



2017 Annual Report

PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Working to conserve natural
resources that are essential
to both our economy and our
region's quality of life.

CONSERVATION ACROSS PIERCE COUNTY

What We Do

& OUR FOUR MAIN PROGRAMS

Pierce Conservation District works with local landowners and public agencies to conserve natural resources that are essential to both our economy and our region's quality of life. Our collaborative efforts with citizen volunteers to create a just food system, improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, and recover wildlife habitat, is the heart of our mission.

Our district's roots run deep in our community. Created in 1949 as part of a national response to the ecological disaster of the 1930s known as the Dust Bowl, we have worked for over 65-years to help local farmers, cities, and citizens address numerous sustainability challenges. Conserving our natural resources for future generations gets more difficult with each year, making the work of Pierce Conservation District more important than ever.

To learn more about the District's efforts to improve the natural resources of Pierce County, explore our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. You can download the plan at our website, www.PierceCD.org/353/Strategic-Plan. ■



Did YOU know?

In 2017, the District engaged a total of **2,231 volunteers** who served **11,453 hours**.

"**Our Conservation District is a critical partner to my constituents** and their love for clean water, our quality of life in Pierce County, and a healthy Puget Sound. They're **an effective partner** and I'm excited for their continued work to protect our environment because **a healthy environment means a healthy economy**."

– Derek M. Young
PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT #7

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In 2017, the Children's Water Festival continued its growth, with 1,185 fifth graders from all around the county joining us and dozens of our partners for a day of fun and education. Here, a volunteer from Harbor WildWatch teaches a future conservationist the basics of kayaking.

(Cover Photo) Ninety-two volunteers planted more than 1,750 native trees and shrubs along drainage ditches in the Clear Creek area to improve farm drainage and to provide habitat for fish in the ditches.



Urban Agriculture & LOCAL FOOD ACCESS

Through our Harvest Pierce County program, the district creates a community of abundance through gardening, gleaning, and educating Pierce County about their food and food systems. Our Veggie Co-Op, Gleaning Project, and Community Gardens produce bountiful harvests of locally grown food for volunteers and local food banks alike. Besides growing crops for their own tables, participants gain a greater sense of community and connect with their local food system.



Habitat Improvement & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our work focuses on improving riparian habitat through the removal of invasive weeds and replanting with native trees and shrubs. Streamside planting events engage hundreds of volunteers in efforts that help in the recovery of endangered salmon and other wildlife.

District Environmental Education programs include classroom presentations, organizing Family Fun events, workshops, and field trips for K-16 students. These efforts reached thousands of young people and the community at-large throughout Pierce County with a message of how important environmental stewardship is and provided an opportunity to act on that message.



Farm Planning & AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

The district provides local farmers with financial and technical assistance that allows them to voluntarily improve their farm practices. This support makes farms more economically sustainable while helping reduce negative impacts on soil and water resources. The “Best Management Practices” that we help farmers employ serve to control soil erosion and water runoff, which can contaminate streams and the marine environment of Puget Sound. Additionally, the district’s support through programs such as our mobile meat unit and poultry processing unit create a shared infrastructure, which reduces production costs and increases access to local markets.



Water Quality IMPROVEMENT & MONITORING

The district works with citizen volunteers to monitor the health of our streams and rivers in order to educate the public about how our daily lives impact our local water. The data collected through our Water Monitoring Program helps promote low-impact development practices, informs public agencies of problem areas, and inspires citizen action to improve our water quality. The district engages citizens in action initiatives through our rain garden, Depave, and streamside planting programs. These programs directly improve the water quality of our region by filtering out pollutants and reducing stormwater runoff. Collectively, the efforts create an informed public and help local communities meet Clean Water Act standards.

Letter from

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD CHAIR

The old adage that the only thing constant is change could not be more true for the Conservation District. In 2017 the District moved its operations to a new Conservation Center in downtown Puyallup. Our new Center is more efficient to manage and is bustling with activity as many partners converge to plan and implement conservation initiatives together. Our program team saw growth in direct service – adding capacity to our farm technical assistance, habitat restoration and urban agriculture teams. You will see some of the increased impact we are having due to this new capacity as you read this report.

