



2019 Annual Report

BETTER GROUND

Replenishing Our Region



Hannah Letinich Photo

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.

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FAREWELL AND THANK YOU

Letter from the Chair



It is a bittersweet moment for me, writing this introductory letter to King Conservation District's 2019 Annual Report. 2019 marks the end of KCD's 2015 5-year work plan, brought about through intensive regional collaboration, and it marks my final year

of serving on this Board of Supervisors.

As a member of the Rural Forest Commission, I was invited to serve on the King Conservation District-King County Task Force in 2013 and became part of the coalition that helped shepherd in the organization's new role in the region. I stayed on as a member of

its Advisory Committee to help draft our actual work plan, and then moved to the Board and, eventually, the role of Chair.

It has been an honor and a privilege to work with the dedicated and excellent staff at KCD and to help build the bridges with our partners that ensure a brighter future for not only this organization but the larger place we all call home. I breathe easy in the knowledge that both are in good hands and many will benefit from the groundwork we've laid.

Thank you all – keep up the good work!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dick Ryon".

Dick Ryon, Board Chair, 2019
King Conservation District

BUILDING ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

Letter from the Executive Director



Closing one door – and opening another. That is the context we find ourselves in at KCD as we close out our 2015 5-year program of work and look ahead to the next five years. This KCD 2019 Annual Report not only outlines the accomplishments and challenges of this past

year, but summarizes the cumulative body of work that officially wraps up with the end of 2019.

Stepping into 2020 is stepping into a future that builds on the solid foundation of this recent past, stepping

into uncertainty as a pandemic rages around us, stepping into innovation for delivering high quality service and programs in the face of unprecedented challenges.

But, we are ready. Conservation districts have always been innovators. Agile, dedicated, and people-centric, we are entering our next chapter fully prepared to bring our expertise, tools, and creativity to the critical need of ensuring that the residents of King County and Puget Sound live in an environmentally healthy, equitable, and resilient place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bea Covington".

Bea Covington, Executive Director
King Conservation District

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.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

49,719 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	3 CITIES Partnered with to Improve Urban Tree Canopy	1,925 Volunteer Hours Donated
68,355 Native Plants Distributed Through Native Plant Sale	10+ Communities Partnered with to Reduce Wildfire Risks	400+ Stewards Educated
18 Acres Rural Forest Stewarded	\$560,000 Awarded to Bolster Our Regional Food System	181 Farmers Served
1.21 MILES Shorelines Habitat Improved	>\$1.5 MILLION Awarded to Member Jurisdictions	178 Acres Farmland Production Improved and Renewed

2015-2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

327,068 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	31 CITIES Partnered with to Improve Urban Tree Canopy	12,432 Volunteer Hours Donated
295,207 Native Plants Distributed Through Native Plant Sale	40+ Communities Partnered with to Reduce Wildfire Risks	3,000+ Stewards Educated
338 Acres Rural Forest Stewarded	>\$4 MILLION Awarded to Bolster Our Regional Food System	1154 Farmers Served
9.93 MILES Shorelines Habitat Improved	>\$6.5 MILLION Awarded to Member Jurisdictions	1125 Acres Farmland Production Improved and Renewed

FIVE YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2013, King Conservation District and King County convened a regional task force to explore KCD's unique role and capacity in King County. The opportunities identified through the task force informed KCD's 2015-2019 Program of Work, officially laid out in the KCD Implementation Plan and 5-year Interlocal Agreement (ILA) entered into with King County. These opportunities included expanding existing services and developing new programs to reduce barriers to local food, expand urban tree canopy and protect rural forests, and improve water quality in urban areas.

Accomplishments

Over the last five years, KCD has successfully developed robust programs around these needs. Our programming offers education, technical assistance, and funding to help individuals and communities steward their natural resources. KCD staff also contribute their technical knowledge to regional concerns through working groups, commissions, and partnerships.

We have educated over 3000 people on how they can develop cleaner water, healthier forests, and better agricultural practices on their lands and in their communities. Volunteers have donated over 12,000 hours to help KCD implement natural resource projects and engage the public at more than 400 events.

