



# 2018 SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S ANNUAL REPORT







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## Snohomish Conservation District

*working together for better ground since 1941*



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## Our Values

The goals of the Snohomish Conservation District's (SCD) programs are to ensure thriving farms that provide healthy local food for our families, restore rivers for our salmon, and provide clean water for our wildlife and recreational enjoyment. We bring together neighbors to share knowledge, educate our youth, and build projects such as rain gardens and community gardens. For over 75 years, SCD has served as a trusted resource to urban and rural landowners to work towards these goals - one property at a time.



# Letter from the Board

As you will see in this annual report, we have provided a wide variety of services and implemented a wide variety of projects throughout the Snohomish Conservation District. It has been our pleasure and honor to serve the residents of the District, and to work alongside so many different partners. Our success and the results within this report are the reflection of our service, the value of our partners, and the willingness of private landowners. We understand and fully realize that we can't do the things we do without you all stepping forward to support our collective efforts.

Together we have faced challenges and made progress. In the future, we will continue to work together to do the same. The foundation we are building together will make a difference. The Snohomish Conservation District is committed to building strong communities that are resilient.

Thank you for your on-going support and willingness to contribute toward a future based on the conservation and wise use of our precious natural resources.

Thank you for all that you do,



Mark Craven,  
Snohomish Conservation District  
Board Chair







## Our Mission

**To work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.**





## VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS: OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

In partnership with the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs, Snohomish Conservation District is the first entity in the state to host a military Veteran crew to address urban stormwater issues in communities across Puget Sound.

Through this program, Veterans rehabilitate themselves, their communities, and their environment. They act as the 'boots-on-the-ground' to build projects like community gardens, rain gardens, and parking lot retrofits. The Veterans Crew members have inspired adults and youth across the region to see that "A country worth defending is worth preserving."

“ I began to feel satisfaction and passion again. This is my new mission in life. I traded my rifle in for a shovel.”

Chris Rodriguez



# The Boots on the Ground

2018 Veterans Conservation Corps  
By the Numbers



**3811**  
**CREW HOURS**  
WORKED



**7500**  
**SQUARE FEET**  
OF PAVEMENT REMOVED  
AND REPLACED WITH  
HIGH-QUALITY SOIL



**600**  
**RAIN BARRELS**  
CONSTRUCTED AND SOLD



**40**  
**DAYS**  
OF RESTORATION &  
MAINTENANCE ON ACRES  
OF RIPARIAN LAND



**23**  
**RAIN GARDENS**  
CONSTRUCTED





## BOTHELL RAIN GARDEN CLUSTER: NEW CONNECTIONS

Snohomish Conservation District partnered with the City of Bothell and King Conservation District to build and plant four rain gardens in the neighborhood near the Bothell High School. Rain gardens are cheaper and more beautiful than other stormwater infrastructure. Around 30 people showed up to plant the rain gardens and about half of those were students from Bothell High School. Community members in attendance learned how they might incorporate rain gardens into their properties.





“ I would like to showcase our rain gardens in a way that honors Snohomish Conservation District’s efforts to bring awareness of the importance of protecting our environment. Every developer or builder should be mindful of this.”

Jeff Moon



When Jeff Moon, owner of Moon Construction Company, attended the workshop and planting party, he was inspired to integrate these practices into his new townhouse development in Bothell. "I would like to showcase our rain gardens in a way that honors Snohomish Conservation District's efforts to bring awareness of the importance of protecting our environment. Every developer or builder should be mindful of this. "





# Inspiring the Future

2018 Sound Education  
By the Numbers

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8209

**STUDENT**

CONTACT HOURS IN  
CLASSROOM LESSONS



359

**LESSONS**

TAUGHT IN THE CLASSROOM



339

**ADULT**

CONTACT HOURS IN  
CLASSROOM LESSONS

4

**SCHOOLYARD  
PROJECTS**

INCLUDES RAIN GARDENS,  
CISTERNS, AND TREE  
PLANTING PROJECTS.



