



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

BETTER GROUND

Replenishing Our Region

At King Conservation District, we're all about better ground. Better ground means taking important stewardship actions at home and in our communities to create healthy soil and water, to provide healthy food, and to conserve land, water, forests, wildlife and related natural resources. And you don't have to go it alone. You have a partner, your local conservation district.



34+

**CITIES
FUNDED**



150+

**ORGANIZATIONAL
PARTNERS**



650k

**HOUSEHOLDS
SUPPORTED**

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**DEAR KING COUNTY
EXECUTIVE CONSTANTINE
AND COUNCIL MEMBERS,**

Thirty-five jurisdictions are members of King Conservation District – 34 cities and the county. Over 2 million people call our district home, and we are committed to ensuring that all of them have access to local food, healthy forests, and clean water. By working with our partners at King County, Sound Cities Association, and community-based organizations, KCD extends the reach of our programs and services and broadens the impact of our work to restore tree canopy, expand wildlife habitat, and grow our regional food system.

2017 was another record-breaking year for our region and our organization. With the median house in Seattle topping \$750,000, pressure to develop in our suburban and rural communities intensified. Preserving and protecting our green infrastructure – whether it be tree canopy, farms, or life-supporting clean waterways – only becomes ever more critical as our population grows and our communities become more dense.

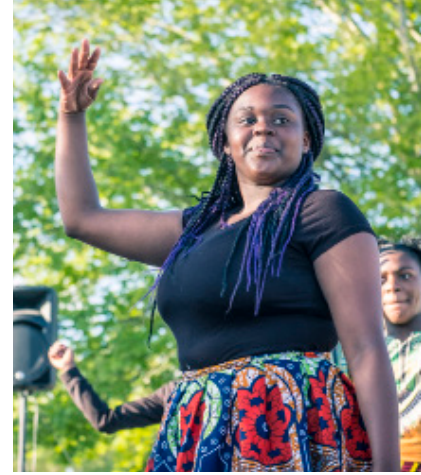
I continue to be grateful for the guidance of our committed Advisory Committee, the dedication of my colleagues on KCD’s Board of Supervisors, the collaboration of our partners, and the ingenuity of KCD’s expert staff. And, at the end of the day, it’s the individual stewards of the land that take action. Together, we are replenishing our region.

I invite you to review KCD’s body of work for 2017 and I look forward to showcasing many of these accomplishments to you.

Sincerely yours,



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



PHOTOS BY
Michael Sladek, Impression Media

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A YEAR OF DEEP LEARNING

2017 marked my first full calendar year as KCD's Executive Director. As my understanding of the strengths of our organization and the opportunities we have to positively impact the landscape of King County deepens, my conviction that there's much more story to tell has only grown.

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, much of our current work is rooted in the 2015 Five-Year Implementation Plan.

This Annual Report looks at Year Three of our Five-Year Implementation Plan. What is perhaps most striking are the ways in which our work is adapting as the needs and demographics of King County change. 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. The reality that has unfolded over the past three years, however, is that KCD is now being asked to serve as a convener, a lever, and 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.

And so, increasingly, KCD finds itself striving to reach our 2015 commitments while responding 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 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 strategic planning exercise in the fall of 2017 across all our programs, old and new. Currently, in the spring of 2018, we are engaging our Advisory Committee in that work and will expand the conversation to the broader community in the coming months. The goal: Build better ground, and replenish our region. It's what we do every day, and we look forward to you continuing with us on the journey.



Bea Covington, Executive Director
King Conservation District



PHOTOS BY
Michael Sladek, Impression Media

WHO WE ARE, HOW WE WORK

At King Conservation District, we work to build better ground. Our mission is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship for both city dwellers and rural residents alike. From better food to better backyards to better farms to better forests, we are here for you.

We are a special purpose district established in 1949 by the Washington Conservation Commission to empower landowners and land managers to steward those lands in the public's interest. Conservation districts were created to address the aftermath of our nation's first environmental crisis – the Dust Bowl. Since then, conservation districts nationwide have evolved to balance urban and rural needs as our country continues to urbanize.

Yet, KCD is a metropolitan conservation district serving 34 cities and unincorporated King County with a total population of over two million people. Our funding comes primarily from a per-parcel rate and charge that ranges from \$7.70 to \$10 per year, per property, depending upon the type of property. We are often able to leverage these local dollars with state, federal, and foundation funds to create even greater impact. We partner with farmers, rural landowners, urban residents, volunteers, community-based organizations and our municipal partners.

Conservation districts work to improve or protect natural resources through an incentive-based approach. We are non-regulatory and work with people who are ready to implement best management practices (BMPs) on their property or in their communities.

KCD continues to expand its work with urban landowners and organizations. 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 and support a vibrant and equitable local economy.



ROCK!

PHOTO BY
Debbie Sladek, Impression Media

KCD CELEBRATES THE 2017 RECIPIENTS OF ROCK! AWARDS

Each year, King Conservation District recognizes individual and organizational excellence in building better ground for the citizens of King County. Please meet our award recipients.

Wildlife Steward

Howard Richmond

Conservation Landowner

Paul and Patty Fantello, Fantello Creamery

Best Partnering Organization

World Relief Representative

Local Government Conservation

WSDA Dairy Nutrient Management Program Representative

Volunteer of the Year

Regional Food System Grant Working Group Representative

Conservation Leaders

Kristy McClelland and Linda Vane

**PEOPLE IN PHOTO
(LEFT TO RIGHT)**

- Kate Morrison
- Paul Fantello
- Linda Vane
- Kelly Cahill
- Tahmina Marthy
- Chery Sullivan
- Howard Richmond
- Mike Lufkin



ENGAGEMENT

PHOTO BY
Michael Sladek, Impression Media

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

KCD highlighted partner projects and organizations through a series of underwriting spots on Seattle NPR station KUOW, emphasizing the breadth and depth of conservation collaborations across the region. KCD also engaged with over 1,600 attendees of the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, demonstrating how Hugelkultur — an ancient permaculture practice — can build soil and enhance gardens and farms alike. Our polling in 2017 indicated that 38% of those who stopped by our exhibit had heard of or used KCD services, up from just 11% three years earlier. In addition, KCD engaged islanders and mainlanders alike in the Vashon Island Sheepdog Classic, a June event drawing over 10,000 people from across the region.

