



Palouse News

Annual Listening Session

Please join us at the PCD Annual Listening Session!

**February 21st from 6:00-8:00 PM
 Belltower Event Room above The Foundry
 125 SE Spring Street
 Pullman, WA 99163**

Door prizes will be raffled off with special thanks to our sponsors!

CHS Primeland, McGregor, Wilbur Ellis, Pearson Farm and Fence, St. John Hardware, Jones Truck and Implement, Helena Chemical, Galexis, Pape Machinery, Four Star Supply, Merry Cellars, Uniontown Co-Op, Ackerman Heating and Cooling, Café Moro, and YSI— a xylem brand

Call for support to sustain local conservation efforts

Palouse Conservation District and Partner programs such as the Palouse Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) are popular with landowners and producers and are showing great success in putting conservation funds on the ground. Our representatives in the Washington State legislature are putting together the next biennium budgets. Funds for our Partners including Conservation Districts, Washington State Conservation Commission, and Department of Ecology will allow us to continue our good work.

What can you do? We would appreciate you sharing your success stories and expressing your needs and appreciation for our work to your elected officials on behalf of the Palouse Conservation District. Please contact your legislator by email, phone, or letter. Thanks for your support!

Title	First Name	Last Name	Address	Phone	Email
Representative	Joe	Schmick	P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600	(360) 786-7844	joe.schmick@leg.wa.gov
Representative	Mary	Dye	P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600	(360) 786-7942	mary.dye@leg.wa.gov
Senator	Mark	Schoesler	PO Box 40409 Olympia, WA 98504-0600	(360) 786-7620	Mark.Schoesler@leg.wa.gov

Tony Kettel Skate Gardens Comes to Life in 2017!



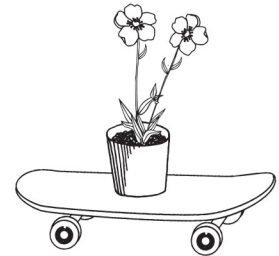
Preliminary Rendering for Phase One at Tony Kettel Skate Gardens

A new garden will soon begin to bloom in Palouse, Washington with help from the Palouse Conservation District! The Garden Transformation Team of the Tony Kettel Skate Gardens will bring to life their "Parisian Avenue" design concept through Phase One development on the plateau North of the Palouse Skatepark. Attractive fencing will soon be assembled and installed along the downtown overlook, and an ADA accessible sidewalk will be poured. Seating benches may be purchased as family memorials, or sponsored by businesses and friends of the garden. Visitors will be able to enjoy views of the surrounding Palouse region amongst European Hornbeams and themed garden beds, which will be home to many

native plants. The plantings will be focused on encouraging birds and bees to stop by, and will also serve to create a friendly border between the garden space and its neighbors.

There are many plans for the garden, and the love of nature is at the heart of them all. This is where the Palouse Conservation District is key for this project. With their assistance, the Tony Kettel Skate Gardens will become a paradise for all visitors, including children, pollinators and bird-watchers alike. A healthy eco-system will be explored and appreciated, and the next generation of environmental stewards are already helping the Garden Transformation Team bring this project to life! Thank you, Palouse Conservation District, for being a part of this project!

(For more information, or to get involved, please visit: www.palouseskatepark.com/gardens)



**TONY KETTEL
SKATE GARDENS**
PALOUSE, WASHINGTON

Annual Surplus Plant Sale

Mark your calendar! The Palouse Conservation District's Annual Surplus Plant Sale is just around the corner. The event will take place on **Friday, March 31st from 9:00am - 4:30pm and Saturday April 1st from 9:00am - 1:00pm** at our office which is located at 1300 NE Henley Ct in Pullman.

Overstocked conservation trees and shrubs will be available for purchase at a great price on the day of the surplus plant sale. Palouse Conservation District staff will be available on site to answer any questions that you may have. Whatever the size of the planting project you have in mind, the Palouse Conservation District is available to help develop a plan which will include the proper plants, materials and labor to help make it more successful. The surplus tree sale will include a limited number of plants—so come early!

Reminder: If you ordered plants during our pre-sale, your plants will be available for pick up during the Annual Surplus Plant Sale.

