

# SKAGIT CONSERVATION DISTRICT STORM WATER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Summary of Accomplishments 2011-2014

Prepared for the City of Anacortes

October 2014



Prepared by: **Kristi Carpenter**  
Skagit Conservation District

## **Storm Water Education Program Summary**

This progress report summarizes the storm water public education and outreach and the public participation and involvement activities that were completed by the Skagit Conservation District over the period July 1, 2011 through October 2014. 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" and the "Public Participation and Involvement" requirements of the NPDES storm water permit by facilitating greater public awareness of the sensitivity of local surface waters, their beneficial uses, the detrimental effects of polluted storm water and illicit discharges, and measures that can be taken to reduce storm water pollution.

**Skagit MS4 Partners:** The Skagit Conservation District's Storm Water Education Program is a local partnership formed to develop and implement a comprehensive water resource education, outreach, and public involvement program. The Skagit Conservation District has formed partnerships with the City of Mount Vernon, City of Burlington, City of Sedro-Woolley, City of Anacortes, and Skagit County. With the exception of the Skagit Conservation District, all partners are MS4 communities required to prepare Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) in accordance with Phase II of the Clean Water Act. The purpose of the partnership is to work together cooperatively and 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.

**Program Funding:** In 2008 the Skagit Conservation District applied for, and received grant funding through the WA Dept. of Ecology's Storm Water Grants Program. The scope of work outlined in the Storm Water Education Grant guided the components of the Storm Water Education Program since the grant was received in 2008 and continued through June 2011, when the grant expired and tasks completed. During this duration, the grant was supported by partnering municipalities through direct and in kind matching funds. After completion of the grant, Memorandums of Agreement were established between the Skagit Conservation District and each of the local MS4 jurisdictions to develop and implement a collaborated scope of work to continue the public education and outreach and public participation and involvement programs to engage local support of our community and protect water quality of our streams, rivers, and marine waters.

### **1.0 Public Education and Outreach**

The SWMP shall include an education and outreach program designed to reduce or eliminate behaviors and practices that cause or contribute to adverse stormwater impacts and encourage the public to participate in stewardship activities. The education program may be developed and implemented locally or regionally.

#### **Stewardship Activities:**

Each Permittee shall create stewardship opportunities and/or partner with existing organizations to encourage residents to participate in activities such as stream teams, storm drain marking, volunteer monitoring, riparian plantings and education activities:

**Outcomes:**

**Task 1.1 Stormwater Detention Pond Maintenance Workshops**

The Conservation District organized and implemented three public workshops focusing on Private Stormwater Facility Maintenance. The target audience for this group was home owner associations, private stormwater facility owners, and the general public. The workshops focused on educating the audience on their responsibilities to maintain their private stormwater facilities or other stormwater drainage system in their neighborhood. The workshops were held on:

- 1) **Saturday, January 22, 2011** at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve – 19 attendees overall, 4 attendees from Anacortes
- 2) **Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at the Padilla Bay Research Reserve – 33 attendees overall; 7 attendees from Anacortes
- 3) **Thursday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012** at the City of Sedro-Woolley – 17 attendees overall; 3 from Anacortes

**Maintenance Techniques and Practices for Subdivision Stormwater and Drainage Systems**

*A FREE workshop to assist neighborhood associations, business owners, and property owners who are responsible for maintaining a stormwater pond or other stormwater drainage system in their neighborhood*



**You are invited - please join us!**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 2012**  
5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
City of Sedro-Woolley, City Council Chambers  
325 Metcalf, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

**PLEASE PRE-REGISTER by Friday, September 28th:**  
Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District  
kristi@skagitcd.org or phone: 428-4313

*Learn how to care for detention ponds in your neighborhood. Course materials will be provided.*

Topics include:

- How stormwater management systems work
- How to keep your system in compliance with new regulations
- Step-by-step instructions for routine maintenance to prolong the life of your detention pond, improve its appearance, and prevent flooding and property damage
- How to plan, budget and assess the neighborhood for upkeep costs
- Basic things all stormwater facility owners should know and do...and more!



