



2018 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,

It is with pleasure and satisfaction that I forward King Conservation District's 2018 Annual Report. 2018 represents the third year of our five-year strategic vision and what a year it was! All six of the programs launched in 2015 were fully functioning and having concrete impact on King County communities. A sample:

- We partnered with 13 cities to assess and analyze tree canopy cover across south King County, developing tools to help these municipalities build resilience to climate impacts.
- We partnered with our sister conservation districts up and down Puget Sound to deliver Orca Day and Better Ground to stewards of our lands, waters, and wildlife.
- We worked with community based organizations and volunteers to increase food production and green the built environment.

And then we shared what we learned at local, regional, national, and even international conferences.

Change is accelerating in our region, and it will take even greater collaboration and partnership between those how steward our natural resources - whether on public or private lands – to ensure that our communities are happy and healthy today and in the future to come.

KCD is proud to do its part to support fully realizing the contribution of conservation actions taken on private lands.

I look forward to another great year ahead!

Sincerely yours,



Dick Ryon, Board Chair, 2018
King Conservation District



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LOOKING FORWARD

2018 marks my second full year at KCD and still I find that I never stop learning. I continue to be inspired by the people who work here, volunteer with us, and partner on both public and private stewardship. 2018 was a year of significant change for KCD and our region. KCD moved to a new office (with trees!), said good-bye to some staff and welcomed others to our team. We built new partnerships and produced significant regional tools for planners, policymakers, and grassroots organizations so that we can all work together in building an ever stronger, healthier regional community.

In the coming year, we plan for the next five, understanding our district's changing landscape - physical, cultural, and economic - and with growing awareness of climate impacts, increasing wildfire risk and Orca health, we continue to strengthen our core competencies while supporting the good work of our partners. Thank you for taking a look at what got done in 2018 - now, let's turn our gaze to what's ahead.



Bea Covington, Executive Director
King Conservation District



WHO WE ARE, HOW WE WORK

At King Conservation District, we work to build better ground. From better food to better backyards to better farms, we are here for you.

KCD was established in 1949 by the Washington Conservation Commission to empower landowners and managers to steward those lands in the public's interest. Conservation districts were created to address our nation's first environmental crisis – the Dust Bowl.

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 small per-parcel rate and charge. We are able to leverage these local dollars with state, federal, and foundation funds to partner with farmers, rural landowners, urban residents, volunteers, community-based organizations and our municipal partners.

Conservation districts are non-regulatory and work with people who are ready to implement best management practices (BMPs) on their property or in their communities. 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.



ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Orca Recovery Day

On November 10, 2018 conservation districts across Puget Sound held concurrent events to educate, motivate and bring people together on projects to help our struggling orca population. KCD hosted a volunteer planting event on salmon bearing Judd Creek on Vashon Island. Over 35 volunteers, including Girls Scouts Daisy/Brownie Troop 41706 from Auburn worked hard alongside KCD's Washington Conservation Corp restoration crew to plant an astonishing 1,000 native trees and shrubs in just four hours. In total, this collaboration involved 27 organizations hosting 18 events engaging 778 volunteers, planting 4,982 native plants, collecting 700 pounds of trash, and installing 4 rain gardens across Puget Sound.

Envirothon

Envirothon is a nationwide environmental literacy competition for high school youth. 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 2018, 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. Ten teams totalling 56 students participated in the STEM-based event.

52 events
751 volunteers
2,629 hours donated

Volunteer

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 functions, and gain experience implementing practices to address those concerns.

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. In 2018, KCD facilitated 52 volunteer events where 751 volunteers donated 2,629 hours of service.

Education, Workshops, and Tours

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, shoreline habitat improvement, 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.

Engagement and Education	5-Year Plan	2018 Actual	2015-2018 Actual
Volunteers	0	751 volunteers 52 events 2,629 volunteer hours	3,159 volunteers 407 events 10,507 volunteer hours
K-12 Field Days / Carpentry for Critters	0	1 event 786 students	8 events 1,753 students
K-12 Stormwater Education	0	577 students	1,112 students
Farm Tours and Special Agricultural Classes	0	7 tours; 100 participants 5 classes; 81 participants	31 tours; 731 participants 31 classes; 438 participants
Land & Water Stewardship Workshops	0	8 workshops; 59 participants	32 workshops; 284 participants



GRANTS TO HELP REPLENISH OUR REGION

Since 1994, KCD has set aside a portion of collected rates and charges funds (as a proportion of the total amount paid by the jurisdiction) to be utilized directly by the jurisdictions for conservation projects within their boundaries. Jurisdictions may elect to receive the funds directly, to use them to engage third party contractors to implement projects or to contract directly with KCD to deliver project services.

Jurisdictions may accrue funds from year to year to support larger projects and they may also partner with one another to leverage resources to implement projects.

Grant proposals must address a minimum of one of KCD's natural resource improvement actions. These actions have been established consistent with RCW 89.08. KCD's Board of Supervisors determines whether grant applications are consistent with these eligibility criteria.

Auburn - \$20,000

2018 Auburn International Farmers Market – Marketing & Demonstrations

Bellevue - \$52,000

Low Impact Development Standard Detail Project

Bellevue - \$15,000

Replacement of Waterwise Garden Interpretive Signs

Bellevue - \$25,000

Native Discovery Garden Enhancement Project

Bellevue - \$5,000

Martin Luther King Day 2019 Tree Planting Volunteer Event

Des Moines Area Food Bank - \$31,000

On-the Grow Learning Garden Truck 2018 -19

Des Moines Area Farmers Market - \$13,851

2017 Low Income Senior Healthy Eating Initiative

Des Moines Area Farmers Market - \$9,100

2018 Des Moines Farmers Market Senior Healthy Eating Initiative

King County - \$196,400

2018 Keeping Farmers Farming, King County Agriculture Program

Kirkland - \$29,994

2019 Implementation of 20-Year Forest and Natural Areas Restoration Plan

Redmond - \$130,000

Mackey Creek Rehabilitation

Renton - \$10,049

2018 Renton Farmers Market - Marketing and Advertising

Seattle - \$50,000

Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association - 2019 Delridge Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship Project

Seattle - \$75,000

Na'ah Illahee Fund - Seattle Urban Native Community Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge Project

