

2023 EVERGREEN CARBON CAPTURE 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 7

Land acknowledgment: 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.



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INTRODUCTION

The 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 63,371 trees in more than 162 locations. Based on the CUFR TREE Carbon Calculator, these trees will sequester more than 316,855 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) over their lifetimes. See "Looking Forward" for more information on updated carbon tree calculations.

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 towards outcomes that strengthen equity and climate resilience in our communities. This commitment spans the breadth of what we do, Forterra is dedicated to direct, local action. We are encouraged that organizations and individuals in Washington state are taking the initiative to reduce their carbon footprints and to offset the carbon they could not reduce. In 2023, ECC participants supported local forest restoration by planting 2,278 native evergreen trees to offset carbon emissions. Thank you to all participants for their leadership and help to make 2023 a success.

FORESTS PROVIDE MANY BENEFITS

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.

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2023 EVERGREEN CARBON CAPTURE BY THE NUMBERS



TONS OF CARBON

11390



2278



CORPORATE PARTNERS

20



INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS

DOZENS



SITES

FIELD PARTNERS



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2023 EVERGREEN Carbon Capture Planting Sites

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- 3 COTTONWOOD ISLAND
- 4 KINGFISHER NATURAL AREA
- 5 KUBOTA GARDEN
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GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP – KINGFISHER NATURAL AREA, SEATTLE

Kingfisher Natural Area is owned by Seattle Parks and Recreation. This year, volunteers engaged over 60 community members at four events to install 200 long lived conifers. Trees in this urban riparian corridor of the South Branch of Thornton creek will help this urban creek to maintain lower water temperatures for salmonid survival and help reduce total amounts of water entering the creek, reducing the scouring of the creek bed and fish egg habitat during heavy rains.





Additionally, the trees will aid in sequestering carbon, producing oxygen, and creating cooler, shaded areas of the urban environment for human and animal habitat. This park area has been monitored and invested in by Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Public Utilities, and Forterra, and has been actively stewarded by community volunteers for more than a decade via the Green Seattle Partnership

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HEALTHY FOREST PROJECT – MEADOWDALE PARK, EDMONDS

Meadowdale Beach Park encompasses 100 acres in an urban area of Snohomish County and is owned and maintained by the County. The County acquired the park in 1968 after the private Meadowdale Beach Country Club closed. The Club had maintained an Olympic size swimming pool, beach access, a clubhouse, and landscaped grounds.





HEALTHY FOREST PROJECT-SOUTHWEST COUNTY PARK, EDMONDS

Southwest County Park is a 120-acre, open space park with an active volunteer group that meets every Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm. The site was cleared in spring 2023 and 0.88 acres was planted with trees. Fencing was installed to protect the trees from mountain beavers and other herbivores.

HEALTHY FOREST PROJECT -MCCOLLUM PARK, EVERETT

McCollum Park has a rich combination of natural habitats and supports a wide variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. A total of 100 trees, including 10 Sitka spruce, 35 western redcedar, 35 grand fir, and 20 western hemlock along North Creek were planted in the park. This planting project added regeneration to the understory near North Creek and the southern Forest Loop Trail (1.3 ac). North Creek provides rearing habitat for salmonid species including cutthroat trout.



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EARTH CORPS – PLACE OF CIRCLING WATERS, SEATTLE

The Place of Circling Waters is an approximately 30-acre consolidated habitat area located along the edge of one of North America's busiest ports. This site provides freshwater and intertidal marsh, forested wetlands, and riparian habitat along salmon- bearing Hylebos Creek.





EARTH CORPS – KUBOTA GARDEN, SEATTLE

Located in the Rainier Beach Neighborhood in southeast Seattle, Kubota Garden is an American Japanese Garden designed and built by Mr. Fujitaro Kubota. Construction of this gem began in 1927 and lasted beyond the lifetime of Mr. Kubota. Today, the garden is owned by the City of Seattle and maintained by the Seattle Parks Department. It is surrounded by a natural buffer of urban forest, where our restoration work will be focused.

