

King Conservation District

2015 Program Focus Areas – FACT SHEET

Shoreline and Riparian Habitat



Challenge: Efforts to restore the health of Puget Sound need the participation of private landowners who collectively own 2/3 of the shorelines. Landowner driven protection of our region's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and marine shorelines will contribute to salmon runs and the overall health of Puget Sound.

Need: Individual jurisdictions and agencies do not have the resources to recover the health of aquatic systems without mobilizing private landowners. The demand for workshops, classes, tours, train-the-trainer, and one-on-one assistance is immediate and essential.

The Problem

A century of intensive logging, agriculture and urban development have degraded aquatic habitats throughout King County where more than 2/3 of the shoreline properties are held in private ownership. In 1999, Chinook salmon were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, prompting concerted efforts to restore and protect lakes, rivers and streams. Concern for the health of Puget Sound has focused increased attention on shoreline and near shore habitats. Working closely with private property owners whose lands abut freshwater and marine aquatic systems is an essential component of recovering the health of these systems. Support for increased educational assistance and capacity-building among shoreline property owners was recommended by the King Conservation District / King County Conservation Panel and Task Force.

King Conservation District engaged participants in an exploration of the challenges facing aquatic habitats in the District. King County's landscape is a diverse mosaic of mountains, forests, rivers, lakes, and marine habitats. The district's service area includes approximately 2,100 square miles of land, plus nearly 2,000 miles of freshwater and marine shorelines. Major watersheds include Cedar River-Lake Washington, Green-Duwamish, Sammamish, Snoqualmie-Skykomish, White River, and Central Puget Sound, including Vashon-Maury Island.

"The conservation and management of freshwater ecosystems are critical to the interests of all humans, nations, and governments."

Freshwater Institute, University of Washington, 2014

Current Program Outcomes	Proposed Additional Program Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.82 miles of shoreline replanted and enhanced annually. • 23.5 acres of riparian corridor replanted and enhanced annually. • 57,589 native trees and shrubs planted annually • 549 landowners, neighborhood groups and jurisdictions utilizing KCD technical service programs annually for implementation of aquatic area planting and enhancement practices. • 1 KCD LIP cost-share contract awarded annually to landowners, neighborhood groups and jurisdictions for implementation of aquatic area planting and enhancement practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.6 miles of shoreline replanted and enhanced annually. • 47 acres of riparian corridor replanted and enhanced annually. • 115,100 native trees and shrubs planted annually • A minimum of 220 freshwater aquatic area landowners engaged annually in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area planting and enhancement practices • A minimum of 120 marine shoreline aquatic area landowners engaged annually in learning about, planning and implementing aquatic area planting and enhancement practices. • Increase to 20 the number of freshwater aquatic area planting and enhancement projects planned and implemented by KCD, thereby restoring a minimum of 5 acres and 1.8 miles per year on a combination of urban and rural residential lands • Increase to 8 the number of <i>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program</i> projects planned and implemented per year, thereby restoring a minimum of 6 acres and 1.5 miles per year on agricultural lands. • Allocate \$112,500 annually in KCD LIP cost-share funding for contracts awarded to freshwater and marine aquatic area landowners to implement freshwater and marine shoreline planting and enhancement practices in urban and rural areas (an increase from 1 to 10 contracts, and \$11,250 to \$112,500).
<p style="text-align: right;">5 FTE .25 AmeriCorps Intern 1 WA Conservation Corps Crew</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$674,594</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8 FTE .25 AmeriCorps Intern 1 WA Conservation Corps Crew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROPOSED TOTAL:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">\$1,278,586</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Deirdre Grace, Community Relations Manager
 King Conservation District
Deirdre.grace@kingcd.org
 425-282-1902

“In the coastal zone, the effects of sea level rise, erosion, inundation, threats to infrastructure and habitat, and increasing ocean acidity collectively pose a major threat to the region.”

Climate Change Impacts in the United States, May 2014