



5-Year Plan (2018 to 2022) Kitsap Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Kitsap Conservation District,
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Organization of the Kitsap Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington - authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

- The Kitsap Conservation District was formed in 1949.
- A five-member board of volunteer supervisors, three elected locally and two appointed by Washington State Conservation Commission, provides leadership to address local resource conservation issues.

Function of the Kitsap Conservation District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, coordinating them to meet the needs of the local land managers for conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

The Kitsap Conservation District assists landowners in viable agriculture production, stormwater control, and habitat restoration as well as the conservation of all natural resources.

Mission of the Kitsap Conservation District

- The Kitsap Conservation District commits itself to:
 - *Guiding conservation without regulation*
 - *Educating by demonstration*
 - *Forming partnerships to accomplish more*
- We dedicate ourselves to involving the community in better farming practices and natural resource protection now and for the future.

Vision of the Kitsap Conservation District

The vision of the District is to strengthen and promote natural resource stewardship, and to implement programs that will conserve agricultural and natural resources by providing technical assistance, incentive programs, and education to Kitsap land managers.

Values of the Kitsap Conservation District

- Utilize a common sense approach to programs, projects, and partners.
 - Respect opinions and goals of Kitsap land managers.
 - Assist land managers in understanding and addressing natural resource issues.
 - Assist land managers in the use of conservation measures to improve water quality and habitat.
 - Create and sustain programs to advance conservation in the county.
 - Provide services and implement conservation practices on a voluntary basis.
 - Serve as a liaison between the public and relevant agencies.
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Natural Resource Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

Maintain Kitsap Conservation District's partnerships with natural resource programs in the county.

- Through 2022, KCD will be recognized as an agency for coordination of natural resource related activities in Kitsap County and will coordinate funding that is adequate to complete the tasks needed.
- Maintain a long-range approach of assistance to Clean Water Kitsap/Kitsap County and focus on agriculture, low impact development, and habitat restoration.

Provide technical assistance to private landowners for natural resource improvement

- Through 2022, maintain effective programs to sustain agriculture and growth in the county while addressing wildlife, fish, and water resource concerns.

Improve Water Quality

- Through 2022, assist Clean Water Kitsap Programs and Kitsap Public Health District using cooperative efforts with program partners to improve all streams with significant development or agricultural activity.

Assist landowners with solutions to farm water quality concerns.

- Through 2022, identify and contact small farm owners and operators to educate them on the importance of proper management practices.

Promote Agriculture

- Through 2022, assist landowners so they might increase the number of economically viable farms in Kitsap. Kitsap Conservation District recognizes the importance of economically viable agriculture, and to that end, will be a resource and adviser for maintaining viability of existing agriculture and assisting landowners with new farming ventures.

Set an Example of Conservation

Through 2022, Kitsap Conservation District will set an example of conservation in all areas of work by:

- Utilizing low impact development methodologies to design, implement, and install Best Management Practices.
- Practice water conservation and low 'Carbon Foot Print' methodologies in everyday practices of the District.
- Utilize Kitsap County Resolution No.108 "Water as a Resource" as a guideline in planning and everyday practices.
- Be fiscally conservative with programs, recognizing the public support of the District through grants and other contracts.
- Demonstrate conservation and reuse/recycle methodologies in everyday practices.

Critical Geographic Areas

- Kitsap County has 228 miles of shoreline and near-shore habitat. This makes protection of water quality, quantity, and habitat a very high priority. It is critical to protect these areas, and Kitsap Conservation District will include this concern in all aspects of its outreach and education and technical assistance.

Information – Education Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

Increase public education/outreach programs to inform landowners and the public about the district and local issues.

- Create small farm, habitat restoration, and LID demonstration projects.
 - Regularly publish newsletters, web information and other media information.
 - Assist in public and school programs for water quality and natural resources.
 - Offer an annual native tree and plant sale.
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Trends Impacting Conservation in the Kitsap Conservation District

Trend: Increased scrutiny on the management of water resources on and near agricultural lands.

Strategy: Provide technical assistance to landowners that addresses water quality. Encourage landowners to provide suitable habitat and open spaces within their own properties.

Trend: Constant pressure due to population expansion to develop open space, agricultural land and shoreline.

Strategies: Assist and encourage landowners to optimize production on existing natural resource lands and currently developed properties. Encourage LID practices to help mitigate impact on natural resources.

Trend: Increased demand for locally produced agricultural products.

Strategies: Assist landowners with development of agricultural products for local markets; Work with county government to create acknowledgement of agricultural land and incentives.

Natural Resource Data:

KCD owns and maintains updated watershed data for small farms throughout the entire county. This resource for future BMP focus and data can be used for grants and emergency management.

Staffing Needs

1 FTE District Coordinator

1 FTE District Financial & Technical Coordinator

0.5 FTE Administrative Assistant

9 FTE Planners

Annual Budget Needs

Operating Budget Needs: To maintain existing programs, budget needs total \$1,400,754 in 2018 and will rise approximately 3% each year afterward to 2022.

Key Decision Makers

Citizens of Kitsap County

Kitsap Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Washington Association of Conservation Districts Board

Washington Conservation Commission

District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

- Maintain stable funding sources and contracts
- Seek new opportunities for contracts and innovative grants.
- Maintain staff salaries/benefits commensurate with other conservation districts and public agencies.
- Provide training opportunities for supervisors and staff.
- Complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, supervisor elections & appointments, training & development, annual planning and reporting.



Benchmarks, Timeline, & Actions

Strategic Priority:	Timeline	12 Month Actions/Measurable Goal:
LID program development	2018-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Clean Water Kitsap (CWK) program and Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to complete demonstrations of cisterns, pervious surface and other LID practices on farms and retrofit homes and businesses.
Increase working partnerships with Suquamish Tribe and local PUDs	2018-2022 Each Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan with Tribe and PUDs on priority watershed work each year • Include Suquamish in Backyard Habitat Program projects
Farmland Preservation Efforts	2018-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Dept. of Community Development (DCD) to improve awareness of critical farmland in Kitsap County. • Engage farming community activists, local jurisdictions and KCD in discussion on preservation.
Homeland Security and Emergency Management	2018 - 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to RFP's for risk management. • Engage the farming community in e-prep to avoid Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) risk and aid in disaster assistance for farmers. • Promote food security programs for local food banks feeding families, and especially, children.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land Managers with their conservation choices

