

# **Pierce Conservation District**

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## **Other Accomplishments**



With support from a USDA grant, the district led a Pierce County Farmers Market Promotional Program, helping promote 11 Pierce County markets.



The district engaged 1,549 people in our educational workshops for farm, habitat, and water quality.



Last year our Harvest Pierce County program donated over 70,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown food to those in need.

# 2016 Feature Accomplishment Meeker Creek riparian and stream restoration project

#### **RESOURCE CHALLENGE**

Meeker Creek did not meet water quality standards for temperature or dissolved oxygen and had elevated levels of sediment. Pierce Conservation District partnered with the City of Puyallup to support requirements imposed by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit and to restore a vital salmon-bearing stream. The restoration project and riparian



Meeker Creek before restoration planting but after the meanders had been installed

planting contributed to an increase in dissolved oxygen levels in the creek, reduced in-stream temperature through riparian cover, and restored salmon spawning and refuge habitat.



Meeker Creek today - a thriving habitat for salmon and other wildlife

#### **PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS**

The project, located in the City of Puyallup, just prior to the confluence of Meeker and Clarks Creeks, removed 1,000 linear feet of the 4,385-foot stream length from a trapezoidal ditch and placed it in a natural, meandering stream channel. Pierce Conservation District then led a series of five volunteer planting events, leveraging the engagement of hundreds of volunteers to install almost 10,000 trees

and shrubs. This project restored over 100,000 square feet of riparian area while creating floodplain storage. In the fall of 2015, with restoration efforts not yet complete, volunteers got to witness salmon return to spawn in the creek!

**KEY PARTNERS:** City of Puyallup; Forterra; dedicated volunteers from across Pierce County

### More work to do!

- Rural Renewable Energy Initiative: Help farmers and rural business owners save money with renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades.
- Green Shorelines Program: Work to establish a program to help coastal property owners install best management practices.
- Diversity outreach: Focus efforts on breaking down language barriers and reaching a broader audience that's more in-line with Pierce County demographics.