WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
Kitsap County

CAPACITY BUILDING, COALITIONS AND NETWORKS

2021

BY THE NUMBERS

Kitsap HEAL Coalition:

- 10 organizations actively engaged in coalition meetings and work.
- Three work groups completed projects including the Corner Store pilot project, Early Childhood Education group support, and the Kitsap County Resources Mapping group.
- Website created and maintained for outreach and community partnership support.

Kitsap Food Systems Round Table:

- Monthly group meetings convened
- 8 organizations actively involved
- New working group formed with farmland preservation focus

ISSUE

WSU Kitsap Extension works to build the capacity of individuals, organizations, businesses and communities, empowering them to find solutions for local issues and to improve their quality of life. For many years Extension has actively taken part in emerging coalitions and networks based on the needs of the community and its partners. There is a continued need for work in health equity and well being as well as a more collaborative approach to food systems work in Kitsap County.

RESPONSE

In 2021, WSU Kitsap Extension continued to assist in the administration of two locally organized groups working within health equity & well being, and local food systems. Both groups are made up of numerous community partners and stakeholders invested in the work.

Kitsap HEAL Coalition:

Extension continued administration and support of the county wide Kitsap Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, in partnership with Kitsap Public Health District. The coalition is made up of community organizations that recognize the importance of a collective impact model for community health improvement. Partners come together quarterly to discuss ways to support equitable access for all to choose physical activity and foods which contribute to health and well-being. The larger network identifies community needs not being met and working groups are formed to address those needs, often through time limited, impact driven projects.

Kitsap Food Systems Round Table:

Extension continued to administer the Kitsap Food Systems Round Table, a monthly meeting consisting of representatives from eight local food system focused organizations including: Kitsap Conservation District, Kitsap Harvest, Central Kitsap Food Bank, Kitsap Fresh, Kitsap Community Food Co-op, Friends of the Farms, and Kitsap Community & Agricultural Alliance.

Jess Sappington, Food Systems Program Coordinator
jess.sappington@wsu.edu, (360) 228-7308

IMPACTS

Kitsap HEAL Coalition:

In 2021, the coalition held quarterly meetings open to stakeholders, community partners and the public. In addition to quarterly meetings, participants took part in work group projects that were identified in the larger group meetings as gaps in community needs. Three total work groups formed in 2022, with a community mapping project and corner store pilot project completed. The community mapping project compiled free or low-cost food, community and activity resources available to the community in one centralized place. The corner store pilot project worked with a local convenience store located in a low-access area of Bremerton to incorporate a free produce stand for customers. The stand was available for 22 weeks from May through September and provided over 440 pounds of fresh produce to area customers.

Kitsap Food Systems Round Table:

In 2021, the group continued meeting monthly to connect, share out progress on projects and activities, support each other in grant/funding opportunities, and identify gaps in current food system work with plans on how to address those gaps for the future. From ongoing discussions it was identified that the group would like a better picture of how food is moving across the county. The group now has plans to work towards a food distribution mapping project. In addition it was identified that farmland preservation has not been adequately addressed in Kitsap, yet has been a discussion for many years. A subgroup was formed, with additional farmer representatives, to address this issue. The group is seeking input from other counties on similar work being done and best practices moving forward.

Jess Sappington, Food Systems Program Coordinator
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