Program Marketing and Public Literacy

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

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

Advisory Committee

In 2014, KCD was directed by regional stakeholders to convene an Advisory Committee with a prescribed composition that included elected officials from member King County cities, rural and urban landowners, senior staff from King County's executive and legislative branches, the Agriculture and Forestry Commissions, and representatives of both environmental and social justice community organizations.

KCD's Advisory Committee serves the critical function of ensuring that our programs and work are rooted in community need and address community priorities. This body meets monthly and provides guidance and recommendations for KCD's Board of Supervisors in ways to expand KCD's impact on natural resource conservation and ensure that the impact is felt equitably across the district.

Partnerships

KCD partners with other conservation districts, cities, King County, non-profit organizations, local, state, and federal government agencies, and tribes to leverage resources and expand the impact of natural resource conservation in our region. We are proud to count over 200 organizations among past and current partners.

Legislative Outreach

In 2017, KCD met with over 30 state lawmakers to ensure their understanding of our impact in their districts and explore opportunities to showcase the impact cooperators and other constituents are having in their communities.



GRANTS

PHOTO BY
Debbie Sladek, Impression Media

GRANTS TO HELP REPLENISH OUR REGION

Anchor QEA - \$44,375

Seahurst Park Phase II Post-construction Eelgrass Survey

Asian Counseling and Referral Service - \$62,484

New Beginning for the Seattle Community Farm

City of Auburn - \$20,000

2017 Auburn International Farmers Market
Marketing and Demonstrations

Chinese Information & Service Center - \$65,000

Green Life – Green Family – Green Community

City of Clyde Hill - \$1,591

2016 Arbor Day Celebration

City of Des Moines Area Food Bank - \$40,000

On the Grow - Learning Garden Truck

EarthCorps - \$48,351

2016-19 Seahurst Park Shoreline & Forest Vegetation Stewardship

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) - \$8,000

City of Renton Spill Kit Incentive Program

InterIm Community Development Association - \$75,000

InterIm CDA WILD Youth Program Stipends for Environmental Justice

City of Kent - \$65,504

2017-18 Green Kent Partnership (Year 8)

City of Kent - \$57,000

2018-19 Green Kent Partnership Year 9

King County - \$168,000

2017 Keeping Farmers Farming, King County Agriculture Program

King County - \$481,187

McSorley Creek Shoreline & Pocket Estuary Restoration Project Field Assessments and Technical Analyses to Support Design

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust - \$50,000

Rotary Community Park and Little Bear Creek Park Volunteer Restoration

Na'ah Illahee Fund - \$50,000

Seattle Native Food Systems Initiative

Rainier Valley Corps dba Rainier Beach Action Coalition - \$75,000

Rainier Beach Community Farm Stands

City of Renton - \$9,480

2017 Renton Farmers Market – Marketing and Promotion

City of Sammamish - \$31,636

City of Sammamish 2017-18 Stormwater Outreach

City of SeaTac - \$68,076

SeaTac Community Garden

City of Seattle Parks Foundation - \$50,000

Greening Concord Elementary School: Field and Gardens

City of Shoreline - \$19,654

2017 Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Habitat Restoration

Sustainable Seattle - \$13,516

Fairview Christian School Depave and Rain Garden Project (Phase 1)

White River Valley Museum - \$18,760

Pollinators, Fieldtrips and Farmyard Drainage



BETTER WATER

BETTER WATER

Shoreline and Riparian Improvement

KCD provides education, technical 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 on freshwater and marine shoreline properties in the urban and rural areas of King County.

Summary of Progress - Shoreline and Riparian Improvement

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat	5-Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017 Actual	2018-2019 Goal
Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines Protection & Enhancement Services, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Marine Shorelines, Wetland Plant Cooperative, and Bareroot Plant Sale	18 Miles of Shoreline Replanted and Enhanced 235 Acres of Riparian Corridor Replanted and Enhanced 575,500 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted	1.9 Miles ² 16.8 Acres Planted and Enhanced ² 43,508 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted ²	6.7 Miles ² 47.6 Acres ² 102,418 Native Trees & Shrubs ²	11.3 Miles ³ 187.4 Acres ³ 473,082 Plants ³
Land & Water Stewardship Workshops, Urban Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 1,100 Freshwater Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	19 Workshops; 195 Participants	27 Workshops; 269 Participants	831 Participants
Where the Water Begins - Marine Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 600 Marine Shoreline Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	3 Workshops; 64 Participants	8 Workshops; 196 Participants	404 Participants
Rural and Urban Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Improvement Projects	100 Aquatic Area Projects Planned and Implemented (25 Acres/9 Miles Freshwater Aquatic Area)	28 Projects ³ 12 Acres ³ 1.75 Miles ³	63 Projects ³ 33 Acres ³ 5.5 Miles ³	37 Projects 48 Acres over goal 3.5 Miles
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	20-40 CREP Projects (30 Acres/ 7.5 Miles) Planned and Implemented	1 Project 1.58 Acres 0.15 Miles	4 Projects 8.51 Acres 1.25 Miles	21.5 Acres 6.25 Miles 16 Projects
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$562,500 to Implement Freshwater and Marine Aquatic Area Shoreline Improvement and Enhancement	\$182,547 ⁴	\$484,240 ⁴	\$78,260

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

2 Based on Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines, CREP, Marine and LIP figures

3 Based on Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines and LIP figures

4 Based on contract awards in conjunction with LIP

RURAL FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION + ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

KCD partners with cooperators participating in the KCD Farm Conservation Management Program by planning and implementing stream and wetland buffer protection and livestock exclusion fencing practices detailed in individual landowner Farm Conservation Plans. Other natural resource challenges 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.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Rural Shorelines Program included planning and implementing 11 projects, establishing 5.5 acres of buffer along just under one mile of shoreline. KCD also provided project plans to 7 additional landowners who will implement their projects independent of KCD, and performed maintenance on 40 previously-installed sites.

