

SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT STORMWATER EDUCATION PROGRAM 2024 REPORT

For: City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, City of Mount Vernon,
City of Sedro-Woolley, & Skagit County

The primary purpose of the Skagit Conservation District's Storm Water Education Program is to assist local jurisdictions with compliance efforts for the "Public Education and Outreach" requirements of the NPDES storm water permit. The purpose of the partnership is to work together cooperatively, share a common message, avoid duplication of efforts (which in turn will save money and resources), utilize existing programs when possible and to share resources and expertise.

Skagit Conservation District, in partnership with the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County, has provided a comprehensive and multifaceted series of programs and opportunities to reach a wide range of interest groups, including homeowners, businesses, contractors, youth, and the general public with the goal of educating, engaging, and inspiring local stewardship in order to reduce stormwater pollution impacts to our local waterways.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT



Stormwater Facilities Maintenance workshop: Task 1.1

(7/29/24) Five citizens and several municipal partners in attendance. The workshop was coordinated and held at the Port of Skagit County. Municipal overview and Detention Pond Maintenance: Stormwater Coordinator, Jason Quigley, provided the municipal overview and "Nuts and Bolts" were presented by Andy Conner of TRICO Companies, LLC. Promotion of the event was conducted via direct mailing to HOA contact lists in each jurisdiction promotional fliers distributed throughout the community and posted on

websites and SCD Facebook, and through SCD and partners email distribution lists.

Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program Task 1.2



(Aug. 29-Oct. 23) We averaged 13/class with as many as 18 attendees at a couple of our classes. Participants attended 6 evening lecture sessions, 1 theater presentation, and 4 Saturday field days. Classes started with "watershed basics", orientation, and "passports" in preparation for the beginning of our tour at the top of the watershed at Baker dam where participants learned about the salmon hatchery and processes. Fieldtrips included a tour of Judy reservoir, the Lower Day Slough restoration project, and Barney Lake restoration project. Funds from NPDES purchased tickets for the "Wild and

Scenic Film Festival which was inspiring to attendees and was hosted by the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group. Classes included "Watersheds in agriculture", "Swans and Geese in farmland",

“Climate change”, “Salmon life cycle”, “Estuaries” and ended at the bottom of the watershed learning about shellfish farming at Taylor Shellfish Farm.

Skagit Stream Team Task 1.3



- 63 volunteers participated in the 2023-24 Stream Team Program. 1,303 volunteer hours were logged.
- 58 volunteers are currently participating in the 2024-25 Stream Team Program.
- Data for the 2023-24 Annual Stream Team Monitoring Report is currently being entered by volunteers.
- Data for the 24-25 season is currently being entered by volunteers
- The Annual Stream Team award celebration was held at Padilla Bay Research Reserve on July 27, 2024.
- Staff coordinated the 2024-2025 monitoring season. Training took place on September 3, 4 and 7, 2024.
- Volunteer coordination and correspondence and equipment maintenance is ongoing.

Skagit Storm Team

- 8 volunteers participated in the 2023-24 Storm Team program.
- 13 volunteers are currently participating in the 2024-25 Storm Team program.
- Storm Team volunteers sampled 12 sites in the Padilla Bay Watershed during the 23-24 monitoring year during high rain events and continued to sample the Thomas Road Samish River site when needed on weekends or holidays and report results to County & State Health.

Storm Drain Labeling Task 1.4

- Supplies were provided to volunteers and businesses in the Cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon and Skagit County as needed throughout the year.

