

STRATEGIC PLAN: YEARS 2011 - 2015

Mission

To promote the sustainable use of natural resources through responsible stewardship

Vision

King Conservation District will continue to be a leader in community based stewardship of natural resources and provides services to support economically viable working lands throughout the District.

Values

- ▶ Accountable
- ▶ Respectful
- ▶ Collaborative
- ▶ Empowering
- ▶ Trusted

Purpose

King Conservation District, a non-regulatory agency, empowers people to be effective stewards of natural resources and working lands. The District provides land users, cities, businesses and agencies with financial assistance, technical support, and information. The focus of the support includes balanced water usage, water quality protection, habitat enhancement, farm management / conservation planning, soil health, slope stability, native plant, manure management, volunteer opportunities, stream restoration/enhancement assistance and many other natural resource topics.

Function

- The King CD facilitates community conservation through voluntary sustainable stewardship within and between the public and private sectors in the District and the Region. The District has no regulatory or enforcement authority.
- The King CD supports working lands, as they protect open space, optimally steward resources and are self-sustainable. The District educates land managers, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies on how to recognize and address natural resource challenges. We provide technical assistance that supports solutions.
- In addition to funding its core programs, the District offers grant funding to support projects congruent with its mission.
- The King CD works hand-in-hand with the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS develops and maintains current best management practices and standards, which the District employs in the implementation of its projects.

King Conservation District Goals

Natural Resources:

- Protect & Enhance Natural Resources through Voluntary Stewardship of soil, air, plants, animals, humans, and energy
- Support the Design and Implementation of Practices that Balance Water Resource Protection and Use
- Support Economically and Environmentally Viable Working Lands and Sustainable Open Space
- Expand and enhance the District's Education Program

Intergovernmental and Strategic Partnerships:

- Update Jurisdictional Grants Program in order to Better Support King CD Constituent Cities
- Expand Collaboration with Washington Conservation Districts, Non-Governmental Organizations and Businesses
- Secure Sufficient and Stable Funding to Meet Constituent Needs for King CD Core Services

Statements of Intent & Objectives: 2-Year & 5-Year

Goals	Statement of Intent	2-Year Objectives	5-Year Objectives
<p>Protect & Enhance Natural Resources through Partnered Voluntary Stewardship</p>	<p>People, cities and businesses embrace environmentally sustainable practices across the landscape, both private and public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engage cooperators and partners in the identification of critical resource improvement areas, towards 3 new projects. ▪ Review and improve the conservation planning and implementation processes, including the upgrading of regular monitoring and adaptive management of all projects. ▪ Identify \$250,000 for collaborative cost share funding to offset recent budget cuts. ▪ Re-engage with King County and NRCS scientists to accelerate the development of the natural resource inventory (NRIM) in order to clarify best management practices for the altered environment. ▪ Puget Sound Partnership – one joint venture project with PSP and Puget Sound conservation districts. ▪ Seek methods to work with Jurisdictions to support NPDES efforts. ▪ Coordinate with NRCS to refer cooperators for EQIP and other Farm Bill program sign-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% of District-contacted land users, businesses and cities will have implemented projects and practices to improve critical resource management areas. ▪ 100% of King CD cooperators will have implemented at least one recommended best management practice. ▪ 25% of King CD cooperators will have earned a District merit award. ▪ Grow by 10, the number of cooperating, non-agriculture businesses in District supported programs. ▪ Complete the NRIM program and employ it in District conservation planning and funding. ▪ 50% increase in acres served by the District. ▪ Puget Sound conservation districts represented on the PSP Leadership Council, and NRCS on the PSP Science Panel.