**DRESS FOR WEATHER!** The event will include a site visit to a nearby stormwater detention pond facility!

Sponsored by:  
Skagit County, the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, and the Skagit Conservation District

**Maintenance Techniques and Practices for Subdivision Stormwater and Drainage Systems**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, July 17th, 2012**  
5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Welcome/Introductions & Overview of Agenda - *Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District*

5:15 p.m. Maintaining Your Neighborhood Stormwater Facility - *Mike See, Skagit County Department of Public Works*

6:15 p.m. Planning, Assessing, Budgeting, and Other Important Info for Property Owners - *David Roberts, Kuhn Environmental Services*

7:00 p.m. Involving Your Neighborhood Community - *Kristi Carpenter, Skagit Conservation District*

7:10 p.m. Break

7:20 p.m. Field Tour - How to Inspect and Maintain Your Stormwater Detention Pond - *Mike See*

8:30 p.m. Adjourn



Sponsored by:  
Skagit County Department of Public Works, the Cities of Anacortes, Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit Conservation District



## **Task 1.2 Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program**

The Watershed Masters Volunteer Training Program has provided an important role in our community since it began in 1995. The annual program offers a forty-hour volunteer training course, which covers stream ecology, salmonids, soils & wetlands, nonpoint sources of pollution and stormwater runoff, introduction to low impact development, composting, household hazardous waste, backyard conservation, climate change, local geology, soils & wetlands, on-site septic system maintenance, agricultural best management practices, the values and function of estuaries, and more. The training is held from 6 to 9 pm for 8 weeks and also includes 3 Saturday field days. The program is supported by over 20 local resource professionals and is designed to give residents information on ways to make positive behavioral changes in their own lives to protect water quality.

Volunteers who complete the training return forty hours of service. The volunteer hours may include conducting stream restoration work, water quality monitoring, marine biotoxin monitoring for PSP, staffing informational tables at fairs and other public events, storm drain labeling, conducting litter clean ups on local streams, making presentations to schools, etc. SCD staff works with each Watershed Master Volunteer who has completed the training to design a plan of action for returning the forty hours of training. Watershed Masters are encouraged to pursue creative projects that best meet their interest, skills, physical ability, and schedule.

### **Program Successes**

- Participants who complete this program typically continue volunteer efforts after completing the 40 hour requirement. These are the folks who are making behavior changes that are critical to protecting our streams, rivers, and marine waters for future generations.
- Watershed Masters have continued to play a huge role throughout our community, including educating and providing positive examples for their friends, family, and neighbors, and ultimately, our community overall. Many have taken a leadership role, including participating on committees, initiating neighborhood volunteer groups and projects, and more. Many have continued their learning by participating in the Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program (see Task 2.1), Community Backyard Wildlife Habitat team, Beach Watchers, Friends of Skagit Beaches, and more.
- The program participants represent a broad age group from high school seniors, who take the program to meet their graduation requirements, to seniors 80+ years young.
- **Since 2011, 73 individuals have completed the Watershed Masters training and have contributed over 10,000 hours of volunteer service on projects throughout our community.**

Numerous Anacortes residents have graduated from the Watershed Masters program over the years and contributed 1,000's of hours of volunteer work. **Since fall 2011, Anacortes residents Andrea Bachman, Rich Brown, Lori Keuffel, Dan Ballard,**

**Barbara Cameron, Graham Read, John Buchanan, Isabelle Delise, Lisa Temcov, and Cedar Wyatt, have graduated from the program and completed their 40 hour volunteer commitment.** The majority of this group, continue to volunteer even though their 40 hour commitment has been completed. **The current class includes 16 participants, including Michelle Grace and Laura Tuttle, both from Anacortes – the Fall 2014 class will conclude on Nov. 12th.**

Anacortes resident and Watershed Master Rich Brown was awarded the Conservation “Inspiration” Award this year (2014) for his numerous volunteer contributions, including participation in the Stream Team and Storm Team programs, Backyard Conservation program, assisting in the development of the naturescape demonstration garden, and assisting SCD staff with stormwater education activities at numerous local events.