Social Marketing Task 1.5, and PSSH Community Event Display Board: Task 2.6, Outreach Events: County CWD Contract Task 3

- WSU Country Living Expo
- Storming the Sound



- Whatcom Farm Expo
- SICBA Home & Garden show (8)
- Earth Day event @ Hillcrest park (80+)
- Earth Day event @ Riverfront park (40)
- Bark in the Park (80+)
- Kulshan Neighborhood Fair (21+)
- Discovery Garden Open House (85+ Adults and 15+ youth)
- Bark in the park COA (80+)
- Kulshan event outreach (21+)
- Discovery Garden open house (100)
- Pet waste event at PetSmart (32)
- Concrete Youth activity day (415)
- Stormwater workshop (5)
- Burlington library craft event (20)
- Fidalgo Bay Day (155)
- Festival of Family Farms (129+)



2. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Backyard Conservation workshops: Task 2.1

(4/3/24-5/8/24) Held 7 Wednesday evening presentations and 2 Saturday fieldtrips. The WSU Extension Discovery Garden fieldtrip for composting training and a garden tour, and to Skagit Land Trust 's riparian restoration site, Tope Ryan Preserve for an amphibian presentation. Between 8 and 19 (an average of 13) people attended each of the workshops which included classes on low impact development, rainwater harvesting, sustainable landscaping, Native plants, planting for wildlife, invasive plants, invasive Green Crabs, composting, and more.



Resource Materials/Education for Local Schools Task 2.2

- Skagit Conservation District provides support to local schools by providing educational resources and presentations throughout the year.
- Educational packets were prepared and distributed to 530 local teachers. The packets include information on stormwater, watersheds, and other resources and educational

programs available for teachers and classrooms through the Skagit Conservation District. Promotion of the EnviroScape Model classroom presentations.

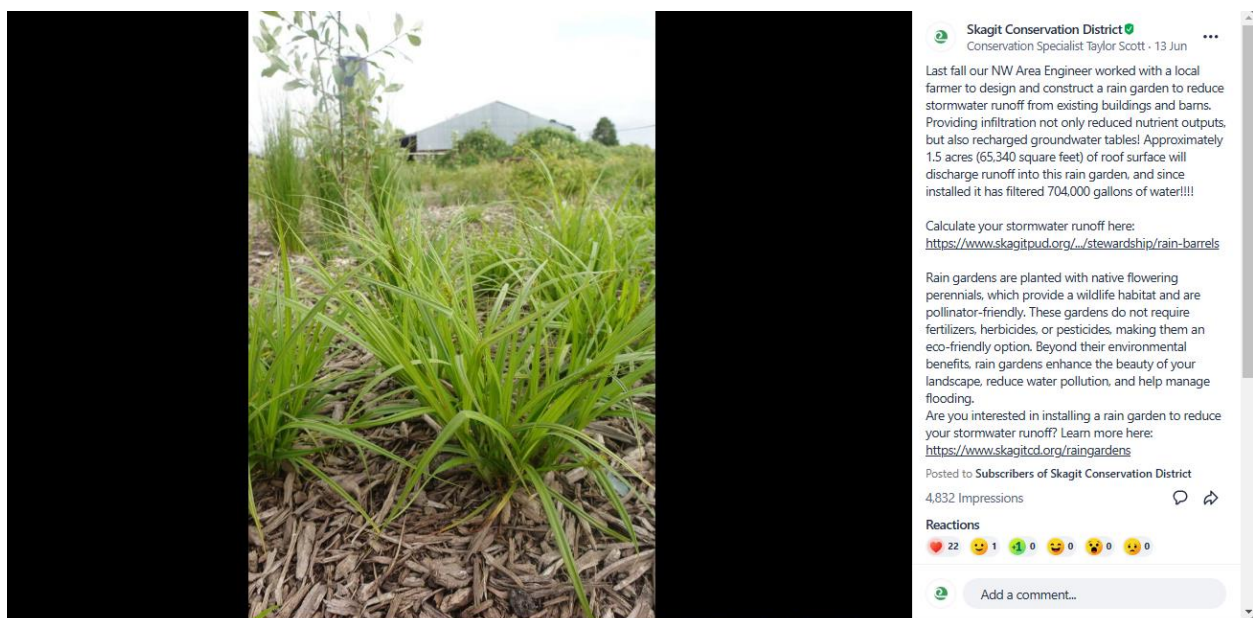
- Stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution materials were also distributed to students and available at several tabling events throughout the year.
- 30 storm water education presentations, using the EnviroScape watershed model, were conducted in 2024 at local elementary schools and outreach events reaching 642 Skagit County students.

