

Puget Park Restoration Project

Aiden Downey, Benjamin Looney, Kyrstin Onaga, Sam Knoblich, Cameron Pauahilani
Mendoza, Gibson Silagi

My capstone project was centered around the restoration of a site within Puget Park in Tacoma, WA. This site had previously been part of a personal garden and still contained some of the plants from that period. We worked with Metro Parks Tacoma to achieve two main goals: increasing natural biodiversity within the site and ensuring that the site is a welcoming place for park visitors. It was also important that we not use any chemicals because the site was next to a stream that has had salmon populations in the past. The site was so overgrown that it was impossible to even see most of it, which led to it being a mostly ignored part of the park. Our work began with categorizing the site by types of vegetation, soil, and topography. After studying the site, a work plan was developed to ensure that we met our goals. We set up volunteer work parties to rid the site of invasive plant species before thoroughly researching what types of plant species would be helpful additions to the site. Several weeks were spent delivering mulch to the site and another work party was set up to plant the several new species purchased from local nurseries. Our goals were met, and the site was more open and inviting while also being more natural in vegetation.