

COMMUNITY REPORT 2013-2014



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER

OUR CHALLENGE



New Start students preparing for their 5-week restoration project at Seahurst Park.

THE CHALLENGE OUR COMMUNITY FACES

Many children live only a few miles from Puget Sound, yet have never walked along the beach or searched a tide pool. The likelihood of a child developing a passion for nature— and making choices that protect the environment for future generations— is seriously limited if they spend little time outdoors. Currently, the quality of water in critical habitats in the South King County area of Puget Sound is threatened, and many community members do not have the resources to understand and address these challenges to their environment.

Schools in this area are struggling with budget cuts and have little ability to provide opportunities for students to explore natural resources and spend time in green spaces. Without such experiences, these children are not prepared to pursue careers in the scientific fields that will solve environmental issues.

With your support the Environmental Science Center (ESC) is changing that situation, by fostering awareness and helping students build the leadership skills so essential to the next generation of environmental stewards, ensuring a healthier future for all of South King County.

[The program] gave students real world experience utilizing the inquiry process.

- Ms. Kreiter, McMicken Elementary

EACH DAY, AMERICAN
CHILDREN SPEND
AN AVERAGE OF

30 MIN
AT PLAY
OUTSIDE

7 HRS
IN FRONT OF AN
ELECTRONIC
SCREEN

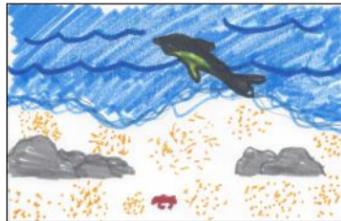
*From National Wildlife Federation's Be
Out There initiative website*

HOW WE ARE ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE

ESC addresses critical local environmental issues and promotes environmental literacy by providing access to outdoor learning, cultivating environmental stewards who can take action to restore and protect Puget Sound.



Students of Camp Craz learn how they can protect Mike, J26, and other members of the southern resident killer whale community. Through drawings each pledge to become stewards of Puget Sound's marine creatures.



THE PARK CLOSURE DIDN'T STOP ESC!

2013-2014 did offer some logistical challenges as our facility at Seahurst Park was closed due to the Seahurst Shoreline Restoration Project...however, this did not prevent our dedicated staff and naturalists from offering the same quality hands-on environmental science education programs! The team spread its wings (more than usual) to offer programs at beaches and community spaces throughout South King County.

During this time of transition, ESC welcomed 2 new staff members to the team: Executive Director, **Tara Luckie** and Programs Manager, **Kasey Dolin**. Both have proven to be a great fit for ESC, and the team is working hard on bringing exciting new programming to the learning center this upcoming year.

We look forward to welcoming you to the newly restored shoreline and our re-opened learning center at Seahurst Park. Please take a look at our accomplishments in this annual report. We welcome you to join our community of individuals working to make the environment better, both today and for future generations. If you are passionate about our work please consider joining us by becoming a volunteer or supporter!

We know that to study the environment and learn in its context not only provides essential knowledge for decision making, but also contributes mightily to student academic development in all subject areas.

- WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, July 2000.

7,272
TOTAL PERSONS SERVED

427
PROGRAMS DELIVERED

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

City of Burien
City of Des Moines
Community Schools Collaboration
Highline School District
King Conservation District
King County
Neighborhood House
New Futures
Normandy Park Community Club
Para Los Niños de Highline
Puget Sound Partnership
Puget Sound Skills Center
Seattle Aquarium
Seattle Parks and Recreation
Stewardship Partners
Sustainable Burien
WRIA 9

OUR IMPACT

OUR VISION



New Futures student examines a salmonberry leaf during a summer field trip to the Environmental Science Center at Seahurst Park.

LONG-TERM VISION FOR SUCCESS

Our vision is that all South King County children have access to quality environmental education...

...because we believe in a future where all the children of our community—regardless of their economic background— share:

- a deep enjoyment and understanding of environmental science,
- a sense of both community and individual responsibility for the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem, and
- advanced career opportunities through involvement in STEM classes, leading to
- a vibrant and diverse community within STEM occupational fields.

To bring about this future, we are working to:

1. Strengthen Curriculum Quality – to align with and support the Next Generation Science Standards.
2. Expand Community Outreach – to engage more families and community members in learning about the natural world around them.
3. Increase Volunteer Training - to encourage and empower community members to become informal environmental educators themselves.