6

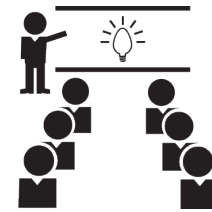
**FIELD TRIPS**

INCLUDES SERVICE  
LEARNING FIELD TRIPS





**2.2 MILLION**  
gallons of stormwater will  
be diverted each year by the  
Darrington rain garden.



**81 STUDENT**  
contact hours for lessons taught  
at Darrington Middle School

## PUGET SOUND STARTS AT MY SCHOOL: A COMMUNITY EFFORT FOR DARRINGTON

Last spring, a series of five watershed and stormwater-engineering focused lessons to Darrington middle school students as part of the Puget Sound Starts at My School grant. The lessons led to students designing a rain garden in a high traffic parking lot between their school and the Darrington Community Center. The rain garden was installed by the District's Veteran Conservation Corps and planted by all ages at a community rain garden celebration in October that included affordable rain barrels for sale.

According to teacher Eileen Draper, the real-world learning opportunity of the school rain garden presented itself with the first large rainstorm. "We were lucky enough to have a few days of rain that resulted in standing water in that area prior to the rain garden being installed so that students were able to contrast it to the same area now after a few days of even heavier rainfall—the rain garden has soaked up the water, and there's no standing water in that area at all. The lessons we learned continue to be shared with students and community members this year."







Anna Caruso / 2017 Photovoice

## AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE PLANNING: VIALE FARMING INTO THE FUTURE

How do we ensure farming remains viable on the landscape into the future? The Agriculture Resilience Plan is an effort guided by local farmers to determine what the needs of our farming community are now and how we can ensure farming is resilient in the face of rising seas and groundwater levels, increased flooding, saltwater intrusion, and droughts. The District completed modeling efforts with the University of Washington, Washington State University, and Cardno to assess the impact of future changes. These include:

- Impacts of rising seas on groundwater levels on estuary farmlands
- Potential for future saltwater intrusion
- Impacts of increased coastal and riverine flooding
- Predicted changes in precipitation, growing season length, frost risk, and heat stress



Julie Allen / 2017 Photovoice





To access online tools depicting this information, visit [www.snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience](http://www.snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience). The District will launch the action phase of this plan in 2019 working with farmers to develop priority project and infrastructure improvement needs. These priorities will be represented at the Sustainable Lands Strategy table, where fish, farm, and flood interests join to develop multi-benefit and resilient approaches to managing our floodplains into the future.

“ Climate change in this region has brought early floods and late floods, drought and, most recently, the highest spring rainfall in recorded history. As farmers we take note of these and other changes in the natural world because it’s part of our job. ”

Libby Reed



# Making an Impact

2018 Farm Planning  
By the Numbers

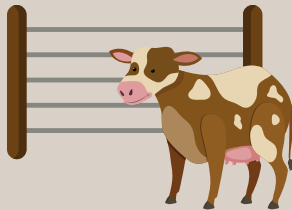
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145

ACRES

OF COVER CROPS



777

FEET

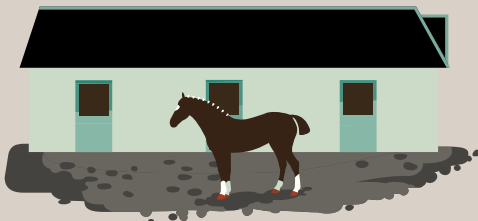
OF LIVESTOCK  
EXCLUSION FENCING



47

SOIL TESTS

ON AGRICULTURAL  
PROPERTIES



6

HEAVY USE AREAS  
INSTALLED



3

WASTE TRANSFER  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS





## RAISING LIVESTOCK WEST OF THE CASCADES: SOLUTIONS TO THE WET WINTERS

Raising livestock west of the cascades has its challenges. Syd contacted the district after sharing his mud and manure challenges with his neighbor who encouraged him to seek the district's assistance. Syd raises beef cattle north of Oso Washington. The wet winters were becoming more and more challenging to prevent mud from taking over and the risk of manure runoff reaching surface water.

The solution to Syd's problems was a composting bedded pack barn which consists of an ecology block structure with a synthetic (tarp) roof. In the pack barn, his cows can be confined during the winter months and the manure that was causing him problems before can now be easily managed with the composting system. Carbon is added from time to time by incorporating it into the pack to absorb manure and urine. An added benefit is that he sources horse stall waste as his main source of added carbon - this stall waste might otherwise be piled up somewhere potentially polluting surface and groundwater as his main source of carbon.