2018 is the third year of our 5-year strategic plan. Throughout this report you will see how the District is meeting and often exceeding goals that have been set for us. Surely, the challenges facing our natural resources are many.

Last year we embarked on forming new programs to be responsive to the community's needs: 1) Cultural Navigator Program, 2) Climate Resiliency and 3) Row Crop Farmer Assistance. We are proud to say all of these programs are underway, focused on addressing the natural resource challenges facing these environments.

Next year we celebrate our 70th year! What has changed over the years is the evolution of our

programming to be responsive to our local natural resource challenges. Our impact has gotten bigger. We've had to be more sophisticated in how we do our work and the partners we assemble to accomplish our outcomes. What has not changed is our non-regulatory, incentive-based and action-oriented approach to addressing the challenges of our time.

We remain very inspired and grateful to our partners and volunteers for your partnership and commitment to our collective work. Enjoy reading about the many accomplishments you made possible in this report and we look forward to seeing you at a volunteer event with us in the near future!

Thank you,



Ryan Mello, Executive Director



Jeanette Dorner, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeanette Dorner".

Jeanette Dorner
BOARD CHAIR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan N. Mello".

Ryan N. Mello
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Four Elements Farm is extremely fortunate to partner with PCD to establish native hedgerow plantings that attract pollinators and promote ecosystem health. **PCD provides all the conservation expertise so we can focus on the business of farming.**"

- Amy Moreno-Sills
OWNER/OPERATOR FOUR ELEMENTS FARM

Partners

ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITIES WE WORKED WITH IN 2017

PARTNER JURISDICTIONS:

Pierce County
City of Bonney Lake
City of Buckley
City of Dupont
City of Fircrest
City of Gig Harbor
City of Lakewood
City of Milton
City of Orting
City of Puyallup
Town of Steilacoom
City of Sumner
City of Tacoma
City of University Place

2017 FUNDING PARTNERS:

501 Commons
Army National Guard
– Camp Murray
Chambers-Clover Creek
Watershed Council
Environmental
Protection Agency
Foundation for
Healthy Generations
Great Peninsula Conservancy
Greater Tacoma
Community Foundation
King Conservation District
Korean Women's Association
Land Recovery Inc. (LRI)
Lu Winsor/KGI
Watershed Council
Metro Parks Tacoma
National Association of
Conservation Districts

Natural Resource
Conservation Service
Nisqually Indian Tribe
PCC Farmland Trust
Peninsula Light
Pierce County Parks & Recreation
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Puyallup Watershed Initiative
Regional Water Cooperative
of Pierce County
Rose Foundation
South Puget Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group
Tacoma/Pierce County
Health Department
The Nature Conservancy
The Russell Family Foundation
US Department of Agriculture
Washington State
Department of Agriculture
Washington State
Conservation Commission
Washington State
Department of Ecology
Washington State
Department of Health
Washington State Recreation
and Conservation Office

EVENT SPONSORS:

American Water Works
Association
Multicare Health System
Puget Sound Energy
Whole Foods

IN-KIND SUPPORTERS:

TAGRO
City of Tacoma
Environmental Services
19 C Lions Club
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
Clover Park Technical College
First United Methodist Church
Master Gardeners
Cascade Compost
Domino's Pizza
University of Puget Sound

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS:

Chambers – Clover
Watershed Council
Forterra
Green Puyallup Partnership
KGI Watershed Council
Nisqually River Council
PCC Farmland Trust
Pierce County Surface
Water Management
Pierce County Planning
and Public Works
Puyallup River Watershed Council
South Puget Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group
WSU Puyallup Research
and Extension



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeanette Dorner | *Chair*
Scott Gruber | *Vice-Chair*
Dr. Brian Sullivan | *Auditor*
Sheila Wynn | *Member*
David Seago | *Member*



Did YOU know?