Best Management Practice	Project Quantity	Acres	Linear Feet	Quantity Plants
Hedgerow	1	0.14	230	370
Riparian Forest Buffer	10	5.38	4,725	11,677
Wetland Habitat Enhancement	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	11	5.52	4,955	12,047

URBAN FRESHWATER SHORELINE PROTECTION + ENHANCEMENT SERVICES

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

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of Urban Freshwater Shoreline Protection & Enhancement Services include planning 11 projects, implementing 10 projects, and establishing 5.94 acres of buffer along 0.59 miles of urban shoreline. KCD also provided contracted planning services on the City of Tukwila Green the Green initiative, including performed outreach and technical assistance site visits to 7 shoreline landowners and produced vegetation management planning documents for 2 projects along 1,900 linear feet of the mainstem Green River. Other activities not captured in the table linked below include 42 site visits to provide technical assistance to urban shoreline homedwelers both will implement their projects independent of KCD, and performed maintenance on 20 previously-installed sites.

Best Management Practice	Project Quantity	Acres	Linear Feet	Quantity Plants
Hedgerow	4	1.24	965	3,509
Riparian Forest Buffer	6	4.7	3,030	6,690
Wetland Habitat Enhancement	0	0	0	0
Forest Health Management	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	10	5.94	3,995	10,199

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

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

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program included installing 1) A 1.58 acre creep buffer on 800 feet of stream, 2) Planning and implementing 27 acres of riparian forest buffer replacement planting, and 3) Completing a King County CREP project tour highlighting a successful Riparian Forest Buffer planting in the Snoqualmie River watershed. In addition, KCD conducted maintenance on 4 previously-installed sites.

Best Management Practice	Projects Planned	Projects Installed	Acres Planned	Acres Installed	Linear Feet Planned	Linear Feet Installed	Qty Plants
Riparian Forest Buffer	0	0	0	1.58	800	800	750
Livestock Crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watering Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buffer Fencing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	1.58	800	800	750

KCD NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

The KCD Native Plant Nursery grows native trees, shrubs, herbs, and wetland plants for stream, wetland, estuarine, and upland habitat enhancement projects. Partnering individuals, organizations, and agencies volunteer at the nursery in trade for technical services and plant material. Community groups in particular benefit by volunteering to gain assistance on planning and implementing enhancement projects.

In addition to providing technical services and growing native plants, the nursery 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 nursery. The nursery is also an informal recycled materials demonstration site where recycled materials are utilized in plant production. The KCD nursery proudly utilizes reclaimed water for irrigation. Reclaimed water is provided free of charge by the King County Wastewater Treatment Division South Plant, and allows KCD to conserve potable drinking water and support the reduction of discharged wastewater into local waterways.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of KCD's Native Plant Nursery include supporting 21 KCD shoreline projects with 7,793 plants, 32 volunteer homeowner/landowner projects with 2,137 plants, and 5 agency partner projects with 198 plants. KCD also propagated approximately 8,115 new plants and maintained 15,100 plants in existing inventory.

Type of Project Supported	Number of Projects	Quantity of Plants
KCD Aquatic Area Enhancement Projects	21	7,793
Nursery Volunteers	32	2,137
Landowner Project Assistance	0	0
Organization/Agency Project Assistance	5	198
TOTALS	58	10,128 ¹

¹ Native Plant Nursery numbers reflect only a portion of plants installed in the 57 projects.

58 conservation projects = 30,000+ native trees and shrubs.

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.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Marine Shoreline Protection and Enhancement Services Program included assisting 18 marine shoreline property owners with assessing and documenting resource management concerns and corresponding improvement actions, completed installation of one KCD planned marine bulkhead removal project, and completed installing 1,227 plants across over a half-acre and 275 linear feet of marine shoreline.

Best Management Practice	Quantity Site Visits	Projects Planned	Projects Installed	Acres Installed	Feet Installed	Quantity of Plants
Hedgerow	1	0	0	0	0	0
Riparian Forest Buffer	9	1	2	0.56	275	1,227
Buffer Fencing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Building Set-back from Critical Area	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulkhead Removal	1	0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Other (bluff/steep slope)	7	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	18	1	2	0.56	275	1,227

URBAN FRESHWATER SHORELINE HOMEOWNER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

(BEAUTIFY + CARE FOR YOUR STREAMSIDE PROPERTY, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES)

KCD offers shoreline workshops that promote and support the protection and enhancement of streams and other non-marine water bodies in urbanized and areas of King County.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Urban Shoreline Homeowner Education Program included finalizing the development of a social marketing-based curriculum for urban shorelines protection and enhancement education curriculum; and developing and strengthening relationships with city partners to deliver and/or support the workshops. KCD delivered 17 educational events to a total of 172 residential freshwater shoreline homeowners and collaborated and partnered with the cities of Shoreline, Kent, Newcastle, Kirkland and Burien to deliver educational opportunities to city residents and homeowners.

Workshop Title	Location	Number Facilitated	Number Participants	Number KCD Facilitators	Number Partner City Facilitators
Beautify & Care for Your Streamside Property	Woodinville	1	15	2	-
	Shoreline	1	27	2	1
	Seattle	1	8	2	-
	Kenmore	1	6	2	-
	Black Diamond	1	10	2	-
	Auburn	1	5	2	-
	North Bend	1	11	2	-
	Redmond	1	6	2	-
	Kent	1	8	2	1
	Newcastle	1	15	2	1
	Burien	1	13	2	1
	West Seattle	1	8	2	-
	Covington	1	4	2	-
	Sammamish	1	1	2	-
Twilight Stream Tour	Kirkland	1	27	2	2
	Carnation	1	4	2	-
CREP Buffer Tour	Carnation	1	4	2	-
TOTALS		17	172	34	5

RURAL SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS (LAND + WATER STEWARDSHIP FOR LIVESTOCK OWNERS)

This series of four workshops teach livestock owners about planning and implementing natural resource management practices to protect water quality, conserve soils, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Land and Water Stewardship Workshops included facilitating 8 workshops for 87 landowner participants, two each of:

- 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

Workshop Title	Number Facilitated	Number Participants
Stream & Wetland Buffer Protection for Livestock Owners	2	23
Mud Management for Livestock Owners	2	20
Manure Management for Livestock Owners	2	18
Pasture Management for Livestock Owners	2	26
TOTALS	8	87

MARINE SHORELINE LANDOWNER EDUCATION WORKSHOPS (WHERE THE WATER BEGINS)

Where the Water Begins landowners of marine shorelines the ecology of the Puget Sound marine near-shore environment, coastal geological processes, and vegetation management. 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.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Marine Shoreline Landowner Education Program included facilitating 8 workshops and field trips for 64 participants.

