

Events and Opportunities

Pierce Native Plant Pre-Sale

PROTECT OUR EARTH ONE NATIVE PLANT AT A TIME



Native Plant Pre-Sale Open Now!

Native Plant Sale preorders open November 1st

Attention all property stewards, the Pierce Native Plant Pre-Sale opens November first. Do not miss out on the opportunity to obtain environmentally friendly native plants at wholesale prices. Our plants are sold as a bare root, plug stock, or live stake, and are conservation-grade plants with well-developed roots; they are easy to handle, transport, and install. Shop around the website to find an assortment of plants that will beautify your yard, repair the land, and speak to you!

[Order Plants](#)


Hedgerows Webinar & Workshop

Wednesday, November 1, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Virtual)

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (In-person, Rochester)

We are teaming up with regional partners to bring you a two-part, information-packed introduction to establishing hedgerows on farms! The webinar will detail how to design a hedgerow and showcase an overview of a local hedgerow project. The workshop will provide hands-on experience with different hedgerow techniques, like preparing your site and how to plant for pollinators and beneficial insects. Snacks and warm beverages included!

[Register](#)


Monthly Board of Supervisors Meeting

Wednesday, November 8th from 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

In Person and Virtual

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

[Calendar Event](#)
[Agenda](#)


Renewable Energy Funding Opportunity for Farms and Rural Small Businesses

Quarterly Grant Application Deadlines: March 31, June 30, Sept 30, and Dec 31

The USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program, also known as REAP, offers up to 50% grants for small rural businesses and agricultural producers interested in making the transition to renewable energy and other energy efficiency improvements.

Interested in applying? If you are located in Washington State, Spark Northwest and Pierce Conservation District can help! Assistance is offered in both English and Spanish.

[Learn More & Apply](#)

Still have questions? Upcoming FAQ Webinars:

November 9, 5:00-6:00 PM

November 10, 12:00-1:00 PM

[Register for FAQ Webinars](#)


Farm Foundations Priority Deadline Approaching

Priority Application Deadline: November 15 at 11:59 PM

Do not miss your opportunity to apply for the 2024 Farm Foundations Cohort! If you are interested in learning how to grow your own food, work on a farm, or start your

own, this program is the perfect chance to get your foot in the door. With a combination of virtual classes and field days, you will leave our program informed and prepared for the agricultural journey of your choosing. The priority deadline for applications is November 15th. If interested, we encourage you to take some time out of your day and apply for this educational opportunity.

[Apply](#)



Hands-On Biochar Workshop

Recordings Available

Following the online webinar with Nate Stacey from the Tilth Alliance, the Farm Team at Pierce Conservation District hosted an informative workshop on the fascinating process of producing biochar. Allan Warren, a biochar enthusiast and former PCD Communications and Development Director, conducted a live demonstration and shared his personal experience using biochar in his garden. Warren utilizes his woodworking byproducts and compost material to create his homemade biochar. He uses this soil amendment to sequester carbon, increase plant productivity, and improve overall soil structure.

If you missed either of these opportunities, recordings will be up on our website soon!

[Watch Now](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



WSU Broccoli Harvest

Friday, November 3rd, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Throughout Pierce County

Come join the Harvest Pierce County team and help WSU harvest an abundance of broccoli on Friday November 3rd! This large gleaning event will occur in 2-3 hour shifts to accommodate volunteers' busy schedules, with the first shift starting at 9 AM and the second beginning at 2 PM. Volunteers are welcome to take home as much broccoli as they would like, and the remainder will be donated to local Hunger Relief Organizations.

[Sign Up](#)



Green Puyallup Day

Saturday, November 4th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Multiple Locations Throughout Puyallup

Spend Green Puyallup Day at one of our habitat restoration sites in Puyallup! Activities include installing native plants, caring for existing plants, and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and thistle. This work supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators. Select your site upon sign-up.

[Sign Up](#)



Frey Family Farm Work Party

Saturday, November 11th & Friday, November 17th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ashford, WA

Volunteer with us by spending 3 hours at an organic farm in the shadow of Mt. Rainier!

Activities include planting native pollinator shrubs and laying burlap and mulch around the new plantings. This work supports water quality, local wildlife, and our important pollinators. Exact meeting location will be provided after signing up.

[Sign Up](#)



Pioneer Place II Work Party

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Puyallup, WA

Activities include caring for existing plants and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and thistle. This work supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators. Exact address will be provided on sign up.

[Sign Up](#)



Whittier Park Work Party

Saturday, November 18th, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fircrest, WA

Activities include caring for existing plants and removing invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and thistle. This work supports water quality, our local wildlife, and pollinators. Exact address will be provided on sign up.

[Sign Up](#)

News from Pierce CD



Celebrating a Historically Successful Gleaning Season

The 2023 gleaning season has almost come to a close and has already hit a record high of harvested and distributed produce, weighing in at 58,380 pounds. Approximately 38,000 pounds of produce harvested by the Gleaning Project have gone directly to Hunger Relief Organizations to feed our community members in need. Close to 20,000 pounds went to our new pilot, the Closed Loop Community program which diverts fruit that would otherwise go to waste due to its pest and disease issues to local makers for their ciders, mead, and jams, and to local livestock farmers to feed their animals. This work would not have been possible if it weren't for our expanding network of gracious volunteers. Click the link below to register as a volunteer for the 2024 gleaning season. [Read more...](#)

[Volunteer](#)



4th grade students look over a railing, hoping to glimpse salmon swimming upstream

The Salmon (and Students!) Keep Coming!

As the salmon keep returning to Clarks Creek, so do the students. The PCD education team, in partnership with the [Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation](#), is about halfway through the hatchery field trip season. Over **seven hundred** 4th grade students from the Puyallup School District have already toured the hatchery, learned the salmon life cycle, and spotted salmon spawning in the creek. Thanks to our new volunteer docents we can reach more students and connect them to the environment they live in. If you, or someone you know, would like the opportunity to get involved in the volunteer docent program, visit [the education page on our website](#) to learn more!

Orca Recovery Day at South Prairie Creek

The Pierce Conservation District's Habitat Program participated in the Puget Sound's annual Orca Recovery Day. 25 amazing volunteers joined us in our efforts to bring awareness and aid to the resident orca population at South Prairie Creek Preserve. Staff and community members came together, boots on the ground, and planted a total of 283 trees. [Read more...](#)



South Prairie Creek Preserve volunteers posing with Dana Coggon (PCD executive director) and some precious trees!



Harvest Pierce County Hosts a Harvestival Celebration

Harvest Pierce County hosted a Harvestival Celebration to express our gratitude to the community that has contributed to the success of our programming. The event brought together gleaning branch leaders and fruit tree assessors, local farmers, community gardeners, Farm Foundations cohort members, Radical Growth graduates, and so many more. [Read more...](#)



Happy November! It is sweater and flannel weather, and I am excited to enjoy flannel Fridays.

October 14th was Orca Recovery Day, a day of action to help the endangered population of Southern Resident Orcas. Pierce Conservation District hosted five events, which you can [read about on our blog](#). I visited each of our sites (in an inflatable orca costume, no less) and got a chance to see what a difference our staff and volunteers are making. Thank you to all of the staff who worked to make these events amazing!

We are also currently refining our internal processes so that we can set our teams up for success. The PCD Board met on October 27th for an annual retreat, where we reviewed strategic documents and District policies. We were able to set some great groundwork for the next steps as we all look forward to a bright future here at PCD! If you're interested in providing guidance as a local community member to our District, we'd love to have you as an [Associate Board Member](#).

- Executive Director, Dana Coggon



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