We have been working
with local landowners
on conservation
issues **since 1949.**

By the Numbers

SOME OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2017

9,990
trees and shrubs
planted

total of **26.12 acres** and
3.44 stream miles

2,231

volunteers across all
programs worked a
total of **11,453 hours**
for a **value of \$276,475.42**



2,582

K-12 students
taught about
conservation
across **10 school**
districts



1,185

students attended
Children's Water Festival

4,174

individuals
engaged

in Harvest
Pierce
County
programs



\$\$\$

\$1,495,034

grant
funds
secured

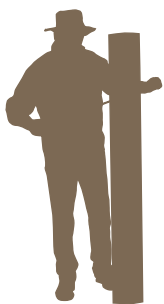
86¢
for every
\$1 in rate
income



195,564 gal.

of **polluted stormwater**
kept out of Puget Sound

379
farm BMPs
installed



20 **site visits** to educate
nearshore homeowners
about Shore Friendly
practices

923 **Pierce County residents**
involved
in District run
stewardship
activities



55,560 lbs.
food *harvested* by volunteers
and *donated* to local food banks
and those in need



745 acres
knotweed *treated*



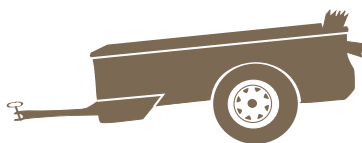
54 **stream miles**
of **Japanese Knotweed** *treated* in
Nisqually Watershed



812,000+
kilowatt hours
saved on farms
in Pierce County



12 **manure**
spreader
rentals



64 **homes**
received
FireWise
treatment

92 **poultry processing**
rentals

2 **farm plans**
completed

61 **acres of prime farmland**
conserved

16 **farm workshops/**
outreach events

66 **soil**
samples

22 **riparian**
restoration
projects

379 **BMPs** installed

171 **farm site**
visits

20 **site visits** to
assist shoreline
homeowners

39 **cost share**
projects

3 **hay probe**
loans

1,576 **individuals**
engaged in
water quality
programs

Progress on Our

5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2017, the District continued to make good progress on our ambitious 5-year strategic plan. This plan is a roadmap full of strategies and actions that will help us achieve our lofty conservation goals by the year 2021. These actions will also put us on a path for even bigger goals for the future, such as ensuring the recovery of Puget Sound salmon, creating a healthy and equitable food system, and providing all of Pierce County's residents with clean water and a good quality of life.

Here are some of the highlights of this year's achievements for you:

PCD will have a program in place to provide education and outreach, and technical and/or financial assistance to landowners interested in pursuing green marine shoreline projects in the KGI watershed and will implement one pilot project.

Last year, our team conducted 20 site

visits with marine shoreline property owners to provide technical assistance to help landowners understand and implement green shoreline practices. We held a Shore Friendly Pierce workshop that had almost 40 attendees and we're continuing to build enthusiasm around the program.

By 2021, District projects will contribute to 750,000 gallons of stormwater naturally infiltrated annually.

The District continued to make great progress towards this goal through Depave projects and installing Rain Gardens. Phase I of our Depave project at Holy Rosary Church in Tacoma helped reduce stormwater runoff by almost 135,000. Phase II will be completed in 2018 and will double that! Meanwhile, our Rain Garden program helped mitigate over 60,000 gallons of stormwater.


In two years, our projects have infiltrated 413,964 gallons of stormwater, over half-way to our five year goal!

By 2021, the number of volunteers across all District programs will increase by 30%.

Without the support of our fantastic volunteers, we wouldn't have anywhere near the impact that we do. In 2017, 2,231 volunteers supported our programs, a nearly 60% increase from 2015 when we set this goal. In addition, last fall we hired a Volunteer Coordinator and Outreach Specialist to help recruit even more folks into our work. We look forward to watching this support continue to grow!



With funding support from the Boeing Corporation, The Rose Foundation, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Environmental Protection Agency, the District helped Depave 5,000sqft of asphalt at Holy Rosary Regional School and Church in Tacoma. Dozens of volunteers helped and after the depave, 70 trees were planted. Phase II in 2018 will remove an additional 10,000sqft of asphalt.



