

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation

# WHAT WE DO

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Pierce Conservation District works with the community to improve water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, create thriving habitat, and build a just and healthy food system for all, through education, community engagement, and financial and technical assistance. Our vision is that everyone in the region is engaged in creating a healthy environment and thriving community. We practice equity and inclusion to achieve this vision, recognizing that people of color, indigenous communities, low income people, immigrants, and refugees are disproportionately impacted by ecological decline.

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 70 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](http://www.PierceCD.org/353/Strategic-Plan)

*"Pierce Conservation District sets the example for what a modern conservation district should be: firmly rooted in the tradition of supporting the agriculture community, but helping communities deal with modern challenges such as food access, orca and salmon recovery, and creating urban green space. Each year they're helping make Pierce County a better place to live, play, and work."*

**Congressman Derek Kilmer**



*Cover Photo: Some of our rockstar gleaning volunteers harvest over 300lbs of fresh broccoli from The Farm at Franklin Pierce School District. Last year, gleaners helped harvest 46,000lbs of fresh food from The Farm for school cafeterias and a CSA program for school district families.*

*Left Photo: Congressman Derek Kilmer was one of 86 volunteers that helped Depave more than 10,000sqft. of asphalt from the Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy in Tacoma. The pavement was replaced with a new grass play area for the elementary students and planted with 70 trees to reduce air and water pollution.*

# OUR FIVE MAIN PROGRAMS

## 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 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. We engage citizens in action initiatives through our rain garden, Depave, urban tree, 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.

## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

Our work focuses on restoring endangered salmon populations by improving riparian habitat through the removal of invasive weeds and replanting with native trees and shrubs. Streamside planting events engage hundreds of volunteers each year, connecting people to this vital work. Beginning in 2019, we will be expanding the program to include marine shoreline habitat improvement with a new Shore Friendly Program.

## HARVEST PIERCE COUNTY

Harvest Pierce County is our urban agriculture and food access program. Harvest 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.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Our Environmental Education program includes classroom lessons, workshops, and field trips for K-12 students. We also coordinate educational events such as the Children’s Water Festival and Envirothon. These efforts reach thousands of young people throughout Pierce County each year and emphasize the importance of stewardship and conservation.

# LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR + BOARD CHAIR



Ryan Mello  
Executive Director



Jeanette Dorner  
Board Chair

2019 marks our 70th year serving the people and natural resources of Pierce County. We are taking some time this year to both celebrate our accomplishments and the history of our organization and to also look ahead to our next 70 years of conservation work. We have a much greater understanding now of the impacts that we as humans have on this place where we live, work, and play. We have evolved as an organization over this time and that is thanks to the elected leadership and innovative, dedicated staff of our organization, partners and amazing volunteers.

While our roots are still firmly in helping farmers implement practices that conserve natural resources, we have also expanded and adapted our programming to address other pressing natural resource concerns facing our community:

- Improving underserved communities' access to fresh, healthy, locally grown food.
- Cleaning up polluted rainwater runoff before it reaches our streams, rivers and Puget Sound.
- Restoring streams and marine shoreline habitat for struggling salmon and our beloved orcas.
- Managing soil health to improve soil productivity while helping to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Our impact on addressing these natural resources challenges is magnified by the thousands of incredible community volunteers that participate in our programs and volunteer events. We are also investing in our future by engaging the youth in our community through our environmental education program, ensuring our efforts can be sustained long in to the future.

We have also recognized as we change over time that to achieve our goal to serve our community equally we must pay attention not just to our changing natural resource challenges but our changing demographics. 33% of Pierce County are people of color, 10% are foreign born and around 12% are non-English speakers. We have been working for the past few years to adapt the way we deliver our programs to be responsive to these underserved groups in our community.

One thing has not changed over the last seventy years: the power of the locally led cooperative approach to conservation. When poor farming practices led to the great Dust Bowl in the 1930's our country's response was not to penalize the farmers – it was to create a network of conservation districts across our nation that could help teach farmers better soil management

practices and help them secure the resources to implement those practices. That model of the non-regulatory, voluntary approach still is successful 70 years later. It allows us to be responsive to the needs of our local community and to tailor the solutions to fit our local community best.

We thank the Pierce County community for your partnership in these first 70 years of conservation. We look forward to our next 70 years of conservation and food security for Pierce County and know that our approach to solving these issues is needed now more than ever.

In partnership,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is "Ryan W. Mello" and the signature on the right is "Jeanette Dorner".



