



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Whale Scout

Address:

20921 28th Ave SE
Bothell, WA 98021

Contact:

(425) 770-0787
<https://www.whalescout.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Whale Scout leads the public in land-based whale watching experiences. We channel people's interest and passion about whales into on the ground salmon habitat restoration projects protecting the primary food source of struggling orcas in Puget Sound.

Date of Award:

2025 Q3

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Whale Scout.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



2025

Whale Scout Grant Report for Tulalip Tribes

Former Wayne Golf Course
Restoration and
Community Engagement



Whitney Neugebauer, Director
Rachael Kutz, Field Biologist and Education Manager

Director@whalescout.org
Rachaelk@whalescout.org

Overview



Tulalip Tribes,

Whale Scout is thrilled to share with you updates and highlights from our programming at the former Wayne Golf Course over the past twelve months. First, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your grant support and to City of Bothell staff and council for their unwavering support. Together, we are able to do the heavy lifts, share opportunities with the community, and steward our precious lands and waters.

Highlights- Trees are growing and we are too! Since last year, we restored nearly an acre of future riparian forest, launched a new high school job training program (Seeds to Sky), continued our inclusive community education programs with new audiences, engaged six interns and six UW capstone students, and hosted a total of **48** events. In total, Whale Scout engaged **1,114** community members at the park. This fall leading into the winter of 2026, we're boldly stepping forward with our biggest planting season goal ever - over **3,000 plants!** All of these successes did not come without challenges, however. The funding climate this year was very poor with federal and state funding sources experiencing limitations. We responded proactively, applying for multiple sources of funding and aggressively going after new grants. We're proud to have been awarded **\$300,000** from King County Parks Levy funding ensuring a full year of future programming and plant maintenance into the future. Hard work also paid off for two intrepid recent graduates who finished the internship program and are continuing with us half-time through for an additional year as Field Technicians giving the organization new capacity. Finally, to support restoration within the park, we successfully launched two adjacent projects on the King County trail easement and on a private property along Valhalla creek which feeds into the Waynita/Sammamish project.

Future Directions Whale Scout strives to grow this mutually beneficial partnership with the City of Bothell with the goal of equitably achieving positive salmon recovery outcomes serving the community. Ultimately, we hope to play a permanent role at the park expanding restoration and community engagement opportunities and stewarding the large-scale Waynita/Sammamish project. We feel well-positioned for this in the future. Next year we are slated to complete the final year of phased plantings on the west side of the park, will pursue opportunities on adjacent properties, and will maintain existing planted areas while drawing in diverse students and audiences with creative and accessible opportunities.

WhaleScout.org
Grant code: Q3 2025 14.2

Whitney Neugebauer
Director

Rachael Kutz
Field Biologist and
Education Manager



Habitat Restoration

Over the past twelve months Whale Scout completed restoration in a number of areas of the park including weeding areas around trees completing “survival rings.” Planting areas included five sections along the Sammamish riverbanks.

Additionally, Whale Scout staff and volunteers also carefully maintained these and previous plantings with regular weeding and watering. We’re proud to highlight successful restoration bringing the original site through its third year!