Vietnamese Cultural Ambassador Lisa Mathusz has been able to increase the participation of people in Pierce County who want to garden, but have a language barrier. She works with 4 Vietnamese speaking gardens in the County.

PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFERSON MOK

By 2021, outreach materials are translated into top languages spoken (other than English).

Approximately 15% of Pierce County residents have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and since this group of constituents have historically been rendered invisible by linguistic and cultural barriers, it became Harvest Pierce County's goal in 2017 to connect with them.

With support from a National Association of Conservation Districts grant, we went from supporting 5 multilingual gardens to 11, grew our network of multilingual partners from 2 to 10, distributed 800 multilingual brochures, and hosted 30 events with LEP participants. Ultimately, throughout the course of 2017 we were able to increase Harvest Pierce County's LEP participants to 15% of total program participants, a direct reflection of our County's demographics.

As we move forward into 2018 and beyond, we will continue to build on this success within the Harvest Pierce County program and help bring these efforts to our other core programs. ■

Farm Planning

& AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

Build Your Own Bin Workshops Bring Manure Storage to the Key Peninsula

Back in February, on a cold and rainy morning, eighteen local farmers and livestock owners gathered together at the Key Peninsula Civic Center to build a simple manure bin. These farmers learned how to put the bin together and at the end of the workshop each left with a kit of materials to build their own bin. The bins came in two sizes- 6'x6' and 4'x4'. Since the workshop was held, nineteen of these bins have been built and are in use in our community. By storing and composting, the manure can be used as a beneficial pasture fertilizer instead of contaminating our surface and groundwater.

Prior to attending the workshop, participants read through a document about how to safely use the bin to compost manure and then demonstrated they knew how to properly

manage manure by answering a few questions.

The workshop was funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency through the Washington State Department of Ecology and was a collaboration between Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Pierce Conservation District.

The workshop was developed after speaking with many livestock owners about their manure storage. On Key Peninsula, many landowners only have a few animals and so a simple, small bin is all that's needed. However, the manure from just one goat can have a negative impact on our waters, so small and inexpensive manure bins (less than \$500 in materials for each bin) make it easy for owners of small numbers of livestock to manage their manure.

Because of the great success of the first workshop, another workshop was held in September for livestock owners in the Vaughn, Rocky, Filucy, and Mayo Cove watershed areas of Key Peninsula. At that event, another sixteen landowners were educated about the importance of proper storage and use of composted manure, and another ten manure bin kits went home to be put together just in time for the rainy season to begin. ■



After the workshops were held and kits delivered, participants were asked to submit photos of their assembled manure bins.

"I was surprised by how much quicker and easier it was to build the bin than I had expected. An unexpected bonus was the opportunity to connect with other local farmers; we are actually staying in contact with several of the people we met at the workshop".

-Sil Underwood
MAYO COVE FARMER



Did you know?

The District **launched a FireWise Program** to help landowners protect against an **increasing threat of wildfire?**

Strategy: Forest Resilience - Develop a FireWise Program to support small family forest landowners in preparing for fire danger

A fire crew heads out to the fire line. Last year, the District helped 64 homeowners protect their homes against increased wildfire threat through FireWise treatment, with a focus on the Greenwater Community. Shortly after, the Norse Peak Fire ravaged the area, burning over 55,000 acres and a number of homeowners informed us that our work made them feel safer and helped protect their homes.