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EARTH CORPS -**CODIGA PARK, SEATTLE**

This former dairy farm is now part park and part tidal wetland that provides shelter and food for wildlife like ospreys, great blue herons, bald eagles, and juvenile salmon. In 2005, the City of Tukwila and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers partnered to excavate the center of the property, creating a side channel that offers young salmon a chance to rest, forage for food and avoid predators in a more natural wetland habitat.





SOUND SALMON SOLUTIONS -ANDERSON'S BAMBOOLAND, MONROE

In 1993, the former blackberry farm and berry packing facility was established as Anderson's Bambooland, a family owned and operated farm, retail bamboo nursery, and wedding venue. Today, 38 acres of the farm are leased to flower farmers and hosts dry-season campers. Heather and Richard Anderson are the site owners.

Sound Salmon Solutions is reducing invasive vegetation and installing native vegetation on a 150-foot-wide riparian buffer along 1,850 feet (6.2 acres total) of the right bank Skykomish River to increase dissolved oxygen, reduce fecal coliform and bacterial inputs, and improve salmon habitat.

Here are some fun facts about the project:

- Students and community members participate in the restoration process, learning the importance of healthy waterways and ecosystem function to the Snohomish Watershed and greater Puget Sound region.

- Summer 2023, Sound Salmon Solutions treated 6.2 acres of blackberry and knotweed.

- Fall/Winter 2022-23, Volunteers planted 1,150 trees and shrubs with plans to plant 4,000 more trees and shrubs the following year.

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HOOD CANAL SALMON ENHANCEMENT GROUP – UNION RIVER ESTUARY, BELFAIR

The Union River estuary is at the Southern terminus of Hood Canal, near Belfair. Situated on land owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG), the area is a critical zone for juvenile salmonids, including ESA-listed Hood Canal summer chum. In 2013 HCSEG, WDFW, US Fish and Wildlife, and the state Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) restored 31 acres of previously filled estuary habitat on the Union River. Work included a riparian native planting and a new trail over the wetlands as an extension of the adjacent Theler Wetlands trail system.





Currently, the estuary trail system offers 3.5 miles of handicapped-accessible flat trails within 139 acres of protected salt marsh and wetlands. With Forterra trees, HCSEG expanded existing riparian native plantings throughout the wetlands. Riparian plantings will create better habitat for juvenile salmonids, including cooler water temperatures, large woody debris recruitment, and a natural filtration system throughout the estuary.

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SKAGIT LAND TRUST – MINKLER LAKE, LYMAN

Minkler Lake historically was used as a millpond and pilings can still be seen from Highway 20. In recent years, the lake has been left alone and undeveloped, and fish and wildlife have thrived. The quiet backwaters are accessible to Skagit River salmon through Childs Creek. Minkler Lake Conservation area protects 138 acres of wetland and forested habitat and was acquired by Skagit Land Trust in three *phases* - in 2004, 2005, and 2013. The place we planted these trees is being restored from a Himalayan Blackberry monoculture to a mix of beneficial native trees and shrubs.





SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP-COTTONWOOD ISLAND, SNOHOMISH COUNTY

The Cottonwood Island Wildlife Area Unit is owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is managed as part of the Skagit Wildlife Area. The Cottonwood Island Unit is a unique forested property representing a historic habitat type that would have been more widespread along the lower Skagit River Valley. It provides valuable mature cottonwood forest habitat for various forest birds and raptors, mainly buteos and eagles. The remnant of Cottonwood Slough also provides off-channel habitat for salmonids including ESA-listed Chinook salmon during certain times of the year. In December 2023, SFEG planted 150 conifers within one acre. Over centuries, these long-lived conifers will replace the aging hardwood overstory and restore natural forest succession processes.