Through the Member Jurisdiction and Regional Food Grants programs, KCD has reinvested \$10.5 million dollars to bolster our regional food system and support community-driven conservation and equity programs across King County.

Rural services, including farm planning and equipment loans, has helped more than 1000 farmers and livestock owners plan and implement practices to improve water quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat.

KCD's Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program has worked with King County to improve and renew farmland production on 1,125 acres. Meanwhile, our Community Agriculture Program has helped dozens of new and fledgling community gardens take root and thrive.

Nearly 10 miles and 70 acres of shorelines and riparian habitat have been improved through 100 projects leading to healthier streams and other water bodies that promote fish and wildlife.

Our forest services have partnered with over 40 communities to reduce wildfire risk, engaged roughly 300 small lot forest landowners in planning and implementing best management practices, and partnered with almost every city in our jurisdiction on projects to improve urban tree canopy.

Challenges

The 2015-2019 program of work laid out ambitious goals for KCD programs. In many cases, goals that were known from the outset to depend on funding and resources not allocated or accounted for in 2015. Looking through this report, you can see where we were able to meet targets, and where we fell short. We carry with us into our next 5-year program of work the strong programmatic foundations laid, lessons learned, and perhaps most importantly - secured funding for all of our planned body of work.

What's Next

In 2019, KCD again worked with the KCD Advisory Committee, partners, stakeholders, and local governments to renew our priorities and enter into a new 2020-2024 ILA with King County. In a 9-0 vote, the King County Council affirmed KCD's unique role in the region and approved secure funding that provides the funding needed to ensure the successful implementation of our programs.



Hannah Letinich Photo

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

KCD Outreach and Education Programs work to empower King County residents to become better stewards of their natural resources by building awareness of beneficial conservation practices and connecting people with KCD programs and resources.

Orca Recovery Day

In 2019, Conservation Districts spearheaded the Second Annual Orca Recovery Day, coordinating 109 partner organizations to hold more than 70 events across Washington, Oregon, California, and British Columbia to educate, implement, and connect people with conservation practices that increase water quality and benefit struggling Orca Populations in the Puget Sound and across the West. In total, these events planted nearly 17,000 native plants over 33 acres of vital habitat.

KCD led two Orca Recovery Day events, one on the City of Bothell's Parr Creek and another on a tributary of Longfellow Creek in West Seattle. 63 volunteers helped KCD and our partners remove blackberry, ivy, bamboo, and other invasive species and plant several hundred native trees and shrubs along the streams that will increase water quality and habitat health.

Northwest Flower & Garden Show

KCD staff and volunteers host informational tables at events across King County to raise awareness of beneficial conservation practices and connect people with our services. Tabling typically engages several hundred people at a large event. In 2019, KCD embarked on the ambitious undertaking of building a model show garden at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. These show gardens are the highlight of the festival and are seen by its more than 60,000 attendees. Our 'Better Ground Garden' highlighted approachable, environmentally friendly practices that people can enact such as utilizing native plants, practices for soil conservation and nutrient retention,



erosion prevention, and rainwater catchment and increased the visibility of these practices and conservation district services.

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	2019 Actual	2015-2019
Volunteers	528 Volunteers 40+ Events 1,925 Volunteer Hours	3,687 Volunteers 447 Events 12,432 Volunteer Hours
K-12 Field Days / Carpentry for Critters	1 Event 100 Students	9 Events 1,753 Students
K-12 Stormwater Education	0 Students	1,112 Students
Farm Tours and Special Agricultural Classes	4 Tours; 89 Participants 5 Classes; 71 Participants	35 Tours; 820 Participants 36 Classes; 509 Participants
Land & Water Stewardship Workshops	0 Workshops; 0 Participants	32 Workshops; 284 Participants



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.

Volunteer

KCD's Volunteer Program supports KCD engagement activities as well as implementation of conservation efforts. It increases public awareness of all KCD programs and services and offers volunteers knowledge about local natural resource management, such as restoration of watershed functions, and hands-on experience implementing practices to address those concerns. Program goals focus on recruiting and connecting new volunteers to project-based learning opportunities and building partnerships with agencies and organizations to address mutual service-learning goals.

