

2014-2015 COMMUNITY REPORT



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER

OUR IMPACT

2014-2015 PROGRAM STATISTICS

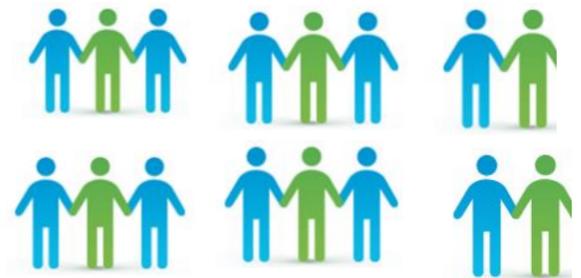
8,707

PEOPLE SERVED



339

PROGRAMS DELIVERED



16

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

1,962

VOLUNTEER HOURS



OVER 60,000
SERVED IN THE
LAST 10 YEARS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2014-2015 fiscal year was a time of great progress for the Environmental Science Center. One of our most significant accomplishments was creating a year-round calendar of programs at our new learning center at Seahurst Park. ESC now offers a wide variety of programs for all ages at one location within 176 acres of forested land and over ¾ mile of shoreline. It is the perfect location for developing a love of nature, creating new environmental stewards, and advancing STEM skills within the community. So many individuals were a part of the vision of creating ESC's learning center and we are proud to have that vision be a reality today!

Other major successes this year include:

- Aligning our Beach Heroes and Salmon Heroes curriculum to the Next Generation Science Standards and becoming a leader in modeling these standards for teachers.
- Working with 9 different after school sites to give low-income youth access to hands-on science activities in their own apartment complex or school.
- Starting an OpenROV high school program where students had the opportunity to build an underwater robot and gain valuable career skills.
- Releasing the documentary *Local Treasure*, a film about the Seahurst Shoreline restoration project, which has gained great traction in the community.

Our programs this year have served 17% more people within the community than last year. The numbers are important, but as someone who participates in many of our programs, I can say that numbers really don't do justice to the way our programs transform kids from shy individuals to curious little scientists. Hands-on learning in nature has an undeniable transformative power that desks and white boards cannot emulate.

Our successes this year were made possible by talented staff, dedicated board leadership, and never-ending support from the community. We are proud of what we have accomplished with this year. ESC looks forward to continuing to positively impact lives while helping protect our environment for generations to come.

Enjoy the annual report! ESC encourages you to share your thoughts and suggestions with us. We also invite you to join us for an upcoming program.

Thank you!,



Tara Luckie
Executive Director



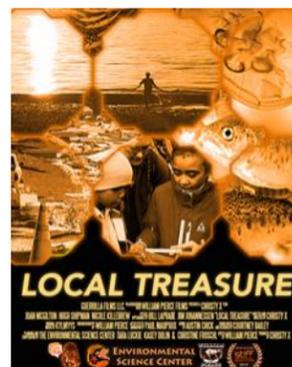
Dr. Tara Luckie
Executive Director



Larry Reymann
Board President
with New Futures student



AVID students in OpenROV



Local Treasure Documentary

BEACH HEROES



ESC naturalist, Barb Bruell, leading a group of Beach Heroes students on an exploration of Seahurst Beach

ESC naturalists were thrilled to be back at Seahurst Beach this year educating students about the largest nearshore restoration project in Puget Sound! Students participated in our **2-hour Beach Heroes field study** in which they got to see first-hand how the restoration project supports the habitat needs of intertidal marine organisms.

At the same time students enjoyed discovering sea stars, crabs, ospreys, and even some rare sightings of a Giant Pacific Octopus, Little Red Octopus, and Midshipmen eggs hatching before their very eyes!

Students also participated in stations modeling some of the post-restoration sampling methods scientists are conducting. They did this by searching for forage fish egg replicas and building a model to see how removing the seawall allows the forested area to build habitat at Seahurst Beach, Alki Beach and other beaches. Stewardship and beach etiquette was a strong theme throughout this program.

86% of students demonstrated an increase in awareness of the biodiversity of Puget Sound, and what they can do to sustain these habitats.

94% of teachers stated this field study was relevant to their marine unit teaching goals, and teachers were impressed by the stewardship focus.

"They LOVED the idea that they could be heroes, it increased their sense of responsibility and they enjoyed the "heroes" cards they earned."