Seattle - \$55,458

The Social Good Fund - Yesler Terrace Goes Green

Seattle - \$70,000

The Common Acre - The Green Line

Seattle - \$75,000

Young Women Empowered - Y-WE Nature Connections

Seattle - \$70,000

Zero Waste Washington - Youth green jobs to reduce plastic pollution in the greater Duwamish Valley, in Seattle WA

Sammamish - \$280,000

Zackuse Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration Project

Sammamish - \$28,037

City of Sammamish 2018-19 Stormwater Outreach

Shoreline - \$20,368

2018 Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Habitat Restoration

Tukwila - \$47,400

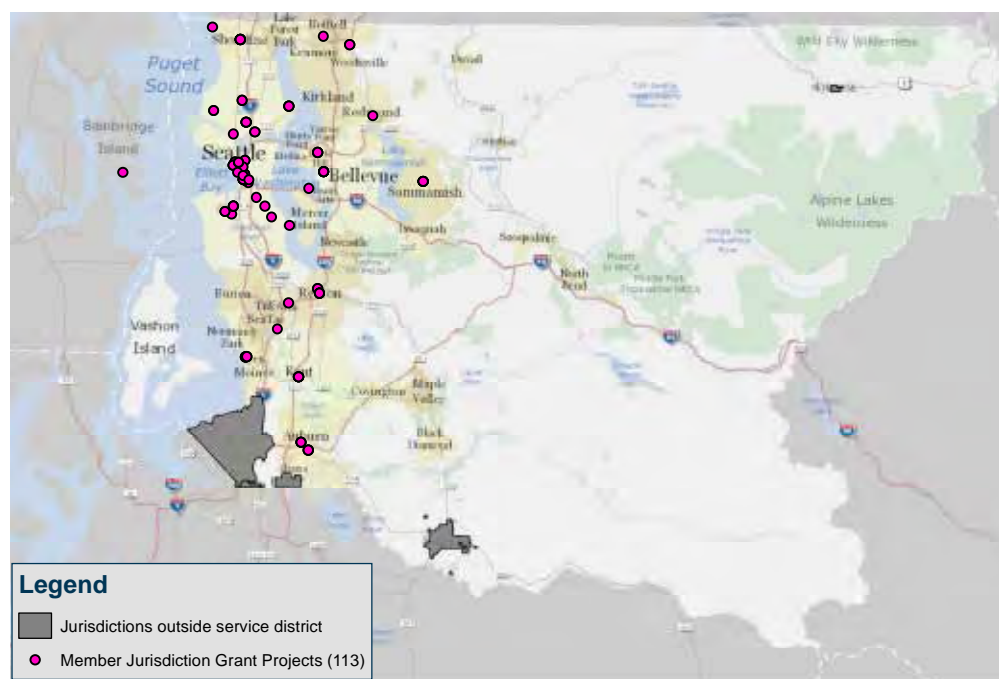
Green Tukwila Implementation - 2018 & 2019

University of Washington - \$36,166

Green Tukwila Implementation - 2018 & 2019

White River Valley Museum - \$17,815

Environmental Education at the Mary Olson Farm (2018-2019)





BETTER WATER

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 King County.



RIPARIAN LAND STEWARDSHIP

KCD works with our member jurisdictions and other local and regional partners to increase the amount of freshwater and marine shoreline enhanced on private lands. We accomplish this by educating and empowering landowners through workshops, one-on-one education, and technical assistance to steward their resources. KCD's education prioritizes residents across King County whose properties include or abut water bodies important to the health of Puget Sound and salmon. Workshops are structured to empower marine landowners, streamside property owners, urban residents, and farm owners. In 2018, along with our educational offerings, KCD provided riparian technical assistance to 83 residents.

Program Highlights

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat	5-Year Plan	2018	2015-2018 Actual
Where the Water Begins - Marine Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 600 Marine Shoreline Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	4 Workshops; 119 Participants	12 Workshops; 316 Participants
Our Land/Our Water and Beautify & Care for Your Streamside Property	Engage 1,100 Freshwater Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	18 Workshop; 207 Participants	39 Workshops; 445 Participants

Barbee Mill Homeowners Association (HOA)

Maria Moss, a member of the Barbee Mill HOA in Bellevue, attended a KCD Beautify and Care for your Streamside Property workshop in the Spring of 2018. There, she learned how conservation districts help private landowners steward their natural resources. The Barbee Mill HOA has four sections of HOA owned land along the estuary of May Creek. After the class, KCD coordinated an initial site visit to provide technical assistance to the HOA and determined that KCD would take on developing a buffer on the southern shore of the stream that would complement the work of the HOA's stewardship team restoring the north section. KCD began working on the project by the end of 2018 with completion set for Spring of 2019.

Next fall, the HOA is hosting a KCD education workshop to tour the restoration site and educate other landowners about how they can engage with KCD to complete their own restoration projects or get technical assistance.



RURAL LAND STEWARDSHIP

Farmers are the stewards of over 60,000 acres 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 resources to help land managers implement environmental practices runs the very real risk of losing that farmland to bankruptcy or development.

Rural Land Stewardship provides natural resource technical assessments, recommendations, and farm conservation planning services to farm and livestock owners. The whole-farm natural resource assessment is the foundational step in determining opportunities and priorities for conservation actions to improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