**Figure 1** Anacortes resident and Watershed Master Volunteer, Rich Brown (pictured at left), was the recipient of the 2014 Inspiration Award for his dedicated commitment to conservation and exemplary volunteer contributions.



**Figure 2** Fall 2014 Watershed Masters explore the estuary during a field tour at Bay View State Park.



**Figure 3** Fall 2013 Watershed Masters at Taylor Shellfish Farms for the annual shellfish, water quality and ocean acidification session.



**Figure 4** Fall 2013 Watershed Masters exploring Baker Dam and the sockeye spawning grounds.



**Figure 5** "Return of the Salmon" Watershed Masters field tour.

### Task 1.3 Skagit Stream Team Program

The Skagit Stream Team Program was kicked off in our community in 1998. Clyde Creek in Anacortes was added to the program with funding support from the City of Anacortes in 2011. The Skagit Stream Team program has been extremely valued by both local and state agencies to help assess current conditions so water quality improvements can be made and documented in the future.

Monitoring is an essential step in the process of conserving and restoring our waterways. The goal of the program is to establish baseline water quality data for priority streams, to document trends, improvements and hot spots, and to inspire community stewardship in regards to water quality by educating local citizens about the connection between land use and water quality and by involving them in the process of water quality data gathering. Volunteers are provided with intensive training and are taught sampling and analytical techniques used by environmental professionals.

- Currently, there are 74 Stream Team volunteers for the 2014-2015 monitoring season – **17 of these volunteers are residents of Anacortes.**
- **3 of 8 Storm Team volunteers are residents of Anacortes** – this dedicated group is under special assignment and conduct storm event sampling – currently providing support to CSI effort in the Friday Creek basin.
- Stream reaches covered by the Stream Team program include: the upper Samish; lower Samish; Joe Leary Slough, No Name Slough; Bay View drainage; **Clyde Creek**; Gages Slough, upper Nookachamps; lower Nookachamps; Kulshan Creek; Trumpeter Basin; and Fisher Creek. Overall, a total of 50 monitoring stations are monitored twice a month.
- The Annual Stream Team training is held in September of each year (2 evenings and a Saturday).
- Parameters monitored by Stream Team volunteers include fecal coliform, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and total depth.
- Data is entered in excel spreadsheet and annual Stream Team report published each year (2012-2013 report available at [www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org)).
- Annual public meeting held in Feb/March each year to review annual Stream Team report with interested community residents, “How Clean is Your Neighborhood Stream?”



**Figure 1 Stream Team Volunteers Bob Freedman (Anacortes), Andrea Doll (Anacortes), and Jim Roberts (Mount Vernon)**



**Figure 2 Anacortes resident, Jeanette Redmond, has volunteered with the Stream Team program for over 10 years and is now monitoring Clyde Creek in Anacortes.**

## Task 1.4 Storm Drain Labeling Program

- 30 storm drain markers were installed by scouts. Informational door knob hangers were distributed in the neighborhood to provide information to homeowners on the purpose of the project as well as steps they can take in their own backyard to reduce the potential of stormwater pollution.
- 530 storm drain markers were purchased and added to inventory
- Staff coordinated efforts to mark entire city with a group of volunteers. Efforts were postponed due to medical reasons. Goal is set for spring 2015.
- The Storm Drain Labeling program was promoted through both editions of the Skagit Conservation News and approximately 100 promotional fliers were distributed at local events.