MEASURING SUCCESS

90% OF TEACHERS
RATED THEIR FIELD STUDY
AS

VERY EFFECTIVE
IN ENGAGING STUDENTS
IN SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

79% OF STUDENTS
SHOWED
IMPROVEMENT FROM
PRE TO POST ASSESSMENTS

To ignite a group of environmental leaders, you must start with a spark. ESC is that spark. We want to watch our programs light a fuse that inspires young people to take action and solve tough environmental challenges.

Chris Jansen, President, Environmental Science Center

GETTING YOUNG SCIENTISTS OUTSIDE!

ESC's in-school programs continued to thrive this year—the salmon were spawning and the crabs were scuttling. Students throughout South King County had the opportunity to get outside—an experience many students don't receive. To encourage students to continue practicing stewardship at home and school, ESC gave them the opportunity to take a pledge to make a difference. Explore our exciting participating classes on the ESC website!

SALMON HEROES

67 PROGRAMS

5000 CONTACT
HOURS

Students gained a deeper understanding of their watershed and salmon habitat through a 4-hour program. During a classroom visit, students learned about the salmon life cycle and salmon habitat needs. They then traveled to a salmon spawning stream at partnering site, Normandy Park Cove. Hands-on science stations in the field, including anatomy, habitat assessment, and water quality testing, helped students better understand salmon needs and human impacts on their habitat.

WATER HEROES

32 CLASSES

806 CONTACT
HOURS

A select number of classes participating in the Salmon Heroes program received additional programming after their field study. During a one-hour classroom visit, students analyzed the water quality data they collected in the field to determine if the streams were healthy enough for salmon to survive and thrive. They also discussed human impacts and the positive behavior changes each student could make to help protect salmon habitat.

BEACH HEROES

164 PROGRAMS

3,375 CONTACT
HOURS

This program focused on positive stewardship behavior that protect and conserve nearshore habitat and the organisms that live there. Naturalists led field studies at Des Moines Beach and Lincoln Park Beach due to the construction at Seahurst Park this year. At these beaches, naturalists guided students as they explored the tidal zones, learning to identify marine invertebrates and the predator/prey relationships that they share. Students also learned about the harmful impact of marine debris and the importance of keeping plastics out of our watershed.



Shorewood Elementary students testing water quality during Salmon Heroes program.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Students work on a model that represents the components of a healthy salmon habitat with ESC Program Manager, Kasey Dolin.

CONNECTING TO THE NATURAL WORLD

Science isn't just for school! The ESC strives to foster a life-long love of science and nature, and that means taking our programs out of the traditional classroom setting and into the places where students live and enjoy themselves every day. In 2013-2014, the ESC served students with After-School Science Club programming in a variety of settings, where young scientists could share their knowledge and enthusiasm with their friends, neighbors, and even their little brothers and sisters!

99
PROGRAMS DELIVERED

613
STUDENTS SERVED

- The Neighborhood House, a community center located in the heart of Highpoint, hosted 27 hours of science activities and lessons for students who live in the Highpoint Community.
- Through our longstanding partnership with the New Futures After-School Program, the ESC was able to serve students living in the Arbor Heights, Woodridge Park, and Windsor Heights Apartment complexes with hands-on science fun right where they live.

In a new afterschool program spearheaded this year, 15 young scientists from the Magnolia Public Library combined their love of science with their love of reading by exploring the topic of watershed health through a cumulative 7 week series of ESC lessons, supplemented by a librarian-approved reading list!

The ESC also continued its partnership with Community Schools Collaboration with programming at Bow Lake Elementary, and with the City of Burien's Gym Jams, a program aimed at getting parents and children engaged in healthy and educational activities together, at Southern Heights Elementary.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events provide the public with opportunities to learn more about watershed issues, so that they may practice environmental stewardship at home.

- **The Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival, Burien Wild Strawberry Festival, and Water Festival in Kent**—ESC raises awareness of watershed issues by focusing on salmon recovery, marine debris, plant species, and overall watershed health. Through fun and engaging activities such as “Fishing for Water Heroes,” people of all ages can learn about local environmental concerns while enjoying themselves.
- **Aquarium Open House**— By recruiting and coordinating ESC volunteers, and partnering with AVID students, Hazel Valley, Para los Ninos, and New Futures, families from Highline school district explore the Seattle Aquarium with activities and exhibits translated in 17 different languages!

