



Events & Opportunities



Ranchworx Soil Aerator Demonstration

09:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sunday, September 8th
Key Peninsula

Join us as we demonstrate the Ranchworx aerator! This reliable, easy-to-use and low maintenance piece of machinery utilizes blades to fracture and break-up compacted soil. With the ability to seed at the same time as aeration, your fields will benefit from the reduced number of tractor passings you previously needed to make. This demonstration workshop intends to showcase how the use of the aerator will increase long-term, on-farm carbon sequestration while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Come see how the Ranchworx aerator can benefit your property and meet your management goals.

[Register](#)



Monthly Board of Supervisors Meeting

September 11th from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
In Person at PCD Office and Virtual

Open to the public. Our monthly Board of Supervisors meeting to update work accomplished and future plans.

[Calendar Event](#)

[Agenda](#)



Aerated Composting Workshop

09:00 AM - 10:30 AM
September 21st
Servine Feed, Tack & Boarding; Roy, WA

Whether you have a few horses or operate a horse boarding facility at some point, you will have to deal with the manure and bedding generated by them. Frank Servine owns and operates a large horse boarding facility and has managed the organic materials generated from his business effectively with a forced aeration system since 2017, when it was installed with assistance from the WA State Conservation Commission's Natural Resource Investments grant funding program. Through this compost system he is able to generate safe, high-quality soil amendment that Frank sells, when he previously had to pay to dispose of what was once a waste product for his facility. Pierce CD is hosting a workshop to tour Frank's composting system, and learn how you might apply it to your own property.

[Register](#)



Managing Horses on Pastures Workshop

06:00 PM - 07:15 PM
Monday, September 30th
Virtual

Join Pierce Conservation District and Alayne Bickle (from [Horses for Clean Water](#)) as she discusses proper techniques for horse pasture management and how they mesh perfectly with climate resilience and horse health. You will learn how to create a confinement area to avoid overgrazing along with other management techniques like spreading compost, implementing rotational grazing, winter pasture care, and basic weed control. We will also discuss sugars in pasture grasses, what constitutes a "lush" pasture, and how this weaves into horse health. This is a great opportunity to learn best practices for managing horses from an expert in the field. Time will be provided for questions and discussion following Alayne's presentation.

[Register](#)



Fall Urban Tree Sale Preorders Open

Until November

Want to beat the heat while improving your local water quality without breaking the bank? Consider purchasing a tree at a discounted price through Pierce Conservation District's Urban Tree Sale! Planting trees is a great way to reduce temperatures around your home, improve air quality, and reduce impacts of stormwater pollution. Twice a year, PCD offers a selection of 5-7 gallon, 10+ foot tall trees for a discounted price of only \$10-\$30! Along with your purchase you will be invited to a free, virtual workshop that includes information on the benefits of trees, step-by-step planting directions to give your trees the best chance at survival. You'll even receive a watering bucket to

provide a deep watering for your tree! **Preorders are open, with pick up in November.**

[Register](#)



Fall Edible Garden Classes

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Saturdays in Fall
Virtual and In-Person

As the gardening season winds down, we're excited to offer a few more free Edible Gardens classes to wrap up our series. From September through October, we'll be hosting sessions on fruit trees, composting, seed saving, and preparing your garden for winter. We hope you can join us!

[More Information](#)

[Register](#)



Fall Fruit Tree Gleaning

Various Times
Various Days
Various Locations throughout Pierce County

The County's fruit trees have begun to bear their bounty and we are ramping up our efforts to ensure that no fruit goes to waste. We're in urgent need of volunteers to help us complete our gleaning mission. Every year, countless pounds of fruit from backyard trees are left unpicked, contributing to the County's food waste. At Pierce Conservation District, we're committed to mitigating this waste by collecting and sharing this fruit with hunger relief organizations throughout the community. By volunteering, you play a vital role in rescuing fresh, nutritious food and ensuring it reaches those who need it most.

[Register](#)



Saving Seeds With Purpose

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Pierce Conservation District Office, Puyallup

Seed saving is more than just a method of gardening; it's a way to take control of our food sources, creating hyperlocal varieties that are uniquely adapted to the conditions of our region. By observing and participating in the complete life cycle of a plant - from seed to sprout, to fruit, and back to seed - we gain a profound understanding of the natural processes that sustain us. One of the exciting ways we can share the fruits of our labor is by contributing saved seeds to local seed libraries, such as the one at the Farm at Franklin Pierce Schools. By donating seeds you've saved, you help build a stronger, more resilient local food system that benefits everyone in the community.