Assistance Available for Landowners Impacted by Wildfire

Last August, the Snake River Canyon fire roared through the river canyon of southern Whitman county. If you were impacted by this wildfire and would like assistance with projects that address high priority resource concerns (listed below), emergency funds are available through the Washington State Conservation Commission. These Fire Recovery funds were appropriated through the Washington legislature to assist landowners who sustained damage and losses.

Funds are available to address the following:
Protect water quality
Stabilize soil
Prevent crop damage
Replace fencing

Please contact Lovina Englund at 509-332-4101 ext 103 or by email at lovina@palousecd.org.

Program information is on the WSCC website at: <http://scc.wa.gov/program-guidelines/>.

Weed in the Spotlight: Rush Skeletonweed



Rush skeletonweed is a deep rooted perennial plant in the aster family that was listed in 1988 as a noxious weed in Washington. It inhabits rangeland, disturbed areas, and crop ground. It has been shown to reduce wheat yields up to 80% in fields with large infestations and replaces desired fodder in grazed rangelands.

Description: Skeletonweed begins growth in the fall as a rosette of deeply lobed leaves close to the ground. After overwintering the rosette bolts in the spring producing a practically leafless stem up to 3.5 feet tall. The lower portion of the stem is covered with small reddish hairs. The upper portion of the stem divides into several flowering branches and the rosette leaves begin to die back. Small yellow flowers (>1") appear in July and produce up to 10,000 windborne seeds similar to a dandelion. The seeds have a high germination rate but are very short lived in the soil seed bank remaining viable only up to 18 months. Rush skeletonweed has a tap root that extends deep into the soil profile. These roots along with lateral roots are adventitious and even small pieces can sup-

port growth of a new plant. New rosettes emerge from the roots again in the fall. Roots, stems, and leaves all exude a white latex sap when broken or cut.

Control: Skeletonweed eradication can be difficult and take time and repeated treatments to achieve control. The best control is to not have it to begin with. Proper cleaning of vehicles and equipment between moves will help reduce the spread to new areas. The second line of defense is to identify and control the plant as quickly as possible. A few small rosettes are easier to get rid of than a 20-acre patch producing 70,000 seeds per square meter.

Mechanical control can be difficult with practices like tillage that break up the plant and spread viable parts to new locations where they produce a new plant. Less than an inch-long section root is capable of producing a new plant. The frequent tillage passes needed to reduce population numbers may be detrimental to soil health and quality. Hand pulling of small patches may eventually lead to control with diligence. As plants are pulled, roots are stimulated to produce new growth of root buds. Plants will need to be pulled for several years in a row to deplete the nutrients stored in the roots.

Mowing can be effective to prevent flowering and seed production but has little effect on the roots and removal of the whole plant. If mowed stems are not kept cut throughout the growing season they will produce new flowering stems. Grazing can be an alternative to mowing and the plant is palatable to goats and sheep. The best results are obtained by grazing before plants bolt and should be continued through the summer if possible to prevent seed production and reduce rosette vigor.

Herbicide treatments can be an effective tool. A chemical that can be translocated to the root system is the most effective at eradication. Skeletonweed morphology can make it difficult to get adequate coverage for control. The lack of leaves makes herbicide absorption difficult and a single application will not be enough to completely control the plant. Several follow-up applications, the use of surfactants, and proper timing will help to achieve good control.

There are also several biocontrol agents available for release that include a root moth, gall midge, and a rust fungus. Studies suggest that different biocontrol agent effectiveness are dependent on geographic location and plant genetics.





Palouse Conservation District
1300 NE Henley Ct.
Pullman, WA 99163

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Be sure to visit our webpage!

Though our webpage has undergone many changes, our address remains the same! Take a peek at **www.palousecd.org**.

If you would like to switch to our e-newsletter, please add your email address to our contact list by visiting our webpage, calling the district, or sending an email to palousecd@palousecd.org!

Cost-Share Available!

Palouse Conservation District has cost-share available for projects that improve soil health, reduce erosion, improve grazing lands, establish or enhance native vegetation, restore riparian areas, improve wildlife habitat...

Protect valuable natural resources and improve your land and/or operation

Projects must meet NRCS standards and specs

Call today to start a cost-share application (509)332-4101

The Board of Supervisors meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month (call or check our website for meeting time/location)

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Keith Kopf (1997)
Mark Whitmore (1998)
Joan Folwell (2010)

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Greg Jones (1992)

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