(PHOTO CREDIT: ZORAH OPPENHEIMER, CLARK CD)

Water Quality

IMPROVEMENT & MONITORING

Floodplains by Design: Re-Imagining Floodplain Management

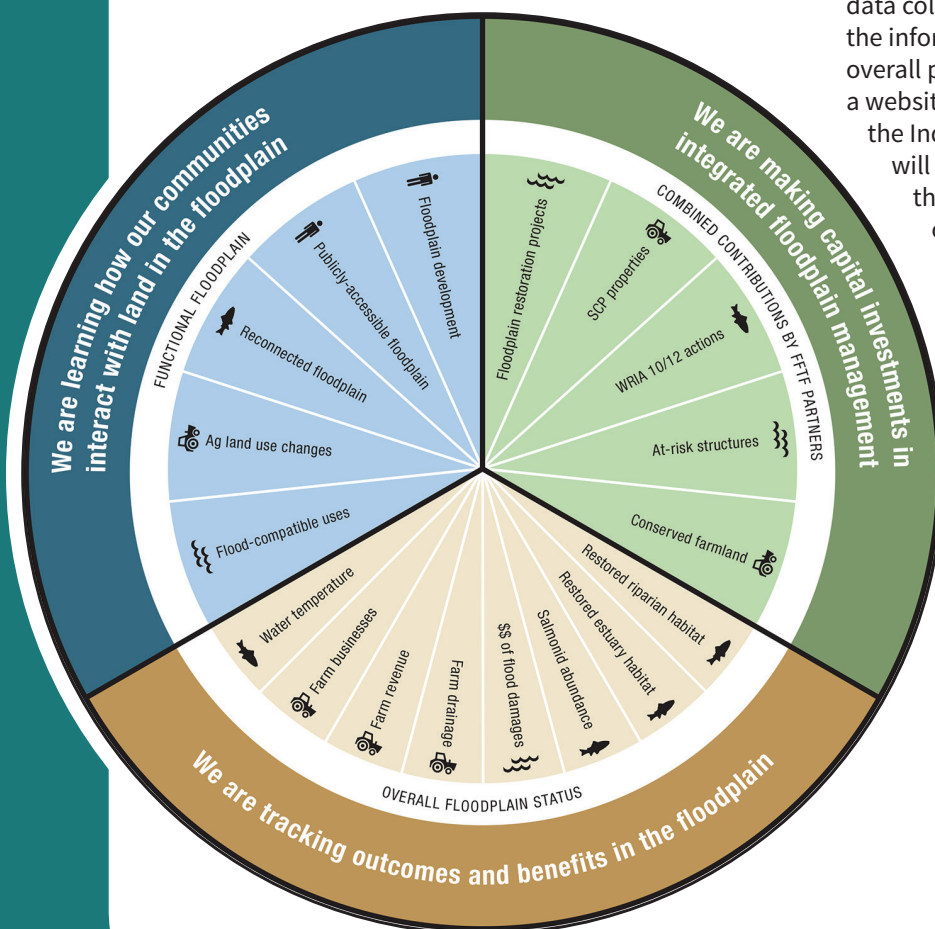
Floodplains by Design is a state grant program co-managed by Department of Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, and the Puget Sound Partnership. Funding for this program comes from the state capital budget with the goal of a multi-benefit approach to floodplain management. These benefits include flood risk reduction, restoration of natural floodplain function to support fish and wildlife, protection of agricultural viability, and maintenance of open space and recreational opportunities. Integrated solutions make better use of limited funding and lead to wiser capital investment.

Flood risk in the Puyallup watershed is among the highest in Washington State in terms of frequency and magnitude of dam-

age. Representatives of twenty-two stakeholder groups recognized the need for integrated floodplain management and formed the Floodplains for the Future (FFTF) group to develop a long-term vision of work in the watershed.

Pierce Conservation District is a stakeholder and our role has been to work with the other stakeholders to develop a high-level, shared monitoring plan that tracks the work being done in the watershed. The monitoring plan is based on shared goals across all the stakeholders, it allows us to track progress towards those goals, and it builds and maintains trust among the stakeholders.