**40
EVENTS**

**528
VOLUNTEERS**

**1,925
HOURS
DONATED**



GRANTS TO HELP REPLENISH OUR REGION

KCD sets aside \$1.2 million of collected rates and charges funds for 35 jurisdictions. A portion of those funds is available for each jurisdiction based on the number of parcels collected from in that city. The funds can be utilized directly by jurisdictions for conservation projects within their boundaries. Jurisdictions may elect to apply for a grant to implement projects or to contract directly with KCD to deliver project services.

Jurisdictions may accrue funds from year-to-year in order to support larger projects and they may also partner with each another to leverage resources to implement conservation projects.



¹ Rounded to the nearest \$100.

Algona - \$6,400

Futurewise - Algona Wetland Education and Enhancement Project

Auburn - \$20,000

2019 Auburn International Farmers Market for Marketing and Demonstrations

Bellevue - \$20,000

Lewis Creek Park Interpretive Signage

Bellevue - \$20,000

Coal Creek Natural Area Phase 2 Interpretive Signage

Bellevue - \$25,000

Bellevue Botanic Garden Native Discovery Garden Enhancement Project Phase 2

Bellevue - \$50,000

Bellevue Parks Open Space Forest Health Assessment

Burien - \$52,600

EarthCorps - 2019 to 2020 Seahurst Park Shoreline and Forest Vegetation Stewardship

Burien - \$29,300

Coastal Geologic Services, Inc. - 2019 Seahurst Park South and North Beach Monitoring

Clyde Hill - \$2,200

2017 Arbor Day Celebration

Clyde Hill - \$1,900

2018 Arbor Day Celebration

Des Moines - \$13,000

2019 Low Income Senior Healthy Eating Initiative

Issaquah - \$80,000

Green Issaquah City-Wide Forest Health Assessment

Kent - \$143,700

Urban-Natural Area Management Plan
(Phases 1 and 2) Development

Kirkland - \$12,800

Pet Waste Bacteria Monitoring, Education,
and Outreach

Newcastle - \$15,000

Newcastle Citizen Survey: Stormwater Awareness,
Attitudes, and Behavior

Renton - \$16,900

2019 Renton Farmers Market

Renton - \$12,900

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) -
Renton Spill Kit Incentive Program

Sammamish - \$29,900

2019 Stormwater Outreach

Seattle - \$74,200

Duwamish Tribal Services - "Duwamish Ridge to River"
Linked Trail System with Associated Water Quality
Monitoring (Puget Creek)

Seattle - \$60,000

EarthCorps - Yes Farm - Farm Manager

Seattle - \$70,000

Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team
(FEEST) - Youth-led Healthy Food in Seattle Schools

Seattle - \$75,000

InterIm Community Development Association - Youth
Development Support for Environmental Justice

**Seattle - \$70,000**

Rainier Valley Corps dba Rainier Beach Action
Coalition - Food Justice Fellowship

Seattle - \$75,000

Young Women Empowered - Y-WE Nature
Connections

Seattle - \$58,900

YouthCare - YouthGrow Garden Program

Shoreline - \$27,300

2019 Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Habitat
Restoration

Shoreline - \$37,000

Master Native Plant Stewards Ecological Restoration

King County - \$210,000

2019 Keeping Farmers Farming, King County
Agriculture Program

Multiple (Auburn, Des Moines, Kent, Tukwila, Normandy Park, Renton and Burien) - \$27,200

Environmental Science Center - Environmental
Heroes: Improving Watershed Health and Salmon
Habitat through Education and Outreach

Multiple (Des Moines, SeaTac, and Normandy Park) - \$40,000

Des Moines Area Food Bank - On-the-Grow Learning
Garden Truck 2019-20



KCD provides education, technical services and financial assistance to help landowners and land managers implement natural resource management

practices that protect water quality, conserve soil 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. This is done by educating and empowering landowners through workshops, one-on-one education and technical assistance to steward natural resources. KCD’s education prioritizes residents across King County whose properties include or abut water bodies that are important to the health of Puget Sound and salmon. Workshops are structured to empower marine landowners, streamside property owners, urban residents and rural land and farm owners.

