2022 ANNUAL REPORT







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ABOUT Forterra

Forterra is an unconventional land trust that works across Washington's communities and landscapes, from the ranches and shrub-steppe of the Yakima basin, to the estuaries, farms and forests of Washington's coast, reaching more than 100 counties, cities, towns and rural communities. Working cooperatively with people and nature, Forterra drives land stewardship, management and planning; innovative programs and policies; farming and forestry approaches; community ownership opportunities; and development solutions.

Learn more at forterra.org

Land acknowledgement: We gather and live on the plains, plateaus, mountains and coastal lands that have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We respect their Indigenous, Tribal and Treaty Rights while honoring their stewardship and culture today.



INTRODUCTION

he Pacific Northwest felt the acute effects of climate change for the last several years. No longer is this an abstract problem to solve in the future, it is a long-term crisis with real and present consequences for our region. We recognize now, that even with urgent action, the impacts of climate change will continue to be felt. How do we face this global challenge that can feel overwhelming? The actions we take today make a difference now, and in the future.

Forterra created Evergreen Carbon Capture (ECC) to provide organizations and individuals a local option to help address climate change through native tree planting. Forterra plants and maintains ECC trees for carbon sequestration in cities and rural lands throughout Western Washington. Tree planting is part of comprehensive habitat restoration efforts, so these actions not only mitigate effects of carbon pollution but also help develop healthy, resilient forested parks and natural areas for future generations. We plant trees on lands we own or steward with our partners and provide trees to local stewardship organizations for their restoration efforts. Since 2010, ECC has planted 60,292 trees in more than 149 locations. These trees will sequester more than 301,460 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) over their lifetimes.

While our mission has long focused on regional-scale conservation and building more sustainable communities, Forterra renewed our commitment to climate action in 2021. We updated our mission statement to explicitly address the climate crisis and revised our strategic plan to direct our work toward outcomes that strengthen equity and climate resilience in our communities. While this commitment spans the breadth of what we do, ECC is dedicated to direct local action. This past year, we launched a new timeline for the ECC program, which recruits and renews participants within the same calendar year that planting takes place. We are encouraged that organizations and individuals in Washington state are taking the initiative to reduce their carbon footprints and to mitigate carbon emissions. In 2022, ECC participants supported local forest restoration by planting 3,478 native evergreen trees to mitigate carbon emissions. Thank you to all participants for their leadership and help to make 2022 a success. We look forward to growing ECC participation again in 2023.

In addition to sequestering carbon, healthy local forests provide many other environmental and health benefits such as improving air quality, reducing soil erosion and water pollution, cooling cities and dampening noise pollution, recharging groundwater and sustaining stream flows, providing native wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation and reducing stormwater impacts.

2022 EVERGREEN CARBON CAPTURE BY THE NUMBERS



field partners

corporate & nonprofit partners plus dozens of individuals

trees planted at 8 sites

17,390 tons of CO₂ sequestered



FIELD PARTNERS AND TREE PLANTING SITES



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Adopt-A-Stream: West Fork Quilceda Creek, Tulalip

This site, owned by the Tulalip Tribe, is part of the West Fork Quilceda Creek Water Quality Partnership Project between the Tulalip Tribe and Adopt-A-Stream Foundation (AAS). Quilceda Creek, listed by the state as impaired waters for exceeding standards for bacteria levels, runs through the property. Adopt-A-Stream is working with the Tribe to establish 100-foot-wide riparian buffers (healthy forest habitat) along 1,800 feet of stream, restoring approximately nine acres of riparian forest. Previously used for raising cattle, the land has very little protection around the creek. Vegetation primarily consists of patches of introduced weeds like Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass, with a few native trees and shrubs scattered sparsely along its length. More than 700 trees from ECC were planted in the field along the river. These trees will support the restoration efforts of the program and improve water quality and health by providing filtration of water runoff, offering shade to reduce water temperatures and replacing the non-native plants, which will encourage other native plants and wildlife to return to the area.

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Green Everett Partnership: South Everett Forest Preserve, Everett

The Green Everett Partnership is one of 14 cities and counties involved in the Green Cities program. Since 2012, volunteers in Everett have helped restore local parks and green spaces to improve canopy cover, provide healthy urban forest habitat for wildlife, and cultivate safe and accessible green spaces for all community members. The South Everett Forest Preserve is a greenbelt running along the Interurban trail next to I-5 and consists of a valuable wetland and a forest with trails running through. Due to high winds and old trees, many trees in this green space are at risk of, or are falling, which means the forest canopy cover is decreasing. There are also many introduced weeds outcompeting native plants, and some sections of the forest completely lack native shrubs and groundcover plants, which are important for wildlife. Being so close to I-5, this forest provides a sound barrier to the local neighborhood and helps mitigate air pollution. Aware of its importance, Forest Stewards and community members have been managing this park for many years to restore the forest and remove woody debris and weeds. As part of this ongoing restoration, 100 trees from ECC were planted in the forest

at the two park entrances. These trees will help build the next successive forest, create a sound barrier from I-5 for local neighborhoods and benefit the wetlands and wildlife.