Through development of the monitoring plan, an Index of Floodplain Health was created to answer the question of “How are we improving floodplain health?” The Index is comprised of eighteen individual metrics and three integrated metrics and tracking these metrics over time will inform and direct our efforts. In addition to data collection, the ability to communicate out the information is also key to the success of the overall project. To that end, we are developing a website (floodplainsforthefuture.org) where the Index and other significant information will reside. The website will “go live” later this spring and serve to communicate to our partners, members of the community, and decision makers data collected, project information and updates, and annual reports. ■



Floodplains for the Future Index of Floodplain Health

(Photo to the right)
Members of the Floodplains
for the Future Partnership
tour Clear Creek basin to
better understand habitat,
farm, and flood issues.



Did YOU know?

In 2017, the District **relaunched the Green Partnership Fund** and awarded \$80,000 to 8 local projects.

Habitat Improvement & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Planting Breaks Ground on Important Salmon Habitat Restoration Project

Beginning with the acquisition of approximately 100 acres of land at the old Inglin Dairy along South Prairie Creek in 2005, the District and hundreds of citizen volunteers have spent years transforming the site into a prime salmon habitat preserve.

Currently in the works is a large, complex project that will remove most of the remaining dairy buildings, make in-stream habitat in the main channel of South Prairie Creek more hospitable for spawning salmon, recreate a half-mile long side channel for floodplain reconnection and off-channel salmon habitat, and the planting of more than three dozen acres.

Throughout the fall of last year, approximately 2.5 acres were planted with 1750 trees and shrubs. Two volunteer planting parties and dogged assistance from the District's Washington Conservation Corps crew helped make sure this first wave of planting was successful.

Over the course of the next several planting seasons, we will continue on a similar path to complete revegetation of the area outside

the construction zones. Then once all the in-stream and side channel construction is complete, we'll plant there, too! All of this is to say that there will be numerous opportunities in the next several years to be a part of this exciting project, plant some trees, and watch the transformation take place. We look forward to seeing you there!

Some Highlights from Our Environmental Education Program in 2017

Our EE program was excited to begin a new partnership this year with local Boys and Girls Club branches. Our work together began with a summer program on water and conservation, as the youth explored the importance of water, how we're using it, and ways we can protect this valuable resource. In the fall, we rolled out our new Salmon After School program with the Gonyea branch. We used art, math, and physical activities to learn more about the Northwest's most important cultural icon. We are looking forward to renewing this partnership in 2018 as we work with the Schatz branch for our second installment of the Salmon After School program.

Other EE Highlights Include:

Victor Falls Elementary | Sumner
1st graders at learned about the life cycle of salmon through models and outdoor activities.

Sherman Elementary | Tacoma
Students explored the food system as part of their "how a 4th grader can tackle climate change" unit.

Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary | Orting
5th graders installed plants in a community space after examining the needs and benefits of plants.

Youth Summer Camp | Steilacoom
Campers observed life in the stream, then used role playing to see how the ecosystem changed due to pollution. ■



The large, multi-year effort to revegetate a historic floodplain and former dairy fields got underway in late 2017 with several volunteer planting events. By the time active construction of the in-stream work begins, we anticipate more than 12 acres and approximately 8,500 plants will have been planted.

PHOTO TO RIGHT: A volunteer from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife teaches a small group of almost 1,200 local 5th graders about our Puget Sound's endangered salmon at the Annual Children's Water Festival.

Did you know?



In just two years, the District is over halfway to its goal of planting **35,000 trees and shrubs**, restore **50-acres**, and **4 stream miles** by 2021.



By 2021, K-12 youth engagement in the District's Environmental Education Program will increase by 30%:

Thanks to a partnership between the District, Puyallup Historical Hatchery Foundation, Puyallup School District, and Pacific Education Institute, an exciting field trip program for 30 of the Puyallup School District's 4th grade classes started this winter. Fourth grade students toured the hatchery building to view salmon alevin and fry, observed spawning salmon in Clarks Creek to learn about their life cycle, and explored ways they can help make a difference in protecting water quality.

When it was all said and done, roughly 700 students visited the hatchery as part of this program. That number is expected to grow next year as more students embark upon this unique program thanks to local watershed partners, and of course the tireless salmon making their way home to Clarks Creek.