-Lake Wilderness 1st grade teacher

88
CLASSES

2,217
STUDENTS

450
ADULTS

21
JR. NATURALISTS

OUR SUCCESSES

During our **Salmon Heroes** program, students gained a sense of place and an understanding of how their actions affect local watersheds. In the 3-hour **field study** at Normandy Park Cove, students collected water samples from Walker and Miller Creek, discovered native plants that support spawning habitat, and learned about the salmon lifecycle by embarking on their own salmon journey.

Students also learned about salmon anatomy by dissecting a salmon and were able to witness spawning habitat and redds of Coho and Chum salmon. This program also included a one-hour classroom presentation before and after the field study. During that time, students learned about the stages of life of salmon, the importance of water quality for the survival of salmon and had the opportunity to analyze their own water quality data taken in the field.

Our naturalists visited classrooms from Highline, Tukwila, and Kent School Districts (and independent schools as well!) Participating students learned about actions they and their communities can take to protect salmon habitat. Over 40 high school students received training, shadowed naturalists, and assisted in field studies.

54
CLASSES

1,302
STUDENTS

238
ADULTS

44
JR. NATURALISTS



A WELS high school student participating in ESC's Jr. Naturalist Program

90% of responding students demonstrated an improvement from Pre- to Post-Assessment showing an increased understanding of salmon habitat needs and stewardship!

91% of teachers said the field study was effective in building off watershed units they were studying in class.

I think [students] were "cheering" in their minds as they learned after each test result that their stream was in a relatively "healthy" state. (Most tests rated "good" or better.) I think they take their responsibility as "Salmon Heroes" seriously and know how to use this information to be good stewards of the environment."

-Marvista Elementary 4th grade teacher

SALMON HEROES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Board President, Larry Reymann, teaching New Futures students how rain gardens work

ESC Science Club— Our naturalists delivered a 7-week after school program on watersheds to students at Neighborhood House Highpoint, New Futures, and several Community Collaboration sites. By working together in science labs students explored the properties of water, how water travels through a watershed, and what *they* themselves would do to keep our local watersheds free of harmful pollutants.

Gym Jams— In partnership with the City of Burien, ESC provided seven 2-hour hands-on science programs to families at Hazel Valley and Southern Heights. Parents learned alongside their children about the water cycle, deep sea organisms, animal adaptations, and the benefits of native pollinators.

Camp Craz— In support of the City of Burien's summer Camp Craz program, our naturalists delivered educational programs highlighting the scientific method through student-led experiments, salmon life history and ecology through dissections, and waste-free activities to model practices that they can do at home.

Students demonstrated an increase in knowledge about the **biodiversity** of organisms in our **watershed**, the importance of **forests** and **wetlands** to watershed **health** and erosion control, **water saving** techniques, & what they can do to keep harmful **pollutants** out of our watershed.

87% of students showed a greater understanding of what a watershed is.

1,461 CONTACTS
100 PROGRAMS



After school students with ESC Naturalist

"LET NATURE TEACH"

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AMONG YOUTH & PARENTS

ESC continued to strengthen its presence in the local community by participating in events such as the Seattle Aquarium's Open House, Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival, and Burien's Wild Strawberry Festival. Educational programs hosted at ESC's learning center involved film showings, guest speaker presentations, and creative workshops that embraced a fusion of biology and art. By partnering with organizations such as **AVID**, **Recology CleanScapes**, **Puget Soundkeeper Alliance**, **EarthCorp**, **New Start HS**, **Beneath the Looking Glass, LLC**, and **NOAA/NWFSC** ESC continued its mission of educating the public on the importance of watershed health and actions that we as individuals can take to protect Puget Sound.



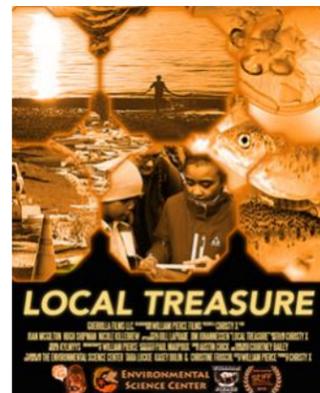
ESC's salmon sculpture made by Puget Sound Skills Center students



Two girl scouts creating art with seaweed

HIGHLIGHTS:

61 PROGRAMS • 3,034 PARTICIPANTS



Seahurst Shoreline Documentary Premieres — ESC partnered with **Guerilla Films & William Pierce Films** to create the 20-minute documentary, *Local Treasure*, highlighting the amazing shoreline restoration project of Seahurst Park. Community members were invited to attend 3 free premieres to learn more about the project. The City of Burien, the EPA, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife were fiscal supporters of the film. View the film online at <http://envsciencecenter.org/films/>.