Program Highlights

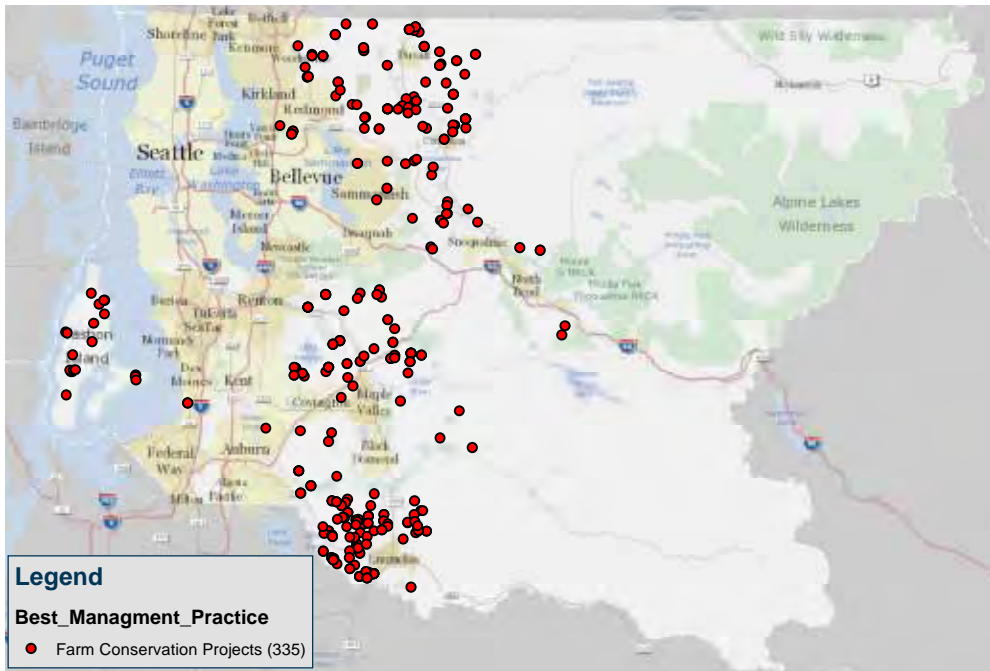
Rural Agriculture	5 Year Plan ¹	2018	2015-2018
Farm Planning Services	750 Farm Service Customers 340 Farm Conservation Plans 10 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	225 Farm Service Customers 66 Farm Conservation Plans 1 Dairy Nutrient Management Plan	973 Farm Service Customers 247 Farm Conservation Plans 5 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans
Site Visits	...	141 Site Visits	616 Site Visits
Follow Ups	750 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	66 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	816 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits
Equipment Loans	250 Landowners	27 Landowners	178 Landowners
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$1,218,750 in cost share to implement best management practices	\$194,235	\$974,621

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

Mary Olson Farm - Pollinators on the Farm Tour

KCD offers farm tours and educational programs so that landowners can learn how others have designed their farms with natural resource management practices in mind. Farm tours take place spring through fall throughout King County. Technical experts are at every tour ready to answer questions and provide resources.

In 2018, KCD partnered with the Xerces Society to tour Mary Olson Farm to highlight best management practices for pollinator recovery. Participants learned how to install pollinator habitat, including a live demonstration of a pollinator strip installation, as well as other practices the farm is undertaking to integrate pollinator-friendly practices.



RIPARIAN RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT

Jurisdictions and agencies cannot restore the health of Puget Sound alone. Efforts to restore the health of our orcas and Puget Sound need the participation of private landowners who collectively control two-thirds of its shores. Landowners who want to be good stewards face many barriers to effectively implementing best management practices. These include a lack of technical and financial assistance to install and maintain native plant buffers and lack of resources to plan for or undertake bulkhead removal or marine riparian and pocket estuary enhancement.

Program Highlights

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat	5-Year Plan ¹	2018	2015-2018 Actual
Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines Protection & Enhancement Services Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Marine Shorelines Wetland Plant Cooperative Bareroot Plant Sale	18 Miles of Shoreline Replanted and Enhanced 235 Acres of Riparian Corridor Replanted and Enhanced 575,500 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted	1.99 Miles ² 12.38 Acres ² 27,467 Native Trees and Shrubs ²	8.72 Miles ² 59.97 Acres ² 129,885 Native Trees and Shrubs ²
Rural and Urban Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Improvement Projects	100 Aquatic Area Projects Planned and Implemented (25 Acres/9 Miles) Freshwater Aquatic Area)	21 Projects ³ 10.35 Acres ³ 1.99 Miles ³	84 Projects ³ 43.52 Acres ³ 7.47 Miles ³
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	20-40 CREP Projects (30 Acres/7.5 Miles) Planned and Implemented	0 Projects Implemented ¹ Project Planned 2.3 Acres Planned .07 Miles Planned	4 Projects 8.51 Acres 1.25 Miles
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$562,500 to Implement Freshwater and Marine Aquatic Area Shoreline Improvement and Enhancement	\$139,514 ⁴	\$623,754 ⁴

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

² Portions of this metric are also expressed in the Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines and CREP figures

³ Based on Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines, CREP, Marine and LIP figures

⁴ Based on Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines and LIP figures

⁵ Based on contract awards in conjunction with LIP

Trinity Ranch

Bryan and Susan Heiser, owners of Trinity Ranch in Enumclaw, have worked with KCD to help conserve natural resources on their property since we helped them develop a Farm Conservation Plan in 2012. The Heisers have utilized a broad selection of conservation practices, including manure bins, heavy use areas, sub-surface drainage, cross-fencing and a stream crossing. Much of this work was done with cost-share funding from KCD, King County, and the Washington Conservation Commission.

This winter, KCD's Washington Conservation Corps Crews installed a 35-foot wide riparian forest buffer along Coal Creek, which bisects Trinity Ranch. The buffer consists of over 1000 native plants from 26 different species along 630 linear feet of shoreline to create a half-acre riparian forest. The forest buffer will help filter surface water running to the creek.





BETTER SOIL

SOIL HEALTH

KCD provides basic soil tests for all residents and municipalities in our service area.* Our soil testing program covers commercial farms, pastures, parks, home yards, and community gardens. In 2018, KCD processed over 1,600 soil samples for our constituents.

We send soil samples to A&L Western Laboratories to test for Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium, Sulfur, Organic Matter, pH, and Cation Exchange Capacity. The laboratory analyzes the samples and provides recommendations specific to address your crop, pasture or plant needs.





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. Perhaps even more important, 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 59,000 native trees and shrubs planted.

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

As climate change and population growth pressures mount, the health of Pacific Northwest Forests is threatened. Individual jurisdictions and agencies do not have the resources to adequately protect our forests without mobilizing private landowners. The demand to train and support owners of small forest properties to safeguard our regional forest resources is critical. Collectively, these small properties comprise over 40,000 forested acres in King County.

KCD provides wildfire risk assessments of small residential forest landowners, and risk assessments and fire-adapted planning services to whole communities. Community wildfire risk assessments are provided to communities pursuing recognition as a new Firewise USA Community, or to Firewise USA Communities that are pursuing an update to their action plan.

