

# **EVERGREEN RESTORATION PROGRAM**

# **QI 2024 IMPACT REPORT**

### **Evergreen Restoration Program**

Together with corporate and nonprofit partners, field partners, and volunteers, Forterra's Evergreen Restoration
Program plants native trees and plants around Puget Sound that improve our region's resilience against climate change. Benefiting our communities and the environment.

# 68 Volunteers 325 Plants Planted 525 Plants Mulched



A conifer can remove 50 pounds of particulates from the air per year. (Dwyer et al. 1992).

Every 1% increase in a city's usable or total green space results in a 4% lower rate of anxiety mood disorder treatment (Nutsford et al. 2013)



# **Community Restoration Grants:**

Forterra Community Restoration Grants is a program for urban and suburban cities in Washington. The program focuses on restoring land in urban and suburban areas, promoting native plant diversity and engaging the community in environmental issues at the local level.

So far, 12 awards of \$158,350 have funded:

**6** monthly work parties

**16** Job Training Program positions

9 environmental educations cohorts of

10-25 students

You can read more about the funded projects at <u>Forterra.org</u>.

Please contact us if you'd like to volunteer with us or one of the organizations.

Nationwide trees prevent 670,000 cases of acute respiratory conditions annually (Nowak et al. 2018).



Trees are important for creating sustainable cities. Urban forests help reduce air pollution, filter rainwater, and provide shade.

In urban areas trees can cool the air by

# up to 8 degrees

reducing air conditioning needs by

30%



Buffers of trees and shrubs can reduce 50% of noise detectable by the human ear (USDA Forest Service 1998)

This includes high-frequency noise, which is the most distressing to people (McPherson et al. 2001).

### **Adopt An Acre**

At Forterra we've been hard at work evaluating properties suitable for the Adopt an Acre program. This program restores land by focusing on:

- Site Preparation
- Planting and Mulching
- Plant Establishment
- Monitoring and Site Support

We have identified and prioritized restoration work at 10 properties marking a significant first step.

We're thrilled to be pursuing multiple grants to improve and restore these properties.

### **Evergreen Carbon Capture**

Over the past quarter, we've actively engaged with participants in Forterra's Evergreen Carbon Capture (ECC) initiative, sharing insights about the Evergreen Restoration Program and opportunities for involvement. As we gear up for planting season, we're excited to continue funding trees for our field partners and to host more restoration work parties.

Forests provide environmental, social and economic benefits to all – now and in the future. Forests provide clean water, fresh air, carbon storage and timber.

**52**%

of Washington's

42.5 million acres

is forested

Visit our updated <u>website</u> for more information and additional resources.



# **EVERGREEN RESTORATION PROGRAM**

# **Q2 2024 IMPACT REPORT**

### **Evergreen Restoration Program**

Together with corporate and nonprofit partners, field partners, and volunteers, Forterra's Evergreen Restoration Program embraces a holistic approach to ecological restoration to improve our region's resilience against climate change.

Over a dozen corporate sponsors have signed up to support trees for field partners and Forterra lands. This planting season we will support the planting of over 3000 trees. If you'd like to learn more about this program email restoration@Forterra.org

According to the Washington Post study after study shows nature exposure is linked to many positive



health outcomes
including living
longer, sleeping
better, displaying
improved cognitive
function, and
enjoying lower rates

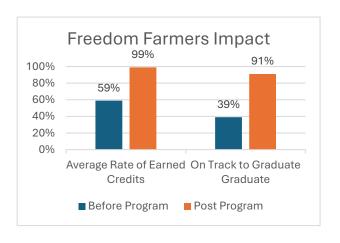
of heart disease, obesity, depression and stress. You can read more about Nature Quant's quest to map these health benefits across the country <u>here</u>.

# **Community Restoration Grants:**

This quarter we want to highlight some of our Community Restoration Grantees and celebrate that we are announcing a new round of funding open August 1, 2024. You can read more about the funded projects at <u>Forterra.org</u>

# Olympia School District's Freedom Farmer Program.

Freedom Farmers was created to provide farm-based, outdoor alternative learning experiences and opportunities for students who thrive when they can apply academic learning to meaningful community work. Students who participate in this program have improved graduation rates and reduced disciplinary referrals from 615 to 36.