# ORGANIZATIONS & COMMUNITIES WE WORKED WITH IN 2018

## 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

## 2018 FUNDING PARTNERS

501 Commons  
Army National Guard -  
Camp Murray  
Chambers-Clover Creek  
Watershed Council  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Greater Tacoma Community  
Foundation  
Korean Women's Association  
Lu Winsor/KGI Watershed Council  
Metro Parks Tacoma  
Milgard Foundation  
Natural Resource Conservation  
Service  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Obee Credit Union  
Patagonia  
PCC Farmland Trust  
Peninsula Light  
Pierce County Parks & Recreation  
Puget Sound Energy  
Puget Sound Processing LLC  
Puyallup Tribe of Indians  
Puyallup Watershed Initiative

Regional Water Cooperative of  
Pierce County  
Rose Foundation  
South Puget Sound Salmon  
Enhancement Group  
Tacoma Fire Department  
Tacoma Housing Authority  
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  
Whatcom Conservation District

## SPONSORS

American Water Works Association  
Coordinated Care  
Land Recovery Inc. (LRI)  
Multicare Health System  
Print NW  
Puget Sound Energy  
Whole Foods

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

19 C Lions Club  
Boy Scouts  
Cascade Compost  
City of Tacoma Environmental  
Services  
Clover Park Technical College

Girl Scouts  
First United Methodist Church  
Master Gardeners  
Peninsula Metropolitan Parks District  
TAGRO  
University of Puget Sound  
Washington Department of Natural  
Resources

## KEY PROJECT PARTNERS

Chambers - Clover Watershed  
Council  
EarthCorps  
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  
Salishan Association  
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  
Cindy Haverkamp, Member  
John Hopkins, Member  
Sheila Wynn, Associate Supervisor  
Don Gourlie, Associate Supervisor  
Hannah Febach, Associate Supervisor  
Bill Schiller, Associate Supervisor

# BY THE NUMBERS

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

# 25,391

TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

- Restoring 90.89 Acres and 2.25 Stream Miles
- 31,750 Square Feet of New Urban Tree Canopy

# 914

ACRES OF KNOTWEED TREATED

39 Stream Miles

# 2,660

VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

- Worked a Total of 12,424 Hours
- Valued at \$306,748.56

# 3,721

INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED  
District Educational Workshops

# 92,946

POUNDS OF FOOD HARVESTED

By Volunteers and Donated  
to Local Food Banks and Those in Need

# 75

HOMES

Received FireWise Treatment

# 5,345

INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED

In Harvest Pierce County Programming

# 1,000,000+

KILOWATT HOURS OF ENERGY SAVED

For Farms and Rural Businesses

# 8,754

K-12 STUDENTS ENGAGED

In Environmental Education Programming

# 243

IMPROVEMENTS

Installed on Farms



The Farm at Franklin Pierce School District received this year's award in the Environmental Education category. The Farm is an educational hub for Franklin Pierce K - 12 students and adults, such as the participants in our Farm Foundations Training. This year's GPF project will integrate a native plant restoration project into their ongoing curriculum on Swan Creek, a stream that hosts Endangered Species Act listed salmon.

## GREEN PARTNERSHIP FUND IMPACTS

The Green Partnership Fund is our small grants program, which we brought back online in 2018 after a hiatus of a couple of years. In 2018 we funded seven projects, supporting partners that work on everything from food waste reduction, to salmon habitat restoration, to helping new farmers find land.

As we brought the program back, we aligned the application process with our Strategic Plan goals and targets to help leverage our investments and partnerships and make our impact on the community go further. We are thankful for our volunteer ranking committee, made up of folks from all over the county and with diverse backgrounds, who faced the difficult task of whittling the funding list down from 28 proposals to just seven funded projects. With roughly \$420,000 requested and only \$75,000 to award, this was no easy task, however, it resulted great outcomes for our community.

### ALL IN ALL, LAST YEAR'S PROJECTS RESULTED IN:

- 6,402 K-12 students** reached with Environmental Education Programming
- 88 educational workshops** that reached 433 people
- 24.25 acres** of salmon habitat restored
- 7,128 native plants** installed
- 566 lbs of food waste reduced** resulting in 143 quarts of food preserved
- 614 volunteers dedicating 2,355 hours** of their time to improving our community
- 1 new community garden** in Orting
- 47 new farmers connected** to the Farm to Farmer program
- 1 new fish passage** design project

A big THANK YOU and congratulations on a job well done are due to all of our partners: PCC Farmland Trust, Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Harbor WildWatch, Nisqually Land Trust, Center for Food Preservation Arts, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and Orting United Methodist Church.

