



# King Conservation District

Sara Hemphill, District Manager  
1107 SW Grady Way, Suite 130 Renton, WA 98057  
(425) 282-1900 | district@kingcd.org | www.kingcd.org  
Board Chair: Bill Knutsen

State Legislative District #1,5,11,30,31,  
32, 33,34,36,37, 39, 41,43,45,46,47,48  
Congressional District #1, 2, 7, 8, 9

## Other Accomplishments



Hosted the 2014 State Envirothon Tournament. Photo: Mark Musick



Led tours of Boise Creek as part of a grant-funded project to work with creekside property owners to test and improve water quality. Photo: Mark Musick



Hosted the first ever conference on Climate Change and Horsekeeping, including streaming it live for a national audience. Photo: Alayne Blicke

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Rainier Beach urban farm and wetlands stewardship training

### RESOURCE CHALLENGE

Many urban communities do not have access to fresh local food and do not understand the importance of soil health, clean water, and wildlife habitat. By developing a 10 acre site into a productive urban farm while restoring historic wetlands on the site, Seattle Tilth is creating a living laboratory that grows farmers and resource stewards in a dense neighborhood. King Conservation District (KCD) supports this effort through its member jurisdiction grant program and other mechanisms.



Boots sit ready for the next volunteer event

### PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

At 10 acres, the Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands (RBUFW) is Seattle's largest urban farm. Community members of all ages volunteer and participate, including restoring the natural wetlands habitat that runs down the middle of the farm. In 2013-2014, KCD supported the first phase of significant wetland restoration on the site. Wetland ecologists were hired, and in spring, work parties began! 840 volunteers worked 2,200 hours on the wetland restoration. Volunteers removed invasive species, and then planted 449 native plants. By the time summer arrived, over two acres of wetlands were restored, and nearly 3,000 square feet of area were added to the project. In addition to hands-on experience in wetland ecology, volunteers gained a deep understanding of soil and water health, taking that knowledge out into the community. They serve as ambassadors for Seattle Tilth's WaterSmart program and the ways in which the community is connected to its watershed.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Seattle Tilth; Friends of Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands

## More Work to Do!

- Work with KCD Advisory Committee to develop programs for the regional food system and urban agriculture.
- Work with KCD Advisory Committee to develop programs for rural small lot forest owners and to develop urban tree canopy in member jurisdictions.
- Begin work on \$250,000 WA Department of Ecology grant to improve drainage for agriculture in King County.