

Snohomish Conservation District

working together for better ground since 1941



Local solutions to local problems

Our Year in Conservation

Annual presentation to Snohomish County Council



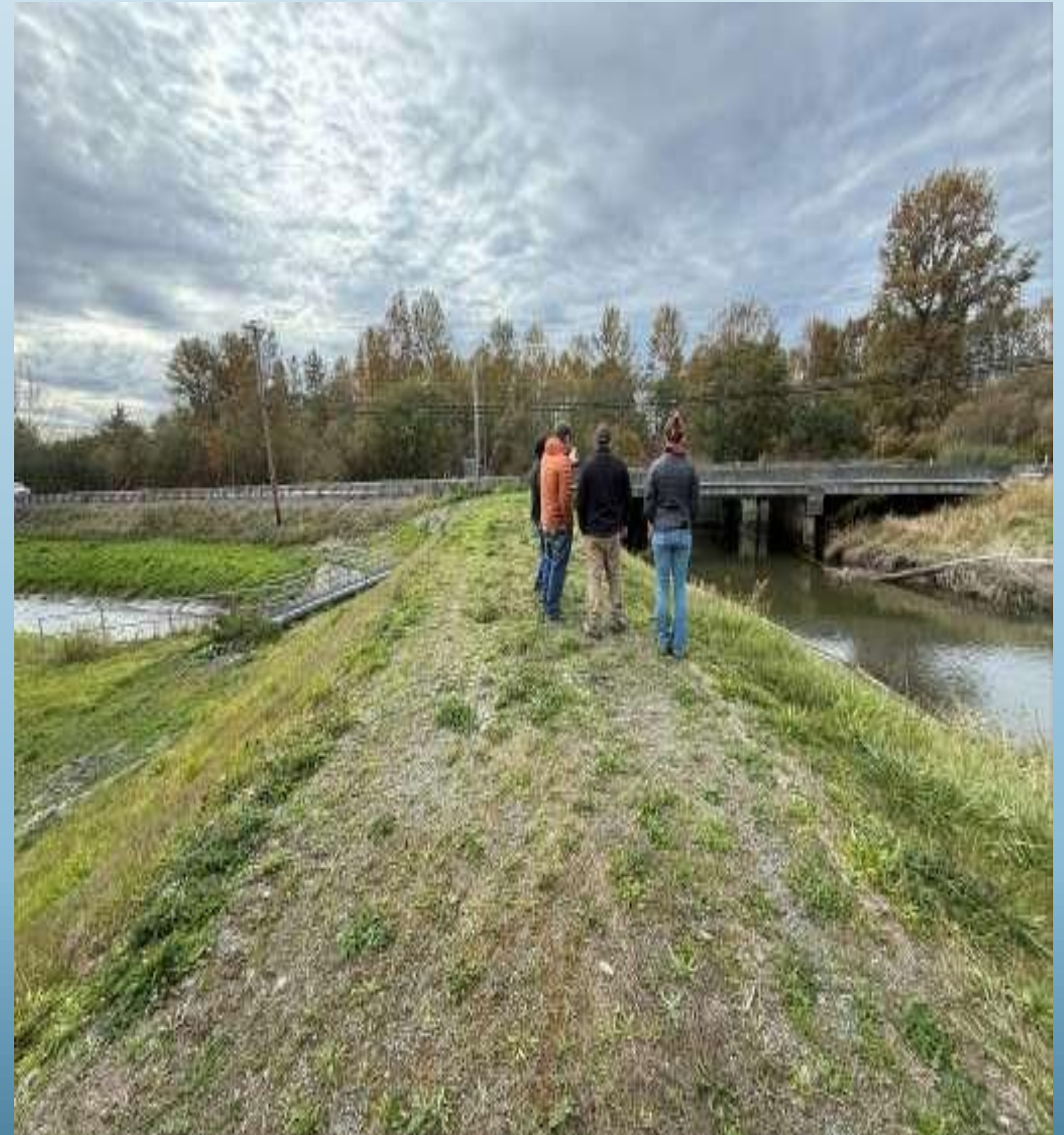
— WHO WE ARE

We help the people of
Snohomish County **care for**
for the land, water, and
forests they depend on.

Since 1941 Working alongside local farmers, families, and landowners

Invited in Free, voluntary, and non-regulatory — landowners ask us onto the
onto the land

Everywhere Farms, forests, streams, city neighborhoods, and classrooms



Your community in 2025

88,697

native plants shared and placed

149

farms supported across the county

374

cubic yards of wildfire fuel chipped

10,327

youth engaged in hands-on learning

223

in-person visits with landowners

357

feet of bioswale installed

Conservation that works at **two speeds**.

The long game

The slow, patient work of restoration — planning with a landowner, planting a streambank, and returning year after year until it takes hold.