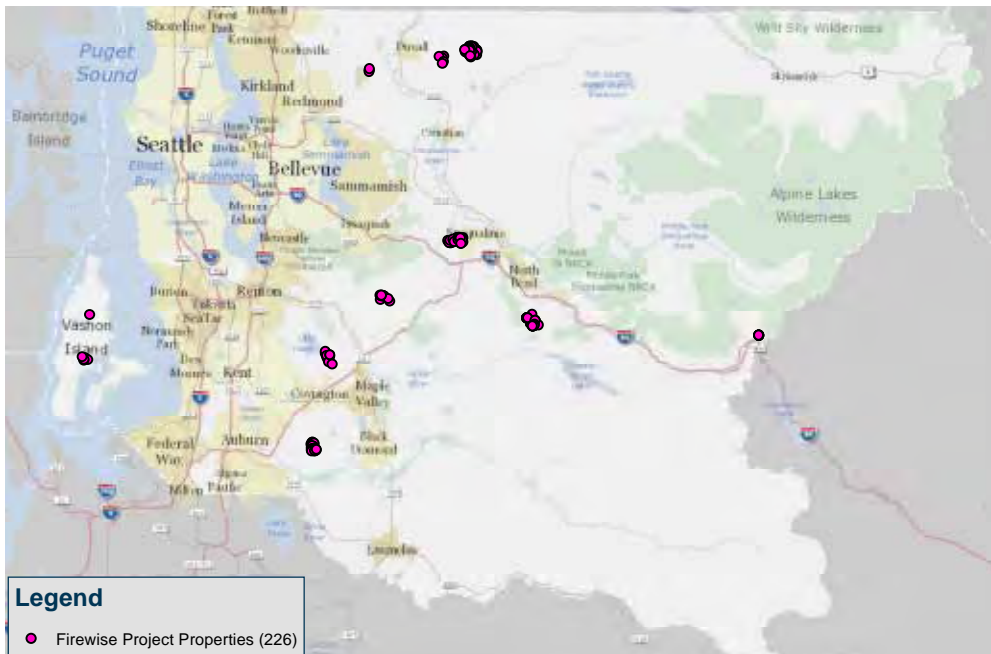
Subsequent to the community fire risk planning assessment, communities can engage with KCD to develop a Firewise Community Action Plan and engage in a public/private partnership with KCD to become a Fire-Adapted Community and implement wildfire risk reduction projects focused on reducing ground and ladder fuels in home ignition zones and around other community infrastructure assets.

Program Highlights

Wildfire Services Provide	2018
Chipper Days	5 events including 108 homes
Community Outreach/Education Presentation	1 event with 25 attendees
Firewise Community Check-In	1 community with 30 homes
Fuels Reduction Projects	1 project covering .6 acres
New Community Firewise Plan	1 community Firewise plan including 28 houses
Neighborhood Wildfire Hazard Evaluation	2 evaluations including 32 homes

The Mirrormont Community

Nestled in the trees of Tiger Mountain's southwestern foothills, the Mirrormont Community completed a community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) in 2015 with help from Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) and King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). As part of implementing this community plan, KCD's Rural Forest Health Management program provided planning and financial assistance to complete several fuels reductions projects in the community, including a chipper day in May of 2017. Over 100 community residents participated in these KCD-supported projects. Since then, the Mirrormont Community Association has taken the lead in organizing and funding their own annual chipper days, averaging around 60 participants working together to reduce fuels around their homes and neighborhood. They also organize community education events on being prepared for and preventing wildfires. Most recently they hosted a community education event in September that brought together residents and representatives from KCD, King County DNRP, and their local fire district.



URBAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Urban forests' contribution to health, economic, and social well-being is now well-documented. Healthy urban forests also provide resilience and mitigate the impacts of severe weather in the face of climate change.

A regional approach to expanding urban tree canopy across King County's urban landscapes is critical to climate change resilience and especially needed in south King County. These cities and communities have a dramatic lack of canopy while their populations also suffer from the county's highest levels of pollution and illness.

KCD's Urban Forestry Program partners with member jurisdictions to extend its traditional reach and work in the backyards, public easements, parks and open spaces in the incorporated landscapes of the 34 cities in KCD's service area.

In 2018, KCD

- partnered with cities to install or expand urban forests on both public and private lands;
- partnered with 21 local, state, and federal agencies to analyze and adopt a complex modeling framework for understanding how urban canopy impacts water quality and quantity;
- worked with 13 south King County cities to assess and document the health of their tree canopies, filling in gaps that have led to a full county-wide understanding of existing urban tree canopy.

Program Highlights

5-Year Plan ¹	2018	2015-2018 Actual
70 Acres of Urban Forest/Upland Treated and Planted	8.88 Acres Treated/Planted	66.41 Acres Treated/ Planted
172,000 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted	23,645 Trees and Shrubs Planted	86,163.50 Trees and Shrubs Planted
Engage 15 Jurisdictions in Urban Forest Retention and Restoration Initiatives	5 Jurisdictions Engaged 3 New Jurisdictions Engaged	31 Jurisdictions Engaged through 33 Projects
15 Round Tables Facilitated	7 (5 Urban Forest initiative Working Group and 2 Tree Canopy Assessment Roundtables)	3 Bodies Engaged 23 Times (UFIWG Engaged 14 Times, Regional TCA Round Table 4 Times, K4C Engaged 5 times)
\$750,000 in project funding	\$150,000	\$607,678.50

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

Puget Sound Urban Tree Canopy and Stormwater Management Report

The Puget Sound region in northwestern Washington State is a complex system of connected waterways across 12 counties. By 2050, the population in Puget Sound will grow from 4 million to 6 million people. Land development in the region's most populous counties (King, Pierce, and Snohomish) has led to an expansion of impervious surfaces, which in turn increases stormwater runoff and degrades water quality. Comprehensive restoration plans and policies address water quality degradation associated with urban development and increased stormwater.

