



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Friends of North Creek Forest

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q1

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GENERAL GOALS: To synthesize all the data that has been gathered, hear from the community, and create a plan for how to open the forest up to the public while still protecting its valuable habitat and ecosystem functions.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses.

For more information please read the attached report from Friends of North Creek Forest.



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March 16, 2018

Our mission: *To protect and improve the ecological function of North Creek Forest through stewardship, education and conservation in perpetuity.*

The past year has been an exciting chapter in our efforts to provide students (and adults!) access to superb educational activities within North Creek Forest, including activities that inspire curiosity and learning around the arts, science, culture, and storytelling. With support from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, Friends of North Creek Forest continued to build bonds between neighbors and community organizations, provide stewardship-education programming, and pilot new programs that increase ecological and cultural literacy for learners of all ages.

Our most ambitious pilot was a free 3-day Forest Summer Day Camp, facilitated by Alice Tsoodle, our Education Manager and two education interns, David from Cascadia College and Destinee from Northwest Indian College. This camp served 14 middle schoolers, ages 11-14. The education team planned a camp experience that guided campers in developing deep relationships with our plant relatives and the surrounding land and waters. Campers got up close and personal with plant species across two local ecosystems. On day one, they met the plants first-hand in the forest and learned about each plant's unique structure and function within the ecosystem, as well as the relationships that connect them (and us) in a web of well-being. On the second day, they hiked 5 miles from the Sammamish River, through the North Creek Wetlands/ riparian ecosystem, and into North Creek Forest. Along the way, students came face to face with various signs of non-human relatives in the grasses and wooded areas. They climbed through a beaver slide and spotted raptors in the trees. Campers counted species and logged them into a GPS app, which later helped them create a map and a story around their plant's habitat preferences. On the third day, campers practiced restoration ecology and removed invasive Himalayan blackberry plants from the edges of the forest. To wrap it all up, they created a model of their plant's preferred habitat, using earth by the creek as their construction material. The education interns walked alongside the campers, presenting each group with real world environmental problems. Each group was responsible for coming up with a few problem-solving practices they might use to combat each issue. We plan to offer our Forest Summer Camp again in summer 2018.

Tulalip's support also enabled our Education Manager to support and mentor 6 paid interns from three different colleges (UW Bothell, Cascadia College, and Northwest Indian College). Through the internships, emerging outdoor educators learned how to facilitate a quality outdoor learning experience as well as how to communicate the importance of forest conservation and native species restoration to

dozens of visitors who joined us for interpretive walks or education field trips last spring and summer. Each intern learned how to create a science lesson grounded in place and how to facilitate interpretative walks through the forest. Our summer interns worked with each other to develop several well-rounded lesson plans for visitors and summer campers. As an example of the diversity of these collaborative partnerships, Destinee taught us how to recognize signs of cedar harvesting in the forest, while David taught us how to successfully integrate technology into our forest walks.

In addition to our educational programming, Friends of North Creek Forest connected many community members and local students through our stewardship events. Your support brought hundreds of people together to work side by side to maintain the forest's health and learn about its benefits to us. In 2017, Friends of North Creek Forest was able to:

- host **649 individual volunteers** at work parties, for a total of 3,175 volunteer hours.
- support **6 college-aged environmental education students** with paid internships.
- host 15 student groups, which touched over **400 students (K-12)**.
- plant over 500 native plants.
- remove over 50 cubic yards of suffocating invasive plants and garbage.
- protect new plants with almost 125 cubic yards of donated mulch.

Raw numbers don't accurately illustrate the range of ages, nationalities, backgrounds, and perspectives that our volunteers and participants bring to the forest; however, the following list of local companies, community-based groups, and schools provides a sampling of this diversity:

Expedia, Premera Blue Cross, a Beijing student group from Shoreline Community College, Puget Sound Energy, The Boeing Company, Girl Scout groups, Cub and Boy scouts groups, Whale Scouts, Northshore YMCA, Alyssa Burnett Center (adults, age 18 or older, with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities), Lake Washington Watershed Internship Program, local churches that volunteered through the Community Day of Service, Cambodia student group from Shoreline Community College, Soundview School K-12, Canyon Creek Elementary, University of Washington Bothell, Cascadia College, and Wellington Elementary School,

Much of this would not have been possible without the generous support of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions. We are deeply grateful to have received this funding, which allows us to care for a stunning outdoor laboratory that inspires generations of students in science, art, and literature.

Thank You!



Chris Covey

Chris Covey and Judy Beaudette, Co-presidents
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