



ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE CENTER

LET NATURE TEACH

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Your Impact 2021-2022

7,662 Students Reached



2,589

Hours spent improving
habitat in the
community



4,348

Hours spent exploring
beach habitats



10,045

Hours spent learning about
salmon conservation

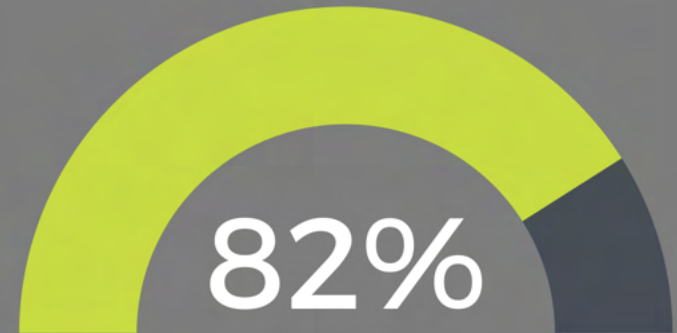


Our Mission

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

The Environmental Science Center (ESC), offers experiential environmental education programs at beaches, streams, gardens, and forests in south King County.

Many people in our community have been systematically excluded from safe, positive outdoor experiences. We strive to change this with free or low-cost programs, continual partnerships, and by creating safe and affirming spaces within our programs and the broader community.



of students demonstrated an increase in knowledge about protecting healthy habitats after their field trip

ESC Core Values: As long as our interactions align with our core values, we will know that we **C.A.R.E.D.**



Community Engagement

Academic Achievement

Respect for the Environment

Equity and Access

Discovery and Exploration

Student Spotlight

Noah started their journey with the Environmental Science Center...

- ✦ *4th grade* - Salmon Heroes participant
- ✦ *High school* - ESC Youth Naturalist
- ✦ 2022 Gates Foundation Teen Action Fair Presenter
- ✦ *Now*- City of Burien environmental summer camp leader

Keep your eye out for Noah next time you're at Seahurst. They are likely sharing their excitement for the natural world with a park visitor, or capturing inspiring photography of PNW landscapes.

"I joined the WELS program because I wasn't feeling very motivated and was looking for alternatives... it's the best school I've ever been to! My grades have gone up and I feel so much happier there."

-Noah Morales Sandoval



Noah Morales Sandoval

C ommunity Engagement

Public Beach Walks

ESC's summer public beach walks were our first in-person community programs since Winter 2020!

Naturalists shared beach etiquette messages before heading to the beach to celebrate low tide discoveries.



S

Step carefully

T

Touch gently with two wet fingers

A

Animals stay where you find them

R

Remove only trash

S

Share what you learn



104

beach stewardship kits with marine guides were distributed to the public in multiple languages

Tidepools for Tots

"We will practice leaving ALL shells and rocks behind."
-TPFT Participant

As we were unable to hold in-person toddler programs we provided exploration kits to young explorers. During kit pickup we demonstrated marine adaptations and stewardship messages using our marine puppets. Kits included songs, coloring sheets, crayons, marine ID guides, and lowtide times.