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat	5-Year Plan	2019	2015-2019
Where the Water Begins - Marine Shoreline Landowner Education	Engage 600 Marine Shoreline Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	3 Workshops; 59 Participants	15 Workshops; 375 Participants
Our Land/ Our Water and Beautify & Care for Your Streamside Property	Engage 1,100 Freshwater Aquatic Area Landowners in Workshops	11 Workshop; 178 Participants	50 Workshops; 623 Participants



14
WORKSHOPS
237
PARTICIPANTS

RURAL LAND STEWARDSHIP

Farmers are the stewards of over 60,000 acres in King County. Enabling their stewardship of shared water, soil and habitat resources requires supporting those efforts in meaningful ways.

Rural Land Stewardship provides natural resource technical assessments, recommendations and farm conservation planning services to farm and livestock owners. A 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	2019	2015-2019
Farm Planning Services	750 Farm Service Customers 340 Farm Conservation Plans 10 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans	181 Farm Service Customers 45 Farm Conservation Plans 0 Dairy Nutrient Management Plan(s)	1,154 Farm Service Customers 292 Farm Conservation Plans 5 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans
Site Visits	...	99 Site Visits	715 Site Visits
Follow Ups	750 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	9 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits	825 Farm Plan Follow-Up Visits
Equipment Loans	250 Landowners	39 Landowners	217 Landowners
Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)	\$1,218,750 in cost share to implement best management practices	\$77,090	\$1,033,213

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



INTENSIVE ROTATIONAL GRAZING FIELD DAY

KCD staff coordinated a tour of Wild Canary Farm (formerly K-T Cattle Company) to learn how KCD Board Supervisor Jim Haack and his wife Katie raise Animal Welfare Approved and Certified Grass Fed beef through intensive rotational grazing.

The Haack's highlighted pasture health best management practices and KCD staff demonstrated equipment available to farmers and landowners through the Equipment Share Program, including a manure spreader, drop spreader, no-till seed drill, hay probe and weed wrenches.

Participants were treated to a locally sourced/prepared lunch sponsored by King-Pierce Farm Bureau.

Each year, KCD coordinates events introducing new farmers and rural landowners to conservation best management practices and connects them with KCD services.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION/IMPROVEMENT



COOPERATOR SPOTLIGHT: TRISH AND LEE

KCD Cooperators Trish Borden and Lee Valenta partnered with KCD in 2019 to do a streamside enhancement project through KCD's Urban Shorelines Program. This resulted in removal of invasive weeds, such as yellow flag iris and Himalayan blackberry, and then planting of nearly 700 native trees and shrubs along their reach of Bowman Creek.

Also in 2019, Trish and Lee completed WSU Extension's Forest Stewardship Coached Planning course and wrote a Forest Stewardship Plan with help from KCD's Forest Stewardship Program.

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. KCD works with these residents to identify and provide the resources and assistance they need to improve habitat.

Program Highlights

Shorelines and Riparian Habitat	5-Year Plan ¹	2019	2015-2019
Rural and Urban Freshwater Shorelines Protection and Enhancement Services	18 Miles of Shoreline Replanted and Enhanced	1.21 Miles ²	9.93 Miles ²
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	235 Acres of Riparian Corridor Replanted and Enhanced	11.77 Acres ²	71.74 Acres ²
Marine Shorelines	21,559 Native Trees and Shrubs ²	21,559 Native Trees and Shrubs ²	151,445 Native Trees and Shrubs ²
Wetland Plant Cooperative	575,500 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted		
Bareroot Plant Sale			
Rural and Urban Shorelines and Riparian Habitat Improvement Projects	100 Aquatic Area Projects Planned and Implemented (25 Acres/9 Miles) Freshwater Aquatic Area)	13 Projects ³ 8.56 Acres ³ 1.21 Miles ³	97 Projects ³ 52.08 Acres ³ 8.68 Miles ³
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	20-40 CREP Projects (30 Acres/7.5 Miles) Planned and Implemented	0 Projects Implemented ¹ Planning Year	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	\$130,854 ⁴	\$700,771.60 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.