# PROGRESS ON OUR 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



Volunteers helped plant native trees and spread mulch at a Julia's Gulch restoration site as part of last fall's Green Tacoma Day. In 2018, the District helped coordinate dozens of planting events resulting in over 25,000 native plants and shrubs installed, restoring vital habitat, reducing stormwater pollution, and adding much needed green space to our communities.

In 2015, the District finalized an ambitious 5 year strategic plan that serves as a roadmap of strategies and actions that has been guiding our growth toward achieving lofty conservation goals. This plan was the start of a more strategic approach to our efforts, not the end, and in the years since we've fine-tuned the plan through additional prioritization studies and adaptive management.

We're now three years into implementing our plan and we're happy to report that we're achieving or exceeding our goals. Delivering on these goals is helping restore our part of the Puget Sound ecosystem and helping the people, Orca, and salmon that rely on it to thrive.

With many of these, it's worth noting that we didn't set low targets, we've simply been

more successful at bringing on additional resources in the form of new revenue and staff, significantly increasing our capacity and impact since 2015.

**3 YEARS IN,  
WE'RE EXCEEDING  
OUR GOALS:**



Jami Stavlo, a new volunteer with Harvest Pierce County's Gleaning Program helps harvest cut greens from Mother Earth Farm to be donated to Emergency Food Network. Across all HPC programs over 86,000lbs of fresh food was removed from the waste stream and donated to schools and the emergency food system in 2018.

**By 2021, District programs will plant 35,000 trees and shrubs, 50 acres, and 4 stream miles.**

In only three years, District programs have surpassed each of these targets, planting 42,777 trees and shrubs, restoring over 139 acres and 6.85 stream miles. With our largest riparian restoration project ever (South Prairie Creek Preserve) breaking ground this year, an expanding urban tree canopy initiative, and launching a new Shore Friendly program, we will continue this incredible trajectory over the next couple of years.

**By 2021, 150 Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) installed.**

The District has brought on three new

farm planners since 2015 and significantly more resources to help them deliver on-the-ground projects. As a result, in only three years we helped local farmers install 656 BMPs. These efforts reduce runoff to local streams and shellfish growing areas, improve soil and pasture quality, and support a viable farming economy in Pierce County.

**By 2021, in the Nisqually River and South Prairie Creek project areas, we will have treated a total of 430 acres and 20 stream miles for Japanese Knotweed to maintenance levels.**

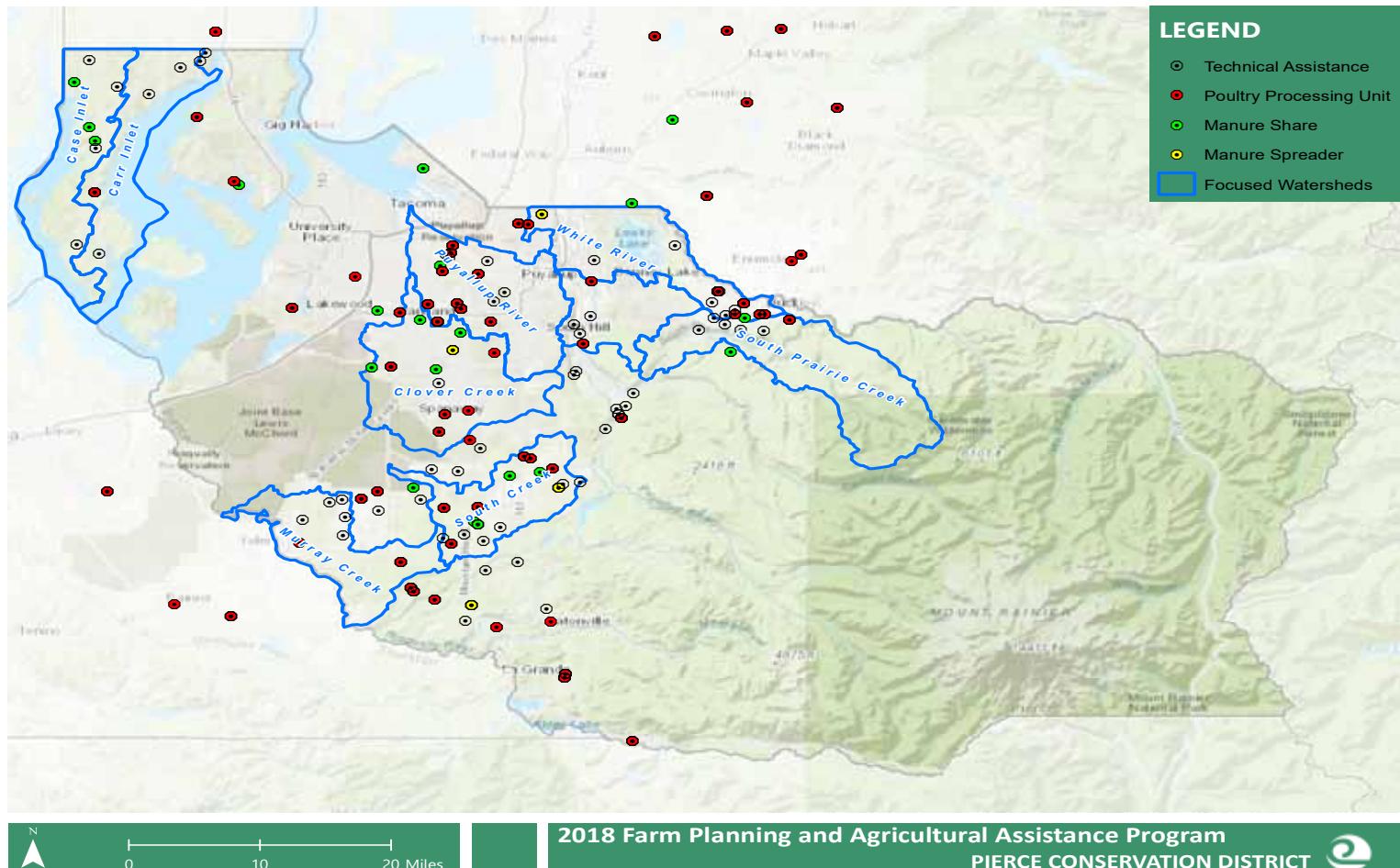
So far, our Habitat team has treated 914 acres and 54 stream miles. Japanese Knotweed and other invasive plants are incredibly persistent, so it takes multiple