15

PROGRAMS

1,931

PARTICIPANTS



Families from ESC's after-school programs explore the insides of a salmon at the Seattle Aquarium Open House.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

VOLUNTEERS



3,405
VOLUNTEER HOURS

CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

ESC is empowering the next generation of leaders through mentorship, service learning, and community engagement by teaming up with AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students at Highline High School. The purpose of AVID is to prepare under-served students for both college admission and college success.

“The interaction of the ESC and the AVID program is such a win-win connection for our community. On the one hand it allows for the ESC to have enthusiastic, reliable volunteers whose families are members of the ESC neighborhood. On the other hand, it provides a learning opportunity for high school students. They are able to work with caring adults who are concerned about the environment. Certainly, the students have gained an appreciation for Puget Sound that they would not otherwise have had.”

- Nanci Leonard, AVID Teacher

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO AVID (ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION) STUDENTS!



AVID students educate the community about keeping our watershed healthy at the Burien Wild Strawberry Festival.

VOLUNTEERS

Kevin Alexander
Matthew Balbuena
Kasey Dolin
Alex Dumlao
Luciana Conceição
Kevin Goscinak
Christine Froschl
Mavis Kreizenbeck
Brenda Lee
Janice Mathisen
Lin McCormick
Lona Medhane
Ayla Moretti
Reina Noyes
Roger Neubauer
Dick Parks
Sally Parks
Puget Sound Skills Center students
Kelly Robberson
Keith Schackel
Ralph Smith
Tom Spohn
Peg Staeheli (SvR Design Company)
Kelly Steffen
Sierra Walker
Sophie Walker
Darrell Williams

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Bryan Avery
Sheri Barr
Barb Bruell
Suzy Karl
Joy Neubauer
Celina Steiger
Barb Williams



WHAT IS IN STORE (OR SHALL WE SAY IN-SHORE)

MORE PUBLIC PROGRAMS!

ESC is looking forward to hosting a wide variety of programs and events at its learning center this year. What kind of programs should you plan on seeing? Everything from guided nature tours to hands-on in-center activities to presentations from field experts. ESC will cover a wide variety of issues such as intertidal ecology, shoreline restoration, native plants, water conservation at home and work, and salmon habitat protection.

SEAHURST RESTORED

There is no better place to host these events than right here at ESC in the newly restored Seahurst Park, which features 169 acres of forest, two restored streams for salmon spawning, wetland, tide pools, salmon ladder and hatchery (Marine Technology Center), and a mile of shoreline. The seawall removal project offers ESC an opportunity to engage more people in the discussion on water quality of Puget Sound and conservation practices.

NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

To further community engagement in environmental stewardship, ESC is developing a new volunteer program led by our new Outreach and Volunteer Manager, **Christine Froschl**. Volunteers will gain knowledge on environmental issues to share with the public through in-depth training and service learning opportunities.

STRENGTHENING CURRICULA

As a community collaborator, ESC is also working on becoming a leader this year in modeling the newly adopted science standards. We will support teachers as they begin the process of integrating the standards into their own classroom curricula. ESC's field studies are a natural fit to demonstrate the relevance of environmental education as a tool to cultivate future scientists.



OUR SUPPORTERS

LOOKING FORWARD

THANK YOU ESC SUPPORTERS!

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$ 50,000 +

The Russell Family Foundation

\$ 20,000 - \$ 49,999

The Boeing Company

\$ 5,000 - \$ 19,999

Google Tides Foundation
Grousemont Foundation
The Seattle Foundation
Barb and Darrell Williams

\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999

Jean and Tom Spohn

\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499

Jiji Foundation
Gates and Controls
Nicole Killebrew
Loren Tomlinson
Douglas and Maria Sykes
Georgette Valle

\$ 500 - \$ 999

Janet Jansen
Ron and Mavis Kreizenbeck
Joan McGilton
Carol Mohler
Brenda Sullivan
Verallia / Saint Gobain Containers