City of Burien Bonfire Event — ESC raised awareness of the importance of a restored shoreline in Seahurst Park. Hands-on activities at this new annual event included restoration tours led by our naturalists, creation of salmon bracelets reflecting the extraordinary life histories of these fish and live plankton capture and viewing with microscopes.

Science with Dr. Tom — A popular weekend program hosted at our center where both parents and their children immersed themselves in the fun of science experimentation. Activities ranged from conducting chemical reactions seen in nature, to doing squid dissections, to learning about the wonders of water.



Megan McCain from Recology reading a story about recycling at Toddler Time

Toddler Time — ESC hosted this weekly program with fun and engaging activities designed to foster a lifelong love of nature among little ones and their families.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

VOLUNTEERS



AVID students from Highline High School tackle marine debris found at Seahurst

This year ESC focused on expanding its programs and community services in new and dynamic ways through its Volunteer Program. With an emphasis on involving young local leaders, we successfully engaged and fostered community participation in environmental stewardship!

NEW! Seahurst Beach Cleanups — AVID students collected 202 pounds of trash found within Seahurst Park. These students worked collaboratively with members of Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Recology CleanScapes, and Conservation Corp during this service learning opportunity. Advancement Via Independent Determination and ESC will continue to turn the tide on trash by participating in the 2015 International Coastal Cleanup event this fall.



AVID student using a reusable cloth bag to carry a laptop charger found on Seahurst Beach

OpenROV Robotics Program — In partnership with Laura James, ESC and AVID students built an underwater robot which will be utilized in the future to monitor nearshore changes at Seahurst Beach. This opportunity enabled students to master skill sets in basic electronics, wiring, soldering, potting of electronic parts and wires, gluing acrylic and assembling motors.



From left to right: student soldering; assembling OpenROV center servo; orientation to underwater robots with Laura James

•SERVICE •LEADERSHIP •VOICE •INVOLVEMENT •NETWORKING •JOB EXPERIENCE

VOLUNTEERS

- Amy May
- Barb Bruell
- Barb Williams
- Brenda Sullivan
- Chris Jansen
- Highline HS AVID students
- Gretchen Frankenstein
- Jacqueline Drumheller
- Jarett Kaplan
- Jean Spohn
- Jennifer Dumloa
- Jerrica Pierson-Seeger
- Joan McGilton
- John & Nanci Leonard
- Joy Neubauer
- Kate Schmielt
- Katherine Himes-Strange
- Kelly Steffen
- Kevin Alexander
- Kristine Ashcraft
- Krystin Clayton
- Larry Reymann
- Laura James
- Leo "Buzz" Shaw
- Lisa Keith
- Megan McCain
- Nicole Killebrew
- Phillip Thompson
- Shea Scribner
- Sheri Barr
- Suzy Karl
- Terrill Chang
- Thomas Mickel
- Victoria Hall



1,962
VOLUNTEER HOURS

Science with Dr. Tom: "Hands on for the kids was fantastic. Information was age-appropriate and understandable."
-Parent Participant



General Programs: "You opened your doors after hours, it was free, and there was so much knowledge. So, so glad I came!" - Participant

Tidepools for Tots: "I took my 2 1/2 year old grandson to this and it was SO FUN and very educational. The leaders did an excellent job finding and explaining everything to the kids and us adults as well. Did not know there was so much living out there when the tide goes out. Then we played on the great playground. Wonderful park and programs!"
- Parent Participant



Toddler Time: "The open schedule to allow the kiddos to explore the crayons, puppets, and room were most enjoyable."
-Parent participant



Shoreline Lecture Series: "Very informative. Made a complex project understandable, especially in regard to how this project is important to the entire Puget Sound ecosystem."
-Participant



COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS

OUR SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU ESC SUPPORTERS!