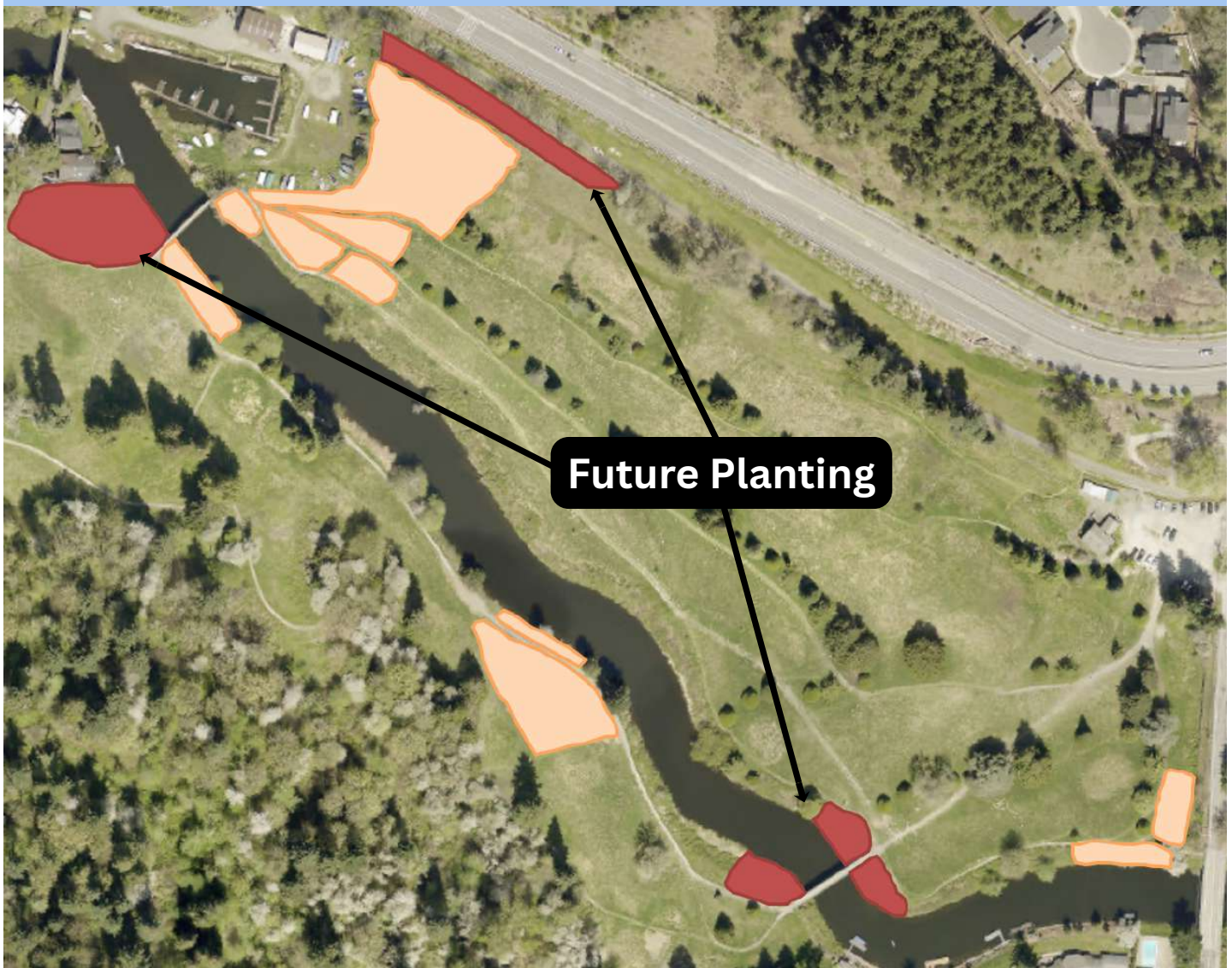
Before - original site



After (3 years) - original site

	<u>Total area</u>	<u>Number of plants</u>	<u>Volunteer support</u>	<u>Value</u>
2025:	0.8 acres new restoration/ planting	2,251 trees and shrubs	3,054 hours	\$127,352

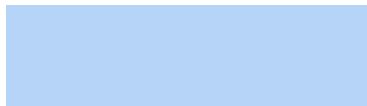
Future Plantings



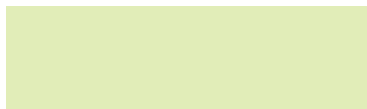
2026 Remaining Planting Season Goals

- Finish 4 upper bank sections
- Restore west section of King County trail easement
- 942 plants to go!
- 63,661 square total feet, ~1.5 acres