MERCER ISLAND STUDENTS HELP ENHANCE PINE CREEK

Students from the City of Mercer Island's VOICE Program volunteered their time to support a KCD Urban Shoreline project in Sammamish. The students carefully laid out cardboard and mulch around young native plants along Pine Lake Creek to suppress the tall grasses and help retain moisture. They learned about the many functions of native plant buffers along shorelines and the importance of native plants.

During the event, we were visited by the community leader with the Home Owners Association that KCD partnered with to implement the project. She shared her story about organizing her neighbors to work with KCD and how the site used to be covered in sprawling blackberry brambles and English Ivy overtaking the tall trees along the creek. The team made it through 10 cubic yards of mulch protecting the many types of native trees and shrubs that will make this site a more healthy and resilient ecosystem.



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

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

KCD provides wildfire risk assessments to 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.

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

Program Highlights

Wildfire Services Provide	2019	2015-2019
Chipper Days	1 Events Including 35 Homes	12 Events Including 345 Homes
Community Outreach/ Education Presentation	8 Events; 174 Attendees	18 Event With 300 Attendees
Firewise Community Check-In	1 Community With 20 Homes	4 Communities With 90 Homes
Fuels Reduction Projects	0 Projects	3 Project Covering 2.15 Acres
New Community Firewise Plan	1 Community Firewise Plan Including 25 Homes	4 Community Firewise Plan Including 101 Homes
Neighborhood Wildfire Hazard Evaluation	1 Evaluations Including 25 Homes	5 Evaluations Including 105 Homes

300
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS

641
HOMES

13
COMMUNITIES
ENGAGED

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 tree canopy across King County's urban landscapes is critical to climate change resilience, especially in south King County. These cities and communities have a dramatic lack of canopy while their residents 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.

From 2015-2019, KCD will have completed 37 Urban Forest Stewardship Projects in 31 of our 34 member jurisdictions. 2019 projects include

- 1** SeaTac - Community Forest Stewardship at North SeaTac Park
- 2** Lake Forest Park - Private Landowner and Community Forest Stewardship.
- 3** Snoqualmie - Quantifying Stormwater Benefit of Publicly-Managed Forest

Program Highlights

5-Year Plan ¹	2019	2015-2019
70 Acres of Urban Forest/Upland Treated and Planted	9.92 Acres Treated/Planted	76.32 Acres Treated/Planted
172,000 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	25,829 Trees and Shrubs Planted	111,993 Trees and Shrubs Planted
Engage 15 Jurisdictions in Urban Forest Retention and Restoration Initiatives	3 Jurisdictions Engaged 3 New Jurisdictions Engaged	31 Jurisdictions Engaged through 37 Projects
15 Round Tables Facilitated	1 Body Engaged 4 Times (4 Urban Forest initiative Working Group)	3 Bodies Engaged 27 Times (UFIWG Engaged 18 Times, Regional TCA Round Table 4 Times, K4C Engaged 5 times)
\$750,000 in project funding	\$150,000	\$757,678.50

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

SMALL LOT FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Over 40,000 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, they represent a vast resource that contributes to the overall health of our community and offer an 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. It provides landowners with educational 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	2019 Actual	2015-2019
1125 Acres of Rural Forest/Woodlot Treated and Planted	18.20 Acres Treated and Planted, Additional 61.95 Contracted ²	337.65 Acres Treated and Planted, additional 61.95 acres Contracted
90,000-180,000 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted	3,463 Trees and Shrubs Planted ³	64,763 Native Trees and Shrubs Planted
Engage 90 Small Forest Landowners in Planning and Implementing BMPs	138 Landowners Engaged	269 Landowners Engaged
5 WSU Coached Forest Stewardship Courses	3 in Person and 1 Online Courses	7 in Person and 5 Online Courses
\$750,000 in cost share with small acreage rural forest landowners	\$126,801.03	\$765,988.77

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



LAKE ALICE COMMUNITY

On a beautiful Saturday morning, Lake Alice community members were geared up and ready to go. The community organized a chipper day to reduce fuels on their properties. Stacks of fire-prone understory brush and downed tree limbs located near homes were cleared out and piled up on the roadside. Devoted Tree Solutions provided an industrial chipper, truck, and a crew to work them, while a team of community members assisted the professionals, hauling armloads of woody debris that would be turned into woodchips and reused in community landscaping projects.