KCD is leading a multi-partner engagement process through the Puget Sound Urban Tree Canopy and Stormwater Analysis Project to catalyze collaboration around those plans and policies that improve forest health management for stormwater management. Key to this collaboration was the development of common tools and language about the role tree canopy plays in managing water quality and quantity in the Puget Sound region. For a closer look at the recommendation of this regional working group or the tools developed visit:

<http://kingcd.org/2019/03/21/i-tree-hydro-technical-report-revisions/>



Tree Canopy Planner Tool

KCD is pleased to share access to PlanIt Geo's urban forestry Canopy Planner software and a new tutorial video on how to use this software to explore tree canopy information for local communities that have received tree canopy assessments through KCD's urban forest stewardship program. KCD has partnered with 19 municipal jurisdictions since 2015 in King County to expand conservation of urban tree canopies and grow green infrastructure by supporting, providing, and collaborating on tree canopy assessments. In 2017, 15 of these jurisdictions received subscriptions to the Canopy Planner software.

This valuable web-based tool helps cities and their communities view, plan and grow their urban tree canopy. PlanIt Geo hosts the Canopy Planner software that displays tree canopy data via maps and supports analysis and modeling so that communities can plan and prioritize tree canopy and urban forest enhancement projects. For first-hand access to this web-based tool visit:

<http://kingcd.org/2018/12/07/kcd-tree-canopy-planner-tool-available-for-cities/>



SMALL LOT FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Over 42,000 acres of the nearly 782,000 total forested acres outside King County's Agriculture Production Districts are held by owners of woods smaller than 5 acres.

Collectively, these acres represent a vast resource that contributes to the overall health of our community and offer a timely opportunity to proactively engage private landowners in stewardship. These small, non-commercial forested lands fall outside the capacity of King County's forestry program to support.

KCD's Small Lot Forest Stewardship Program partners with landowners to improve forest health and increase canopy cover by empowering them to become successful stewards of their forests. The program accomplishes this by providing landowners

with education opportunities, on-site technical assistance, stewardship planning assistance, cost-share project planning assistance, wildfire risk assessments, and fire-adapted community planning.

Program Highlights

5-Year Plan ¹	2018 Actual	2015-2018 Actual
1125 Acres of Rural Forest/Woodlot Treated and Planted	34.27 Acres Treated and Planted, Additional 69.9 Contracted ²	319.45 Acres Treated and Planted, additional 69.9 acres Contracted
90,000-180,000 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	7,470 Trees & Shrubs Planted ³	59,288 Native Trees & Shrubs Planted
Engage 90 Small Forest Landowners in Planning and Implementing BMPs	32 Landowners Engaged	86 Landowners Engaged
5 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Courses	1 in Person and 1 Online Courses	4 in Person and 4 Online Courses
\$750,000 in cost share with small acreage rural forest landowners	\$126,667.57	\$639,187.74

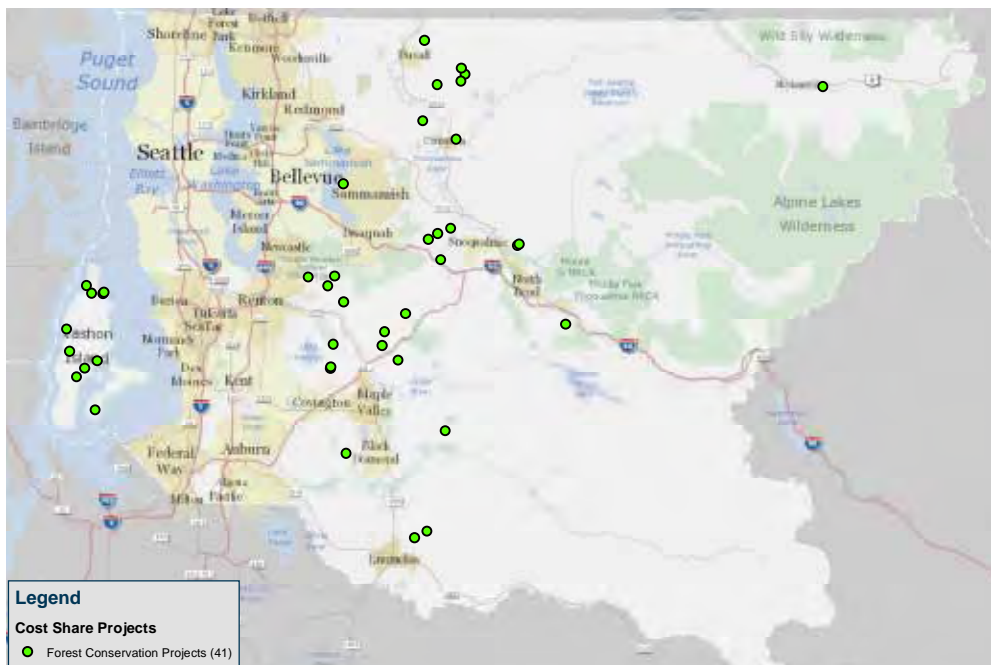
¹ Based on "Benchmarks" as outlined on page 6 of the adopted Implementation Plan for 2015-2019.

² Based on acres reported in conjunction with LIP.

³ Based on plants reported in conjunction with LIP.

Invasive Weed Control Field Practicum

In June, KCD partnered with Washington State University Extension, Western Extension Risk Management Education, United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Snohomish Conservation District to hold an invasive weeds field practicum. The class trained participants in weed identification and effective management, including the proper use of herbicides when needed. Participants reported a strong increase in knowledge and confidence.





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.
- 3** Better access to locally-grown, healthy foods by front-line communities.

In the 2018 grant round, KCD awarded \$755,631 in competitive grants to innovative and diverse projects across King County. A brief description of the projects and funding is presented below.

Program Outcomes 2015 Through 2018

**Awarded 62 grants
totalling \$4,009,960
leveraging \$3,141,352
of matching funds and
\$1,150,061 of in-kind
contributions.**

Program Outcomes 2018

**Awarded 10 grants
totalling \$755,631
leveraging \$851,545
of matching funds and
\$329,082 of in-kind
contributions.**

Competitive Grants

Increasing Fresh Bucks Business Capacity and Customer Access in King County - \$25,000

City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment
- This project aims to increase SNAP and Fresh Bucks sales at King County farmers markets by 15% over the prior year and build the business capacity of King County farmers market organizations.

Working Farmland Partnership Pilot Project - \$99,810

PCC Farmland Trust - The Working Farmland Partnership pilot project represents a collaboration among agriculture-focused agencies working to connect landowners who want to bring underutilized farmland back into production with farmers looking to establish or expand farm businesses.