### You Can Help Protect the Waterways in Skagit County!!!

The Skagit Conservation District, in partnership with Skagit County, the City of Anacortes, the City of Burlington, and the City of Mount Vernon would like to invite local volunteer groups, such as scouts, high school students, or other special interest groups to join us in protecting our local waterways by organizing a storm drain marking project for your neighborhood. Colorful markers are now available to be placed on storm drains in an effort to educate the public and reduce pollutants from entering our streams. Informational door hangers, with the same message, are also available for distribution as part of this project.

Storm Drain marking is a very good way to remind our neighbors that stormwater flows untreated to our creeks and river. Many people are under the impression that motor oil, pesticides, household chemicals and other materials going down a storm drain pass through a treatment plant where the water will be purified. What they don't realize is that all those harmful materials are flowing straight into adjacent ponds, ditches, rivers, lakes and bays. We're inadvertently polluting the waters we swim in, fish in and use every day.

These pollutants are carried from our yards, driveways, parking lots, roads, etc., by rainfall or snowmelt into our stormwater system and our local waterways. Some examples of stormwater runoff pollutants include:

- Antifreeze
- Fertilizer
- Motor oil
- Pet waste
- Detergent
- Grass clippings
- Paints
- Sediment
- Cleaners
- Leaves
- Pesticides

This activity is an ideal service project for groups who are interested in helping the environment. Skagit Conservation District staff will provide supplies and training. If you are interested in scheduling a storm drain marking project, please contact Cindy Pierce, Skagit Conservation District, (360)428-4313 or [cindy@skagitcd.org](mailto:cindy@skagitcd.org).



### BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

#### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Each time it rains, water washes over our streets, driveways, and yards picking up pollutants along the way and flowing into our storm drains. This runoff may contain pollutants such as motor oil, yard clippings, pet waste, litter, lawn chemicals, anti-freeze, or other toxins, which can pollute our water supply as well as clog pipes and culverts which can lead to flooding. Known as "Non-Point Source Pollution", it is the largest threat to our waterways today. Sometimes pollutants are dumped directly into storm drains by neighbors who don't know any better. Contrary to popular belief, most storm drains are not connected to treatment systems. Whatever enters the drain is discharged directly, untreated into local waterways!

#### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The storm drain inlets on your street are being marked with a colorful marker, like the one on the front of this door hanger, with a pollution prevention message. You can help by using the following tips to prevent pollution:

- \* Properly dispose of hazardous waste and recycle used motor oil.
- \* Use fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides sparingly and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- \* Keep yard waste, trash, and dirt off the street and out of the gutters.
- \* Clean up after your pets.
- \* Wash your car at a car wash facility or park your car in the grass before you wash it.
- \* Spread the word about protecting our waterways from polluted runoff.

Thank you for your cooperation!

**Figure 1 Door knob hangers provide information on what homeowners can do to reduce stormwater runoff. Volunteers place in neighborhoods when they are labeling storm drains.**



## **Task 2.1 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course**

The Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course was kicked off in 2005 with 9 classes held to date. Since its inception, **over 435 residents have participated in the program, including 78 Anacortes residents.** The average class size is 48. The program has been extremely popular in the community and has had numerous accomplishments. Participants attend 6 evening sessions and participate in 2 (+) Saturday field days. Sessions are taught by local experts.

Participants learn conservation practices that can be applied in their own backyards to help reduce stormwater pollution, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce use of fertilizers and chemicals, and create a healthy and more sustainable environment. They are provided with the tools and resources to design sustainable, natural, backyard landscapes. Participants are also encouraged to meet the requirements to certify their backyards as a “Backyard Wildlife Habitat” or “Sanctuary” through the NWF and/or WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

**Program Goal:** To create a network of community residents willing to share their love of gardening and the outdoors to inspire others to create environmentally friendly gardening practices that will benefit our community

### **Guiding Principles:**

*“A community of watershed enhancement involves everyone - from volunteers to local and state officials, to landowners...”*

- Watershed enhancement begins at home
- We are all a part of the problem and a part of the solution
- Voluntary Stewardship is the key to long-term protection of our watersheds