[Learn More](#)



Thinning Your Forest: A Symposium for Property Owners

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday, October 5th
Preston, WA

Thinning is one of the most important stewardship tools available to property owners. Managing density through thinning is critical to achieve many objectives, including forest health, climate resilience, wildlife and biodiversity, wood production, aesthetics, and development of old growth. The devil is in the details, though. Thinning at the right time, removing the right trees, and using the right professionals make all the difference between meeting your objectives and making a disaster of your property.

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



Deadman's Pond Work Party

Friday, September 6th, 9AM - 12PM
Puyallup

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and English ivy. This streamside habitat supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)

Tacoma South End Depave

Saturday, September 7th, 10AM - 12PM
Tacoma

Join your neighbors to improve Tacoma's South End by depaving a residential property in



preparation for native plants and pollinator-friendly plants.

[Sign Up](#)



Whittier Park Work Party

Saturday, September 7th, 9AM - 12PM

Fircrest

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Canadian thistle. This streamside habitat supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)



Wauhup Lake Work Party

Saturday, September 14th, 9AM - 12PM

Puyallup

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Canadian thistle. This streamside habitat supports water quality, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)



Adriana Hess Work Party

Saturday, September 14th, 9AM - 12PM

Puyallup

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry, non-native trees, and English ivy. This streamside habitat supports water quality, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)



Bradley Lake Work Party

Saturday, September 21st, 9AM - 12PM

Puyallup

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Canadian thistle. This streamside habitat supports water quality, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)



South Prairie Creek Preserve Work Party

Saturday, September 21st, 9AM - 12PM

Orting

Come join PCD as we continue our restoration efforts at South Prairie Creek Preserve as we mulch trees and shrubs!

[Sign Up](#)



Deadman's Pond Work Party

Friday, October 4th, 9AM - 12PM

Puyallup

Activities include caring for existing plantings, mulching and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Canadian thistle. This streamside habitat supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators.

[Sign Up](#)

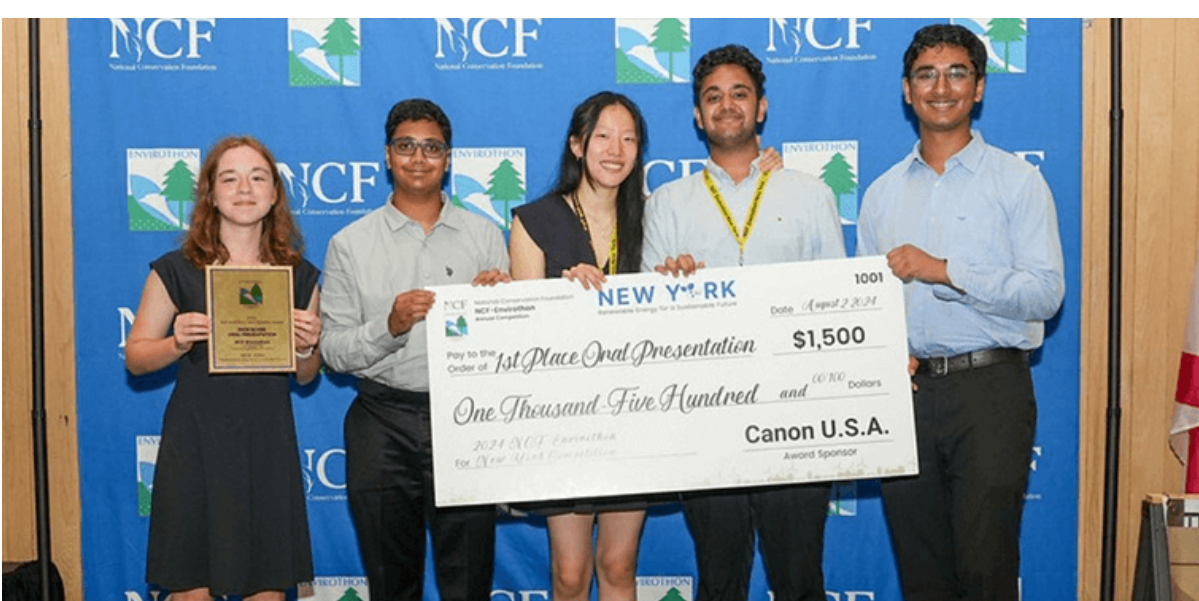
News from Pierce CD



Only a handful of almost 400 pounds of blueberries that were gleaned this month.