Date	Workshop Location	Attendees
June 10, 2017	Dumas Bay	17
June 24, 2017	Vashon Island	24
July 22, 2017	Discovery Park Env Learning Center	23
TOTALS		64

BUILDING THE FUTURE

KCD provides education that promotes the sustainable uses of natural resources. KCD education programs include service learning and volunteer opportunities and 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 adult livestock owners, agriculture operators, and rural, urban, and suburban landowners, as well as youth and children.

Summary of Progress - Volunteer, Youth and Farm Audiences

CLEAN WATER – BUILDING THE FUTURE	5-Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017 Actual
Volunteer Program	0	863 volunteers 70 events 2,395 volunteer hours	2,408 volunteers 355 events 7,878 volunteer hours
Envirothon	0	Planned and hosted 1 regional and 1 state event; Engaged 99 students	Planned and hosted 3 regional events and 1 state event; Engaged 154 KC students
K-12 Field Days / Carpentry for Critters	0	2 events 30 families engaged	7 events 30 families 967 students
Farm Tours and Special Agricultural Classes	0	9 tours 9 classes 291 participants	25 tours 21 classes 880 participants
K-12 Stormwater Education	0	40 students	535 students

VOLUNTEER, AMERICORPS AND SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

KCD’s Volunteer Program supports KCD outreach and education activities, and implementation of KCD conservation efforts. The volunteer program increases public awareness of KCD programs and services while volunteers gain knowledge about local natural resource management, such as restoration of watershed

70 events
863 volunteers
2,395 hours donated

functions, and gain experience implementing practices to address those concerns. While the Volunteer Program is housed in the Shoreline & Riparian Habitat section, the program touches many components across KCD's efforts.

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

Program Highlights

KCD facilitated 70 volunteer events where 863 volunteers donated 2,395 hours of service, began development of a volunteer recognition system, including initial preparation of a service schedule for volunteer recognition items and activities, and partnered with three organizations on volunteer events, Wounded Warrior Project, EarthCorps, and City Soil Farm.

Volunteer Project	Number of Projects	Volunteers Connected	Hours Donated
Wetland Plant Cooperative	19	227	678
Aquatic Area Enhancement Projects	8	194	548
Longfellow Creek Enhancement Projects	6	210	655
Bareroot Plant Sale	2	2	8
Stream Stewards	5	65	266
TOTALS	70	863	2,395

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 2017, KCD coordinated the Northwest regional event in cooperation with the King County Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Plant, Snohomish Conservation District, Skagit Conservation District, and Whatcom Conservation District. KCD planned and facilitated the Washington State Envirothon competition for top teams from each participating county.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Envirothon Program include facilitating topical training workshops for 21 students considering participation in the program, recruiting and hosting 5 teams of 24 students to participate in the NW Regional Envirothon Competition, coordinating 1 King County team of 5 students to participate in the State Envirothon competition, and planning and hosting the 2017 Washington State Envirothon competition for 10 teams of 54 students.

Event	Participating School District	Number of Teams	Number of Students	Event
NW Regional Envirothon	Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (Bellevue, Sammamish, Newport, and Renton High Schools)	3	15 students	1
		1	5 students	
	Ingraham High School	1	4 students	
	Auburn High School			
WA State Envirothon	Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (Bellevue, Sammamish, Newport, and Renton High Schools)	1	5 students	1
	Other Counties Participating in the Washington State Envirothon (Garfield-Palouse, Tekoa, Okanogan, Ilwaco, Science & Math Institute, Quincy, Bridgeport, CASEE)	9	49 students	
Wildlife Training	Auburn High School, Newport High School, Bonney Lake High School	-	6 students	1
Forestry Training	Bellevue High School, Renton High School, Kenmore High School, Enumclaw High School, Auburn High School	-	11 students	1
Soils Training	Bellevue High School, Stanwood High School	-	4 students	1
TOTALS		15	99	5

K-12 FIELD DAYS + CARPENTRY FOR CRITTERS

KCD supports building youth literacy around natural resource topics by attending fairs, festivals and community events to deliver education throughout King County. KCD educators attend these events hosted by community partners such as cities, KC Wastewater Treatment Division, and other non-profit and government agencies.

The goals of K-12 Field Days and Carpentry for Critters are to 1) support partner agencies and NGOs in delivering field and festival-based education programming on natural resource management topics, and 2) encourage natural resource conservation amongst youth and community members.

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the K-12 Field Day Program include facilitating Carpentry for Critters activities at 2 community events for a total of 30 families engaged in supporting wildlife habitat in their backyards.

Event Name	Number of Events	Event Type	People Engaged
Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival	1	Carpentry for Critters	14 Families
Woodland Park Zoo Bear Affair	1	Carpentry for Critters	16 Families
TOTALS	2		30 Families

FARM TOURS AND AGRICULTURE CLASSES

KCD facilitates farm tours and classes on agriculture topics to provide peer education opportunities for livestock owners. 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.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Farm Tour and Special Topic Agriculture Classes Program included facilitating 9 farm tours and 9 special topic agriculture classes attended by 291 participants.