Living Well Kent Greenhouses and Farm - \$96,000

Living Well Kent - Living Well Kent and Northwest Harvest are partnering to bring quality farm land and valuable farm infrastructure back in to productive use, expand training opportunities and land access for immigrant farmers, and increase access to healthy local produce for farmers markets, farm stands, food banks, and mobile markets in South King County.

Post-Incubator Shared Farmland: Cart Before Horse Farm - \$26,425

Cart before Horse Farm - Offers long-term land leases to farmers who have a licensed farming business and have completed an incubator or educational farming program and will bring 25-29 acres back into food production within the next two years.

Carnation Farms Grain Trust - \$32,783

Carnation Farms - This project puts 20 acres of farmland into grain production and increases consumer demand for locally-grown grains by holding a series of events and classes that will give at least 1078 people access to expert bakers, chefs, brewers, and distillers who utilize local grains.

Training and Incubating A New and Diverse Generation of Farmers in King County - \$100,000

Viva Farms - This project provides land, expands infrastructure and equipment, and improves farm business planning at the Viva King County Incubator and Student Farm.

Phase 2: Farmer Engagement - \$58,730

Cascadia Cooperative Farms - This project will assist farmers in scaling up their operations to meet the demand for locally, ethically, sustainably raised poultry and eggs.

Expanding Land Access through Urban Gardening - \$89,491

International Rescue Committee - The purpose of this project is to build a new production-intensive community garden for refugee, immigrant, and other low-income families living in Auburn.

Vashon Fresh...An Online Marketplace for Local Food - \$30,030

Vashon Island Growers Association - Vashon Fresh provides an online marketplace for island growers and producers to market, sell, and distribute local, sustainably produced food.

Increasing Adoption and Integration of Reclaimed Water for Irrigation within Cedar Sammamish Watershed - \$97,363

Washington Water Trust - Washington Water Trust in partnership with King County Recycled Water, Washington State University, Washington Department of Ecology and local farmers – will research, develop, and implement a project to reduce the reliance on surface flow and serve as model for farm-to-table acceptance of reclaimed water use throughout King County.

King County Farmers Share - \$100,000

Rotary First Harvest - Through this project Rotary First Harvest (RFH) will collaborate with three key partners (Hopelink, South King County Food Coalition and Seattle Food Committee) to expand farm to institution systems.

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 2018, KCD supported the following Strategic Initiatives:

Direct Marketing Support, Year 2 of a 2 Year Initiative

In 2017, KCD funded a University of Washington survey of King County farmers and food processors to assess their direct marketing needs. The report, "Identifying Direct Market Opportunities and Challenges for King County Farm Businesses," was published in 2018 and can be found online at http://kingcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/KCDFinalReport_DirectMarketing-IncludingAppendices.pdf. This is the first phase of a multi-part effort to identify new market opportunities for King County Farmers and methods to engage and maintain customers.

Local Institutional Purchasing Support, Year 1 of a 2 Year Initiative

In 2018, Ecotrust was brought on board to manage the Local Institutional Food Team as it builds strategies for increasing the percentage of local food purchased by our region's hospitals, schools, and universities. LIFT strives 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 identified three institutions ready and willing to commit to pursuing significant local products by 2025, develop a strategy to meet and measure the increase commitment, and identify and secure funding to meet these commitments.

AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE ASSISTANCE

King County has an estimated 1,800 farms on 46,717 acres of land, with annual sales of \$121 million. More than 3000 acres of some of King County's most productive lands are now deemed "too wet to farm," and production is diminished on hundreds of additional acres. Poor drainage doesn't just impact production and food availability, it poses a stormwater management threat as suburban developments increasingly coexist in proximity to agricultural production. Poorly drained fields near developed areas may flood residential neighbors.

Currently, 145 landowners representing nearly 3,000 acres of farmland and 20 miles of agricultural waterways are on the waiting list for services from the King County Agricultural Drainage (ADAP) program. In addition to clearing this backlog of repair and restoration, there is a need to develop a robust schedule for maintenance and monitoring for completed projects

Since 2014, KCD has partnered with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks to support the restoration and maintenance of agricultural drainage ditches in key areas of the county. Because of KCD's work, annual farm drainage projects have increased from restoring ½ mile of ditch per year to over 2 miles per year. KCD's participation in this partnership has been underwritten by a combination of grant funding streams, including funds from the King County Flood Control District. These funds are highly variable and some will be exhausted or permanently extinguished at the end of 2019.

Program Highlights

From 2015 to 2018, KCD used Flood Control District funds to work with over thirty farmers to implement 15 large dredging projects. Within these projects, 16 culverts were replaced and 8 of these culverts were previously designated fish passage barriers. A total of 14 culverts and 2 bridges were installed and a total of 54,100 linear feet (10.23 miles) were dredged. This work has brought 338 new acres into production and improved production on another 609 acres.¹