The grant will support Freedom Farmers' plans to expand to a district-wide model in the 2024/2025 school year, find more sustainable funding sources, and expand their program to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Over the last five years, students produced 63,557 pounds of produce for the Olympia School District, the Thurston County Food Bank,

SafePlace, and the City of Olympia Summer Kids in Parks Program (SKIPP).

Students participate in "Tend, Gather, Grow" curriculum based on indigenous Tribal educators' ethnobotany curriculum. They learn about native plants and their roles in ecosystem resilience, including carbon sequestration. They learn about native plants for their food, technology, and medicinal qualities, and even the social/emotional lessons those plants provide us as humans. Students also are implementing climate adaptive farming practices and engaging in climate restoration work through native habitat stewardship. We also wanted to share Freedom Farmers amazing promotional <u>video</u>.

**Earth Wilders** is providing restoration education for middle school students in New Futures – an after-school program run through Southwest Youth and Family Services.

During each eight-week long educational session, about 10 students aged 11-14 will learn a new social emotional learning (SEL) skillset while also learning about ecosystem restoration and the mutually beneficial relationships in healthy ecosystems. Earth Wilders is holding 3 separate sessions, one in Spring, Summer, and Fall, and aims to clear about 5000 square feet of invasive species to plant about 12 trees and 30 shrubs and groundcover.

Friends of Lake Sammamish State
Park (FLSSP). FLSSP is using the grant
funding to restore a portion of Tibbetts
Creek through monthly volunteer
restoration events. Last year their
volunteer events typically attracted 3040 volunteers, and in November alone
they were able to plant 160 plants. With
the additional funding, FLSSP will
provide annual Discover Park passes to
some volunteers to be used anywhere
throughout our WA State Park system.

FLSSP also provides stipends for partner organizations and school programs to expand outreach efforts and collaborate on educational and restoration events throughout Lake Sammamish State Park.

Science is still establishing how much canopy it takes to precisely move the



needle on key environmental issues, but available research shows that each ten percent increase in canopy results in a two

degree (Fahrenheit) reduction in ambient temperature.

The Evergreen Restoration Program is launching quarterly webinars. At each webinar we will talk about a range of subjects including the Balance of Ecosystems and how that creates effective conservation strategies, the power of trees and their carbon sequestration capabilities, and small steps and the impact they can make.



# **EVERGREEN RESTORATION PROGRAM**

# Q3 2024 IMPACT REPORT

# **Evergreen Restoration Program**

Together with corporate and nonprofit partners, field partners, and volunteers, Forterra's Evergreen Restoration Program embraces a holistic approach to ecological restoration to improve our region's resilience against climate change.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to our events and Forterra Fridays. We are excited to host multiple events on Forterra and Field Partner lands.

# NEARLY 100 VOLUNTEERS 3500 SQ FT MAINTAINED LAND 11800 SQ FT OF NEWLY ENROLLED LAND



A study evaluating the effectiveness of a three-day fly-fishing trip on PTSD found significantly reduced symptoms in veterans.

Participants experienced decreased PTSD severity, reduced negative emotions, and increased positive emotions. These effects lasted at least six weeks, and sleep quality also improved. (Vella et al., 2013)

### **Community Restoration Grants Year 2**

In September we launched the second year of Community Restoration Grants. The grant program focuses on restoring land in urban and suburban areas, promoting native plant diversity and engaging the community in environmental issues at the local level. You can learn more at Forterra.org

We are incredibly grateful to all the corporate groups who have donated funds and/or volunteers to our Evergreen Restoration Program. We're especially grateful for Swire Coca Cola, Alaska Airlines, First Interstate Bank and McKinstry who participated in Q3 restoration events.

Each event contributes to cleaner air, cleaner water, and healthier ecosystems, making these parks, forests, and natural areas more accessible to the nearby communities. Thank you for helping us do good work.



