



Pierce Conservation District

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Board Chair: Jeanette Dorner

State Legislative District #2,25,26,27,28,29,31
Congressional District #6,8,9,10

Other Accomplishments



April 2014, partnered with PCC Farmland Trust to establish a 700' vegetated hedgerow on a farm property near Orting to protect soil erosion. Photo: Jo Arlow



February 2014, The District completed this 2,538' fencing project on Dropstone Farms, along the Carbon River to reduce water quality impacts. Photo: Rene Skaggs



Volunteers participate in the Veggie Coop Program, farming 20 acres of property to build their skills and produce farm-to-school produce. Photo: Matt Price

2014 Feature Accomplishment: From parking lots to paradise: Depaving to improve water quality



40 volunteers removed 650 sq. ft. of asphalt and planted 800 shrubs and trees filtering 16,000 gallons annually of polluted rainwater runoff. Photo: Melissa Buckingham

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Polluted rainwater runoff is a significant contributor to pollution in Puget Sound. In Tacoma, keeping Commencement Bay from returning to “superfund status” (the federal government’s program to clean up uncontrolled hazardous waste sites) is key for economic and environmental health reasons. With a goal to improve water quality, the Pierce Conservation District worked with partners to host the first-ever “depave” project in Puget Sound, bringing volunteers together to turn unnecessary asphalt in to a community open space and naturally filtering polluted rainwater.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS Forty volunteers from local churches, the neighborhood, and local businesses removed 650 square feet of asphalt. One week later, volunteers planted over 800 trees and shrubs in the depave site. Depave projects not only create community spaces and naturally filter polluted rainwater, they create community, allowing neighbors to work together to improve their environment and shared space. The Pierce Conservation District is excited to expand this opportunity all across Pierce County. This newly pervious surface will infiltrate 16,207 gallons of polluted rainwater falling on the site.

KEY PARTNERS: City of Tacoma Environmental Services; DePave; Stewardship Partners; The River Network; The Russell Family Foundation



Volunteers plant 800 shrubs and trees to replace the asphalt, creating a community open space that now naturally filters the rainwater. Photo: Melissa Buckingham

More Work to Do!

- Providing technical and resource support to 70 community gardens and over 2,500 community gardeners throughout Pierce County.
- Japanese knotweed eradication and riparian habitat enhancement throughout the Nisqually and Puyallup Watersheds.
- Lead a new channel migration – 1 new mile off-channel habitat creation and reforestation project along South Prairie Creek, improving habitat for endangered Chinook.