When December floods hit, we were on farms within hours — because relationships built over decades meant farmers knew who to call.

The rapid response

When a crisis hits, we move fast. Our help is free and voluntary — we're invited onto the land, never imposed.

Section 01

Agriculture

Keeping working farms working

Our farm planners walk the land with dairy, livestock, and crop producers — building soil health, improving nutrient management, and supporting sustainable grazing. The result protects water quality, improves habitat, and keeps farms productive.

149

farms supported

59,860

lbs of cover-crop seed



Dairies

- We provide:
 - Certified Dairy Nutrient Management Plans for every dairy that requests one, to assist farmers in meeting the requirements in RCW 90.64.
 - Technical assistance with engineering designs
 - Permit assistance
 - Soil tests
 - Financial assistance

- Best Management Practices Implemented





AGROFORESTRY

- Alley Cropping
- Food Forests
- Silvopasture
- Windbreaks
- Riparian Forest Buffers
- Wet Feet Farming



Supporting farms through flood and flood and beyond

After December's floods, 46 producers reached out — and we were on farms within hours. We keep rainwater out of manure storage, help producers adopt new tools, and reimagine food production in flood-prone fields. Each project strengthens one operation and the wider landscape.

Section 02

Habitat, Floodplains, & Forests

Kristin Marshall · Natural Resource Director

Cooler streams, resilient rivers rivers

Native plants shade streams for salmon, filter and slow stormwater, and rebuild wildlife habitat across forests, farms, and cities. Our habitat planners remove fish barriers, restore floodplains, support beaver coexistence, and reconnect riparian zones to their streams and rivers.

88,697

plants shared &
placed

36

acres of riparian
planting





Opening the way for salmon

Salmon recovery is the work of more than a generation, but every action adds up. Sometimes, the benefit is immediate; this year, we removed two barrier culverts and fish swam and spawned in streams had been blocked for decades.

2

fish barriers removed

3.94

miles of habitat reopened



Supporting an equitable workforce workforce

Natural resource jobs support thriving communities – from forestry to farming to habitat restoration, green jobs help ensure our communities are resilient. This year, the Restoration for All program delivered small business classes, hands-on learning, and paid internships and we saw one new local business created by program graduates.

590

Hours of volunteer
labor invested

8

internships

Section 03

Community Conservation

Managing water where it falls

In our fastest-growing neighborhoods, we slow stormwater before it reaches a stream. One bioswale planted with 375 native plants and about as long as the Mukilteo–Mukilteo–Clinton ferry captures runoff and filters out oil, sediment, and pollution.