years of treating the same area to get to that "maintenance" level goal, but by more than doubling our treatment area we're well on our way to exceeding our targets.

**By 2021, participation in Harvest Pierce County programming will increase by 30%.**

Compared to 2015, our Harvest Pierce County team has more than doubled the number of people participating in their variety of programs. From gleaning, to community gardens, the our new Farm Foundations program and more, Harvest had 5,345 community members participate in creating a community of abundance last year.

# ON THE FARM



## 2018 Farm Planning and Agricultural Assistance Program PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# FARM PROGRAM WORK SHIFTS TO FOCUSED SUB WATERSHED APPROACH IN 2018

To bring focus to our farm program's work and have a deeper impact on what matters most - our mission of protecting natural resources in Pierce County, the District's farm program will be concentrating its efforts in nine sub watersheds in Pierce County for the

remainder of the strategic plan horizon until 2020. This priority focus will align with our 5 year strategic plan and result in measurable natural resource conservation improvements. These sub watersheds are: Murray Creek, South (Muck) Creek, Fennel Creek, Clover Creek, Puyallup River, South Prairie Creek, White River, and Carr and Case Inlet on the Key Peninsula.

What this will mean regarding landowner assistance, is that we will do focused outreach and direct 80% of our farm program technical assistance in these priority areas. We will hold all of our farm tours and workshops in these areas, and we will direct 80% or more of our landowner financial assistance (cost share) to implement natural resource protection projects in these areas.

If you do not live in one of these focused areas, you will still receive farm

consultation assistance over the phone and via email, and we will be able to conduct a farm visit or take a 'first five free' soil sample of your commercial crop or pasture/hay field if there is a critical area such a stream, ditch, or wetland on, or directly adjacent to your property. You will also be eligible to apply for cost share assistance to improve the water quality of those critical areas with the implementation of best management practices. And you of course will be able to attend any of our farm tours and workshops and will be able to take advantage of our farm tool loan and rental programs.

At the end of this focus period in 2020, we hope to see marked improvement in water quality in these target areas, and at that time we will re-evaluate this approach and/or determine if there are different sub-watersheds that we need to focus our efforts on.



BMPs in action: through grant funding the District was able to provide compost bins to local livestock owners to compost manure (left). In the fall and spring, landowners can rent our manure spreader to put that compost onto their fields and improve their pastures (right). Together, this reduces pollution from runoff and makes farmland more productive, win-win!

"Receiving a manure compost bin and learning the process really helped our farm stay cleaner and more environmentally friendly. We're actually building two more of them! We appreciate the opportunities Pierce Conservation District provides to our community."