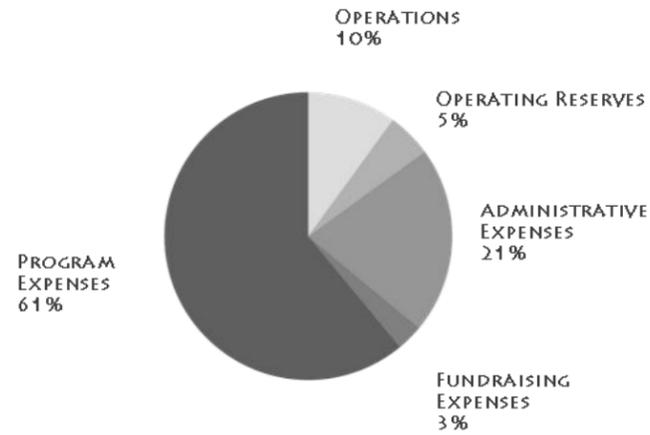
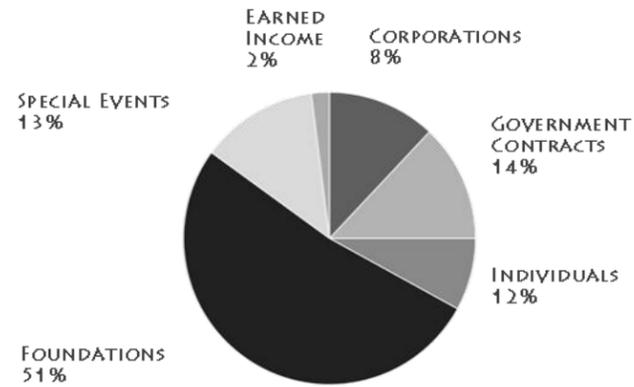
- LEADERSHIP CIRCLE**
- \$40,000 +
The Russell Family Foundation
The Seattle Foundation
 - \$5,000 - \$19,999
Google Tides Foundation
Alaska Airlines Foundation
Barb and Darrell Williams
Shinnyo-en Foundation
Lucky Seven Foundation
Charlotte Martin
 - \$2,500 - \$4,999
Robert and Anna McCartney Foundation
Microsoft
 - \$1,000 - \$2,499
Ardagh Glass Inc.
Recology Inc.
Brenda Sullivan
Kristine Ashcraft
Jean Spohn
Washington Women's Foundation
 - \$500 - \$999
Katherine Himes Strange
Amy May
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Nancy Tosta
James and Charmaine Baker
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Peter Hummel
Loran Kollmorgen
Ron Kreizenbeck
Larry and Linda Reymann



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

ESC's learning center in Seahurst Park, Burien

FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 FINANCIALS



REVENUE

INDIVIDUALS	\$28,048
SPECIAL EVENTS	\$30,810
FOUNDATIONS	\$127,141
CORPORATIONS	\$18,651
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$33,550
EARNED INCOME	\$5,670
TOTAL REVENUE	\$243,870

EXPENSES

PROGRAMS	\$142,200
ADMINISTRATION	\$48,880
OPERATIONS	\$22,940
FUNDRAISING	\$7,590
OPERATING RESERVES	\$11,130
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$232,740

HOW CAN YOU HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

DONATE!

Donations can be made at www.EnvScienceCenter.org

\$2,000 Funds a 6 day science camp program for 25 students.

\$1,000 Sponsors three classrooms to become Beach Heroes by funding 3 classroom presentations, & 3 field studies at Seahurst Beach.

\$500 Gives a class the opportunity to become Salmon Heroes with a pre-classroom presentation, a 3-hour field study, and a post classroom presentation examining the lifecycle of Pacific 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 2 high school students to receive 8 hours of intensive training and mentorship to become Junior Naturalists.

VOLUNTEER — Make a difference by getting involved with ESC's many programs! If interested, please contact:

Christine Froschl
Outreach and Volunteer Manager
 Christine@envsciencecenter.org
 206-248-4266

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

- Check ESC's Facebook page, **Environmental Science Center at Seahurst Park, for environmental tips**
- Participate in programs hosted by ESC
- Sign up for ESC's e-newsletters on our website to learn about local events

YOUR IMPACT

OUR MISSION

To promote environmental stewardship and academic achievement through science-based education.
 Serving South King County since 2000.



ESC STAFF

Dr. Tara Luckie, Executive Director
 Jennifer Dumlao, Grants and Special Projects Manager
 Joanna Stodden, Program Manager
 Christine Froschl, Outreach and Volunteer Manager

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Amy Green	Matt Hayes
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