

SNOHOMISH



CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rates and Charges Proposal

2026-2030

Introduction

Each year, the Snohomish Conservation District engages with thousands of residents to support their conservation and natural resource goals through education, technical assistance, and financial support. We also collaborate with Snohomish County, tribal governments, and partner organizations to implement multi-benefit programs and projects that serve the broader community.

This rates and charges proposal is shaped by input from Snohomish County residents, Conservation District staff and board members, and our community partners. To further ensure transparency and community involvement, we held a public hearing on July 10, 2025, and a public meeting on July 22, 2025, to share the proposal and gather additional feedback from the public.

Our community has been overwhelmingly supportive of both our work and this proposal. One key area identified for improvement is reducing the waiting time for services. We regularly provide site-specific technical assistance and often offer financial support to help implement best management practices that protect natural resources and strengthen agricultural viability.

Currently, we have a backlog of projects we are eager to assist residents with. While grant funding supports many high-priority initiatives, it does not cover the full scope of natural resource needs across the county. Rates and charges are essential to bridge this gap. Increasing them will allow us to expand our efforts, better respond to landowner needs, and deliver services more efficiently.

Fund Sources

The Snohomish Conservation District is funded through a combination of rates and charges, grants, and interagency agreements. Currently, rates and charges account for approximately 35% of our budget, while grants and agreements make up the remaining 65%. We strategically leverage rates and charges funding to diversify our funding portfolio and expand our capacity to serve the community.

We are proposing an increase in the annual rates and charges to \$20 per parcel, while maintaining the existing rate of \$0.10 per acre, for a period of five years. The budget table below outlines the anticipated funding under this proposal.

| | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Estimated Rates and Charges to be Received by District | \$4,987,320 | \$5,027,941 | \$5,068,743 | \$5,109,863 | \$5,151,302 |

Budget

SCD estimated budget for 2026 Snohomish County Rates and Charges

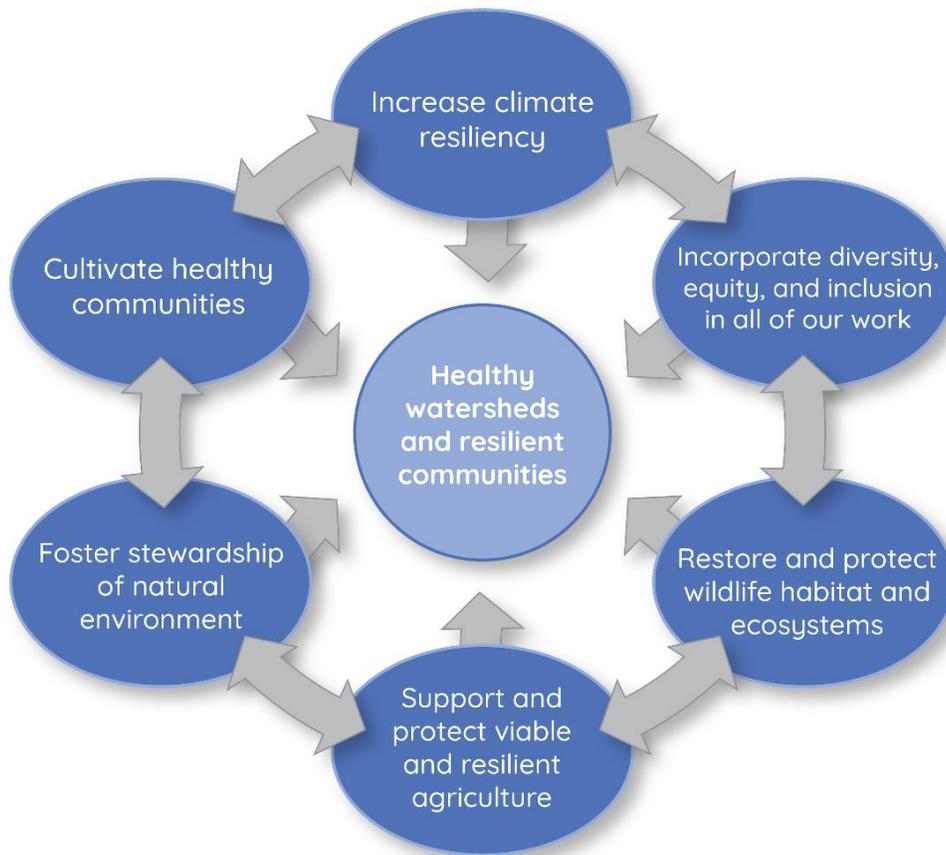
| Natural Resource Priorities | Estimated Funding |
|--|--------------------------|
| Agriculture | |
| • Farm Planning | 310,000 |
| • Rural Resource Management | 280,000 |
| • Agriculture Resilience | 160,000 |
| Habitat Restoration | |
| • Floodplain Management | 250,000 |
| • Forest Health & Wildfire Resiliency | 300,000 |
| • Riparian and Wetland Restoration | 200,000 |
| Community Conservation | |
| • Green Stormwater Infrastructure | 175,000 |
| • Urban Agriculture | 200,000 |
| • Backyard Wildlife Habitat | 150,000 |
| Education, Outreach, and Communications | |
| • Youth Education Programs | 250,000 |
| • Workshops and Presentations | 150,000 |
| • Fairs and Events | 125,000 |
| Business Operations | |
| • Administration | 750,320 |
| • Partner Collaboration and Engagement | 150,000 |
| • Natural Resources Center | 1,537,000 |
| Total Estimated Budget | \$4,987,320 |