Event	Location or Title	Number Participants
Farm Tour	Luisitano Horses & Pasture Management	30
Ag Class	Horse Paddocks	25
Ag Class	Reducing Plastics in Your Everyday Life	3
Farm Tour	Eco and Agri-tourism	50
Ag Class	Shopping and Buying Horse Property	15
Ag Class	Natural Solutions	5
Farm Tour	Down on the Farm with KCD's Jay Mirro	45
Ag Class	Wipe Out Plastics in Your Everyday Life	5
Farm Tour	Managing Horse Properties & Wildlife	23
Farm Tour	WSU Cultivating Success Farm Tour	5
Farm Tour	WSU Cultivating Success Farm Tour	11
Farm Tour	Firewise in the Foothills	15
Ag Class	Beaver Biology & Management Workshop	35
Ag Class	Renewable Energy in Agriculture	8
Ag Class	Figuring Out Footings in Paddocks	17
Farm Tour/Ag Class	Small Farm Equipment for Horse & Livestock Owners	11
Ag Class	Save Money, Save Time, Save Puget Sound	7
Farm Tour	Get Ready for a Mud-Free Winter!	31
TOTALS		291

K-12 STORMWATER EDUCATION

KCD's K-12 Stormwater Education Program provides education to students in King County around soil and water conservation and protection. Water on Wheels is a classroom based lesson for K-6th grade and includes hands-on games and activities to introduce students to water pollution, watersheds, and soil. Environmental Detectives is a half-day activity for 8th grade students in which groups rotate through stations of environmental tests and problem-solving discussions to discover

the ‘mystery of the dying fish’ and learn about water pollutant sources and how humans impact their watershed and ecosystem. All programs meet the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit requirements for cities in King County. These programs are delivered through a partnership between the King Conservation District and member jurisdictions. Funding for the deployment of the program is provided by the member jurisdictions.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the K-12 Stormwater Education Program included facilitating the Water on Wheels curriculum in two classrooms of the Newcastle School District, engaging 40 elementary school students in learning about stormwater and watershed management principles.

School Location	Number Classrooms	Number Students
Newcastle	2	40
	2	40

¹ Based on “Benchmarks” as outlined on page 22 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.



BETTER SOILS

BETTER SOILS

HEALTHY SOIL

The King Conservation District provides basic soil tests for all residents and municipalities in our service area.* The District's soil testing program covers commercial farms, pastures, parks, home yards, and community gardens. In 2017, KCD processed over 1,400 soil samples for our constituents.

Soil Speakers Bureau

Need a speaker at your next garden club meeting, science class, Grange event or nursery promotion? The most important task of any farmer, gardener or earth steward is to aid and protect the delicate balance of nutrients and organisms that make up soil. KCD offers the following two Soil Talks that can be tailored to your specific audience:

Interpreting Your KCD Soil Test Results

KCD Staff will present a 45-minute slide deck and conduct a discussion on interpreting soil test results, including how to take and submit a soil sample, reading and interpreting the lab analysis, and determining what steps to take next to amend for optimal soil fertility. This talk can be coordinated with an actual soil test and results.

Soil Health 101

KCD Staff will present a 45-minute slide deck and conduct a discussion on the physical, biological and chemical indicators of soil health including the role of: soil structure, soil organisms, plant essential nutrients and pH. Discussion will also include management factors that impact soil health and actions that can be taken to promote soil health in the target audience's setting.

If interested, please complete the KCD Soil Talk Request Form and send it to:
Melissa.Tatro@kingcd.org

Soil Testing

The King Conservation District provides basic soil tests for all residents and municipalities in our service area.* The District's soil testing program covers commercial farms, pastures, parks, home yards, and community gardens.

We send your soil samples to A&L Western Laboratories in Portland, OR, to test for Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium, Sulfur, Organic Matter, pH, and Cation Exchange Capacity. The laboratory will analyze your soils and provide recommendations specific to your plant needs.



BETTER FORESTS

BETTER FORESTS

RURAL FOREST HEALTH

Forests cover two-thirds of the land area in King County, and over 364,000 acres of these forests are in private ownership. 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.

Over 1,100 acres of rural forest stewarded.

KCD's Rural Forest Health program works with small-lot forest landowners across unincorporated King County to increase the resilience of the forested landscape by helping landowners 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 to improve woodlots and smaller stands of forest, reduce forest fragmentation, and capture the ecological benefits and in some cases the economic value of forests.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the program included providing forest stewardship technical assistance to 77 forest landowner cooperators, representing 336 acres of private non-industrial forests. Of these 77 cooperators, 12 landowners are still engaged with KCD in completing a forest stewardship plan, 23 landowners completed a forest stewardship plan in 2017, with 6 going on to receive a forest health management project prescription also in 2017. An additional 17 landowners with forest stewardship plans completed in prior years also received a forest health management project prescription in 2017. Key outcomes for the 2017 program year are presented in the table below. Other program highlights from 2017 include:

- KCD provided forest stewardship technical assistance to 43 new small acreage forestland owners in 2017.
- Funded and supported expanded Forest Stewardship Education in King County through a partnership with WSU Cooperative Extension. Supported programming included Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses, a Twilight Tour and other field-based workshops that provided learning opportunities to 134 forest landowners.
- Funded and supported facilitation of the 2017 WSU Cooperative Extension Forest Owners Field Day on Vashon Island.
- Secured placement of an AmeriCorps Individual Placement Intern to support the Rural Forest Health Management Program (shared with Urban Forest Health Management)

Forest Health Management Services Provided	Quantity	Acres Planned	Acres Contracted	Acres Treated¹
Forest Health Management Prescriptions Developed	23	143	49.8	76.5
Forest Steward Plans Completed	23	84.5	0	0
Forest Stewardship Plans in Process	12	0	0	0
TOTALS	58	227.5	49.8	76.5

¹ Based on acres reported in conjunction with LIP.

WSU Forest Stewardship Workshops & Classes	Location	Participants	King County Properties Represented	King County Acres Represented
Coached Planning Class Winter Online	Online	57	16	169
Coached Planning Class Spring	Enumclaw	29	12	594
Forest Owners Field Day	Vashon Island	35	21	277
Summer Twilight Tour	Renton	13	N/A	N/A
TOTALS	N/A	134	49	1,040

Summary of Progress - Rural Forest Health

Rural Small Lot Forest Health ¹	5-Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017 Cumulative	2018-2019 Goal
Rural Forest Health Management	1125 Acres of Rural Forest/Woodlot Treated and Planted	76.5 Acres Treated and Planted, an additional 49.8 Acres Contracted ²	294 Acres Treated and Planted, additional 49.8 Acres Contracted	831 Acres
Rural Forest Health Management	90,000-180,000 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	20,990 Trees & Shrubs Planted ³	51,818 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted	38,182 Trees & Shrubs
Rural Forest Health Management	Engage 90 Small Forest Landowners in Planning and Implementing BMPs	40 Landowners Engaged	86 Landowners Engaged	4 Landowners (Exceed Goal)
Rural Forest Health Management	5 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Courses	2 Courses held 1 in Person and 1 Online	3 in Person and 3 Online Courses	2 Courses
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$750,000 in cost share with small acreage rural forest landowners	\$196,035	\$512,520	\$237,480

1 Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2019.

