

## FUNDING

PSCDs are nimble organizations in forming partnerships that can be funded in a number of ways:

- CD enabled systems of Rates and Charges and Special Assessments
- State and federally funded grants and cost-share
- Coordinated investments with local jurisdictions
- Strategic partnerships with philanthropic organizations
- Charitable donations through Title 26 USC-Section 170(a)(1)

Additional funding and investment in the PSCD system would accelerate Puget Sound Recovery through:

- Coordinated investment to address multiple resource concerns, such as upland and urban runoff contributions to farms in the floodplain
- Capacity to retrofit and maintain legacy stormwater facilities
- Cost-share funding to accelerate community-based stormwater solutions on private property
- Investment in the PSCD Better Ground outreach initiative
- Funding to replicate effective stormwater programming across Puget Sound



## A SHARED VISION

The Puget Sound conservation districts have formed a collaborative regionally focused Caucus.

Our shared vision is a future in which private land managers and local residents are actively engaged in building community, stewarding natural resources, and playing an essential role in restoring and maintaining a healthy and productive Puget Sound and Salish Sea.

Our shared mission is to support and strengthen the 12 Puget Sound conservation district and partners to foster community-scale and individual stewardship ethic. PSCDs share staff and resources to support local economies and restore, enhance and maintain the natural resources of Puget Sound through a non-regulatory, incentive-based approach.



Puget Sound Conservation Districts

Working with you and other land stewards for Better Ground

Local food ~ Healthy forests ~ Clean water

[pugetsoundcd.org](http://pugetsoundcd.org) and

[betterground.org](http://betterground.org)

# PSCD

Puget Sound Conservation Districts

## BETTER GROUND

## COMMUNITY-BASED STORMWATER SERVICES

### WHO WE ARE

The twelve PSCDs are uniquely positioned to engage private landowners in stewardship practices that address regional priorities. PSCDs are aligning core programs and services to recover the health of Puget Sound, and are increasing capacity to deliver their proven approach region-wide. Within their scope of work, the Community-Based Stormwater Program provides a pathway to protect and enhance Puget Sound for current and future generations, especially in the urban and suburban environment.

#### PSCDs are:

- Non-regulatory
- Community based and locally led
- Accessible
- Strategic
- Results driven and focused on shovel-ready projects
- Cost-effective

#### PSCDs offer:

- Coordinated, certified and trained professionals. We lend best available science, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards, peer training and certification networks, and a high level of quality to our projects.
- Uniquely positioned, special purpose districts that engage private landowners and managers in stewardship practices to address both local and regional resource conservation issues.
- A strategically aligned collective of interdisciplinary experts, scaling proven programs and services in a cost-effective way.

### WHAT WE DO

- Work with private landowners on a voluntary basis to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality
- Assist jurisdictions in achieving NPDES requirements and comprehensive planning goals.
- Provide 'boots-on-the-ground' support in the construction and maintenance of practices
- Enable implementation on private and public property through cost-share funding
- Provide regional outreach and education through the PSCD Better Ground initiative.
- Replicate proven programs at the local level



# COMMUNITY-BASED STORMWATER PROGRAM

## COMMUNITY-BASED STORMWATER SERVICES

In many of Puget Sound's highest-priority watersheds, private property comprise up to 90% of the land use. By engaging these essential stakeholders, conservation districts are addressing the dominant contributor of non-point source pollution, and acting as the trusted link between jurisdictions and private property owners.

## HOW WE WORK



Through this work, PSCDs are enabling community-based stewardship projects within schools, businesses, religious institutions, and residential properties.

### OUR STAFF

PSCD Stormwater Program staff includes experts in their fields—including licensed Professional Engineers, Landscape Architects, Low-impact Development Specialists, Environmental Educators, Farm Planners, Community Liaisons, and Construction and Maintenance Crews.

### OUR PROGRAMMING

Rain Garden and Rain Catchment Program—PSCDs support landowners through technical and financial assistance for low-impact development retrofits, like rain gardens and rainwater catchment. These projects are frequently scaled through a 'cluster approach', where several projects are identified within a neighborhood, Home Owner Association (HOA), or business park.

### DEPAVE

In collaboration with regional partners, PSCDs are using the successful DePave model which utilizes a community engagement approach to transform impervious pavement into gardens and green spaces. This model has had particular impact on commercial sites and in underutilized urban areas.

### STORMWATER MONITORING PROGRAMS

Many PSCDs utilize staff and citizen scientists to monitor the water quality of local streams. This program has not only been of value across agencies like Department of Health, Department of Ecology, and local jurisdictions - it has been a meaningful way to engage thousands of local stewards to be water quality ambassadors within their communities. Critical Areas Ordinances to achieve GMA level resource protection and enhancement priorities.



### YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Each year, PSCDs reach over 35,000 youth, parents, and educators through their delivery of stormwater education classes, teacher workshops, and project-based learning opportunities through schoolyard stewardship.

### URBAN FOREST AND TREE CANOPY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Activities of this program include: conducting tree canopy assessments, preparing stewardship management plans for native growth protection areas, implementing open space restoration plans, planting street trees and optimizing right-of-ways, and developing code templates to support urban forestry objectives through stormwater management programs.

### OUTREACH AND MARKETING SYSTEMS

PSCDs are using social marketing research, regional branding campaigns, online education and community networks through the PSCD regional initiative, Better Ground.

Conservation Districts take stormwater management out of the theoretical and bring it into real life. In addition to online education, PSCDs create hands-on, applied-learning opportunities for both adults and youth. PSCDs engage in a wide array of demonstration projects and events—including HOA parties, employee engagement events, green street projects, and outdoor classrooms.

LOCAL FOOD  
HEALTHY FORESTS  
CLEAN WATER

BETTER  
GROUND



[www.pugetsoundcd.org](http://www.pugetsoundcd.org)