**Molly Grant, Farm Assistance Cooperator**

## LAST YEAR'S FARM PROJECTS BY THE NUMBERS:

- **213 BMPs installed** on agricultural properties
- **28 workshops/outreach events**
- **442 attendees** to district workshops
- **9 manure spreader** rentals
- **5 farm plans** completed
- **74 poultry processing** rentals
- **59 soil samples**
- **143 farm site** visits
- **469 TA** assistance
- **6 cost share** projects
- **12 no till drill** rentals on 140 acres

# WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



# PUYALLUP LOOP TRAIL

- **4.2 MILES TOTAL (APPX.)**
- Route is generally considered a 'natural' trail (e.g. wood chip/hiking/soft surface trail); varied terrain and steepness
- Some connections between trails made using low volume streets and city sidewalks

1. Dead Man's Trail—Natural surfacing
2. 23rd Ave SW—On-street connection
3. 13th St SW—Sidewalk connection to Hummingbird Hill Trail
4. Brown Trail—Natural surfacing trail from 19th Ave SW to 15th Ave SW
5. Silver Cr. Trail—Natural surfacing (wood chips)
6. Meeker Cr. Trail—Natural surfacing (wood chips) from 11th to 13th St SW; gravel roadway from 13th St to 14th St
7. 14th St SW & 12th Ave SW—On-street sidewalk connections
8. 14th St SW—Future sidewalk to connect trail to Fish Hatchery visitor center
9. Clarks Cr. Trail—Natural surfaced trail
10. Maplewood Springs Trail—Natural surfaced trail

## 10 YEARS IN THE MAKING, THE PUYALLUP LOOP TRAIL IS OPEN FOR WALKING!

Eagle Scouts, interns, and volunteers slowly built missing sections of the Puyallup Loop Trail to connect it with social trails already established in the Clarks Creek canyon. Began by hard-working Lions Club members in 2008, the now completed loop trail saw its grand opening and ribbon cutting in conjunction with Pierce County Trails Day in July. Over

25 community members walked the entire 4.2 mile trail alongside Puyallup Mayor John Palmer.

Along the way, several of Pierce Conservation District's active restoration sites are showcased, including the Clark's Creek Bank Stabilization project, Dead Mans Pond, Meeker Creek, and Silver

Creek. Each site shows a different ecological make-up, from deep forests at Clarks Creek Bank Stabilization project to an active floodplain at Meeker Creek. Local residents not only get to enjoy a great new trail, but with interpretive signs coming soon, they'll get to learn about active restoration and be inspired to get involved.



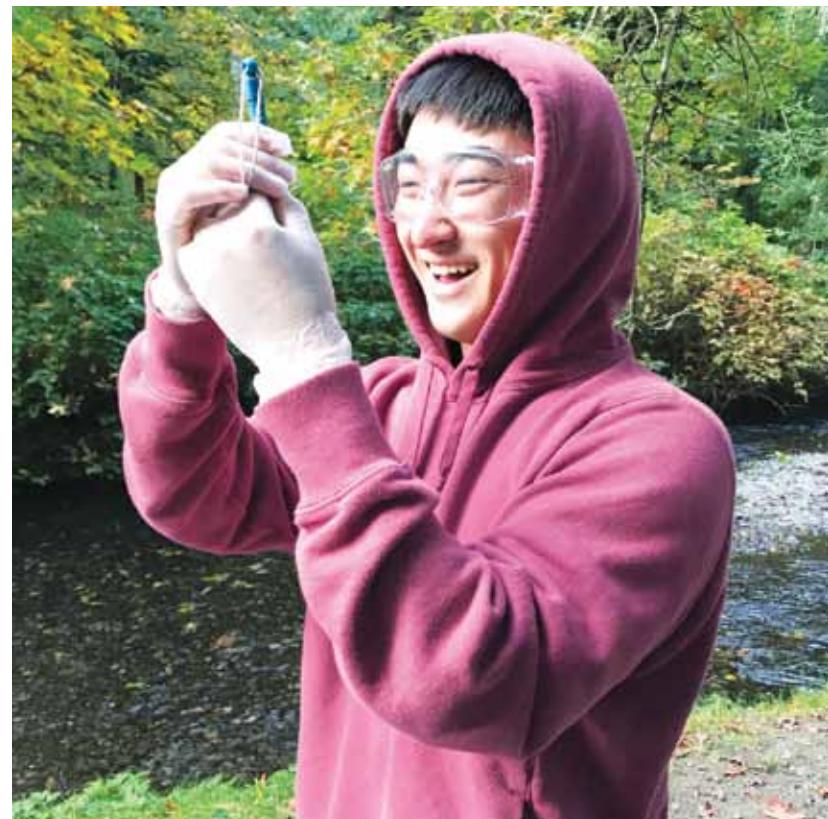
# WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT



CD Stream Team and KCD Stream Stewards after a successful plant ID workshop 2018.

