization, and ways in which we partner with people and organizations. Community Engagement works closely with our Advisory Committee to ensure broad regional perspectives are included in policy development and guidance to the KCD Board of Supervisors.



# MEMBER JURISDICTION GRANTS

King Conservation District awards grants to local governments, nonprofit organizations, tribes, and other agencies to improve natural resources and increase regional conservation. District funds are collected from an annual, per-parcel assessment or rate and charge for projects in partnership with Member Jurisdictions and/or the three watershed forums. These monies support high-impact projects in both urban and rural areas and are often matched with funding from state, federal, and other sources.



# OPERATIONS PROGRAM

KCD's Operations Program includes those activities that focus on managing and evaluating the administrative policy and programs for all assignments, developing administrative and management policies as they affect employees, budgets, logistics and management as well as providing operational and analytical support. By facilitating the flow of information among human resources, accounting, inventory control, and other assets, planning and decision making can be made easier. Operation's focus is on efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Therefore, operations management includes measurement and analysis of internal processes. The Operations team makes recommendations and works collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors and Staff on projects.

# KCD RATES AND CHARGES BUDGET

KCD PROPOSED BUDGET	2019
<b>FOOD AND FARMING</b>	
Local Food System	\$1,096,500
Rural Farm Planning Services	\$725,814
Urban Farm Planning Services	\$191,800
<b>FORESTRY SERVICES (URBAN/RURAL)</b>	\$319,654
<b>SHORELINE AND RIPARIAN SERVICES (URBAN/RURAL)</b>	\$1,278,584
<b>LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (URBAN/RURAL)</b>	\$837,182
<b>MEMBER JURISDICTION GRANTS AND SERVICES PROGRAM</b> <i>including grant administration</i>	\$1,296,507
<b>COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	\$404,999
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,151,042</b>

The table above represents KCD's rates and charges revenue only. KCD also receives funds through grants and other sources.



# KING CONSERVATION DISTRICT – PROGRAM LEADS

## **BEA COVINGTON, Executive Director**

Bea joined KCD as its Executive Director in October 2016. Bea is an agricultural and natural resource economist with over 25 years' experience in public policy, project and nonprofit management, impact analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and participatory community development. Bea's work as a natural resource economist has focused on regulatory impact assessment, benefit cost analysis, natural resource and ecosystems services valuation and farming systems analyses. Before joining KCD, Bea served as a Senior Stabilization Advisor and Team Lead with USAID- Afghanistan. There, she developed and applied a methodology to track the impact of over \$200 million in stabilization spending and created a tool that was used to assess stability conditions and gauge the impact of program interventions across 35 districts. Closer to home, Bea has worked on projects in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. Bea holds Masters degrees in Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics and Agricultural Education and Communication and is proficient in both French and Modern Standard Arabic. When she's not leading the team at KCD, Bea can be found learning to fly fish with her husband John.

## **BRANDY REED, Interagency Director, Implementation and Education**

Brandy joined KCD in 1996. She serves as the District's Interagency Director and Senior Program Manager for Implementation and Education. Brandy offers nearly three decades of dedication and experience in conservation and education, as well as deep commitment to management of financial and staff resources in fiscally challenging environments. As part of the District's management team, Brandy supervises and coordinates the duties and activities of field staff, including the freshwater and marine habitat restoration and enhancement efforts of the District's and the KCD Native Plant Nursery. In recent years, Brandy has worked on regional efforts to help Puget Sound Conservation Districts align programs and services with regional priorities, and has supported some significant District-level projects, including implementation of a Rates and Charges funding system. Her education includes a BS in Outdoor Education and Environmental Interpretation and a Masters in Environmental and Science Education, both from Western Washington University.

## **JOSH MONAGHAN, Food & Farms Programs Director**

Joshua has been with the KCD for over 17 years and currently serves as Program Manager for Planning and Strategic Initiative Programs. He is an experienced conservation planner, leads a team of talented conservation planners who assist farmers and landowners in their efforts to understand natural resource issues and get conservation solutions on the ground to steward their natural resources - water, soils, fish and wildlife and more, and works with partners to balance natural resources protection with economic viability of local, working lands. Josh maintains several professional certifications, including Certified Crop Adviser (ASA), Conservation Planner, and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Writer Certification (ISU). He holds a BA in Sustainable Agriculture from Hampshire College, and was recognized as Northwest Employee of the year in 2009 by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. In recent years, Josh has worked on several successful statewide efforts to improve training coordination and overall professionalism of District employees, and has supported some significant District-level projects, including an administrative staff restructuring, project-based budgeting overhaul, and implementation of a Rates and Charges funding system.

## **JESSICA SAAVEDRA, Grant Program Manager**

Jessica has managed the Member Jurisdiction and WRIA Grant Programs at the KCD since March 2007. Jessica has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Studies and Spanish and graduate level education in the fields of Public Administration, Urban Planning, and Facilitation and Negotiation. She is an experienced program manager responsible for tracking millions of dollars in grant funding with a successful track record of liaising with local governments, nonprofits, and watershed groups on natural resource conservation issues. She has also been a participant and representative of the District at three regional watershed forum groups and enjoys volunteering as a Master Gardener.

## **RACHEL KONRAD, Program Manager**

Rachel joined KCD as the Landowner Incentive Program Leand and a Volunteer Program Administrator in fall of 2012. She has three years of environmental restoration field experience and helped the Washington Conservation Corps achieve the 2012 King Conservation District Rock Award for Service as a crew supervisor. Rachel further strengthened her Washington-specific ecology knowledge with a degree from the University of Washington in Conservation Biology.

## **MARY EMBLETON, Regional Food System Program Manager**

Mary began working with KCD in late Fall 2015 as the KCD Regional Food System Grant Manager. She came to KCD from Cascade Harvest Coalition, a non-profit which she founded and directed since 1999 and she brings more than three decades of passion, experience and expertise in natural resource management, agricultural economics, and food system development. Mary also helps direct Strategic Initiatives and Food System Grants, with the goals of making an enduring controbution toward strengthening King County's food economy. Mary's education includes a BS in Political Economy of Natural Resources from the University of California, Berkeley and and MS in Agricultural and Natural Resources from Montana State University. Outside of work, Mary enjoys hiking the wilds of the Pacific Northwest with her two labs, Libby and Wiley, and Photography.

## **DEIRDRE GRACE, Director of Engagement**

Deirdre joined KCD in May of 2013. Deirdre has worked with northwest stakeholders to improve community and natural environments for over 20 years. Her experience spans ensuring diverse voices were included in research at the US DOE Hanford Nuclear Reservation, delivering on the City of Seattle's commitments to neighborhood improvements while meeting Growth Management mandates, and helping Puget Sound cities increase their recycling rates. She holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs and a Bachelors in Writing from the University of New Mexico.

## **AVA SOUZA, Chief Operating Officer**

Ava joined KCD in 2011. Serving as a member of the senior management team Ava manages KCD Operations, Human Resources and Finance. She oversees logistical and operational duties in a wide variety of program areas including human resources, budgeting, information technology, property management, procurement, grants and projects. She oversees the day-to-day operations of KCD, and operations staff, as well as manages a robust budget that spans over multiple programs, while developing and directing programs designed to meet the needs of constituents, staff, Board and appropriate state and federal laws and related initiatives. In addition she serves as the Public Information Officer for KCD. With over 16 years of experience, her professional career includes leadership and management roles in large and international companies, while holding a Bachelors degree in Business Management and a graduate level certifications in Project Management and also being a Lean Six Sigma Certified Green Belt, both accreditations from the University of Washington as well as being a certified Life Coach.