164 Kits handed out

New program!
80 contact hours

Bird and Plant Walks

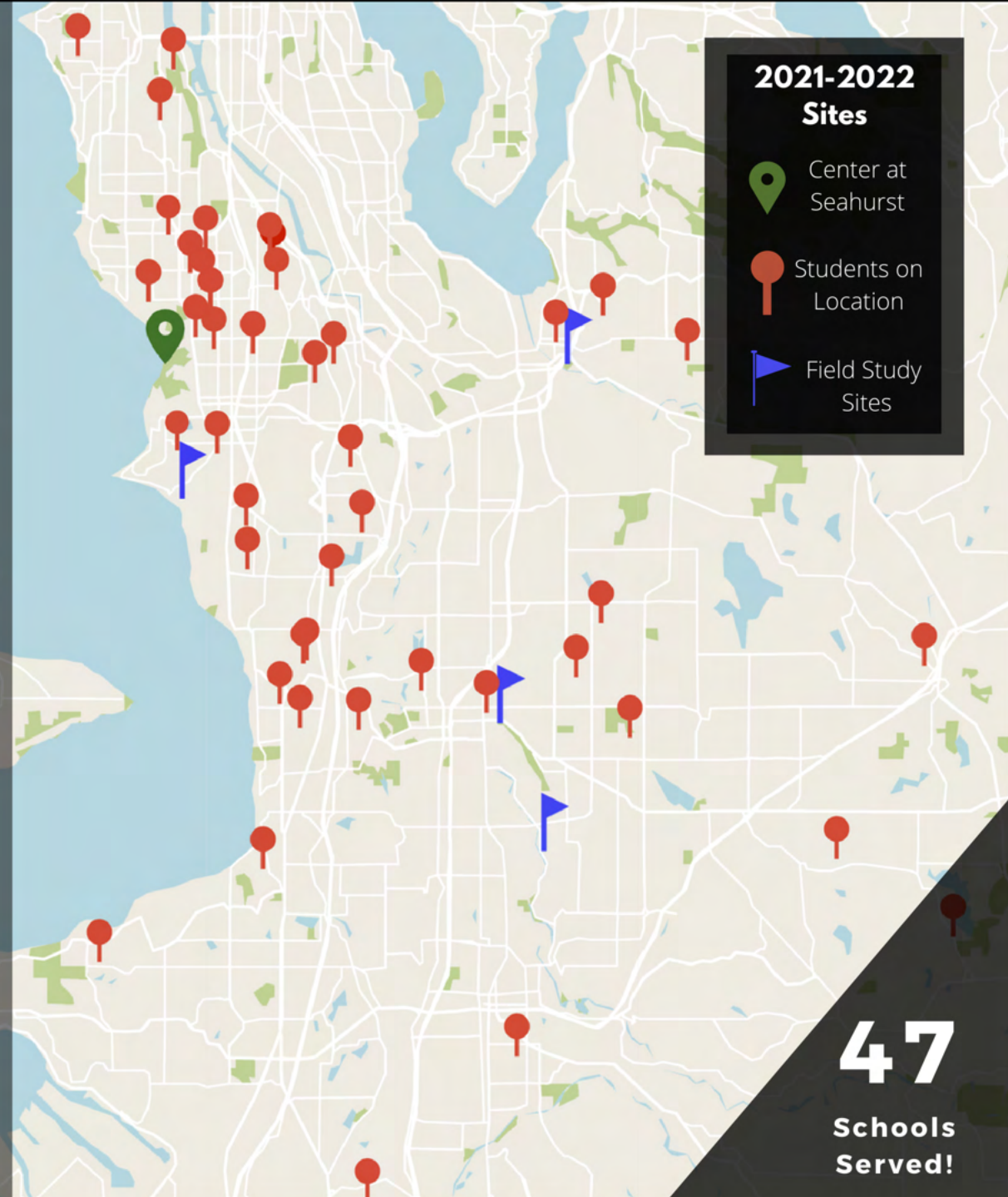
Participants explored and built connections with the birds and plants of Seahurst in this new program. Over 30 different species were counted including the stunning Wilson's warbler and black-headed grosbeak. Participants voiced being excited to learn about recognizing new birds and about the importance of native plants in bird habitats!

"People love what they know, and protect what they love."
-Ed Dominguez, Audubon Naturalist

SERVING SOUTH KING COUNTY FOR OVER 20 YEARS

The Environmental Science Center started as an idea from a former senator who saw a need for environmental science in south King County. A group of volunteer educators began fundraising and ESC became a 501(c)3 in 2000.

From a summer camp at Seahurst with ten students to engaging thousands of individuals at dozens of field sites, ESC continues to bring diverse groups together to create a more compassionate place.



2021-2022 Sites

- Center at Seahurst
- Students on Location
- Field Study Sites

47

Schools Served!