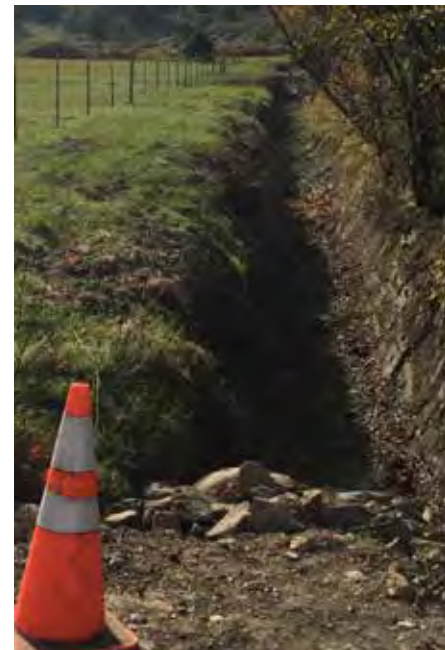
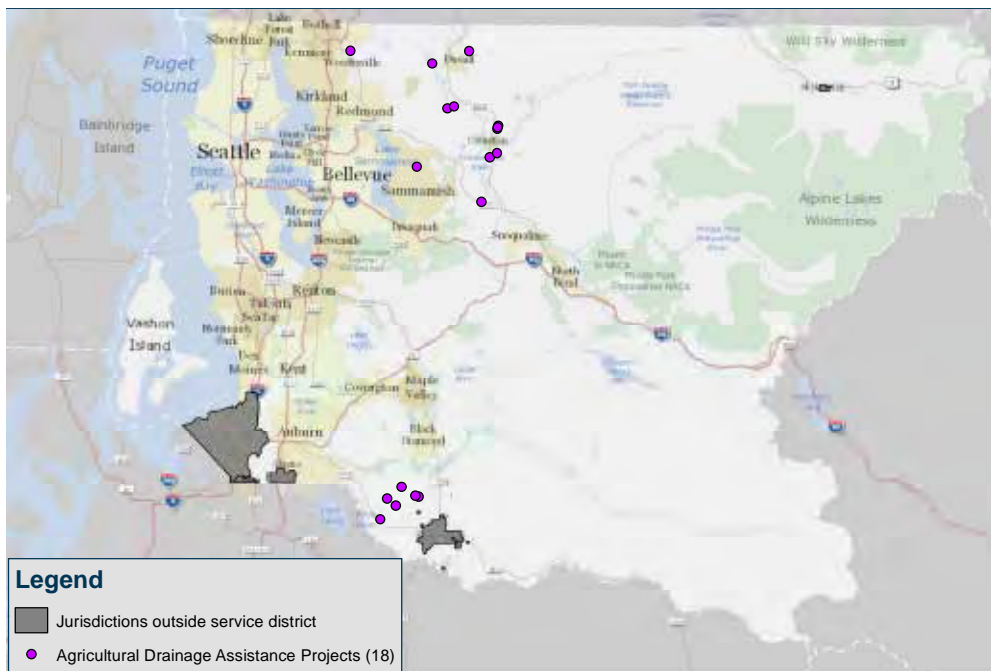
¹ Some acre designations have been updated and changed since the KCD 2017 Annual Report.

**338 new acres brought
into production**

609 acres improved

Murray Farm

In 2018, KCD's ADAP program completed a project on the Murray Farm in southeast King County. This project removed and replaced four culverts while dredging 2,728 linear feet of ditch and provided a successful collaboration with King County Roads to reduce seasonal flooding on county roads along the drainage area. KCD is working with King County Road Services on future projects to help rural landowners.



COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE

An equitable and resilient local food economy includes urban food production, both commercial and personal. Urban farmers and gardeners have unique needs for land stewardship guidance to ensure a viable, diverse local food system that cares for our soils and waters for future generations.

Existing urban agricultural organizations lack access to land, funds, and technical support to meet the demand for sustainable urban small-lot food production for low-income and immigrant populations, who benefit most from expanded urban agricultural opportunities. Part of the solution is to strengthen farms across King County and develop better transportation, storage, and processing infrastructure. Another part of a healthy local food system is to develop opportunities to grow fresh food in dense urban neighborhoods, especially in communities that are transit-dependent, low-income, or comprised of primarily immigrant populations.

Program Highlights

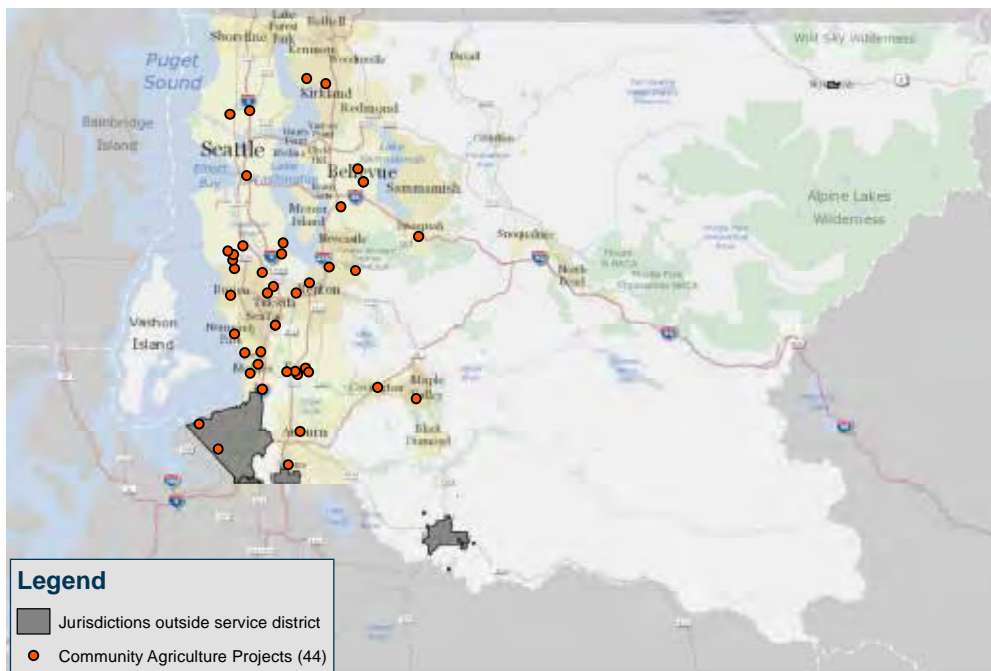
Community Agriculture	5-Year Plan ¹	2018
Soil Test	Expand soil nutrient testing program by 1000 new users	1,612
Engage new gardeners	Engage 500 new gardeners	Engaged 585 new gardeners
Cover Crop Seed Giveaway	N/A	435 gardeners educated and given cover crop seeds
Community Agriculture Technical Assistance	100 new technical assists	9 new assists & continuing support for previous projects
GroCo	N/A	135 yards of GroCo® compost distributed to 12 community gardens

¹ KCD's Community Agriculture program was initially tasked with helping cities develop community agriculture friendly policies. As KCD entered this space, it was determined that cities already had the opportunity for policy help through the Puget sound Regional Council and was determined that on-the-ground assistance was in greater need. Some challenged faced by municipal codes is addressed in the KCD Community Agriculture Conservation Guide.

KCD Community Agriculture Conservation Resource Guide

Schools, individuals, non-profits, and places of worship all offer opportunities to expand access to healthy food and teach important natural resource stewardship in the urban landscape. Along with providing a much-needed source of healthy, locally-grown food, urban gardens provide a wide range of benefits including soil, air, and water quality improvement; stormwater management; increased aesthetics; education and recreational opportunities; beneficial pollinator and wildlife habitat; and an increased sense of belonging to a community. The KCD Community Agriculture Conservation Resource Guide offers step-by-step guidance for establishing an urban garden to help communities turn underutilized space into a productive community asset. Find the guide online at

<http://kingcd.org/programs/better-communities/community-agriculture>





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.