### Project Outcomes:

1. Cow comfort and herd health has improved
2. A reduction in the quantity of horse stall waste being piled up and not managed properly
3. Water quality has been improved
4. The composted bedded pack is used as a soil amendment to improve plant vigor and soil







**1.6 MILES**

of improved passage and habitat  
for juvenile Chinook and steelhead



**2 CULVERTS**

replaced along Kristoferson Creek

## KRISTOFERSON CREEK: SALMON PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT

Small coastal streams, such as Kristoferson Creek on the east side of Camano Island, provide critical habitat for several species of salmon and trout. The habitat found in Kristoferson Creek is especially critical for these juvenile Chinook because the estuaries of their natal watersheds are heavily degraded. Unfortunately, two culvert groupings at the mouth of Kristoferson Creek, and about 500 feet upstream of the mouth, partially blocked young Chinook salmon, steelhead, Chum and coho salmon from accessing the creek.

The Snohomish Conservation District partnered with Island County Public Works, which owns these crossings, to replace these blocking culverts with fish-passable culverts. By correcting these barriers, this project will improve passage for juvenile Chinook and steelhead as well as for other fish and opens 1.6 miles of habitat. It complements previous work by a private landowner who fixed two barriers on the creek years ago. Snohomish Conservation District completed construction in summer 2018.





KRISTOFERSON CREEK: PROJECT HIGHLIGHT







**25 VOLUNTEERS**  
at the Snohomish Conservation  
District event



**500 TREES**  
and shrubs planted along  
Woods Creek



## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP: ORCA RECOVERY DAY

What began as a request from Governor Inslee's office became a tangible, hands-on event for 11 of the 12 conservation districts around Puget Sound, of which Snohomish Conservation District is one. In total 27 organizations, and even one conservation district in eastern Washington, participated in the inaugural Orca Recovery Day. Through the Better Ground initiative, the Puget Sound Regional Conservation Districts share common visions for a better sound and for Orca health.

Snohomish Conservation District hosted their own event and 25 volunteers gathered to plant 500 trees and shrubs along Woods Creek near Monroe to help protect our local Orca population.



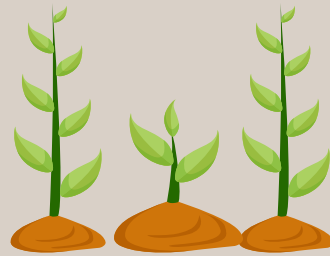


# Improving Habitat

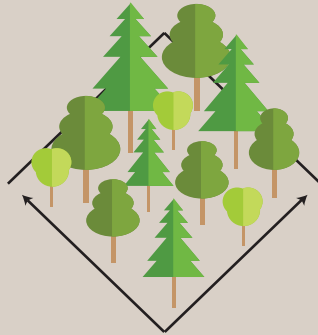
2018 Habitat Restoration Program  
By the Numbers



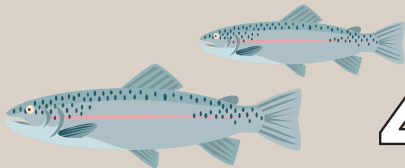
19100  
LINEAR FEET  
OF STREAM ENHANCED



38581  
TREES & SHRUBS  
PLANTED



45  
ACRES  
PLANTED



4  
FISH PASSAGE  
PROJECTS

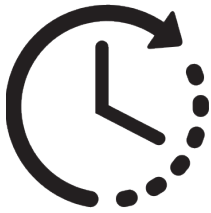


5  
BEAVER FLOW  
CONTROL DEVICES  
INSTALLED





**19386 POUNDS**  
of fresh produce donated to  
Snohomish County Food Banks



**130 HOURS**  
of volunteer time



## PROJECT HARVEST: NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Back in May, we put out a call for gardeners and farmers to consider planting an extra row of food to donate to others or give to the food bank in coordination with Volunteers of America's Project Harvest campaign. Our goal in the inaugural season of this partnership was to bring in 20,000 pounds of donated produce and my oh my did we get close.