Coming 2026-28



Tree Protection



Upland Planting



Invasive Thistle Remediation

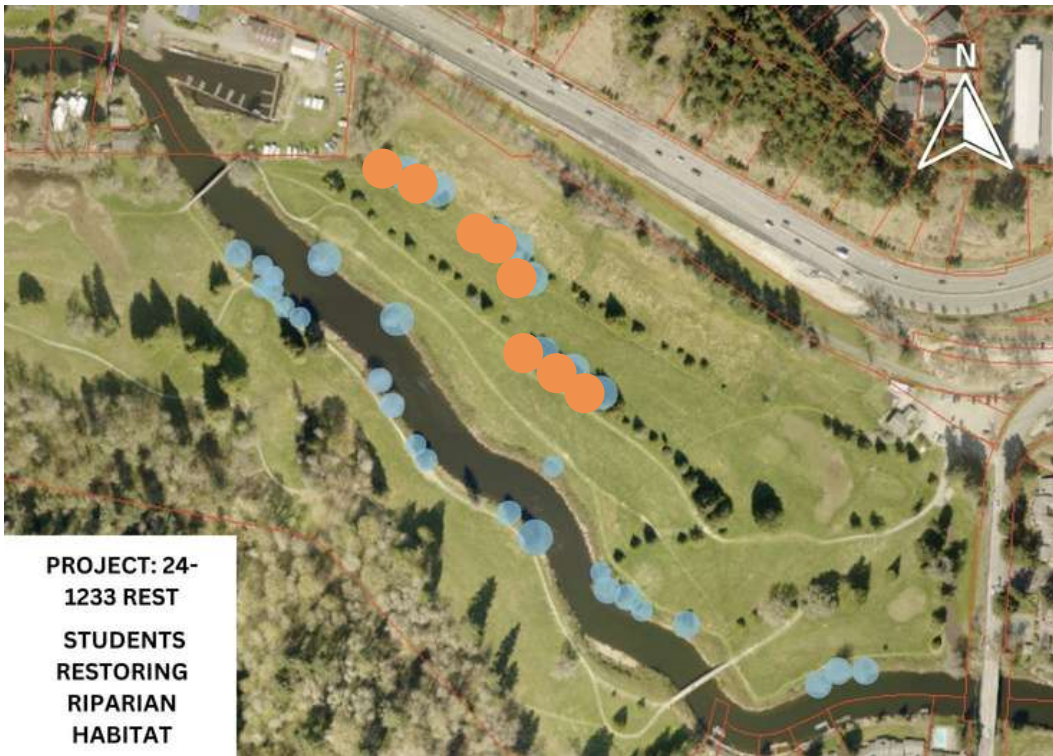
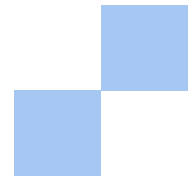


Riverbank Maintenance

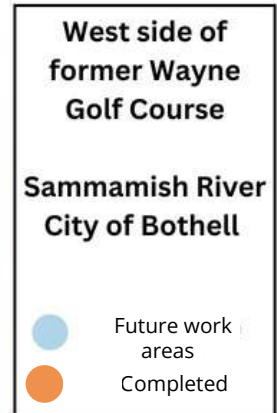


**King County Trail Easement
Restoration**

Tree Protection



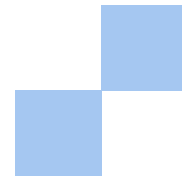
PROJECT: 24-
1233 REST
STUDENTS
RESTORING
RIPARIAN
HABITAT



What are survival rings?

- Removal of invasive, non-native plants such as Himalayan blackberry, English Ivy, and English holly surrounding established trees, often called survival rings
- Weeding protects established trees (approx. 43), protecting the tree canopy that already exists
- A Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant will support this work over the next year with student and intern support
- Previous support was provided by the Department of Natural Resources Community Forestry Grant Program

Community Engagement



Special Volunteer Events

35+ events

Orca Recovery Day

City-sponsored MLK Day

City-sponsored Earth Day



New Local Groups

Pierce College Students

Stanford Alumni

Microsoft

VML (global marketing/advertising)

ATS (engineering firm)

Youth Mens Service League

Wild and Free Forest Homeschool



Inclusive Education

Orca Tails and Trails

Silver Sneaker Walk

Educational Walk with your Dog

Paint in the Park

Mural Painting Event

Storybook Walk (in English & Spanish)

Student Interns

Skills:

- Riparian Restoration and Maintenance
- Water Quality Testing and Certification
- Education and Outreach Experience



Harshleen

**Third
Year**

**University of
Washington - Tacoma**

Currently I'm at the University of Washington-Tacoma and my major is Environmental Sustainability with a concentration in Law and Policy! In the future I hope to go into creating and upholding regulations within businesses or federal agencies. Whale Scout has supported me through my education in wildlife and allowing me an opportunity to practice conservation.