1,800

urban trees planted

4

rain gardens installed

357

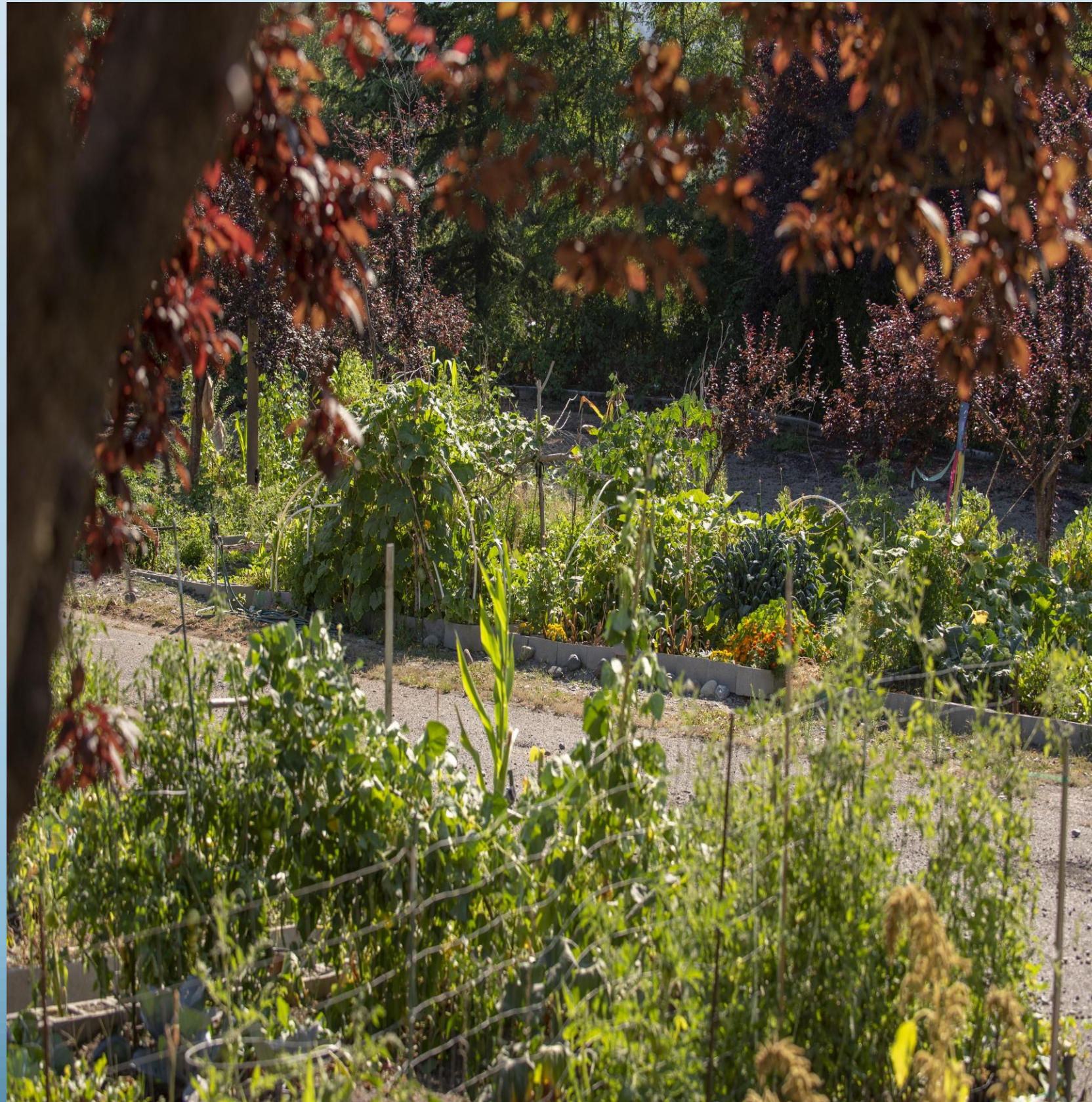
feet of bioswale





Urban trees for all of us

We helped communities plant, map, and care for 1,800 for 1,800 trees that will improve air quality, reduce reduce heat island impacts to urban communities, and communities, and slow stormwater.



Fresh food within walking distance

We installed three community garden retrofits — 122 edible plants and nine raised beds — and led workshops in Spanish, Wolof, French, and Arabic. We're growing food closer to home, in the languages our neighbors speak.

Section 04

Forestry

Stacey Dixon, PhD · Forestry Program Manager

Healthier woods, safer neighborhoods

We help forest landowners keep their woods healthy and fire-resilient. By chipping flammable brush instead of burning it, we reduce fire danger, keep smoke out of neighborhood air, and turn debris into mulch for local gardens.

We provide forest planning, financial assistance, and labor crews for afforestation and thinning projects to increase forest cover and grow healthy, resilient forests.

374

cubic yards of fuel
chipped

20+

Small forest
landowners
supported with
forest planning





Where the trees are the view

At Lake Connor Park, more than 300 forested acres ring a quiet lake. We're restoring forest health there and on woodlots across the county — thinning crowded stands, replanting natives, supporting beaver habitat, and helping owners plan for the long term.

Section 05

Education, Outreach & Communications Communications

Michelle Livengood · Development & Communications Director

Growing the next generation of stewards

From preschool through high school, students learn watersheds, soil health, and local food systems through hands-on, science-aligned lessons — taught in classrooms across the county.

10,327

youth engaged in learning

31

schools reached

883

hands-on lessons taught





A community that shows up

We hosted or joined 88 community events — from the Annual Plant Sale to Sale to Orca Recovery Day — and reached more than half a million people through our channels, designs, designs, and stories.

88
community events
events

550K+
reached via digital
digital engagement
engagement

Needs Identified:

- Technical assistance
- Financial assistance
- Education
- Flood assistance
- Habitat improvements
- Local food production

This year, we asked.

In interviews and a survey of more than 300 residents, neighbors named our greatest strength: personalized, hands-on help for farmers and landowners.

"The District brings funded projects to to farmers, who then provide us with food." food."

Snohomish County resident · 2025 community study

"Native plant, bird, and insect populations populations are increasing — the District's District's impact is visible."

Snohomish County resident · 2025 community study

— PARTNERSHIPS

Cultivating partnerships is the core of our work.

Conservation happens because landowners, agencies, and neighbors choose to work together. We're grateful to the partners who make better ground possible.

GOVERNMENT

Snohomish County
Island County
Local cities & towns
Tribal partners

STATE & FEDERAL

WA Conservation Commission
Department of Ecology
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Washington Conservation Corps

COMMUNITY

Farmers & landowners
Volunteers & cooperators
Schools & educators
Local businesses

Thank you

Questions & discussion

Linda Lyshall · Executive Director

Kristin Marshall · Natural Resource Director

Stacey Dixon · Forestry Program Manager

Michelle Livengood · Development & Communications Director

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