Overarching Priorities

SCD's overall priority is to contribute to healthy watersheds with functioning streams, floodplains, riparian corridors, and refugia; abundant salmon and wildlife; and resilient communities with clean water, green spaces, and locally grown food.

Resiliency is about capacity to adapt and recover in changing and challenging conditions. Our work increases resiliency within natural systems and communities and helps them to thrive.

We focus our efforts in six key areas, as depicted below, which are inter-dependent and work together to reach priority goals.



Programs and Services

The following pages illustrate our 2026 program of work for our Agriculture, Habitat Restoration, Community Conservation, Education, Outreach, Communications, and Business Operations Departments.

Agriculture: Farm Planning, Rural Resource Management, and Agriculture Resilience

Goal: Support and Protect Viable and Resilient Agriculture

- Work with property owners throughout the District to deliver farm planning services to improve agriculture viability and address natural resource concerns. Natural resource plans include Dairy Nutrient Management Plans, Carbon Plans, and Resource Management Plans.
- Increase agricultural resilience through multi-benefit project implementation including flood risk mitigation, drainage improvements, habitat improvements, and agricultural Best Management Practices that improve soil health and habitat and protect water quality.

| Activities |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct site visits and planning to address natural resource concerns, deliver agriculture technical assistance and education to agricultural operators about Best Management Practices for improving soil health, water quality, and nutrient management. Increase focus on climate resilient practices including Agroforestry, permaculture, dry farming, composting, irrigation, water storage, adaptive grazing, cover cropping, conservation tillage, nutrient management, carbon sequestration, and consideration of new, more viable crop species.• Provide technical assistance through workshops; farm walks, and training sessions; developing Resource Management Plans, Dairy Nutrient Management Plans, Carbon Farm Plans, and Agroforestry Plans; and developing technical assistance letters.• Support implementation of on-farm Best Management Practices by identifying cost-share opportunities and developing engineered design plans. Increase access to and capacity of USDA-NRCS programs for Snohomish County producers.• Respond to resource concern referrals from the Department of Ecology, Snohomish County, and Department of Agriculture by providing technical assistance, developing or updating farm plans, and identifying cost-share opportunities for commercial agriculture• Support implementation of the Agriculture Resilience Plan to increase agriculture viability.• Provide assistance following State and locally identified flood disaster events |

Habitat and Floodplain Management: Restoration, Forest Health, and Agricultural Resilience

Goals:

- Improve water quality, streamflow, forest health, and salmon and wildlife habitat in priority watersheds through technical assistance, planning, and project implementation.
- Promote climate resilience through collaborative multi-benefit project design and implementation on farms and floodplain properties and at the site and reach scale.
- Strengthen and sustain partnerships to increase capacity and efficiency in natural resource planning and investments, accelerate BMP implementation, and maximize impact to natural resources.