Simone

**HS
Senior**

**Sky Valley
Educational Center**

I am a senior at Sky Valley Educational Center set to begin running start at Cascadia College. My school came to a Whale Scout restoration event two years ago and it was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I knew I wanted to return as an intern and learn more about restoration science.

Liz



Recent grad

**University of
Washington - Bothell**

I am a graduate at University of Washington Bothell, with a in Conservation and Restoration Science degree. I feel incredibly lucky that I get to be involved in helping our local salmon populations. The time that I have spent in my internship with Whale Scout, I have quickly gained so much valuable experience and knowledge that has provided a strong foundation to my future in conservation.

Madi



Recent grad

**Seattle Pacific
University**

I graduated with a degree in Environmental Justice. I chose to work at Whale Scout to pursue my interest of fieldwork in conservation and restoration. Gaining skills in plant identification, the understanding of ecosystems, water quality monitoring, and leadership benefits my career and life greatly. I aspire to pursue grad-school with these skills and newfound passions to research marine life and continue in this path of restoration and the protecting of vulnerable species.

Seeds to Sky

Exploring Careers in Ecological Restoration



NEW program for 2025!

Thanks to Forterra support, Seeds to Sky is an after school program for local high school students. A scaled-down version of our summer internship program, students get a taste of a career in the environmental field at their local park!



Water Quality Monitoring



Restoration

Skills and Activities:

- Proper removal of invasive plants
- Tree protection
- Native tree and shrub planting
- Willow stake installation
- Water quality monitoring and chemistry (pH, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, hardness, and turbidity)
- Connecting in-field data with ecological relevance

Cascadia College and UW Bothell students share research projects with high school students

Thanks to WRIA 8 funding, we will offer the program twice more in 2026!



Mentorship

UW Bothell Capstone Projects



The Park is a Laboratory

Whale Scout partners with UW Bothell's Community-Engaged Research Program to host students from Professor Amy Lambert's BES 491: Research in Environmental Science Capstone Course. This program allows students opportunities for real-world research. Whale Scout benefits from the student time, curiosity, and specialized university lab equipment helping answer questions we otherwise wouldn't have time to explore.



Before



After

UW Bothell Capstone Projects Cont.

