

Community Restoration Network

Project Profile: Yesler Creek Headwaters Reforestation Project

Project Location:

Seattle, Washington, USA

Project Manager/Coordinator:

University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network (UWREN)

Patrick Schwartzkopf 2006-2007

Justin Howell 2007-2008

Project Duration:

Ongoing

Ecosystem to be Restored:

Puget Sound riparian forest

Area to be Restored:

6 parcels of approximately 800m²

2400m² restored to date.

Primary Cause of Degradation:

Land use conversion from Forest to agriculture, to rail corridor/military to urban residential development.

Project Goal:

Promote the establishment of a multi-layered native lowland Puget Sound riparian plant and wildlife community.

Create a sense of community ownership and foster greater park stewardship to ensure ongoing success of past, current, and future restoration efforts

Restoration Treatments Used:

Manual removal of invasive species

Herbicide application to invasive tree species

Site conditioning with live stakes (*Salix* spp.) and wood mulch

Replanting with native species

Community Involvement:

Regular volunteer events held with local citizens and corporations.

Design and installation managed by University of Washington students.

Benefits to Local Ecology:

- Over 9000lbs of invasive biomass removed or composted on site
- Over 2400 m² total restored area
- Approximately 2000 native plants installed
- 50% increase in ground cover by native species



before



after

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- Enhanced riparian habitat for amphibians and birds
 - Increased habitat connectivity in the Yesler Creek watershed.

Directions for the Future:

Continued work by the University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network Capstone Course to complete remaining parcels.

Continue outreach to involve the local neighborhood.

Funding/Support:

Seattle Public Utilities Climate Action Grant

Seattle Parks Department

Bonnie Miller of The Yesler Creek Headwaters Reforestation Project

Boeing Corporation for volunteer support

References/Contacts:

UWREN- <http://depts.washington.edu/uwren/>

Justin Howell 2007-2008 Project Lead

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