



Thurston Conservation District

Kathleen Whalen, District Administrator
2918 Ferguson Street SW, Ste A Tumwater, WA 98512
(360) 754-3588 | kwhalen@thurstoncd.com | www.thurstoncd.com
Board Chair: Doug Rushton

State Legislative District #2,20,22,35
Congressional District #3,10

Other Accomplishments



Students learn about nearshore habitat, aquatic species, and the importance of good water quality through the District's South Sound GREEN program.
Photo: Kathleen Whalen



A cost-shared Compost Facility is constructed on an organic crop farm in the Nisqually watershed.
Photo: Dave Nygard



Due to overwhelming demand for our Poultry Processing Unit, the District purchased another complete unit. This is our most popular rental equipment!

2014 Feature Accomplishment: Nisqually Green Infrastructure Project: Kaufmann Rain Gardens

RESOURCE CHALLENGE Located in the Nisqually Watershed, the Kaufmanns are developing a new small farm business and hoping to build a successful microbrewery, organic farm, and cut-flower operation. However, they struggled with stormwater issues on their property each winter. Runoff consistently flooded their driveway and ponded around the central agricultural outbuilding where they work. The family welcomed Thurston Conservation District (TCD) as a partner, creating a demonstration site that responds to their stormwater by using green infrastructure.



Raingarden #3 is prepared, according to specifications. Next, engineered soils will fill this area, prior to the planting phase.
Photo: Karin Strelieff



Compost is applied to help retain moist soils and prevent weed invasion.
Photo: Kathleen Whalen

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS Together the Kaufmanns and TCD built three large raingardens to provide a destination for excess stormwater runoff. Measuring over 1,700 square feet, the gardens will capture and hold stormwater from the road and outbuilding roof, soaking it into the ground through specially engineered soils. Because of their location in the Nisqually basin, the gardens will at times function as temporary bog gardens if groundwater levels rise, providing a holding area for stormwater runoff until infiltration resumes with receding groundwater. Each garden was planted with native plants and ornamentals that provide additional color and pollinator habitat.

KEY PARTNERS: Mason Conservation District; Kaufmann family; community volunteers; Shellfish Stakeholders Group; AmeriCorps; WA Conservation Corps Crew (housed at Mason CD)

More Work to Do!

- Continue active participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) planning work.
- Bring together a workable solution for working lands production and riparian habitat restoration.
- Work with partners to increase personal and regional food security.
- Assist the local agricultural community prepare/adapt for climate change resiliency.