



**WHAT** do we do? - **WHO** uses our services? - **WHY** is it important?



**WHAT does the King Conservation District do?**

The King Conservation District (KCD) provides a free program of services that help landowners manage the natural land and water resources on their property. Our free information and technical assistance is available to *all* landowners within the District boundaries, which includes most cities in King County and all of unincorporated King County. Our assistance is hands-on, site specific and results oriented. We provide workshops, education programs, site visits, farm plans and consultations on land, water and wildlife management. Conservation districts are the only entities with the sole mission of serving the natural resource issues arising from private land management.

**Historical Perspective** – The way in which natural resources – soil, water, flora, fauna – are managed on private property affects the entire community, region and ultimately the country, not only the private landowner. This fact was recognized legislatively in response to the national catastrophe and Depression that resulted from the devastating effects of the Dust Bowl during the 1930’s, which was created largely due to the lack of proper land management. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form *soil conservation districts* to help farmers learn and implement better agricultural practices to minimize soil erosion.

**KCD Today** – Today the role of natural resource management extends beyond “soil management.” It includes water and wildlife management and urban and suburban landowners. As a result, the districts have dropped the limiting “soil” moniker and are now called conservation districts, encompassing a broader focus and mandate.

Since 1949, the King Conservation District has been educating and assisting landowners, schools, scientists, consultants and agencies. We promote conservation through technical assistance, demonstration projects and educational events. Areas covered include:

- Water quality protection
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Farm management plans
- Soil and slope stability information
- Native plants
- Manure exchange information
- Stream restoration and enhancement
- Dealing with land use regulations

**KCD MISSION STATEMENT**

Promote sustainable uses of natural resources through responsible, voluntary stewardship; and educate citizens about resource conservation.



**Volunteerism is a major part of KCD** – Landowner participation is voluntary, as is the general public’s participation in the District’s many habitat and wildlife restoration and enhancement projects. The King Conservation District provides an opportunity for *everyone* to become involved in preserving and maintaining their community’s environmental health and survival. The District assists entire communities in their collective responsibility for active and intelligent stewardship of their precious natural resources.



## **WHO uses our services?**

### **THE URBAN LANDOWNER**

Harold G. is planning a significant landscaping project for his new home and wants to know what native plants would work best on his land and how he can enhance wildlife habitat in his backyard. He called King Conservation District for advice and became so enthusiastic about his project that he got his entire neighborhood involved with our Naturescaping program designed for urban communities. The program promotes the use of native plants by providing a list of local nurseries that sell them and shows how to enhance urban wildlife habitat. It also helps urban landowners learn ways to reduce water pollution and conserve soil, water and energy.

### **THE MARINE LANDOWNER**

Karen W. owns her dream home on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound. She wants to know what she can do to minimize the risk of erosion on her property. She attended one of our workshops on Land Management Practices for Marine Shoreline and Bluff Landowners and got practical advice on the steps she should take. Her first step was to request a technical assistance site visit by a one of our land management specialists who assisted her in creating an action plan.

### **THE SUBURBAN LANDOWNER**

Mary and Steve M. own several acres outside Seattle and are confused by new land use regulations. They wanted to be sure they were in compliance with the Critical Areas Ordinance, so they contacted the KCD to advise them on the correct width of buffers, percentage of native vegetation required and whether their property contained a legitimate wetland.

### **THE RURAL LANDOWNER**

Dave S. has 50 acres with a stream that was once a spawning ground for native salmon before channels became clogged and rerouted. He wants to bring salmon back to his land, so he consulted with KCD on his salmon recovery plan to help clear out and reconstruct the stream in a way that enhances salmon habitat.

### **THE SEMI-RURAL LANDOWNER**

Zack T. keeps horses on his land and needs a way to deal with the accumulation of manure. He learned from KCD that composting is an excellent manure management technique. It also reduces flies, odors and the risk of parasite infestation and provides him with a free, easy source of compost for his garden and pastures.

### **THE FARMER**

Bill D. wanted to improve productivity on his farm while reducing the impact on natural resources. He contacted the KCD and we worked with him to produce a document called a farm plan—a series of actions developed to meet Bill's goals while protecting water quality and natural resources. The plan included recommendations on streamside fencing, manure management techniques and pasture renovation. It also helped Bill meet the requirements of King County's Livestock Management Ordinance. Developing farm plans is a free service from KCD, offered to both commercial and non-commercial farms of all sizes – from backyard horse owners to dairy and beef operations.

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## **WHY is KCD important ?**

Area residents care about the quality of the land, water, air and wildlife around them. They are passionately committed to being good stewards of the land and preserving the abundant natural resources of the region. For more than 50 years, the District has been helping county landowners, grassroots organizations and municipalities with education and technical assistance to help them meet the challenges of changing environmental conditions and regulations.

With over 60 percent of the land in the U.S. privately owned, it is imperative for the health of our environment and preservation of our natural resources for private landowners to be actively involved in implementing scientific best practices on their land. KCD helps the county's increasing number of property owners be effective, voluntary stewards of their own land – which benefits *everyone* who lives in and visits the District.

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