### **Program Achievements:**

- 3 community Backyard Wildlife Habitat citizen groups established by engaging participants of the class (ongoing financial & technical support from SCD): Fidalgo, Skagit, and Friday Creek.
- Fidalgo Island and Skagit Valley have received national designation as a “Community Backyard Wildlife Habitat” and Friday Creek in progress. Anacortes resident (and chair of Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Team), Rich Bergner, nominated by SCD staff and received National Volunteer of the Year for his work in the Anacortes Community by National Wildlife Federation.
- Due to this program, over 1,200 residents, schools, churches, and parks, have certified their yards through the



**Figure 3 Inspired by the Backyard Conservation Stewardship program, signs like these are popping up throughout Skagit County – over 650 in Anacortes.**



**Figure 4 Anacortes resident and participant of the Backyard Conservation Short Course, Rich Bergner, chaired the Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Group engaging over 650 Anacortes residents**



backyard wildlife habitat program, with **over 650 in Anacortes.**

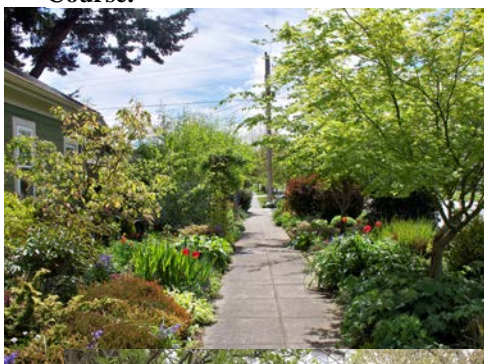
- Numerous grassroots projects completed by Backyard Conservation volunteers, including stream enhancement (**Ace of Hearts**) and native planting and sustainable gardening projects in Anacortes (**Fidalgo Pool & Fitness, Kiwanis Waterfront Park, Tommy Thompson Trail, and more**), a community demonstration Bird & Butterfly Garden and planting the demonstration Rain Garden at the Skagit County Administration Building in Mount Vernon, a stream enhancement project and a community demonstration Naturescape Garden in Alger to name a few.
- **Anacortes residents who are graduates of the Backyard Conservation Stewardship program continue to support program by promoting the gardening for wildlife concept, providing presentations to new Backyard Conservation class participants and assisting with field tour of certified backyard wildlife habitats in Anacortes.**



**Figure 1 Fidalgo received national designation as a "Community Wildlife Habitat" in Aug. 2008. This was a grassroots effort lead and accomplished by volunteers (with continued support from SCD staff) from the 2005 & 2006 Backyard Conservation Stewardship Short Course.**



**Figure 2 Backyard Conservation class participants have inspired numerous community projects to protect streams and wildlife. Pictured, the Ace of Hearts stream enhancement project was inspired and organized by Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat Group. Native plants and technical support provided by SCD.**



The Backyard Conservation Stewardship Program has had a huge impact in Anacortes. Over 650 residents have applied the principles taught in the program and have met the requirements to have their yards, schools, parks, churches, or businesses certified as a "Wildlife Habitat" or "Sanctuary."

## Task 2.2 Resource Materials/Education for Local Schools

- Educational packets were prepared and distributed to approximately 60 Anacortes School District teachers annually. 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 (stormwater runoff and non-point source pollution) was also distributed.
- 36 stormwater education presentations to 897 students, using the EnviroScape watershed model, have been conducted in the Anacortes School District since 2011. Project Wet “Discover Stormwater” educational booklets and EPA “10 things you can do to prevent stormwater runoff pollution” bookmarks were distributed to all students.. National Association of Conservation Districts “Where Does Your Water Shed” promotional materials were used during the 2013 school year.



The watershed EnviroScape model provides a “hands on” learning experience to engage students in learning about stormwater pollution and activities we can apply in our own backyards, schools, and community to reduce potential impacts to streams, rivers, and marine waters.