For 2017 as a whole, the Environmental Education Program engaged 2,582 K -12 youth, well past our 30% growth target. ■

Urban Agriculture

& LOCAL FOOD ACCESS



The Farm at Franklin Pierce Grows into Community Food Hub

2017 marked the fourth year of Harvest Pierce County's partnership with the Franklin Pierce School District (FPSD). Over the last four years we have worked collaboratively with FPSD to turn their farm site from unused pasture to a thriving community farm, made up of a small fruit tree orchard and two acres of vegetables. Each year high school students from Franklin Pierce and Gates High School have daily classes on The Farm, and fifth graders from across the district come out for regular field trips. We also host frequent volunteer and school groups which this year included Camp Pierce, students from University of Puget Sound, and the Point Defiance Zoo Youth Conservation Volunteers. This is all in addition to the dedicated group of community members who have participated in our Veggie Co-op program: 45 folks who dedicated time to come out each week in all kinds of weather, April through October. The collective impact of these efforts resulted in over 20,000 pounds of food for the school district's lunchrooms and community food banks.

While each year on The Farm has been a special one, 2017 saw our partnership with the School District really blossom. Working closely with FPSD staff, we developed new programming called the Farm Foundations

Training that will be launching in 2018. Farm Foundations will use The Farm as a hands-on agricultural classroom, with participants learning sustainable agricultural practices while growing food for the local community. This program is the culmination of many seasons of feedback from our volunteers, and we are hopeful that it will be a positive contribution to the agricultural community of Pierce County.

We are also looking forward to having even more educational programming available at The Farm. Our Fruit Tree Education classes will be taking over the orchard, stewarding those trees to a healthier and more productive harvest – one that our gleaning volunteers will look forward to in the summer and fall! Our popular Edible Gardens class series will also be available at The Farm this year, providing community members the opportunity to learn valuable skills to take home to their own gardens. And another wonderful addition to The Farm this year is a new community garden. The Farm has many raised beds that have not been used the past few seasons, and we're thrilled to open that space up to community gardeners.

Community farm, community orchard, community garden – The Farm at Franklin Pierce encompasses all aspects of Harvest Pierce County. Countless wheelbarrows of compost, tomato plants pruned, and carrots weeded have turned into a place where hundreds of students and volunteers come to learn and engage with their food system. It is amazing to see our Pierce County community come together to create and sustain The Farm. We couldn't be more excited to see how it grows from here! ■



One of our favorite groups to have visit us at The Farm is Camp Pierce! A day camp for youth and adults with disabilities, they've helped us accomplish some big projects, including harvesting apples for our HarFestival Celebration.



Did YOU know?

The average age of a farmer in Pierce County is 60 years.

The District is working to train the next generation of farmers through our **Farm Foundations Training program.**

The high schoolers from Gates and Franklin Pierce High School do an incredible amount of work on The Farm each year. Clearing beds for new plantings is a big job each spring.

Urban Agriculture & LOCAL FOOD ACCESS



Co-Creating Urban Agriculture Programming to Reach Broader Audiences

At the Pierce Conservation District, we are dedicated to serving all of our County's residents so that we can work together to conserve our natural resources. We want to make sure everyone knows how to reach us, and that when we design programming, we are designing it with all constituents in mind.

We found that approximately 15% of Pierce County residents have Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and many of these residents are already engaging in conservation and stewardship of local resources through gardening and local food production. Harvest Pierce County's goal in 2017 was to better connect with this 15%, since they have historically been rendered invisible by linguistic and cultural barriers. Supported by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Harvest Pierce County began designing programming to better serve LEP residents through urban agriculture.

Unfortunately, simply translating flyers was not enough, nor was hiring interpreters to attend workshops and events. We would translate flyers and have interpreters on hand, but when it came time for the event, no one from the target language group

would show up. Somehow, we were still not reaching them.

We needed to build relationships with multilingual communities, ensuring that translation and interpretation are not wasted resources but important tools for inclusion. Not only that, we wanted to make sure our programming was designed with everyone in mind, regardless of barriers. That means our stakeholders are not passive recipients of our programming so much as active co-creators.