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CARBON IMPACTS

THE 2,278 ECC TREES PLANTED THIS YEAR WILL SEQUESTER 11,390 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.7

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PARTICIPANT Recognition

FORTERRA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF PARTICIPATION BY THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS:



2023 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

- Bear Mountain Capital
- BECU
- CS Instant Coffee
- COLOR
- Dell

- Elemental Cremation and Burial
- Explorer X
- GLY Construction
- Montessori School of Seattle
- Mott Holdings

- Nick Bratton
- Porter's Pride
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- Silver Creek Capital
- Stream Real Estate

- Sub Pop
- Turner Construction
- Urban Housing Ventures
- Venture General Contracting
- Weber Thompson

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR FIELD PARTNERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION THIS PAST YEAR









WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO GREEN DIAMOND FOR GENEROUSLY DONATING REPLACEMENT TREES FOR ECC.

Thank you for your commitment to environmental stewardship and your partnership in our mission.



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LOOKING Forward

Since 2010, ECC has planted 63,371 trees in more than 162 locations. When we started the ECC program the Climate Action Reserve's Urban Forest Tree Carbon Calculator (CUFR) was our primary tool for calculating carbon. This tool indicated that one Douglas fir could sequester 13.9 tons of carbon by its 100th birthday. At the time of our program creation, the CUFR calculator was the only approved tool by the Climate Action Reserve's Urban Forest Project Protocol for quantifying carbon dioxide sequestration from tree planting.

WE CONSERVATIVELY ESTIMATED A 50% SURVIVAL RATE, ALONG WITH A 30% CONTINGENCY RATE, TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENCES IN PLANTING LOCATIONS AND CONIFER SPECIES. THIS LED US TO ASSUME THAT EACH TREE PLANTED WOULD ABSORB APPROXIMATELY 5 TONS OF CARBON.



However, with changing methodologies and the discontinuation of the CUFR calculator, we now have turned to I-tree for our estimates. I-tree was developed by the USDA Forest Service to quantify the benefits of trees.

Field Partners and Tree Planting Sites Carbon Impacts Participant Recognition

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Assuming a 50% mortality rate, I-tree estimates a Douglas fir planted in Seattle absorbs 4.75 tons of carbon.

Due to these shifts in Carbon Science, and a growing carbon market, Forterra is sunsetting the Evergreen Carbon Capture program and measuring impact solely on quantifying uncertified offsets. Forterra remains committed to funding tree planting efforts through the Evergreen Restoration Program and supporting overall forest health. We will continue to provide trees to the "Fund Trees for Field Partners" portion of the Evergreen Restoration Program. Trees offer numerous benefits from removing pollutants to managing stormwater. We continue to prioritize supporting local communities through tree plantings and the holistic benefits of trees.





Planting trees alone is not enough. Like an onion, forests are made up of different layers. Each layer provides different habitat niches for various species, and they contribute to the overall structure and biodiversity of the ecosystem. For example, birds may nest in the canopy, while smaller mammals find shelter and food in the understory. Shrubs such as salmonberry are a critical food source for several animals. **While trees alone have numerous ecological benefits, we hope to capitalize on the benefits of every layer of the forest through the Evergreen Restoration Program.** Behind the scenes, Field Partners also act to actively to manage invasive species that have taken hold and can outcompete native vegetation. With multiple options to get involved like "Funding a crew" to remove invasive species, we hope you consider supporting this work too.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	Seattle	Tacoma	Skokomish	Granite Falls
Pinus monticola	Western white pine	7.73	6.51	3.98	6.51
Thuja plicata	Western red cedar	0.56	0.33	0.13	0.33
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir	4.75	3.68	1.99	3.68
Abies grandis	Grand fir	5.74	4.45	2.41	4.45
Picea sitchensis	Sitka spruce	9.55	7.17	3.63	7.17
Tsuga heterophylla	Ponderosa Pine	6.53	4.92	2.49	4.92
Pinus ponderosa	Western hemlock	2.9	1.97	0.98	1.97



Supporting the Evergreen Restoration Program means investing in comprehensive environmental restoration efforts with tangible benefits for local communities and ecosystems. We invite our corporate sponsors to join us in this endeavor, whether through financial contributions, employee engagement initiatives or adopting an acre. Together, we can make a lasting impact on our environment and create a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

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I-TREE IMPACT

OVER THE NEXT 100 YEARS, THE TREES WE PLANTED WILL ...



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