2 Based on acres reported in conjunction with LIP

3 Based on plants reported in conjunction with LIP

URBAN FOREST HEALTH

KCD's Urban Forest Health Program helps city governments and residents with enhancing urban forest canopy cover and upland habitat conditions on public and private property. Services are prioritized in collaboration with the King Conservation District Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group and King Conservation District Advisory Committee.

The goals for the program are: 1) to engage community stakeholders in an urban forestry project selection process; 2) to facilitate an annual RFP process to identify and select urban forestry projects; and 3) to identify and implement urban forestry projects with at least 15 Member Jurisdictions enhancing at least 70 acres of urban forest habitat over a 5-year period.

Partnered with 26 cities since 2015.

Program Highlights

In 2017, KCD collaborated with the Urban Forest Initiative Working Group of the Advisory Committee to launch the South King County Tree Canopy Assessment Initiative. With this initiative, all 15 member jurisdictions south of the I-90 corridor have been engaged. This program is ahead of its benchmarks as outlined in the adopted 5-Year Implementation Plan with 26 of our 34 jurisdictions engaged since 2015. Additional details include:

- Convened the KCD Urban Forest Initiative Working Group, facilitated 2 Urban Forestry Initiative Working Group meetings
- Facilitated an initiative to provide Tree Canopy Assessments to all 15 member jurisdictions in south King County.
- Initiated contracting and coordination of all member jurisdictions for the TCA initiative
- Facilitated 5 round tables to promote and advance regional urban forestry objectives (2 Tree Canopy Assessment RT meetings, 2 Urban Forestry Initiative Work Group meetings, and 1 King County Climate Collaborative meeting).
- Launched the Promoting Stormwater Benefits from Urban Canopy Cover in Puget Sound Initiative, a project to support collaboration across municipal urban forestry and stormwater management programs.
- Secured placement of an AmeriCorps Individual Placement Intern to support the Urban Forest Health Management Program (shared with Rural Forest Health Management)

Tree Canopy Assessment	Canopy Planner Software
Algona	Burien
Auburn	Des Moines
Bellevue	SeaTac
Black Diamond	
Covington	
Dent	
Maple Valley	
Mercer Island	
Newcastle	
Normandy Park	
Renton	
Tukwila	

Summary of Progress - Urban Forest Health

Urban Tree & Canopy Cover ¹	5-Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017 Actual	2018-2019 Goal
Urban Forest Health Management	70 Acres of Urban Forest/Upland Treated and Planted	14 Acres Treated/Planted, an additional 27.65 Acres Planned	57.5 Acres Treated/Planted	13 Acres To Go
Urban Forest Health Management	172,000 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted	23,223 Trees & Shrubs Planted	62,518 Trees & Shrubs Planted	109,482 Trees & Shrubs
Urban Forest Health Management	Engage 15 Jurisdictions in Urban Forest Retention and Restoration Initiatives	15 Jurisdictions Engaged	26 Jurisdictions Engaged	Goal Exceeded (New Goal: All Remaining Jurisdictions)
Urban Forest Health Management	15 Round Tables Facilitated	3 Bodies Engaged 5 Times (UFIWG Engaged 2 Times, Regional TCA Round Table 2 Times, K4C Engaged 1 time)	3 Bodies Engaged 16 Times (UFIWG Engaged 9 Times, Regional TCA Round Table 2 Times, K4C Engaged 5 times)	Goal exceeded. New Goal: Continue to convene urban forest health round tables.
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$750,000 in project funding	\$150,000 in funding for 15 projects	\$457,678	\$292,322

¹ Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2019

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT AND FIREWISE INITIATIVE – NEW!

Developed with funding through KCD’s Working Lands Initiative, the Firewise Initiative works with small-lot forest landowners across unincorporated King County to increase the fire resilience of a forest to resist fire in the forested landscape and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire-related damage to infrastructure in the wildland / urban interface.

The goals for the program are: to 1) provide individual wildfire risk assessments for small-lot forest landowners 2) create Community Firewise Plans that include community wildfire risk assessments and associated community action plans; and 3) assist communities with implementation of fuels reduction projects according to Firewise prescriptions.

3 new Firewise Communities in 2017.

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the initiative included working with 9 Firewise Communities to implement a total of 13 separate community fuels reduction projects totaling 9.73 acres treated and 75 participating homes. New Community Firewise Plans were written for 3 new Firewise Communities and 2 existing plans were updated. Additional details include:

- Developed wildfire risk assessments and associated reports with management recommendation to mitigate identified risks for small-lot forest landowners and communities.
- Provided the planning, coordination, and funding capacity to implement fuels reduction projects with communities as prescribed in Community Firewise Plans.

Forest Health Management Services Provided	Quantity	Acres Planned	Acres Contracted	Acres Treated
Individual Property Wildfire Risk Assessments	30	46.53	N/A	N/A
Individual Landowner Fuels Reduction Projects	2	1.55	1.55	1.55
Community Fuels Reduction Projects	13	9.73	9.73	9.73
TOTALS	45	57.81	11.28	11.28



BETTER FOOD

REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

KCD's Regional Food System program was launched in 2015 in response to regional partner and stakeholder input. The program responds to findings and recommendations of the Puget Sound Regional Council's Food Policy Blueprint, the City of Seattle Food Action Plan, and King County's Local Food Initiative.

The program addresses three key areas in need of development to build a robust, thriving, and resilient local and regional food system: 1. Increased production through both more acres in production and more producers, 2. Expanded demand for local food products by a broader pallet of local consumers, and 3. Better access to locally-grown, healthy foods by front-line communities.