With NACD funds, we were able to move beyond simply translating documents and signage to build lasting, bi-directional relationships with stakeholders in Vietnamese, Russian, Cambodian, Korean, and Spanish-speaking communities. To this end, **we went from supporting 5 multilingual gardens to 11, grew our network of multilingual partners from 2 to 10, distributed 800 multilingual brochures, and hosted 30 events with LEP participants.** Ultimately, throughout the course of 2017 we were able to increase Harvest Pierce County's LEP participants to 15% of total program participants, a direct reflection of our County's demographics.

Each community we work with has its own way of stewarding the environment through organic urban agriculture, and we found that we all have a lot to learn from one another. Many of our LEP urban gardeners are seniors, and while learning English as an older adult is difficult, learning to steward plants in the Pacific Northwest is something they have done exceedingly well. Urban agriculture is a language we all have in common, and we look forward to more opportunities to learn and grow together.



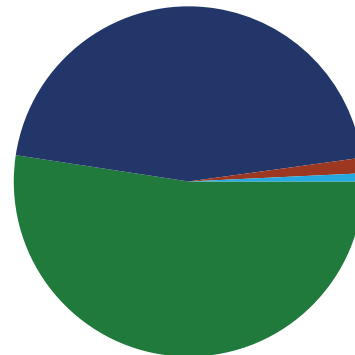
The Salishan garden alone has gardeners who speak Russian, Khmer, Vietnamese, and Korean. Being able to speak to one another through interpreters has helped mitigate garden conflict, and in this photo you see the results of the garden's first ever official work party, where everyone worked together despite their differences. (PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFERSON MOK)

Financials

2017 REVENUES & SPENDING

REVENUE BY SOURCE

Rates & Charges	\$1,724,364.66	52.4%
Grants	\$1,495,034.59	45.4%
Native Plant & Tree Sale	\$46,768.90	<0.1%
Other	\$24,628.46	<0.1%
	\$3,290,796.61	

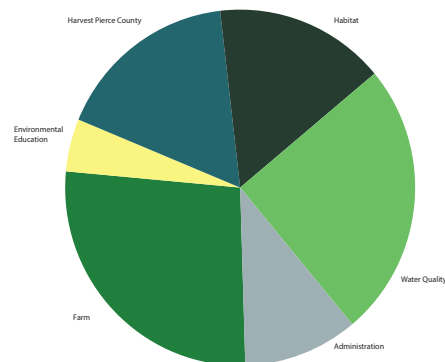


Revenue by Source

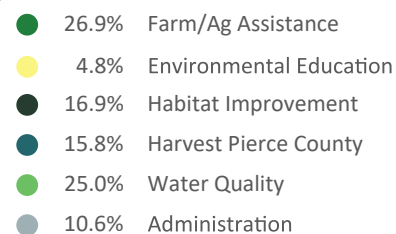


SPENDING BY PROGRAM

Farm/Ag Assistance	\$957,984.68	26.9%
Environmental Education	\$170,319.41	4.8%
Water Quality	\$889,649.21	25.0%
Habitat Improvement	\$602,320.93	16.9%
Harvest Pierce County	\$560,893.17	15.8%
Administration	\$376,893.54	10.6%
	\$ 3,558,060.94	



Spending by Program



BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2017

Current Assets	\$1,197,784.00
Conserved Land & Easements	\$1,900,874.00
Other Assets	\$175,436.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$3,274,094.00

Current Liabilities	\$63,667.00
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TOTAL LIABILITIES \$63,667.00

Net Assets	\$3,474,068.00
Net Income	\$(263,641.00)

TOTAL EQUITY \$3,210,427.00

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$3,274,094.00



A Korean gardener works on her garden plot. She got the seeds at Harvest Pierce County's annual Seed Swap, which was sponsored by the NACD Urban Agriculture grant to feature culturally appropriate seeds, translations of seed care instructions, and interpreters to be at the event. (PHOTO CREDIT: JEFFERSON MOK)

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