David Kim

Tree Canopy Survey



Madalyn

Thistle Removal and Remediation



Katrina

Wildflower Growth over Turf Grass



Olivia

GIS & Vegetation Analysis



Wendy

Expansion of Pollinator Habitat



Victoria

Bioremediation of 6PPD-q



Community Education Events

114 participants



January

01 First Day Hike

June

14 Pop-up Storybook walk

27 Orca Tales and Trails:
David Bain Event

July

01 Silver Sneaker Walk

11 Paint in the Park

August

05 Silver Sneaker Walk

09 Mural Painting

16 Salmon Celebration
& Mural Unveiling

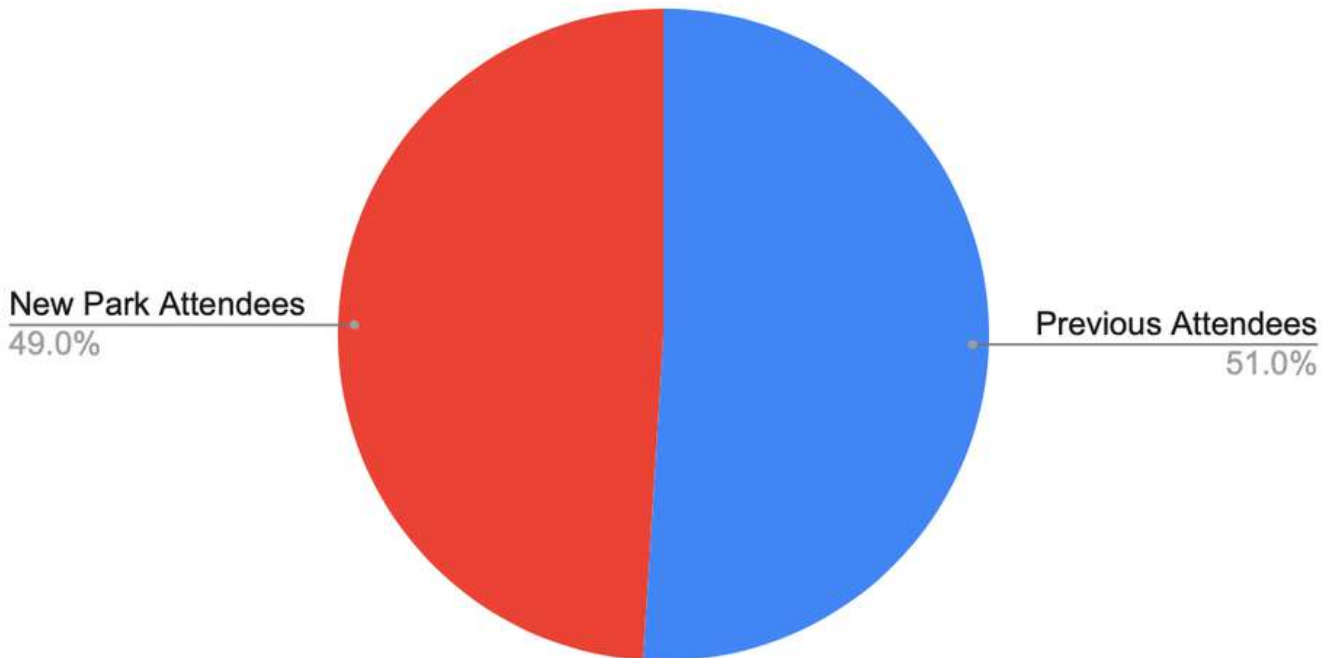
22 Walk with your Dog



Community Education Audience

Previously Attended vs. New Park Attendees

2025



75 Event Participants (2024)
114 Event Participants (2025)

Art and Engagement

Over 1/3 of all participants engage in an **art focused** volunteer event

Mural painting event

- Bothell residents

A-frame educational boards

- 7 total scattered throughout the park

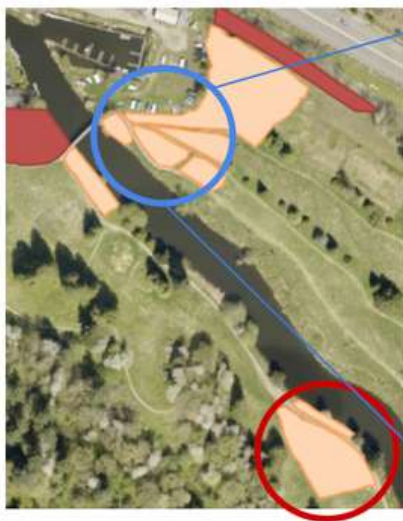


Environmental Monitoring



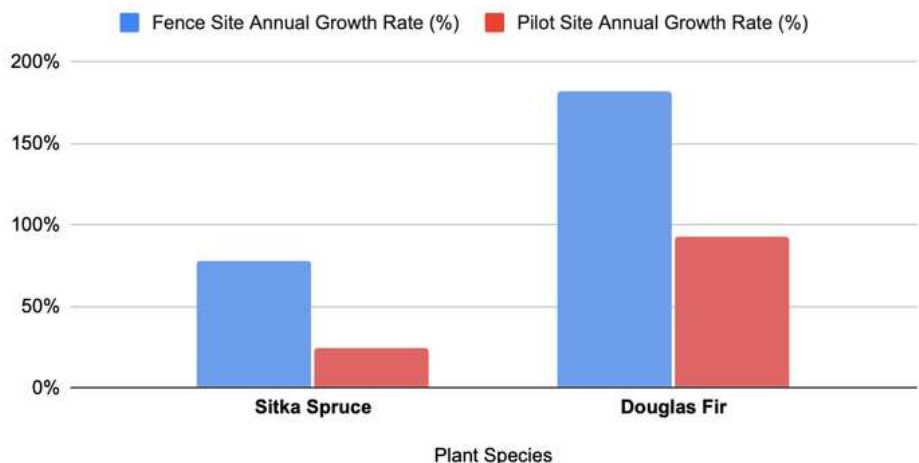
Results

Vegetation Monitoring - Studying Wildflowers



Fence vs. Pilot Site Annual Growth Rate (%)