Miscellaneous: Task 2.3

Work conducted under this task included project administration and tracking, preparation of the annual report, and meetings and project/contract planning with partners.

Storm Water Educational Brochures and Fact Sheets: Task 2.4

Since 2023 SCD staff have spent time creating social media posts to promote BYC, WSM, Stream Team and stormwater topics. Stormwater topics and workshops are consistently getting more views and interactions when compared to other CD topics. Staff strive to create shareable content, which reaches more followers. Posts and metrics have been included below.



RAIN BARRELS

1" OF RAIN ON 1,000 SQ. FT.

=

600 GALLONS COLLECTED

Skagit Conservation District

Conservation Specialist Taylor Scott · 14 May

Collecting rainwater is a simple yet effective way to conserve water and save on your water bill! During the dry season, water consumption often doubles, but utilizing a rain barrel filled with previously collected rain can help alleviate the pressure on our water resources. This is especially important this year as our state's low snowpack, reduced streamflow, and projected dry summer have prompted the Department of Ecology to declare a drought emergency for our county!

If you're interested in learning more about rain barrels or purchasing: <https://www.skagitpod.org/about-us/conservation/stewardship/rain-barrels>

Posted to Subscribers of Skagit Conservation District

Reactions

8 1 0 0 0 0 0

Cass M. · Tundra · 36w

Thank You For Posting This !

Like Reply Share

Add a comment...

Skagit Conservation District

Conservation Specialist Taylor Scott · 16 Aug · Edited

The @SVC Waterwise Garden for Pollinators is flourishing! In the fall of 2022, passionate staff and students from the Environmental Conservation Club, Outdoor Club, and Sustainability Committee collaborated with the Conservation District to transform an unused space into pollinator habitat. They chose native species for their low water and maintenance needs, and with the support of the Native Plant Society's plant sale, the garden took root! Native plants not only provide shade, habitat, and food, but their roots also play a vital role in filtering bacteria as water flows over impermeable surfaces. The clubs plan to bolster the garden with more ground cover native plants this fall. Good luck!

Posted to Subscribers of Skagit Conservation District

Add a comment...

4,419 Impressions 25 3



Boost unavailable

... X

We are currently training our next Marine Biotoxin Progra...

April 4, 2024, 10:00 AM

ID: 810747734414493

Interactions

3 reactions

0 comments

2 shares

Overview

Performance

Feed preview

Performance

Overview

Reach ⓘ
1,404

Impressions ⓘ
1,444

Interactions ⓘ
5

Link clicks ⓘ
3



Boost unavailable

... X

Our Backyard Conservation Series is back! This FREE 6 cla...

January 16, 2024, 4:45 PM

ID: 762224152600185

Interactions

39 reactions

4 comments

15 shares

Overview

Performance

Feed preview

Performance

Overview

Reach ⓘ
1,085

Impressions ⓘ
1,291

Interactions ⓘ
32

Link clicks ⓘ
17

Workshop for Local Contractors: Task 2.5

“Rain garden Design and Maintenance” was held on Feb 22, 2024. There were 14 attendees the Morning workshop including a bilingual maintenance manager who requested a follow-up session for his crew. There were 6 attendees in the follow-up session which was translated into Spanish.

PSSH Community Event Display Board: Task 2.6 (See task 1.5 above)**Produce Media Advertisements Task 2.7**

This year we actually saw an increase in sign ups without using ads. Our CD social media seems to have enough following to reach interested folks. Summary below:

Facebook: Less likes or comments, but reaches a lot of people through followers and shares

Instagram: Steadily growing followers and have seen an increase in likes and shares

NextDoor: Lots of organic interactions that are sent to the whole county, many folks comment and start interesting discussions.

Looking Ahead to 2025

All programs will be continued with additional emphasis on getting the message to unreached groups by including different venues to our current queue of events, updating display boards with current program information; creating informational signs to be posted at some of our clean water project areas, and using new outreach mediums (such as social media, working with Skagit Valley College and high school clubs). Skagit CD is working to reduce paper consumption, by using more digital means.