## STREAM TEAM 25 YEARS OF MONITORING PIERCE COUNTY'S WATERSHEDS

The Pierce Conservation District Stream Team formed in 1994 with volunteers monitoring 5 streams in Pierce County. To date we have a sustained volunteer base of over 55 active monitors monitoring 40 sites, 21 of which are prioritized by partner jurisdictions. We've gone from 5 kits to 30 and from a washroom to a functional lab space in our new Conservation Center in 2017. Stream Team has shared our data in new formats, including watershed highlights in our Tahoma View newsletter and newly created jurisdictional reports. We've also added educational workshops such as native/invasive plant identification and habitat assessment to build on our naturalist skills. While a lot has changed in 25 years, Stream Team is still focused on the engagement with community members as they are our "eyes and ears" of the watersheds, alerting us to issues and communicating the importance of protecting water quality. We are looking forward to the next 25 years of monitoring, engagement and education within Pierce County's watersheds.



Curtis High School student examining a thermometer at Leach Creek in University Place.

## PUGET SOUND ORCA RECOVERY DAY

Saturday, November 10, 2018

Visit [BetterGround.org](http://BetterGround.org) for more info



### ORCA RECOVERY DAY

In late summer, seemingly the whole world watched as the tragedy of Tahlequah carried her dead calf for 17 days and over a 1,000 miles on a heartbreakin tour of grief. We at the District asked ourselves: what can we do? The answer turned into a first ever, region-wide event that mobilized nearly 30 organizations throughout Puget Sound to respond to the crisis and give people a way to engage in restoration activities that can help restore our endangered Southern Resident Orca. One day won't solve the crisis, but it certainly built momentum and we look forward to continuing that momentum in 2019.

### HABITAT RESTORATION MONITORING PROGRAM



Monitoring habitat restoration efforts is critical. It evaluates our effectiveness, informs decisions, and enables adaptive management techniques. In 2018, our Habitat Improvement Team developed and implemented our new Habitat Restoration Monitoring Program to effectively monitor the impact our plantings and restoration work is having on the habitats we are working to restore.

Our program uses line-point intercept methodology to measure the percent cover of the various plant species that exist in each monitoring plot. This allows

us to track how the vegetative community changes over time. We monitor the health and survival of the plants that we have installed on our restoration sites, which helps identify which species are thriving or which ones are stressed on a particular site. The health monitoring also helps identify what may be stressing the plants. Is it herbivory, drought, insect damage, competition from non-native plants, or many compounding factors? Monitoring allows us to measure the success of our restoration efforts and adjust management decisions in response to stressors on the plants.

# HABITAT



## HABITAT'S 2018 BY THE NUMBERS:

### DISTRICT NATIVE PLANT SALE

**35 volunteers** working 160.25 hours

**28,423 plants** sold

**588 customers**

### KNOTWEED

#### Project Sites:

- Upper Nisqually River Watershed
- South Prairie/Wilkeson Creek Watershed
- Town of Steilacoom

**922 acres + 22 river miles** treated

**10 acres (0.7 river miles)** planted

**1,870 plants**

Two of the 95 volunteers that came out to take part in the inaugural Puget Sound Orca Recovery Day. Statewide, over 800 volunteers came out to support restoration efforts to benefit the recovery of Southern Resident Killer Whales, planting more than 5,000 native plants.

## COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT

When invasive plants begin to dominate watersheds, the ecological benefits of our native plant communities are reduced. Soil and water quality can be negatively affected, local wildlife loses its food and habitat, and stream conditions can deteriorate. In an effort to more effectively and holistically remove invasive plants from the Nisqually River watershed, the District's Habitat Improvement Coordinator, Kate Terpstra, revived the Nisqually River Watershed Cooperative Weed Management Area Work Group in 2018.

In June, 18 representatives from 14 organizations, all with a vested interest

in improving the health of the watershed through weed control, met to discuss individual efforts and collaborative opportunities. In partnership with the District, the Nisqually Land Trust involved the group in its Early Detection/Rapid Response Riparian Weed Plan, which acknowledges the importance and increased efficiency in identifying and treating weed infestations as early as possible. Projects like these necessitate many partners and eyes on the ground! The group also discussed more established weed infestations and programs, such as Joint Base Lewis-McChord's work controlling flowering rush along Muck

Creek, and the District's work to control knotweed in the upper river system. With grant support from the Washington State Department of Agriculture and field crew support from Washington State Department of Natural Resources, the District treated a record number of acres for knotweed in the Nisqually River Watershed this year.

We look forward to continued collaboration and success from this work group in the future.