Patients recovering from surgery who had a window view had an average hospital stay of 7.96 days compared to

8.70 days for patients with a brick wall window view. Those with a natural view also needed significantly fewer doses of painkillers and received fewer negative notes from nurses (Ulrich et al., 1984;)



# FORTERRA EVERGREEN RESTORATION PROGRAM

# **Q4 2024 IMPACT REPORT**

# **Evergreen Restoration Program**

Together with corporate and nonprofit partners, field partners, and volunteers, Forterra's Evergreen Restoration Program embraces a holistic approach to ecological restoration to improve our region's resilience against climate change.

# FORTERRA HOSTED 3 VOLUNTEER EVENTS IN 04 REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES AND **PLANTING 170 TREES**

# **Community Restoration Grants:**

Congratulations to the five Community Restoration Grant winners in Q4 of 2025! We are excited to announce funding for **Issaguah Alps Trail Club**, Puget Sound Estuarium, Tilth Alliance, <u>Tulalip Tribes of Washington</u>, and Thornton Creek Alliance.

We are also excited to announce our new Technical Assistance Grants! Technical Assistance Grants aim to provide support for neighborhood and community groups who want to begin a restoration program, planting or tree canopy improvement project but might not know where to start.

You can learn more at Forterra.org

### **Patterson Creek Preserve**

Originally set for development, Forterra successfully negotiated to preserve 120 of 240 acres of forest and wetland in 2003, via a conservation easement with King County. Wildlife at the preserve includes various bird species such as chickadees, warblers, owls, and woodpeckers, along with visitors like deer, coyotes, bobcats, cougars, and black bears. The preserve cleans, cools, and filters water of four separate streams that flow into Patterson Creek which is vital for salmon.



Patterson Creek Preserve has limited tree regeneration. At this Forterra Friday Event, Volunteers planted 115 trees from the Evergreen Carbon Capture (ECC) Program.

# **Discovery Park**

With support from ECC, the Green Seattle Partnership planted 120 trees at Discovery Park in Seattle Washington. These trees were planted along a trail that was historically part of a coniferous forest. However, the forest was cleared in the late 1930s/early 1940s for military barracks for Black soldiers at Fort Lawton. The area has been largely treeless after the barracks were demolished in the 1960s.

Forterra created Evergreen Carbon Capture (ECC) to provide organizations and individuals with a local option to help address climate change through native tree planting. From 2010 to 2024, ECC planted 63,606 trees in more than 164 locations. Based on the Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR) Tree Carbon Calculator, these trees will sequester more than 318,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) over their lifetimes. Starting in 2025 both ECC and ERP Trees for Field Partners will use i-Tree to calculate for CO2 sequestration and other impacts.

According to i-Tree the 235 trees ECC provided in 2024 will:

- Establish 3.3 Football fields of canopy
- Sequester: 909-1175 tons of Carbon
- Stop 14,603,060 (about 730 swimming pools) of water saving over \$130k
- Remove 3.8 tons of O3, 1.8 Tons of NO2, 320 pounds of SO2 and 410 pounds of Particulate Matter

Thank you to our 2024 ECC Participants:

- Silver Creek Capital
- Turner Construction
- Elemental Cremation & Burial
- Nicholas Bratton
- CS Instant Coffee

Stay tuned for our next report where we will share the impact of our "Trees for Field Partners" program.

Forterra Fridays:



Forterra invites you, your staff and friends to get your hands dirty and make a difference. Join us on the third Friday of every month at a different Forterra property or park. Each event provides hands-on environmental education about restoration ecology and insight into the property's history and its environmental and habitat value.

From February to April events will be at the Duwamish Hill Preserve, a Tukwila Park providing critical wildlife habitat and public trails in an industrial area. The preserve is dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of its rich Native American cultural history, ecological importance and community impact.

Register and learn more <u>here</u>.

Residents who felt their neighborhood lacked green spaces and other public



amenities (like walking paths, or safe play areas for kids) were less likely to have walked a mile or more

in the past year (Ellaway et al., 2009)