



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



## WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

2014

### BY THE NUMBERS

In 2014, over 2,800 adults and 1,700 children were reached through over 100 workshops, demonstrations, field days, and conferences focused on stewardship of natural resources and environmental protection.

- 93% enhanced their knowledge of natural resource management, environmental protection, water quality, and efficient water use
- 93% applied their newly acquired information to conserve and use water more efficiently
- 94% planned to apply recommended practices and strategies to protect water quality
- Approximately 1891 acres of land were either in-filled with native trees and plants or received sustainable management practices as a result of WSU programs or program partnerships
- Community members used what they learned to give back over 3,000 hours to restoration projects, monitoring, and public outreach

### ISSUE

Kitsap County's natural beauty is spectacular, with 230 miles of fresh and saltwater shorelines that support diverse fish and wildlife, recreation, and a good economy. It's no surprise that we are Washington State's third most densely populated county, with about 586 people per square mile. But the natural and water resources that make this a great place to live and work are threatened by population growth and our individual and collective actions.

### RESPONSE

Washington State has set an ambitious goal to rehabilitate the Puget Sound by 2020 to protect our shared waters and natural resources, and education is an essential part of the strategy to protect, preserve, and recover our region for future generations. WSU Kitsap Extension employs a three-pronged approach to tackling water and natural resource issues:

- 1) We teach people to appreciate and protect our natural resources through in-depth training by staff and local professionals.
- 2) We train people to be volunteer educators, who share their knowledge all around the community.
- 3) Through partnership with local agencies and governments, we involve people in local restoration, enhancement, and monitoring projects. Strong partnerships with local agencies, governments, and tribes help expand our reach into the community, providing a channel for citizens to communicate with professionals. Our reputation as a leader in higher education makes us a trusted partner, uniquely positioned to engage people, organizations and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.



## QUOTES

*"I have expanded my knowledge of why protecting our streams and water sheds is so important."*

*"The total experience, I learned so much, about streams and the connection with the whole web of life."*

*"I enjoyed learning about opportunities to work in the community."*

*"I enjoyed meeting the participants of the class and the instructors, and learning who to talk to and where to go to obtain information."*

*"I hope to use this knowledge at work for both new projects and existing properties with the school district."*

*"I learned some new things I had never thought about."*

*"I have a better understanding of the whole system, rather than the parts."*



## IMPACTS

By training a better educated citizenry and providing opportunities for involvement, people will take action to protect and restore fresh and marine waters and the associated uplands.