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Snohomish County Healthy Forest Project: Lake Stickney Park, Lynnwood

Lake Stickney Park is a 24-acre site at the headwaters of Swamp Creek, a tributary to the Sammamish River that flows into Lake Washington. This park is part of the Healthy Forest Project, another member of the Green Cities program, which focuses on restoring urban forested parks located along waterways that connect to the Puget Sound. In 2022, Forterra and the Healthy Forest Project received a grant from Snohomish County to support the ongoing restoration efforts at this beloved neighborhood park. The grant was used to hire a professional restoration crew, Applied Ecology, to remove English ivy, an introduced weed that is outcompeting native



plants and causing trees to die off. In both the newly cleared spaces of the park and in open areas with low or decreasing canopy, 300 trees from ECC were planted to form the next generation of trees and create resilient forest habitat. These trees will allow the forest at Lake Stickney to remain healthy long into the future and provide healthy urban forest habitat for people and wildlife alike.

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Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group: Dalles East, Concrete

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) is a nonprofit organization with a 30year history of engaging local communities in restoring habitat for salmon. SFEG collaborates with local landowners, conservation groups, government agencies and Tribes, and every year engages AmeriCorps, community volunteers and local students to plant tens of thousands of trees along the Skagit River and its tributaries. Three hundred ECC trees were planted at the Dalles East, located near the community of Concrete, WA. The 24-acre site is a conservation property owned by Seattle City Light (SCL) and consists of approximately 18 acres of mature riparian forest and approximately six acres of cleared pasture along the Skagit River. SFEG has secured funding from SCL and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to control invasive vegetation, plant the degraded pasture, and maintain the planting until 2025. From 2022 through 2023, SFEG will plant 3,150 native trees and shrubs (including the trees provided by ECC) on nine acres. These trees will remain for centuries sequestering carbon, filtering surface and groundwater, and eventually contributing large woody debris to the river system.



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Sound Salmon Solutions: Grant Creek and Carpenter Creek, Snohomish County

Both Grant Creek and Carpenter Creek, in Snohomish County, are currently being restored by non-profit Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS). The Grant Creek property was historically used for agricultural purposes, and now introduced plant species have outcompeted much of the native trees and shrubs. SSS is working with the landowner to remove the weeds and replant the area with native trees and shrubs. 1,500 trees from ECC are supporting this restoration project. Another 400 trees are planted at Carpenter Creek property, which consists of eight acres of wetland habitat and wooded areas. Carpenter Creek is a tributary to Woods Creek, an essential creek used by salmon and spawning grounds. Woods Creek flows into Skykomish River, which is a tributary to the Snohomish River and flows into Puget Sound in Everett. These trees will shade out reed canary grass, which is an introduced weed that has taken over the site and chokes the channel. At both sites, these trees will aid in the process of introduced weed removal and support the reforestation of the riparian areas.

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Stewardship Partners: Carnation Farms and Changing Seasons Farm, Carnation

Carnation Farms and Changing Seasons Farm are both located along the Snoqualmie River, and partner with Stewardship Partners, a local nonprofit, to restore the riparian corridor along the river. Both farm sites have moderate presence of weedy vegetation and are dominated primarily by two invasive species, Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass, which are mitigated annually. One hundred trees were planted at Changing Seasons Farm, a family farm that grows a variety of vegetables using ecologically sustainable methods. Another 54 trees were planted at Carnation Farms, a nonprofit farm that sells produce, offers classes and training and hosts summer camps, among other things. Both sites and others have been planted with trees from ECC in the past. These 200 new trees will add to the layers of forest over time. These trees will help mitigate runoff into the Snoqualmie River, increase forest habitat and reduce water temperatures.



CARBON IMPACTS

The 3,478 ECC trees planted this year will sequester 17,390 tons of carbon over the

next 100 years, helping to mitigate the carbon footprint of businesses, organizations and individuals. To ensure we meet the commitments made by our partners, we exceed the standards for carbon sequestration by planting almost three times the required number of trees to achieve program goals. After they are in the ground, we monitor and replace trees when necessary. This approach addresses tree mortality and variability in planting sites, such as soil quality, available sunlight and space. Learn more at **forterra.org**.



PARTICIPANT RECOGNITION

Forterra thanks the new and returning partners who participated in ECC this year. Special thanks to Fourth Corner Nurseries for providing trees to ECC for this year's planting events.

We highlight those companies that have reached special milestones in the program. Forterra celebrates 10 years of participation by the following companies and organizations:





2022 program participants:

Bear Mountain Capital BECU Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation CS Instant Coffee Elemental Cremation and Burial Explorer X GLY Construction Montessori School of Seattle Mott Holdings

- Nordstrom PNW Kyne Porter's Pride Seattle Children's Hospital Seneca Group Silver Creek Stream Real Estate Sub Pop Sustainable Business Consulting
- Turner Construction Urban Housing Ventures Valley Supply Venture General Contracting Weber Thompson Woodland Park Zoo

As well as individual participants.

A special thank you to our field partners for their participation this past year:

