Communities like Lake Alice take charge of their wildfire preparedness with the help of resources and support from King Conservation District's wildfire planning services. KCD can help you and your community complete wildfire risk assessments and develop wildfire community action plans.



REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM

KCD's Regional Food System program was launched in 2015 in response to stakeholder and regional partner input. It 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.

Three key areas address the need 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 2019 grant round, KCD awarded \$600,000¹ in competitive grants to innovative and diverse projects across King County.

Program Outcomes 2015–2019

Awarded 66 grants totalling \$4,173,480 leveraging \$2,291,062 of matching funds and \$931,210 of in-kind contributions.

Program Outcomes 2019

Awarded 9 grants totalling \$559,605 leveraging \$253,162 of matching funds and \$306,443 of in-kind contributions.

Regional Food System Competitive Grants

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Agriculture Program - \$70,000

Irrigation Water Needs Assessment (and Solutions for Unmet current and Future Demand)

New Start Community Garden - \$10,000

Garden Produce for School Lunches

PCC Farmland Trust - \$100,000

Working Farmland Partnership

Seattle Good Business Network - \$100,000

Building Local Food Connections: Conference, Events, Communication

SnoValley Tilth - \$94,335

Sound Tenure Alternatives for Small Farms

South King County Food Coalition - \$100,000

Food Access and Aggregation Community Team Site Exploration

Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust - \$6,000

Matsuda Farm to Vashon Schools.

World Relief Seattle - \$99,999

Teaching and Commercial Kitchen

¹ Values rounded to nearest \$1,000. Grant conditionals may lead to total awarded differing from total funded.

Strategic Initiatives

KCD's Regional Food System funds and engages in Strategic Initiatives 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 2019, KCD supported the following Strategic Initiatives:

King County Infrastructure Study - 2019 Funding \$30,000

Provide recommendations for development of a multi-function food facility or facilities, including mix of attributes, locations, financial feasibility, ownership, and organizational structures for operation, and sources of capital and financing approaches..

Dairy Support Phase 1 - 2017 Funding \$55,000

Develop and implement a strategy for a comprehensive survey of dairy farms in King County with the intention of developing future technical assistance, resources, marketing, research and education programs to support their continued economic viability and health.

KCD Regional Food System Program Response to Covid 19- 2019 Funding \$100,000

Utilization of Regional Food System Program Strategic Initiative Grant funding to support expanded farm to food bank efforts, specifically, Harvest Against Hungers' (HAH) King County Farmers Share (KCFS) project.

AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE ASSISTANCE

King County has an estimated 1,800 farms on over 47,000 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.

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 2019, KCD used Flood Control District funds to work with over thirty farmers to implement dredging projects, replace culverts, and install bridges. In 2019, a total of 15,331 linear feet (2.9 miles) were dredged bringing 45.6 new acres into production and improving production on another 132.4 acres. From 2015 to 2019, these efforts renewed production on 383.6 acres and improved production on 741.4 acres.¹

¹ Some acre designations have been changed and production totals

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

5-Year Plan ¹	2019	2015-2019
Expand Soil Nutrient Testing Program By 1000 New Users	1,481 Tests	7,473 Tests
Engage 500 New Gardeners	Engaged 200 New Gardeners	Engaged 1,790 New Gardeners
Cover Crop Seed Give Away	200 Gardeners Educated And Given Cover Crop Seeds	635 Gardeners Educated And Given Cover Crop Seeds
100 New Technical Assists	4 New Assists and Continuing Support For Previous Projects	27 New Assists and Continuing Support For Previous Projects
Yards GroCo® Compost Distributed	156.1 Yards Of GroCo® Compost Distributed To 15 Community Gardens	486.1 Yards Of GroCo® Compost Distributed To >36 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 challenges faced by municipal codes is addressed in the KCD Community Agriculture Conservation Guide.



