



# Thurston County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES — OCTOBER 2020

## AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The WSU Agriculture program will host its first class in a 12-class new farmer training program on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The curriculum, *Cultivating Success: Whole Farm Planning*, is a program intended for farmers who are considering, in the process of establishing, or who have recently established a commercial farming enterprise. The 2020 course is funded in part by a Veterans Administration grant. Among the current 21 enrollees, 11 are veterans utilizing a tuition waiver that covers the \$275 enrollment fee. The program will run from November through February. The statewide WSU Food Systems Team was awarded the VA funds, and has supported the training program in over seven Counties.



## WATER RESOURCES — NATIVE PLANT SALVAGE

With Covid-safe protocols, the water resources/NPS program engaged Griffin School students and other Thurston County residents in a restoration project to benefit salmon on Hunter Point, in collaboration with two other County departments—Public Works and Planning (stormwater group). The goal was to use plants to stabilize slopes and protect fish passage following a Public Works project that replaced a blocking culvert with a new bridge. Working over several days in October with small groups of Griffin students and culminating on Halloween with adults volunteers and scouts in 2-hour shifts, 81 volunteers worked over 220 hours to remove about 4 yards of Scot's Broom, 3 yards of Himalayan Blackberry, and plant 400 native species on steep slopes adjacent to the salmon stream.



## SNAP-ED

SNAP-Ed has been busy this month! We work closely with Garfield Elementary and help manage their school garden. Over the summer, the garden was a bountiful oasis that produced herbs, squash, tomatoes, eggplants and many other veggies. This month we hosted a Fall Harvest party/garden clean up day and had a great turn out. Parents and students joined us to prepare the garden beds for Winter. We harvested potatoes, squash and beans! We harvested so many potatoes that we've been able to give bags of them away to students when they pick up their meal kits on Fridays. The kids that helped us with the harvest were able to take home produce from the garden and especially loved digging up the potatoes.



## 4-H PROGRAM

Thurston County 4-H kicked-off the new year with a variety of online learning opportunities. 4-H members participated in virtual dog obedience, robotic hand building, and making bread in a bag. In the coming weeks, 4-H youth and their friends are invited to "Experience 4-H" with a Kids in the Kitchen activity, a holiday craft activity, simple sewing, and introduction to drawing.