## Task 2.3 – Stormwater Education Poster Contest

- A poster contest was held in the Anacortes School District in the spring of 2012. Winners were honored at the Anacortes City Council meeting in July. All of the contest winners were from Fidalgo Elementary. Informational stormwater bookmarks were created featuring the artwork of the winning artists and are available at the Anacortes City Library for public offering. Certificates and activity booklets were given to all contest participants.
- A poster contest for the Anacortes School District is currently underway. Poster contest deadline is October 31, 2014.

## Stormwater Poster Contest



# WHEN IT RAINS IT DRAINS

The Skagit Conservation District, in partnership with the City of Anacortes, is hosting a poster contest for Anacortes elementary and middle school students to creatively illustrate water pollution solutions that help keep our water clean.



### CONTEST RULES

Posters must be created on a flat or two-dimensional surface using colored pencil, charcoal, paper or other suitable media. Posters must be between 8.5" x 11" and 22" x 28". A completed entry form taped to the back of the poster (staples please!) must be submitted by an individual student rather than a group.

### POSTER EVALUATIONS

Posters entered into the contest will be reviewed by a panel of Judges. The posters are evaluated on the following criteria:

**Stormwater message—50%**  
**Visual effectiveness—30%**  
**Originality—10%**  
**Universal appeal—10%**

**DEADLINE —OCTOBER 31, 2014**

## AWARDS

Prizes will be awarded to the top three placing poster entries.

The overall award winner will receive a **bicycle**, a plaque, and professional framing of his/her poster, which will be displayed at Anacortes City Hall.

- Artwork for the winning posters will be used on bookmarks, which will be available to the public at the Anacortes City Library.
- Artwork may also be reproduced for future stormwater educational purposes.

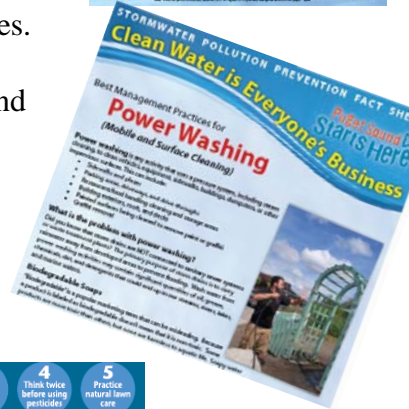
**All students who submit a poster for the contest will receive a certificate of participation**



\*This event/activity is NOT being sponsored by the Anacortes School District, and the District assume no responsibility for the conduct or safety of the event/activity. In consideration for the privilege to distribute these materials, the Anacortes School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including costs, attorney's fees and judgments or awards.

## Task 2.4 – Educational Brochures and Fact Sheets

- Low Impact Development (LID) educational Fact Sheet was designed and printed in June 2011. The fact sheet is available on SCD's website and copies have also been distributed to all MS4 partners.
- Stormwater educational posters for the Auto industry and for the Food and Restaurant industry were designed and printed in 2011.
- Stormwater educational fact sheets were designed and printed for two mobile businesses, including power washing and mobile carpet cleaning businesses.
- 5 educational fact sheets for natural lawn care practices were designed and printed in 2013. Topics include: 1) Build Healthy Soils; 2) Plant Right for Your Site; 3) Practice Smart Watering; 4) Think Twice Before Using Pesticides; and 5) Practice Natural Lawn Care.



Step 1 of 5 steps to natural yard care:

- 1 Build Healthy Soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

### Soil & Mulch:

The foundation of a healthy yard



Step 2 of 5 steps to natural yard care:

- 1 Build Healthy Soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

### Planning & Planting

a Sustainable Landscape



Step 3 of 5 steps to natural yard care:

- 1 Build Healthy Soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

### Watering Wisely



Step 4 of 5 steps to natural yard care:

- 1 Build Healthy Soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

### Think Twice Before Using Pesticides



Step 5 of 5 steps to natural yard care:

- 1 Build Healthy Soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

### Natural Lawn Care



Our yards can be great places to connect with the outdoors and many people enjoy a green lawn. However, conventional lawn care practices can take a toll on health and the environment. Experts have found:

- A typical suburban lawn in the U.S. uses 10,000 gallons of water per year.