CITY SOIL FARM

City Soil Farm is a 1.5 acre demonstration farm partnership between King Conservation District, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, DIRTCorps, and White Center Food Bank. The farm hosts school tours, youth programs, and public education events.

In 2019, KCD worked with Carnation Farms' Rooted Teens program to bring 10 farmers-in-training out to the farm 1 to 2 times per month to help with projects and get hands-on training.

Along with educational offerings, City Soil prioritizes planting crops based on the needs of White Center Food Bank. In 2019, the farm produced over 3,000 pounds of food to the food bank.



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.

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

Management Plans.

KCD Reimburses from 50%-90% of approved projects depending on the natural resource management practice.

Program Highlights

In 2019, the Landowner Incentive Program awarded 43 new contracts for \$599,573, 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	15	193.35	50	\$77,089.50
Rural Forest Health Management	8	See Better Forests - Small Lot Forest Stewardship for Metrics	N/A	\$126,801.03
Urban Forest Health Management	N/A	See Better Forests - Urban Forest Stewardship Section for Metrics	N/A	\$150,000.00
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	20	See Better Water - Riparian Restoration/Improvement Section for Metrics	N/A	\$245,682.91
TOTALS	43	193.35	50	\$599,573.44

Landowner Incentive Program ¹	5-Year Plan	2019	2015-2019 Actual
Agricultural and Livestock Management	\$1,218,750.00	\$77,089.50	\$1,033,213.27
Forest Health Management	\$1,500,000.00 ²	\$276,801.03 ^{3&4}	\$1,493,826.27
Freshwater Aquatic Area Enhancement	\$562,000.00	\$245,682.91	\$832,527.96
TOTALS	\$3,280,750	\$599,573.44	\$3,359,567.50⁵

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 2015-2019 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 5 years in the 5-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.

NATIVE PLANT SALE



King County residents love native plants because they're hardy, beautiful, and easy to maintain. KCD's Native Bareroot Plant Sale provides landowners, organizations, schools and government agencies with low-cost bareroot native plant material to improve habitat and landscape naturally. In addition, plant sale customers receive assistance on species selection, information on installing and maintaining plants and recommendations related to habitat enhancement.

Program Highlights

The 2019 Bareroot Plant Sale Program provided over 68,000 native trees and shrubs to 1,102 customers, establishing 9.42 acres of enhanced upland and 3.14 acres of enhanced shoreline. KCD's Native Plant Sale has provided over 295,000 native trees and shrubs to over 4,500 customers from 2015-2019.

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. In particular, community groups 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 crew members, and volunteers. This arrangement allows the nursery to provide cost-effective plants for restoration projects.

KCD NATIVE PLANTS



Andy and Mandy Gregory used plants from KCD's Native Plant Sale and City of Shoreline's Soak It Up rebate program to install this beautiful rain garden on their property.



Jeanne Hannah spent the last four decades working to create a streamside wildlife sanctuary at her home in Cottage Lake Creek in Woodinville. For many years she has relied on KCD's Native Plant Sale to help install the thousands of plants that make up her streamside buffer and she has sockeye, chinook, trout and other wildlife return to the stream.

BUDGET

	2019 Adopted Plan of Work	2019 Year End Actual (Rates and Charges)	2019 Year End Total (including operations and overhead) ¹	Difference Between Plan of Work and Actual ²
Local Food				
Local Food System	\$1,285,392	\$1,018,158	\$1,258,868	\$(26,523)
Rural Farm Planning Services	\$906,608	\$605,325	\$748,434	\$158,174
Urban Farm Planning Services	\$75,873	\$86,705	\$107,204	\$(31,331)
Healthy Forests				
Urban and Rural Forest Services	\$560,238	\$618,317	\$764,498	\$(204,260)
Clean Water				
Shoreline and Riparian Services	\$1,774,274	\$1,311,242	\$1,621,242	\$153,032
Landowner Incentive Program	\$720,834	\$597,483	\$738,738	\$(17,904)
Outreach and Community Engagement	\$627,832	\$463,851	\$573,513	\$54,319
Member Jurisdiction	\$1,589,974	\$1,279,660	\$1,582,194	\$7,780
Total	\$7,541,025	\$5,980,741	\$7,394,692	\$146,333

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. 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.