Our Biggest Blueberry Glean Yet!

Harvest Pierce County extends a berry big thank you to each of the volunteers who spent their time at our recent blueberry glean. Over the course of three days, we harvested an impressive 399 pounds of blueberries from a field that would have otherwise gone to waste - our biggest haul yet from this location! This field, long abandoned, was brought back to life with the support of Pierce County Public Works, allowing us to gather and share the county's bounty together. If you missed this year's blueberry glean, don't worry, this family-friendly event will return next year!



Congratulations to the Tesla STEM High School Envirothon team!

Washington Envirothon Team Shines on National Stage

After earning top honors at the state competition in May, the Tesla STEM High School Envirothon team took their talents to upstate New York for the North American competition. They spent a week at Hobart and Smith College, putting their skills and

knowledge to the test against teams from around the United States and Canada. When all was said and done, the team placed 11th overall, including a top score in the oral presentation. We want to congratulate the team on their showing and for making Washington proud!



AmeriCorps Member Maddie Snook taught many students using a demonstration model salmon that they made.

Thank you, Maddie!

As summer signals the end of the school year, it also means saying goodbye to an AmeriCorps members who served with us over the past year. Maddie Snook recently completed an AmeriCorps term in the Environmental Education program at Pierce Conservation District. From worm appreciation lessons with 2nd graders, to serving as on-call salmon tank fixer for multiple schools, it was an eventful term for Maddie. We also saw Maddie's creative side, through projects like a pool-noodle red-wiggler worm and a life-size chum salmon plush. We enjoyed having Maddie as a team member and wish them the best as they continue their career in education!



Fun on the Farms With Camp Pierce

It's not every day we get a day at summer camp, but that was the case for Pierce Conservation District staff earlier this month. In partnership with De La Mesa Farms and Rose Island Farm ...

[Read More](#)



Ryan and René: 6 Years of Best Management Practices

Ryan Mensonides is a fifth-generation farmer who runs Providence Farms and Mount Rainier Creamery in Enumclaw, WA, and Mountain View Dairy in Graham, WA. With the help of ...

[Read More](#)



Compost: Saving Soil Health, One Pile at a Time

Picture this: a plot of prime farming land with a riparian buffer, tucked away just south of Puyallup and Sumner, WA. Since 1903, this land has been the host for many different crops...

[Read More](#)

Director's Corner

"My work makes a meaningful impact, and I am proud of it." Exceedingly true this month at PCD! Staff did some amazing work out at De La Mesa Farms and Rose Island Farm this month with Camp Pierce.

I also encourage you to check out [a new storymap](#) that Kyrstin, from our Habitat Team put together on South Prairie Creek Preserve. So much good work is getting done out there!

As fall settles in there are many new ways to get involved with PCD's work. Whether you volunteer with us at a restoration work party, attend a farm workshop or help us make Pierce County a little greener, we can't wait to connect with you to make that meaningful impact!

- Executive Director, Dana Coggon.

In the Conservation Community

[Thurston Conservation District's Native Bulb & Seed Sale](#) - A great opportunity for you to purchase affordable native bulbs like camas, larkspur and packets of native seed species that support local pollinator populations. Preorders open now through September 15th.

[Tacoma Tree Foundation Branch Out](#) - PCD is partnering with the Tacoma Tree Foundation and City of Tacoma for the third annual Branch Out FREE tree giveaway! Request your trees online starting in early September, and keep your eyes peeled for more info about the walk-up event in November.

[East Pierce Fire And Rescue Open House](#) - Pierce Conservation District will be at EPFR's Open House to talk wildfire safety with the public. Stop by and say hi!

[Washington State Fair](#) - Want free admission and parking to the Washington State Fair? Volunteer with PCD. We need help tabling. No experience required, just enthusiasm for PCD! Contact Chris Towe at ChrisT@pierccd.org if interested.



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