# HARVEST PIERCE COUNTY



Abbot Thích Phước Toàn, HPC's Chris Madden, Aaron Gibson, and volunteers have tea after building the newest garden at the Chùa Phước Huệ Vietnamese Buddhist Temple.

## NEW COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Community Garden program continues to grow and diversify since its start in 2010! We've added several new gardens in 2018, raising the total throughout Pierce County to 83. One of our newest gardens is the new Blueberry Park Community Garden, which is the result of over 3 years of community organizing and incredible dedication by countless community members. This project adds a new community garden, and soon a new playground, to the already awesome Blueberry Park - Tacoma's free U-pick Blueberry Farm.

We also added a new garden in the Lincoln District, building on a new

partnership with Tacoma Public Utilities. This garden represents another very long organizing process where community members showed up consistently over multiple years to achieve their goals of having a garden in their neighborhood.

Our partnership with the Franklin Pierce Farm on Franklin Pierce School District property continues to grow, and in 2018 we launched together a new community garden to complement the larger-scale work of the Farm Foundations team. Gardeners grow for themselves and for food banks, and many also participate in the larger work of the farm.

Through the Green Partnership Fund, the community members of the Orting United Methodist Church were also able to build a garden in 2018, with the purposes of providing fresh food to food pantries and to other local community members as well.

Finally, as we deepened relationships built through our Cultural Ambassador program with the local Vietnamese community, we were able to build a garden in partnership with the Chùa Phước Huệ Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. This garden provides space to grow food and medicine for the Temple community as a part of their programming for youth and seniors. The beds were sustainably built using cedar posts salvaged from discontinued stop signs, donated by Pierce County.

In 2019 we will be focusing on a new garden project on Tacoma's Eastside, in partnership with Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and various organizations within the Puyallup Tribe. We continue to be energized by the many different forms of food growing and environmental stewardship in our County, and can't wait to see our newest gardens flourish for their first full season this year!

# HARVEST PIERCE COUNTY



HPC's Kalicia Bean holds a *Ganoderma applanatum* mushroom, known as the 'Artist's Conk' due to the fact that you can make drawings on the underside. The Native Plant Sale Ethnobotanical Guide has tidbits like this and more around all the culinary, medicinal, artistic, and crafty ways you can enjoy native plants.

## WHAT IS ETHNOBOTANY?

Ethno (as in 'ethnic') refers to people and their culture, including language, customs, beliefs, practices, and aesthetics.

Botany is the study of plants, including everything from moss and trees to seaweed. Botany also includes both wild plants, and plants humans have selected and domesticated through time to make food, medicine, clothing, and more.

Ethnobotanical knowledge is a body of knowledge built by hundreds and thousands of years of human observation and relationship with the earth, and it continues to dynamically adapt as people and environments change and evolve.

Harvest Pierce County's mission around food access lies at the intersection between ecology, environment, and community. Because of this connection, Harvest Pierce County began a campaign to highlight the ethnobotanical uses of the conservation-grade plants at our Annual Native Plant Sale.

Many of the plants we sell have been cherished by people for all sorts of uses. Did you know, for example, that you can brew needles from your Douglas Fir tree to make an electrolyte and Vitamin C rich drink? We like to call it "Nature's Gatorade." And bark from the Western Red Cedar can be used to make waterproof clothing! These are just a couple of many reasons to fall in love with native plants all over again, beyond their ability to filter stormwater and restore the

natural environment around them.

Tidbits like these awakened interest in the Native Plant Sale from new audiences, and as a result we sold more this year than any other year in the past five years, selling out of much of our inventory. We look forward to continuing this momentum by having more classes, events, and programming that includes ethnobotany between now and 2019's Native Plant Sale.

**You can see the Ethnobotanical Guide as it grows on our website at [www.piercecd.org/462/Ethnobotanical-Guide](http://www.piercecd.org/462/Ethnobotanical-Guide)**

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



AmeriCorps member Sam Hain, leads campers in a game to learn about forests during a visit to Swan Creek Park at our Salishan Spring Break Camp.

## NEW PROGRAMS BOOST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION'S IMPACT

New programs boost EE's impact  
Our EE program had its highest impact yet in 2018, thanks to a few new initiatives. These new efforts reflect our emphasis on sustained programming with the students we serve. If we work with students for a longer period, we feel we can have a bigger impact and explore issues affecting our natural resources more deeply.

### Tacoma's Whole Child Initiative

We started hosting after school garden clubs at a few Tacoma elementary schools. The programs ranged from 4 weeks to 10 weeks as we showed students how to plant and maintain garden beds at schools like Roosevelt, Reed and Manitou Park. Helping

students grow their own food and learn about the food system is a valuable experience.