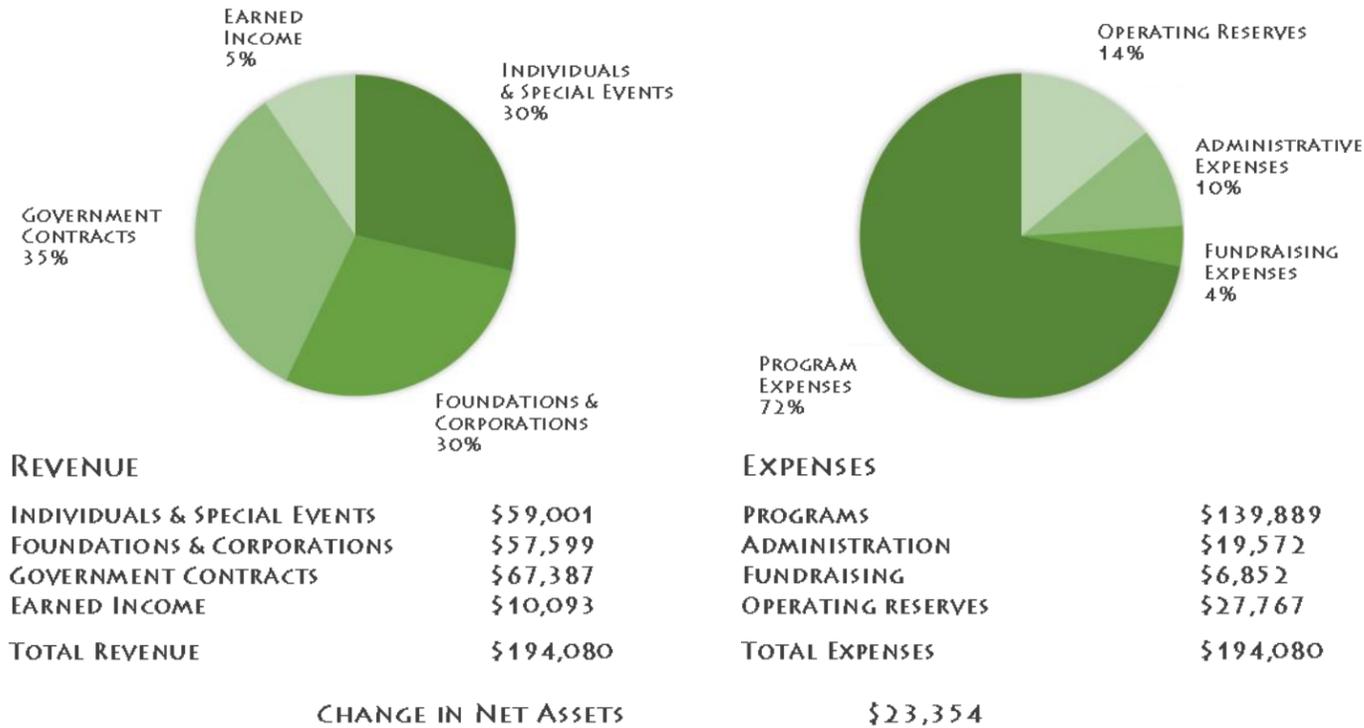
The Seattle Foundation

SPECIAL THANKS TO
ALL OF OUR GENEROUS
INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

A view of the Environmental Science Center at Seahurst Park situated behind the newly restored shoreline.



FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 FINANCIALS



HOW CAN YOU HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

DONATE

Donations can be made as EnvScienceCenter.org

\$2,000 Funds a 10 week, hands-on After School Science program for students at their apartment complex or school.

\$1,000 Sponsors three classrooms to become Beach Heroes by funding three classroom presentations, three field studies at Seahurst Beach.

\$500 Gives a class the opportunity to become Salmon Heroes with a pre-classroom presentation, a three-hour field study, and a post classroom presentation to examine the lifecycle of salmon.

\$250 Pays for transportation for two classes to a field study. Transportation is often the greatest barrier for youth to explore nature!

\$100 Purchases much needed hands-on supplies for educational programs such as water quality testing supplies and durable science equipment to be used in the classroom.

\$50 Sponsors two high school students to receive 8 hours of intensive training and mentorship to become junior naturalists.

VOLUNTEER—Help make a difference by volunteering with ESC's many programs! If interested, please contact:

Christine Froschl
Outreach and Volunteer Manager
Christine@envsciencecenter.org

ADVOCATE— Help spread the word about environmental stewardship by informing yourself and others.

- Check ESC's Facebook page for environmental tips.
- Sign up for in-center programs hosted by the ESC
- Sign up for ESC's e-newsletters to learn about local events.

YOUR IMPACT



OUR MISSION

The Environmental Science Center promotes environmental stewardship and academic achievement through science-based education.

Serving South King County since 2000.

2013-2014 ESC STAFF

Dr. Tara Luckie, Executive Director
Jennifer Dumlao, Outreach and Development Manager
Kasey Dolin, Program Manager
Beth Snider, Financial Manager

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