

WHIDBEY ISLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2024-25 Featured accomplishments



Whidbey Island School Garden Coalition

Whidbey Island Conservation District leads the island-wide coalition connecting eight school gardens to on-the-ground support, with a focus on the underserved region of Oak Harbor. Support includes training for teachers, irrigation installation, garden maintenance, and ADA path development. School gardens are recognized sources of support for healthy communities.

Photo Caption: School Garden Coalition volunteers shovel gravel for an ADA path installation at Oak Harbor Elementary School in May 2025. Photo by Hannah Andersen, Whidbey Island Conservation District.



Preparing North Whidbey residents for wildfire season

Furthering impact in Oak Harbor, the District partnered with Washington State Department of Natural Resources to build fuel breaks, thin dense forests, and prepare residents for wildfire season. District natural resource planners used drone imaging and ArcGIS data to assist landowners in developing forest stewardship plans. Whidbey forests are descendants of timber-operations and pose a high wildfire risk without management.

Photo Caption: A District planner works with Department of Natural Resources and North Whidbey residents to cut a fuel break in private forest land in May 2025. Photo by Hannah Andersen, Whidbey Island Conservation District.



Wet feet farming

In partnership with Puget Sound regional conservation districts, the District completed installation of a multi-year research project called, "Wet Feet Farming." The project developed wet or seasonally wet agricultural land for profitable use using moist-tolerant native crops such as aronia berry, crabapple, and willow to benefit both the cooperator and ecosystem.

Photo Caption: A South Whidbey farmer moves crabapple root stock to plant in saturated soils during a District volunteer day. Photo by Allison Rinard, Whidbey Island Conservation District.

Other accomplishments



Facilitated the second annual "Great Whidbey Seed Swap" to promote local agroecology and connect community partners to United States Department of Agriculture resources in February 2025.



Partnered with the Washington State University Extension Clallam office to write and produce outdoor curriculum materials for K-12 students in the Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound regions.



Closed 100 cases and provided direct service to 322 acres across Whidbey Island between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

📍 Congressional district 2 📍 Legislative district 10

☎ (360) 678-4708

✉ wicd@whidbeycd.org

🌐 whidbeycd.org