Activities

- Plant riparian forest and upland forest; maintain and complete vegetation monitoring on riparian plantings; conceptually design fish passage barrier correction projects and construct fish passage barrier correction projects; and install beaver coexistence projects to increase forest cover.
- Implement riparian and off-channel habitat restoration and beaver retention to improve aquatic habitat in priority reaches and sub-basins including Stillaguamish Confluence, North Creek, Pilchuck River, Woods Creek, Skykomish River, and other watersheds.
- Partner with Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish County, and other partners to implement the Snohomish and Stillaguamish basins Collaborative Fish Passage Barrier Removal strategy
- Increase agricultural resilience to climate change on priority agricultural lands through capital investments in multi-benefit project implementation including flood risk mitigation, drainage improvements, habitat improvements, and forest health BMPs; scope multi-benefit project actions for one agricultural resilience reach
- Deliver habitat restoration and forest health technical assistance and planning to address natural resource concerns; promote habitat restoration and forest health, water storage and beaver co-existence, in-stream, and floodplain restoration projects and land management; conduct at least 120 technical assistance site visits
- Deliver educational workshops and tours on topics including forest health, riparian and wetland habitat, beaver co-existence, fish passage, agriculture resilience, climate resilience, and incentive programs
- Deliver riparian habitat restoration and wildlife technical assistance and develop projects in Stillaguamish Confluence and Mainstem, Pilchuck River, Woods Creek, Lower Skykomish River, and North Creek sub-basins
- Contribute to salmon recovery planning, regional forest health program delivery, climate-resilient riparian program development, TMDL development, PSP, Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS), and other natural resource conservation planning efforts for Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish watersheds

Community Conservation: Green Stormwater Infrastructure, Urban Agriculture, Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Goals:

- Provide technical services to urban and suburban landowners and support jurisdictions in the implementation of their National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
- Reduce stormwater runoff and nonpoint source pollution utilizing Green Stormwater Infrastructure and public education.
- Increase climate resiliency, tree equity, and wildlife habitat with expansion of urban tree canopy.

| Activities |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase urban and community forests in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Marysville, Everett, and the Tulalip Reservation.• Support urban agriculture through financial and technical assistance to residents and organizations for home and community gardens• Conduct planning, deliver technical assistance, and implement action plans to address natural resource conservation and stormwater management in urban and suburban settings.• Expand community wildfire resilience and chipper program to reduce wildfire risk in the wildland/urban interface neighborhoods. |

Education, Outreach, and Communications

Goals:

- Inspire residents to connect with and steward the environment through accessible, engaging, and informative programs and resources.
- Foster environmental stewardship in youth through inclusive, experiential, and place-based conservation education programs.

| Activities |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and facilitate youth education programming in the classroom and field, including Watershed Week, Wheat Week, Farm to School, and Envirothon.• Develop and implement outreach strategies to engage diverse community members via in-person and virtual workshops, outreach materials, and digital engagement. |

Business Operations

Goals:

- Maintain a healthy and diversified funding portfolio, manage financial resources efficiently, and meet all legal requirements
- Maintain a professional, productive, and safe office environment and working conditions
- Develop the Natural Resources Center

| Activities |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate public and partner engagement; participate in local and regional initiatives, and facilitate strategic planning.• Work with other Puget Sound conservation districts to explore, develop, and implement effective and efficient multi-county programs, products, and efficiencies.• Maintain a productive, functional, and engaged leadership team and workforce.• Develop property for new Natural Resources Center, including community outreach, financing, permitting, architectural design, bidding process, construction, and sub-leases.• Manage financial, legal, operational, and personnel requirements: improve processes and policies• Ensure financial management is accurate. Manage annual state and federal audits• Revise and update employee manual and streamline operational policies and procedures• Manage facilities, operation and maintenance, and technology requirements |

For more information about the District and this proposal, please contact Linda Lyshall, Executive Director, at 425-327-9862 or llyshall@snohomishcd.org