<p>Support the Design and Implementation of Practices that Balance Water Resource Protection and Use</p>	<p>District-funded programs include water quality standards monitoring and adaptive management practices, as appropriate, developed through collaboration with public and private stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to collaborate with agencies, tribes and stakeholders to support identification of appropriate 303d and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for land managers. ▪ Support the review and updating of the county ground water management plans for a selected watershed basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% of District-funded programs are evaluated for inclusion of water quality standards monitoring and adaptive management practices, as appropriate.
Goals	Statement of Intent	2-Year Objectives	5-Year Objectives
	<p>Practical solutions that balance resource protection and resource use are identified and implemented (through effective stakeholder collaboration).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitate a working group of regulatory agency staff and land users to discuss and develop a shared water quantity and quality resource profile that will show the trends and needs for ongoing program emphasis. ▪ Support District-wide efforts to expand the installation of rain gardens, in partnership with Stewardship Partners and Puget Sound regional conservation districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the adoption of a mutually agreeable set of solutions by all stakeholders. ▪ 50% increase in implementation of District recommended water quality and quantity best management practices in focused areas. ▪ 75% increase in District-assisted rain garden installations.

<p>Support Economically and Environmentally Viable Working Lands</p>	<p>King CD will collaborate with urban and rural land managers and local governments to identify conservation actions that are economically feasible.</p> <p>Economically feasible conservation actions are identified through collaboration with urban and rural land managers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with King County and cities to secure funding to sustain and enhance the “Puget Sound Fresh” / farm marketing program. ▪ Identify one District-collaborating farm in each farmers market and develop materials which promote collaboration between the farm and King CD. ▪ Work with an initial community of land managers and timber contractors to develop a program that certifies contractors as “District- Approved.” ▪ Develop a conservation district branding program for responsible stewardship. ▪ Explore District’s role in regional farmland preservation and protection efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In collaboration with Cascade Harvest Coalition, enhance farmers markets in the county. ▪ Identify three collaborating farms in each farmers market and provide District recognition. ▪ 50% of licensed timber contractors are certified. ▪ All collaborating farms will participate in the conservation district branding program.
<p>Expand and Enhance the District’s Education Program</p>	<p>Support and enhance District educational programs that raise awareness of responsible community stewardship with people, cities and businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify dedicated and stable funding for collaborative education programs, with partners such as King County, WSU Extension, etc. ▪ Collaborate with Puget Sound conservation districts to engage land managers in stewardship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build capacity to support the spread of the District’s philosophy of cultivating a stewardship ethic in the general population.
<p>Goals</p>	<p>Statement of Intent</p>	<p>2-Year Objectives</p>	<p>5-Year Objectives</p>
	<p>Develop and / or support educational outreach programs that engage youth in collaborating with District land managers and businesses to embrace responsible stewardship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support existing youth programs focused on conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify and secure \$250,000 in funding support for youth programs.

Enhance Jurisdictional Grants Program	Changing jurisdictional needs has prompted an updating of the Member Jurisdictional Grant Policy to maximize efficient use of available funds and attract new funding streams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement mutually agreed upon adjustments to grant policy by working through the King CD Advisory Committee and stakeholder hearings. ▪ The revised jurisdictional grant policy will be adopted by late 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance jurisdictional grants program to more optimally engage community support.
Expand Collaboration with Washington Conservation Districts, Non-Governmental Organizations and Businesses	Develop new partnerships that utilize collaborative funding from the private sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work Collaboratively with Puget Sound CD Caucus, in partnership with PSP, towards the recovery of Puget Sound. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5 new business cooperators. ▪ 10% of King CD funding to come from private sector business sources.
	In partnership with King County and the Watershed Forums, identify program efficiencies and cost savings to fund expanded collaboration with non-profits and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate current funding uses to identify cost efficiencies and savings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a cost analysis toolkit for project evaluation. ▪ Develop competitive bidding and bonding requirements.
Goals	Statement of Intent	2-Year Objectives	5-Year Objectives

<p>Secure Sufficient and Stable Funding to Meet Constituent Needs for King CD Core Services</p>	<p>King CD will stabilize and enhance funding from public and private sources to ensure support for core services and the District's grant program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve District's engagement with member jurisdictions to build stronger assessment-funded programs and services for all stakeholders. ▪ Identify the full range of stakeholders and stakeholder needs within the Puget Sound region. ▪ Work with the full range of Puget Sound stakeholders to identify natural resource needs and to inform conservation district priorities and funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build the capability to increase the amount of funding from local sources, public and private, or restructure the allocation of public funding.
--	---	--	---