2023-2025

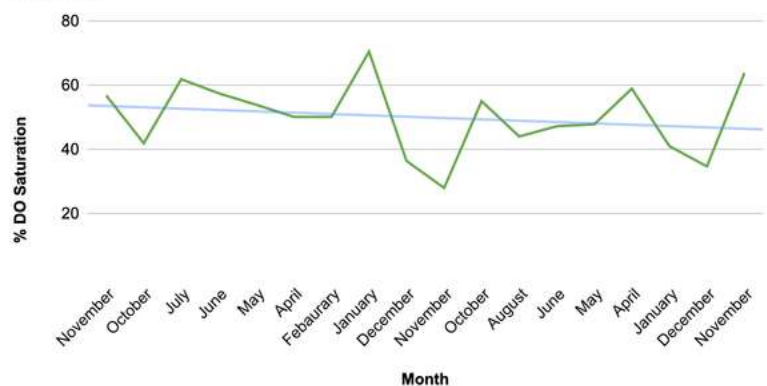


Water Quality Testing



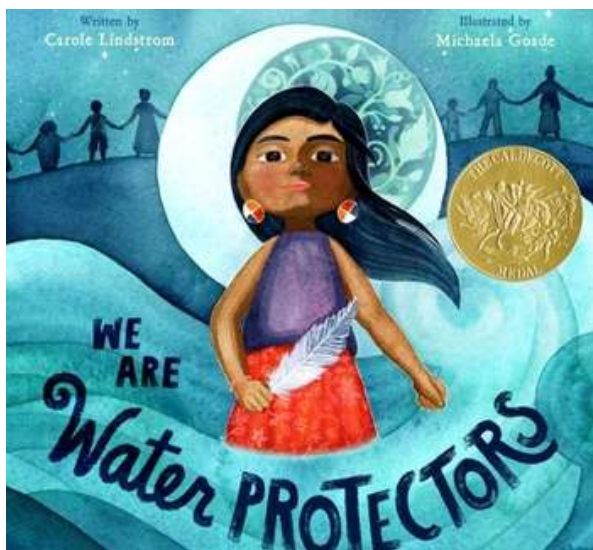
% DO Saturation vs. Month

2023-2025



Storybook Walk

English and Spanish



2025 & 26 Funded Book:

From author Carole Lindstrom and illustrator Michaela Goade comes a New York Times bestselling and Caldecott Medal winning picture book that honors Indigenous-led movements across the world. Powerfully written and gorgeously illustrated, *We Are Water Protectors*, issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption--inviting young readers everywhere to join the fight.

Current Needs

While grant funding supports many of our needs, restrictions make it challenging to acquire certain items or pieces of equipment. The items below would help increase our capacity and increase efficiency.

Replacement Work Truck



Our 1988 GMC Sierra has been incredibly hard-working over the years however with age, things are beginning to fall apart. Looking to the future, we are fundraising to purchase a new vehicle that can transport plants, water, fencing, and even Mike, the life-sized inflatable orca through the 4th of July Parade

Gator



For a significant part of the year, the ground is too soft to support the weight of a vehicle. Currently during this time, staff carry tools, equipment, fencing, etc. by hand or with assistance from a single, small, electric wagon. A gator would lighten the load significantly and allow nimble access to all areas of the park.

Future Directions



**Play a permanent role
stewarding the former Wayne
Golf Course**

**Provide long-term
maintenance of the
Waynita/Sammamish Project**

**Equitably engage the
community in salmon
recovery**

**Provide a learning hub for
students and learners of all
ages**

**Connect community with
nature**

Future Directions Whale Scout strives to grow this mutually beneficial partnership with the City with the goal of equitably achieving positive salmon recovery outcomes serving the community.

Ultimately, we hope to play a permanent role at the park expanding restoration and community engagement opportunities and stewarding the large-scale

Waynita/Sammamish project. We feel well-positioned for this in the future. Next year we are slated to complete the final year of phased plantings on the west side of the park, will pursue opportunities on adjacent properties, and will maintain existing planted areas while drawing in diverse students and audiences with creative and accessible opportunities. We

look forward to expanding to a new location at Cedar Grove Park restoring Perry Creek with grants currently under review, providing a holistic approach to conservation in partnership with Bothell Parks.