² In programs where the 2019 actual expenses exceed 2019 Plan of Work budgeted expenses, the difference is covered through grants, additional revenue, or funds drawn from KCD reserves.

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 Elected to KCD's Board in 2014, Dick brings 20 years of 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 offers continuity of regional natural resource priorities from his participation on the 2013 King County/KCD Task Force/Conservation Panel and continues to seek collaboration opportunities on those priorities with partner organizations.



Burr Mosby, Vice-Chair A first generation farmer, Burr started farming in 1977. Today Mosby Farms grows vegetables on 350 acres in the valleys of Auburn, Sumner and Orting and supplies produce houses, grocery chains and restaurants in the Pacific Northwest, as well as donating to area food banks. Being a good steward of the land is of utmost priority for the future of agriculture, and Burr shares his knowledge from a farmer's perspective.



Bill Knutsen, Secretary/Auditor Bill is a now-retired third generation dairy farmer. He graduated from Northshore schools and earned his bachelor's degree from Central Washington College School of Business. Bill is married, with a son and a daughter and six grandchildren. He ran a thriving dairy business with his family in the Bothell area for many years. He has also been a King County Ag Commissioner and was president of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association which was charged with helping farmers operate profitably.



Jim Haack, Supervisor Jim joined KCD Advisory Committee in 2014 to chart KCD's future in supporting conservation across the region. His role with numerous other dedicated stakeholders helped guide the implementation of the KCD/King County Conservation Panel and Task Force recommendations. Jim's boyhood experiences in the Ozark hills built his conservation values, including passion for land and livestock. Jim and his wife moved their young family to the Snoqualmie Valley 15 years ago.



Kirstin Haugen, Supervisor Kirstin joined the Board of Supervisors in 2019. She is passionate about saving our Southern Resident orcas, salmon conservation, and combating climate change. Kirstin is a dedicated community volunteer and served as a Cascadia College trustee, 4Culture board member, and King County Charter Review Commissioner. She previously worked on public policy at the King County Council and a public affairs firm. Kirstin received her Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington.



Rachel Molloy, Associate Supervisor Rachel is dedicated to ensuring our farmlands, communities and natural resources are maintained and supported. She believes that a focus on resiliency and adaptation, accessibility of quality vetted information, effective resource deployment, efficiency and conservation of resources can safeguard and future-proof lands in King County. She brings over 20 years of experience in farm-based biofuels, energy, climate, composting.



Chris Porter, Associate Supervisor Chris is a beekeeper who recognizes that a cleaner, healthier environment for the survival of bees is necessary. Bees are a critical component in sustaining our food chain and are also like the "canary in the coal mine". Their survival is at great risk, along with the fruit grown on trees, vegetables planted in gardens and crops farmers plant and harvest to feed all. More than one of three bites of food eaten is there because of pollinators.



OPERATIONS

KCD's Operations Program focuses on managing the processes to produce and distribute products and services to internal and external partners, including managing purchases, inventory control, quality control, storage, logistics and evaluation of processes. The flow of information among human resources, accounting, inventory control, and other assets, planning and decision making is made easier by facilitation of efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Operations management includes measurement and analysis of internal processes and the 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. Largest expenses in this category are rent, utilities, office equipment, information technology 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 recommends strategies for employee recruitment, development, growth and retention. Priorities are as follows: compensation, HRIS technology, planning, performance, professional development, recruitment, strategic planning and work culture enhancement.

HR works closely with KCD's Board and Executive Director to update the salary schedule and performance-based compensation system, update personnel policy and employee benefit programs, review employee career development and training programs, and maintain KCD's employee records.

Legal and Related

KCD's Executive Director and Director of Operations and Human Resources oversee the day-to-day contracting and regulatory interpretation as well as respond to and monitor all legal actions that impact the organization. KCD 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,
KCD CAN HELP**

kingcd.org

P 425-282-1900

district@kingcd.org

800 SW 39th Street, Suite 150

Renton, WA 98057



**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
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