In the 2017 grant round, KCD awarded \$607,406 in competitive grants for 9 innovative and diverse projects across King County. A brief description of the projects and funding is presented below.

Competitive Grants

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.

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.

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 - \$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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

Strategic Initiatives

KCD's Regional Food System funds and engages in Strategic Initiatives that aim to address challenges specifically identified by food system partners and stakeholders as ongoing, chronic barriers to a more robust food economy. These barriers include infrastructure and capacity inadequacies, sector under-investment, and lack of common metrics to measure baselines and progress. In 2017, KCD supported the following Strategic Initiatives:

Farmers Market Manager Support, \$50,000

Neighborhood Farmers Markets will develop improved vendor information management systems that benefit both King County farmers markets and farmers, and help ensure public trust in farmers markets and the integrity of market vendor relationships.

Direct Marketing Support, \$40,000

The University of Washington will develop and implement a survey of King County farmers and food processors to assess their direct marketing needs. A common set of food system metrics will be developed with the intention of building a roadmap for continued engagement.

Local Institutional Purchasing Support, \$85,000

Ecotrust will lead the Local Institutional Food Team as it builds its leadership brand in the landscape of developing a robust and resilient local food economy. LIFT strives to develop into the 'go to' organization to provide technical assistance and support

to institutional food purchasers looking for local farm products and those wanting to start or participate in existing projects and programs that support local food systems. The project team will identify three institutions ready and willing to commit to dedicating 10% of their food purchasing resources to local products by 2025, develop a strategy to meet and measure the 10% commitment, and identify and secure funding to meet these commitments.

RURAL AGRICULTURE

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

Planning & Technical Assistance

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

Rural Agriculture	5 Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017	Goal 2018-2019
Farm Planning Services	750 Farm Service Customers 340 Farm Conservation Plans 10 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	249 Farm Service Customers 56 Farm Conservation Plans 2 Dairy Nutrient Plans	748 Farm Service Customers 181 Farm Conservation Plans 4 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	Exceed 750 Farm Service Customers 159 Farm Conservation Plans 6 Dairy Nutrient Plans
Site Visits	...	194 Site Visits	475 Site Visits	275 Site Visits
Follow Ups	750 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	116 Farm Plan Follow-Up Engagements	750 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	116 Farm Plan Follow-Up Engagements
Equipment Loans	250 Landowners	58 Landowners	151 Landowners	99 Landowners
Targeting Natural Resource Areas of Concern	3 Sub-basins Targeted 250 Farm Service Customers 100 Sub-basin Targeted Farm Plans	1 Sub-basin Targeted Newaukum Creek 125 Farm Service Customers 25 Targeted Sub-basin Farm Conservation Plans	3 Sub-basins Targeted 250 Farm Service Customers 100 Sub-basin Targeted Farm Plans	Exceed goal of 3 Sub-Basin Targeted: Newaukum Creek 125 Farm Service Customers 25 Targeted Sub-Basin Farm Conservation Plans

Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2020.

In addition, KCD worked in partnership with King County's Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) to bring 58 acres of new farmland into production and 327 acres into improved or expanded production. While this work was not originally part of KCD's Five Year Implementation Plan, it directly addresses the County's Local Food Initiative goals of 400 additional acres of farmland in production in King County each year. Since 2015, KCD's work in the ADAP program has brought a total of 151 new acres into production and improved production on an additional 620 acres.

COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

KCD supported the development of five new community gardens or farms in 2017. These included sites at churches, social service agencies, and a County-owned parcel in Skyway. Resources KCD brought to these projects included technical assistance, coordination, small "seed funds," volunteers, and free soil amendments. These gardens primarily support access to fresh, culturally-appropriate produce to marginalized communities including refugees and immigrants in south King County.

Community Agriculture	5-Year Plan	2017	2018-2019 Goal
Soil Test	Expand soil nutrient testing program-1000 new users	1,428	> 1,500/yr (exceeding goal)
Engage new gardeners	Engage 500 new gardeners	Engaged 520 new gardeners	>500/yr (exceeding goal)
Assist cities with community agriculture friendly policies	Assist 15 cities	Assisted 3 cities	Assist 6 new cities
Community agriculture technical Assistance	100 New technical assists	5 New assists & continuing support with over 300 participants	10 New assists, supporting over 500 participants

In 2017, KCD also piloted a cover crop seed giveaway program. Three hundred and fifty pounds of a rye/vetch seed mixture was given out to 9 community gardens along with education about the benefits of cover cropping in reducing soil erosion and compaction, weed suppression, nutrient retention and providing winter habitat for native pollinators and beneficial insects.

KCD also worked to promote Hügelkultur as a means of building healthy soil. Hügelkultur is an ancient practice of layering compostable materials over a bed of woody debris to create a raised planting surface that will eventually breakdown to generate healthy, fertile soil.

Hügelkultur KCD Engagement

13 KCD Led Volunteer Hügelkultur Builds	2 Hügelkultur Workshops	9 Hügelkultur Outreach Opportunities
147 People engaged	65 People engaged	1,795 People engaged

Finally, through a partnership with King County Wastewater Treatment Division, KCD was able to distribute 95 yards of GroCo compost to 9 community gardens in 2017. This partnership leveraged over \$2,500 in resources for community food gardens that worked with underserved neighborhoods, including those identified with populations of immigrants/refugees, non-land owning farmers, low-income communities, those living within USDA labeled “food deserts”, high density areas, transit dependent individuals, and the elderly or at-risk youth.



BETTER BACKYARDS

BETTER BACKYARDS

LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

KCD's 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 are associated maximum reimbursements for each practice and landowners must complete implementation of their current approved practice before applying for a new one.