### Salishan ECO Camps

We held three camps for Salishan youth – one during spring break and two over the summer. Each camp was 3 days long and involved science activities, games, and field trips to places like Swan Creek Park and Titlow Park.

### EE BY THE NUMBERS:

**2,352 students**

**3,816 contact hours**

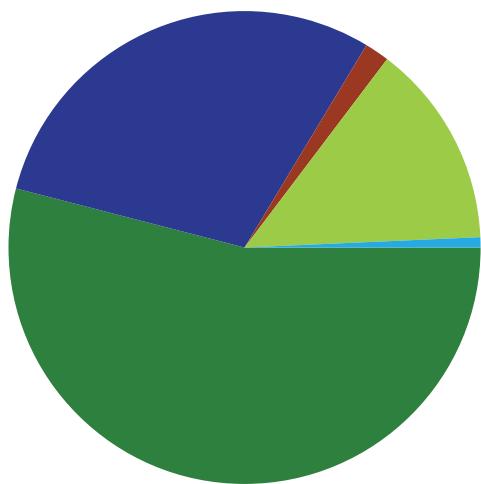
(Equal to 477 work/school days!)

## WATER FESTIVAL TURNS 15

The Children's Water Festival celebrated its 15th year in 2018. Nearly 700 5th graders participated and experienced fun things like viewing marine life, building ice cream aquifers, and using scientific tools and equipment. All this happened on the University of Puget Sound campus, so the students were able to experience a college atmosphere and its amenities. We owe a great deal of thanks to the UPS community, as well as the 120+ volunteers who pitched in their time and energy to make the event happen.

# FINANCIALS

## 2018 REVENUES + SPENDING

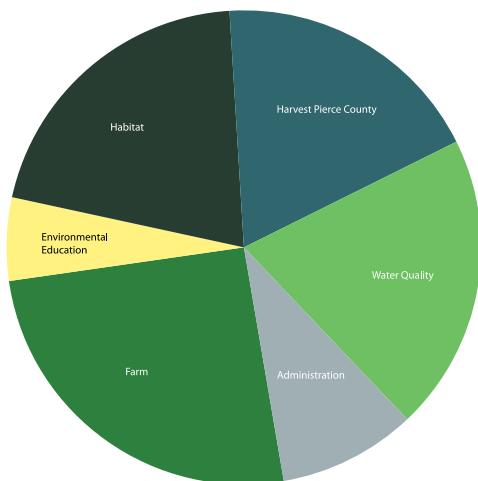


### Revenue by Source

- 54.0% Rates + Charges
- 29.6% Grants + Contracts
- 1.7% Tree Sale
- 14.0% Sale of Land
- 0.7% Other

### Leveraged Funds

For every dollar of rates funding the District leveraged \$0.59 in external funding. When combined with \$306,748.56 in volunteer in-kind contributions, the overall District leveraged rate was 73.9%.



### Spending by Program

- 25.4% Farm/AG Assistance
- 5.7% Environmental Education
- 20.6% Habitat Improvement
- 18.6% Harvest Pierce County
- 20.3% Water Quality
- 9.4% Administration

### REVENUE BY SOURCE

RATES + CHARGES	\$2,090,612.72	54.0%
GRANTS	\$1,146,225.27	29.6%
NATIVE PLANT + TREE SALE	\$65,031.96	1.7%
SALE OF LAND	\$540,925.98	14.0%
OTHER	\$27,114.38	0.7%
	<b>\$3,869,910.31</b>	

### SPENDING BY PROGRAM

FARM/AG ASSISTANCE	\$910,476.88	25.4%
ENVIRONMENTAL EDU.	\$203,111.80	5.7%
HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$738,535.65	20.6%
HARVEST PIERCE COUNTY	\$666,716.43	18.6%
WATER QUALITY	\$725,916.97	20.3%
ADMINISTRATION	\$336,255.10	9.4%
	<b>\$3,581,012.84</b>	

### BALANCE SHEET AS OF 12/31/2018

CURRENT ASSETS	\$1,480,997.00
CONSERVED LAND & EASEMENTS	\$792,164.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,273,161.00</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$53,677.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$53,677.00</b>
NET ASSETS	\$3,192,147.00
NET INCOME	\$(972,663.00)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$2,219,484.00</b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** **\$2,273,161.00**



Tlingit story teller, artist, and educator Nahaan shared cultural stories with Orca Recovery Day volunteers, reminding us of the importance of staying connected to the natural world and to each other. Our connection is what gives us strength as we work to restore the environment, the salmon, and the Orca.



## CONTACT US

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