

# Kitsap Conservation District

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State Legislative District #23,26,35  
Congressional District #1,6

## 2014 Feature Accomplishment: Green stormwater solutions in the Steele Creek Watershed

**RESOURCE CHALLENGE** Watershed records show that Steele Creek Watershed was very productive for salmon and steelhead. Today, Steele Creek is impacted by runoff from major highways and development. This runoff has altered the hydrology of the watershed, resulting in erosion and sedimentation to its streams and tributaries. Stormwater brings other nutrients into the shellfish growing area at Burke Bay. Recommendations for Steele Creek include riparian (streamside) habitat restoration and green stormwater solutions.

**PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS** With restoration in mind, Kitsap Conservation District (KCD) began the retrofit of homes, farms, and small businesses. Together with the strength of the county's Clean Water Kitsap program, a holistic plan took shape. KCD solicited stormwater retrofits, farm plans, and habitat projects. KCD approached the WA State Conservation Commission (SCC) for specific shellfish-related assistance. In a pilot grant, funding was made available for the installation of rain gardens, pervious pavement, cisterns, and infiltration measures for homes and farmsteads. The tactical response by local agency partners and the SCC has offered a watershed-approach to Puget Sound restoration.



Burke Bay and adjacent shellfish growing area receives stormwater flowing from Steele Creek and numerous tributaries.

**KEY PARTNERS:** WA State Conservation Commission; Kitsap County's Storm Water division 'Clean Water Kitsap'; Kitsap Public Health District; WSU Extension

## Other Accomplishments



KCD focused on pollinators this year. Xerces Society speaker, Eric Mader, brought new information to farmers and gardeners at our annual meeting.



Stream restoration work was an important part of KCD's program.



Mud-Free paddocks were created by local farmers to prevent nutrient runoff in winter.

## More Work to Do!

- Kitsap CD is planning for projects and outreach on water conservation with Kitsap Public Utility District in the upcoming year.
- Firewise Program interest is growing in Kitsap County and KCD is looking forward to a role in the effort to inform homeowners countywide.
- Saving pollinators will be a focus for the 2015 tree sale as the district offers seed and plants that are beneficial to insects.