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

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Landowner Incentive Program include awarding 106 new contracts for \$677,463.89, \$150,000 in project funding for KCD Urban Forest Health projects in partnership with member cities; and managing 636 total cost-share projects. Additional details include:

Best Management Practice	Contracts Awarded	Acres	Linear Feet	Funding Level
Agricultural & Livestock Management	75	361.56	15,789	\$298,881.02
Rural Forest Health Management	12	See Healthy Forests - Rural Forest Health Management Section for Metrics	N/A	\$ 196,035.17
Urban Forest Health Management	N/A	See Healthy Forests - Urban Forest Health Management Section for Metrics	N/A	\$150,000
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	19	See Clean Water - Shorelines Section for Metrics	N/A	\$182,547.70
TOTALS	106	361.56	15,789	\$827,463.89

Summary of Progress - Landowner Incentive Program

Landowner Incentive Program ¹	5-Year Plan	2017 Actual	2015-2017 Actual	2018-2019 Goal
Agricultural & Livestock Management	\$1,218,750	\$298,881	\$780,386	\$438,364
Forest Health Management (Rural & Urban)	\$1,500,000 ²	\$346,035 ^{3&4}	\$970,198	\$529,802
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	\$562,500	\$182,547	\$484,240	\$78,260
TOTALS	\$3,281,250	\$827,463 ⁵	\$2,234,824 ⁶	\$1,646,426

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

2 \$750,000 for Rural forest health cost-share contracts, and \$750,000 for Urban Forest Health Management projects planned and implemented by KCD in partnership with member cities.

3 \$196,035 for rural forest health cost-share contracts.

4 \$150,000 urban forest health projects planned and implemented by KCD in partnership with member cities.

5 Funds awarded CY 2017 are higher than planned - this issue to reallocation of prior year awards where prior year projects were implemented at lower cost than anticipated or were canceled.

6 2015-2017 total includes reallocated funds from cost-share contracts awarded prior to 2015 and therefore increases the total award for the roll-up period beyond the annual cost-share budget for each of the 3 years in the 3-year period. It is anticipated that by the end of 2019 KCD will have awarded \$3,280,750 in new cost-share contracts plus reallocated any additional cost-share released from pre-2015 contracts to new awards.

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.

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

60,000 native plants for King County backyards, streams and forests.

Program Highlights

The 2017 outcomes of the Bareroot Plant Sale Program included providing over, 60,000 native trees and shrubs to 922 customers, establishing 8.25 acres of enhanced upland and 2.75 acres of enhanced shoreline.

Plant Sale	Quantity of Plants Sold	Number of Customers	Acres of Aquatic Habitat Enhanced	Acres of Upland Habitat Enhanced
2017 Bareroot Plant Sale	60,010 ¹	922	2.75 ²	8.25 ³

1 A portion of this figure is included in the shoreline and riparian habitat summary table and a portion if included. The urban forest health summary table.
 2 This figure is included in the shoreline and riparian habitat summary table.
 3 This figure is included in the urban forest health summary table.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEET THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

King Conservation District is led by an all-volunteer, five-member board of supervisors. Three of the members are elected while the other two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, an agency created to assist and guide conservation district activities in Washington State. KCD elections occur annually during the first quarter of each year. Elections are conducted pursuant to guidelines established by RCW 89.08 with oversight from the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Board members contribute local perspectives on important natural resource management and conservation issues, seek feedback about conservation programs from District residents, set District policy, and direct the District work plan and budget.



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, and is a Commissioner of the North Bend Planning 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.



Burr Mosby, Vice-Chair

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

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



Bill Knutsen, Secretary/Auditor

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.



Jim Haack, Supervisor

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 brought 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."



Max Prinsen, Supervisor

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.

MEET THE ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS



Nancy Tosta

Nancy joined the Board of Supervisors in 2016 as an Associate Supervisor after serving for two years on KCD's Advisory Committee. Nancy's background includes over 40 years of natural resource management, including work in California, Washington, DC, and Puget Sound. Nancy serves as a councilmember for the City of Burien as well as on the Community and Economic Development Committee of the National League of Cities. She is also involved in Puget Sound Regional Council's Food Policy Committee, King County's Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), and Sound Cities Association's Public Issues Committee. When not actively engaged in working to make our region an even better place to live, Nancy enjoys traveling, cooking, gardening, and thinking about complicated problems.



Jason Salvo

Jason Salvo owns and operates Local Roots Farm, an 80 acre diversified, direct market vegetable farm located in the Snoqualmie Valley. Jason joined the KCD board of supervisors in May of 2014. Jason, and his wife, Siri Erickson-Brown, started Local Roots farm way back in 2007, and they have been farming full time ever since. Local Roots Farm sells vegetables through a CSA, to over 50 area restaurants and at the Broadway Sunday Farmers Market. Before starting the farm, Jason was very briefly an attorney. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law Magna Cum Laude, and was on Law Review. When he's not driving a tractor, Jason enjoys cooking, spending time with his two kids, and skiing.

BUDGET

	2017 Plan of Work (Rates & Charges)	2017 Year End Actual (Rates & Charges)	2017 Year End Total (Including Operations & Overhead)	Difference Between Plan of Work and Actual*
Local Food				
Local Food System	\$1,096,500	\$1,043,027	\$1,100,601	\$4,101
Rural Farm Planning Services	\$725,814	\$820,986	\$1,070,474	\$344,660
Urban Farm Planning Services	\$191,800	\$283,344	\$340,918	\$149,118
Healthy Forests				
Urban and Rural Forest Services	\$319,654	\$269,582	\$355,943	\$36,289
Clean Water				
Shoreline and Riparian Services	\$1,278,584	\$1,015,173	\$1,293,449	\$14,865
Landowner Incentive Program	\$837,182	\$753,451	\$801,430	\$(35,752)
Outreach and Community Engagement	\$404,999	\$426,064	\$550,808	\$145,809
Member Jurisdiction	\$1,296,507	\$1,272,498	\$1,330,072	\$33,565
Total	\$6,151,040	\$5,884,125	\$6,843,696	\$692,656

Operations and Overhead includes board, rent, supplies, IT and all non program specific expenses. It is allocated across program areas on a per FTE basis.

* In programs where the 2017 actual exceeds 2017 Program of Work budgeted, the difference represents grants, additional revenue, or funds drawn from KCD reserves.



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

PHOTO BY
Michael Sladek, Impression Media

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 & 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.

GET INVOLVED

IT STARTS WITH YOU

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Local Food, Healthy Forests, Clean Water