## **Task 2.5 – Educational Workshops**

- A Rain Garden Workshop was coordinated and held at the Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room on June 23, 2011 with 45 attendees, including 8 from Anacortes.
- A Rain Garden “Walk and Talk” Tour of the City of Burlington’s new rain garden and LID demonstration projects was held on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with 14 attendees – 3 from Anacortes.
- 8 Low Impact Development presentations were conducted to over 200 individuals (i.e. misc. Garden clubs, Watershed Masters, Backyard Conservation Stewardship class, Beach Watchers , Stream Team, etc), including 50 from Anacortes.
- EcoPRO Sustainable Landscape Professional training scheduled for Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> in partnership with WSNLA and WALP – registration in progress.



## **Task 2.6 – Educational Display**



A “Puget Sound Starts Here” themed Storm water education retractable display was designed and constructed in the summer of 2012. Staff has hosted the display at numerous community events (annually), including the Skagit County Fair, Festival of Family Farms, Fidalgo Bay

Days, Skagit River Salmon Festival, Kids in Nature event, End of the Trail Celebration, Shellfish-tival, and more, reaching over 4,500 local residents annually with the stormwater message. The display was also set up at public meetings and workshops throughout the year. Educational activities were also



designed to engage the attendees at these events, including hosting the pet poop toss game, and the Puget Sound Starts Here Healthy Water Hop Scotch Game. Participants earn their PSSH “Drain Ranger” badges for learning about stormwater and what they can do to protect our local waters. Other PSSH promotional material that were purchased to engage attendees at local events and to promote the PSSH message, include pet waste bags and

reusable grocery bags.



The display and materials are available for all partnering jurisdictions to set up in the forums of their administration building or at other events.

## **Task 2.7 – Media Outreach**

Staff coordinated with NCM Media Networks to run the Puget Sound Starts Here car wash production ad at local cinemas, including the Anacortes Theater, Cascade Mall Cinemas, and the Lincoln Theater for 3 months in the **spring/summer of 2012** (May through July) and for **3 months in the spring/summer of 2014** (May through July). All of our local logos, including City of Anacortes, City of Burlington, City of Mount Vernon, City of Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, and the Skagit Conservation District were included on the last frame of the ad.



Staff supported the Puget Sound-wide “Don’t Drip and Drive” campaign at the local level, including coordinating and inspiring three local participating ASA auto service businesses to participate. Local participants included A & C Automotive Service, Mount Vernon Towing and Auto Repair and Burlington Automotive. These businesses offered free auto leak checks through April and a 10%

discount on auto leak repairs through June. Staff also prepared press releases, which were submitted to all of our local media and promoted the program on our website and through email correspondence.

## **Other:**

### **Clean and Green Car Wash Kits**

Vehicle wash water often contains detergents, oils, and heavy metals that can be toxic to aquatic life. Car wash kits are one solution to help protect water quality in our community. An “Operation Clean and Green” Car Wash Kit campaign was kicked off in our community in June of 2009 and SCD continues to promote the program. Partial funding for this project was supported by in kind match provided by a grant from the Skagit Marine Resources Committee and the Northwest Straits Commission.



- The City of Anacortes had previously purchased three Car Wash kits. However, they were provided with a sandwich board, a tote box and promotional materials as part of SCD’s program.
- 1,000 program mailers were produced to inform schools, churches, and youth groups, etc. of the Car Wash Kit program.
- A seven minute information DVD on where to get a kit, why a group should use one, and how to set it up and use it was produced in partnership with Skagit County’s Media department. Local high school students and Skagit Conservation District staff were cast for the video.