Volunteers worked tirelessly throughout the growing season and brought in 19,386 pounds of food to Snohomish County food banks. Volunteers donated over 130 hours of their time to this cause, which would not have been possible without their time and effort.





PROJECT HARVEST: PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT





“**Snohomish Conservation District is a great resource for farmers and the environment in Snohomish County.**”  
 Jeff Ellingsen

## 2018 FINANCIALS

The District works hard to leverage the local assessment and rates funding entrusted to us. In 2018 the District was able to secure additional funding from federal, state, and private donations.

A few highlights:

- Better Ground, a regional outreach effort to increase awareness and impact of PSCDs (NEP)
- Continued funding to address community stormwater concerns through our Veteran Conservation Corps (Boeing, TNC)
- Urban Agriculture funding to work with low-income housing and food banks (NACD)
- Funding secured to complete Phase I of the Agriculture Resilience Plan and move into project scoping and design (NEP, ESRP)
- Funding secured for two riparian restoration projects - Jennings Park and Filburt Creek (DOE Clean Water)

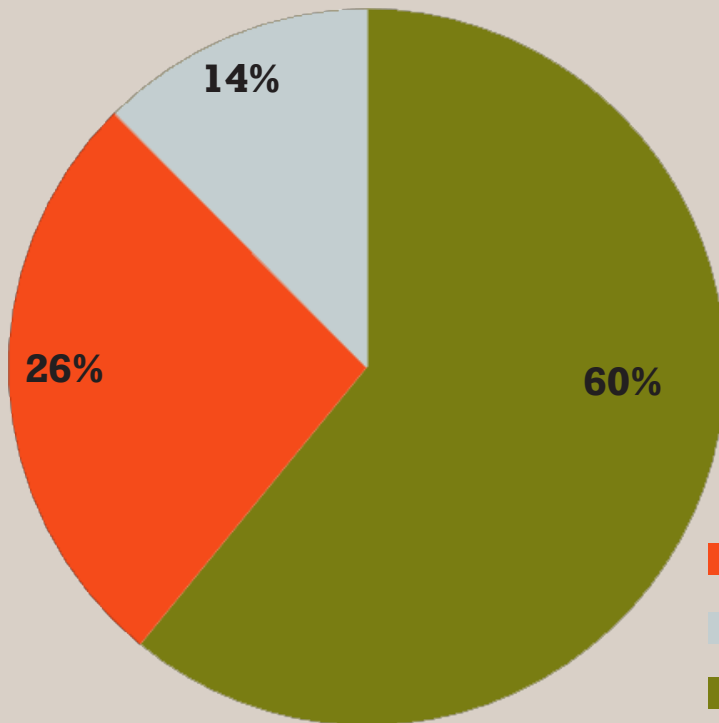
# Revenue Breakdown

**Total Revenue: \$3,739,729**

Snohomish County Rates	\$1,306,505
Camano Island Assessment	\$58,134
Grants & Project Implementation Funding	\$2,139,803
City Partnerships	\$100,230
Plant Sale	\$135,057



# Spending by Program



Community Conservation	\$960,484
District Operations	\$517,184
Natural Resource Management	\$2,216,503

**Total Spending: \$3,694,171**

## Direct Project Implementation: \$1,114,614

Direct project implementation includes things like crew time, direct cost share to landowners, and project expenses like plants, soil, etc.







Each year Snohomish Conservation District works with thousands of landowners from apartment dwellers to commercial farmers and everyone in between. We are proud to provide technical, educational, and financial assistance on a voluntary basis to these folks who are creating better ground in the communities where they work, live, and play.

Want to work with us? Our staff is eager to work with you! We offer free visits to your property and can help you brainstorm solutions that work for you and your land. Check out our services and programs below and don't hesitate to get in touch to learn more.

## Our Services

(Within Snohomish County and Camano Island)

- Farm & Rural Property Planning
- Habitat & Restoration
- Stormwater Solutions
- Sound Horsekeeping
- Lawns to Lettuce
- Youth Education
- Cost-share Opportunities
- Rain Barrel Kits
- Manure & Lime Spreader Program
- Annual Conservation Plant Sale