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

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.

Program Highlights

The 2018 outcomes of the Landowner Incentive Program include awarding 69 new contracts for \$610,417, including \$150,000 in project funding for KCD Urban Forestry projects.

Best Management Practice	Contracts Awarded	Acres	Linear Feet	Funding Level
Agricultural and Livestock Management	46	43.58	7,758	\$194,235
Rural Forest Health Management	8	See Better Forests - Small Lot Forest Stewardship for Metrics	N/A	\$126,668
Urban Forest Health Management	N/A	See Better Forests - Urban Forest Stewardship Section for Metrics	N/A	\$150,000
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	15	See Better Water - Riparian Restoration/Improvement Section for Metrics	N/A	\$139,514
TOTALS	69	43.58	7,758	\$610,417

Summary of Progress - Landowner Incentive Program

Landowner Incentive Program ¹	5-Year Plan	2018 Actual	2015-2018 Actual
Agricultural & Livestock Management	\$1,218,750	\$194,235	\$974,621
Forest Health Management	\$1,500,000 ²	\$276,668 ^{3&4}	\$1,246,866
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	\$562,000	\$139,514	\$623,754
TOTALS	\$3,280,750	\$610,417⁵	\$2,845,241⁶

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

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

³ \$150,000 for rural forest health management cost-share contracts.

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

⁵ Additional funds awarded CY 2018 (2018 Actual) are from prior year awards where prior year projects were implemented at lower cost than anticipated or were canceled.

⁶ 2015-2018 total includes reallocated funds from cost-share 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 4 years in the 4-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 awards.

BAREROOT PLANT SALE

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

Program Highlights

The 2018 outcomes of the Bareroot Plant Sale Program included providing over, 62,000 native trees and shrubs to 895 customers, establishing 8.57 acres of enhanced upland and 2.86 acres of enhanced shoreline.

**62,000 native plants
for King County
backyards.**

KCD NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

KCD's Native Plant Nursery grows native trees, shrubs, herbs, and wetland plants for habitat enhancement projects. Partners 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 habitat enhancement projects.

The nursery is sustained largely by KCD AmeriCorps members, Washington Conservation Corps restoration crewmembers, and volunteers. This arrangement allows the nursery to provide cost-effective plants for restoration projects.

Program Highlights

In 2018, the KCD Native Plant Nursery supplied 5,250 native plants supporting 20 KCD shoreline projects and 15 volunteer and community projects. The nursery had the support of 117 volunteers who donated 427 hours.



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.

By statute, 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 residents, set policy, and direct KCD's work plan and budget.



Dick Ryon, Chair

Dick was elected to the KCD Board in 2014. He brings 20 years' experience as a Professional Forester and Land Use Manager with the Weyerhaeuser Company in Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties. Dick also serves on the King County Rural Forest Commission.

Dick brings a continuity of regional natural resource priorities from his participation on the 2013 King County/KCD Task Force/Conservation Panel and continues to seek opportunities to collaborate on those priorities with partner organizations.



Burr Mosby, Vice-Chair

A first generation farmer, Burr 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 and also donates to food banks in the area.

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 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.

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 moved their young family to the Snoqualmie Valley.

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. 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.



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.

BUDGET

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.

	2018 Adopted Plan of Work	2018 Year End Actual (Rates & Charges)	2018 Year End Total (including operations and overhead) ¹	Difference Between Plan of Work and Actual ²
Local Food				
Local Food System	\$1,223,129	\$1,003,719	\$1,296,252	\$(73,123)
Rural Farm Planning Services	\$1,013,055	\$755,692	\$975,938	\$37,116
Urban Farm Planning Services	\$213,082	\$192,025	\$237,991	\$(34,909)
Healthy Forests				
Urban and Rural Forest Services	\$682,530	\$568,111	\$733,687	\$(51,157)
Clean Water				
Shoreline and Riparian Services	\$1,934,281	\$1,389,071	\$1,793,916	\$140,365
Landowner Incentive Program	\$799,800	\$372,769	\$481,413	\$318,387
Outreach and Community Engagement	\$637,201	\$526,624	\$680,109	\$(42,908)
Member Jurisdiction	\$1,533,254	\$1,275,437	\$1,647,163	\$(113,909)
Total	\$8,036,332	\$6,083,448	\$7,856,469	\$179,863

¹ In accordance with guidelines, best practices and standards recommended by the Washington Municipal Research and Services Center <<http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Finance/Accounting-and-Internal-Controls/Cost-Allocation.aspx>>; the State Auditors Office <https://www.sao.wa.gov/bars_gaap/accounting/interfund-activities/overhead-cost-allocation/> and Government finance Officers Association <<https://www.gfoa.org/indirect-cost-allocation>> King Conservation District allocates operations and overhead indirect costs such as desks, computers, internet software, cell phones, printing, board operations and employee supplies on a per FTE basis. The 2018 overhead factor is \$29,000.00 per FTE.

² In programs where the 2018 actual expenses exceed 2018 Plan of Work budgeted expenses, the difference is covered through grants, additional revenue, or funds drawn from KCD reserves.

While all funds allocated to the Landowner Incentive Program were not utilized in 2018, the unspent balance was encumbered and applied to the Program.

The Shorelines Program includes the USDA funded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) <<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-enhancement/index>>. Because of constraints associated with the program, implementation in King County continues to be challenging, causing the program to fall short of expected expenditures.



OPERATIONS

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

General Overhead

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

Finance

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

Human Resources

Human Resources provides recommendations and strategies for recruitment and employee development, growth and retention. HR's priorities are clustered in eight categories: compensation, HRIS technology, planning, performance management, professional development, workforce recruitment, strategic planning and work culture enhancement.

HR works closely with the Board and ED to update its salary schedule and performance-based compensation system, update the personnel policy and employee benefit programs, review employee career development and training programs, and maintain KCD's employee records, as well as maintain team building initiatives with staff.

Legal and Related

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

Get Involved

IT STARTS WITH YOU

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Local Food, Healthy Forests, Clean Water