

Forested Wetlands Restoration Project in Tacoma, WA

Victoria Chavez, Gabrielle Kretschmer, Chloe Nelson, Amber Smith, Nathaniel Torres-Figueroa, Emellia Treece, Tia Tumaliuan, Cynthia Updegrave

Working with Metro Parks Tacoma, University of Washington restoration students helped manage and restore 700m² of Titlow Park, located near the Titlow Beach Marine Preserve. The location, which had been disturbed by invasive overgrowth, erosion, and local park-goers, has been improved and will continue to need management. When ecological restoration is applied correctly, sites will see many benefits. There will be a decrease in biodiversity loss, which occurs from invasive overgrowth, improvements in air quality, and positive growth in the local natural resources and their surrounding ecosystems. Additionally, in connection to our site, there will be an improvement to the restoration site's wildlife while enhancing the urban environment for those who enjoy walking on the trail that is part of the site. By developing a restoration plan which includes reintroducing native species, applying erosion prevention methods, and creating a future management plan, we ultimately hope that the site's environment will return closer to its natural habitat. Although there are immediate benefits, there will continue to be gradual growth over the years, which will continue to help the recovery and success of the local ecosystem.