



PUYALLUP RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

STRATEGIES FOR A HEALTHY WATERSHED

***Mission:** The Puyallup River Watershed Council is a forum that promotes and implements programs to restore, maintain, and enhance the watershed in order to protect its environmental, economic, and cultural health*

1 **Create opportunities for communication, collaboration, and cooperation in partnership with watershed stakeholders**

- A. Establish public forum schedule
 - Maintain speaker schedule and pertinent topics for discussion
 - Provide means to communicate agenda & minutes
- B. Establish technical / special interest committees to provide guidance and expertise for watershed enhancement programs
- C. Position the Council in the role of watershed mediator
- D. Maintain recruitment program to identify and encourage participation of stakeholders not represented
- E. Create means to disseminate information (email, Website, and/or newsletter)
- F. Establish a resource center for watershed information (technical studies, reports, legislation, etc)
- G. Foster inter-watershed relationships to share strategies, resources, etc.

2 **Create an outreach program to inspire and empower citizens to make a difference in their communities**

- A. Leverage the Council's leadership, technical and facilitation skills to 'jump start' community led projects to increase chance of success and completion
 - Invite community participation to identify watershed needs
 - Investigate and propose watershed improvement opportunities
 - Help with initial baseline characterizations
 - Identify key funding resources, participants, and interest groups
 - Publicize effort to gain community / governmental support
- B. Partner with schools to create educational policies, programs and tools
- C. Partner with businesses
- D. Partner with local governments
- E. Act as a clearinghouse for volunteer help

3 **Create a State of the Watershed Assessment to maintain visibility of current state of watershed, to identify problem areas, and track progress**

- A. Partner with others to create and maintain a watershed inventory and health index
 - Natural resources (water quality, fish & wildlife, forest area, biodiversity, etc.)
 - Effects of urbanization (erosion, flooding, farmland, impervious surfaces, sprawl, etc.)
 - Economic (employment levels, job creation, local tax and income levels, etc.)
 - Historical / Cultural (preservation of historical sites, native cultures, public education opportunities)
 - Social (recreation, trails, etc.)
- B. Provide periodic updates to the watershed community
- C. Create and submit grant proposals for watershed improvement projects
- D. Sponsor watershed improvement projects
- E. Serve as a 'voice' or 'advocate' for the watershed