



Puget Sound Conservation Districts

BETTER GROUND

COMMUNITY-BASED STORMWATER SERVICES

WHO WE ARE

The twelve PSCDs are uniquely positioned to engage private land managers in land stewardship practices that address regional natural resource priorities. PSCDs are aligning core programs and services to recover the health of Puget Sound and increasing capacity to deliver these programs and services across the region. Within the suite of core PSCD programs and services, the Community-based Stormwater Services Program provides a pathway to protect and enhance Puget Sound for current and future generations.

PSCDs are:

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



WHAT WE DO

- Work with private landowners and managers on a volunteer basis to improve the soils and waters of our region.
- Enable implementation of stormwater best management practices and long-term sustainability by providing technical and financial assistance for projects.
- Provide regional outreach and education through the PSCD Better Ground initiative.
- Beta test Puget Sound-wide program pilots to trial practices and approaches that address significant regional issues and that can be used across the state.



OUR SERVICES

Our Community-based Stormwater Services Program focuses on protecting of Puget Sound by addressing the direct link between urban environments and water quality and providing on-the-ground solutions to improve our natural resources.

HOW WE WORK

In many of Puget Sound's highest-priority watersheds, private property comprises 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. Through this work, PSCDs are enabling community-based stewardship projects within schools, businesses, religious institutions, and residential properties.

- **Green Stormwater Infrastructure** – PSCDs have developed innovative programming in rain gardens, rain catchment, DePave, and natural yard care.
- **Stormwater Monitoring** – Many PSCDs utilize staff and citizen scientists to monitor the water quality of local streams
- **Urban Forestry** – PSCDs are helping to improve canopy cover, provide open spaces, and address runoff and climate impacts through urban forestry actions.
- **Youth Education Programs** – Each year, PSCDs reach over 35,000 youth, parents, and educators through their delivery of stormwater education and stewardship opportunities.
- **Community Engagement and Strategic Communication** – PSCDs work together using social marketing and other effective tools to engage communities and support program participation.

The following PSCD Caucus Community-based Stormwater Services have been identified by the Puget Sound Partnership as regional priorities and included in their Action Agenda:

- Stormwater Action Team
(NTA: 2018-0912)
- Better Ground
(Awarded NTA: 2016-0246)



FUNDING

PSCDs are nimble organizations in forming partnerships that can be funded through a variety of mechanisms:

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