Academic Achievement

Advanced Beach Heroes

Our long awaited *Advanced* Beach Heroes program launched this Spring for students who have completed our K-3rd Beach Heroes program. This series gave teachers and students the opportunity to dive deeper into their connection with the nearshore by collecting species data using quadrats, measuring the length of organisms, and by creating scientific illustrations to measure trends in Seahurst biodiversity data.

Students engaged in hands-on field data collection, and experienced what it would be like to work as an environmental scientist.

“My students learned so much! The naturalist was extremely engaging and prepared.”
-2nd Grade Teacher

A group of students and an adult are gathered around a white quadrat on a rocky, mossy shore. One student is holding a small organism, while others look on. The scene is outdoors with sunlight filtering through the trees.

195

Students became
Advanced Beach Heroes

Beach Heroes

Beach Heroes brings K-3rd grade students to Seahurst Beach to explore and discover the intertidal zone and learn about ocean conservation.

This was many students' first in-person field trip ever and the excitement was tangible! We focused on continuing to improve the program through chaperone feedback cards, feedback from teachers, and expanding materials translation.

"This is so much better than a video!"
-Mt. View 3rd grader



1,904
BH Students

2,806
SH Students

Salmon Heroes

Our flagship program, Salmon Heroes, brings students to salmon, and salmon to students through a series of in-school lessons and field trips.

The 21-22 school year saw a changing landscape and a variety of needs from schools and students. We continued to adapt and meet those needs by providing in-person, virtual, hybrid, or on-campus programming. We expanded our print materials into multiple languages, and continued to hire multi-lingual Naturalists.

R **espect for the Environment**

Youth Naturalists

ESC continued to expand leadership opportunities for youth in our community. Eight Youth Naturalists trained and worked alongside ESC Naturalists to provide instruction to younger students.

All of our programs strive to make safe spaces and build personal connections with the local natural areas where we teach. Youth Naturalists who reflect younger students - through language, neighborhood, race, or ethnicity - can enhance those connections, leading to a richer experiences and deeper relationships with our shared environment.

"I think I opened a whole new world for [the kids], something that might become their passion."

-Youth Naturalist

A photograph of four young people, likely the Youth Naturalists mentioned in the text, sitting on a concrete bench outdoors. They are all wearing matching green rain suits and hoods. The person on the far left is wearing a blue face mask. The person next to them is smiling and making a peace sign. The person in the middle is also smiling. The person on the far right is wearing a blue face mask. They are sitting on a concrete bench in a grassy area with trees in the background. A black trash bin is visible behind them.

91

hours teaching
younger students



3,574
hours of
afterschool
science
programs

Afterschool Programs

"Thank you for
curing my
boredom."
-4th Grade
Student

Local elementary and middle schoolers at 11 schools and organizations engaged with us in afterschool enrichment programs. Students learned about watersheds, connected with local flora and fauna, and assessed the health of their campuses through scientific surveys.

Each site chose a campus project inspired by their new understanding of healthy environments. One school chose to install a pollinator garden to "Save the Bees!" Another school reinvigorated its existing garden plot, grew herbs and vegetables, and cooked meals in the garden patch!

Equity and Access



Shark Restoration Paid Teen Internship

The Environmental Science Center was delighted to partner with Dirt Corps to launch a new weekly paid restoration program with New Start High School.

Students conducted habitat surveys and studied the Green Burien Partnership's reforestation goals to create a complimentary restoration plan for Salmon Creek Park in Burien, Washington.

During the six weeks, six students removed blackberry brambles and installed biodiverse plant species. The internship culminated with a community restoration event led by New Start High School students.



108

hours spent
conducting
forest restoration



1,420

Data Points

Students and families collected **scientific data** on local water bodies. Clean water is vital to healthy ecosystems!

6

Languages

Program materials were translated into **relevant languages** to better serve our diverse community.

1,587

Hours

Teens engaged in hands-on **environmental restoration** on beaches, in parks, and at their schoolyards.

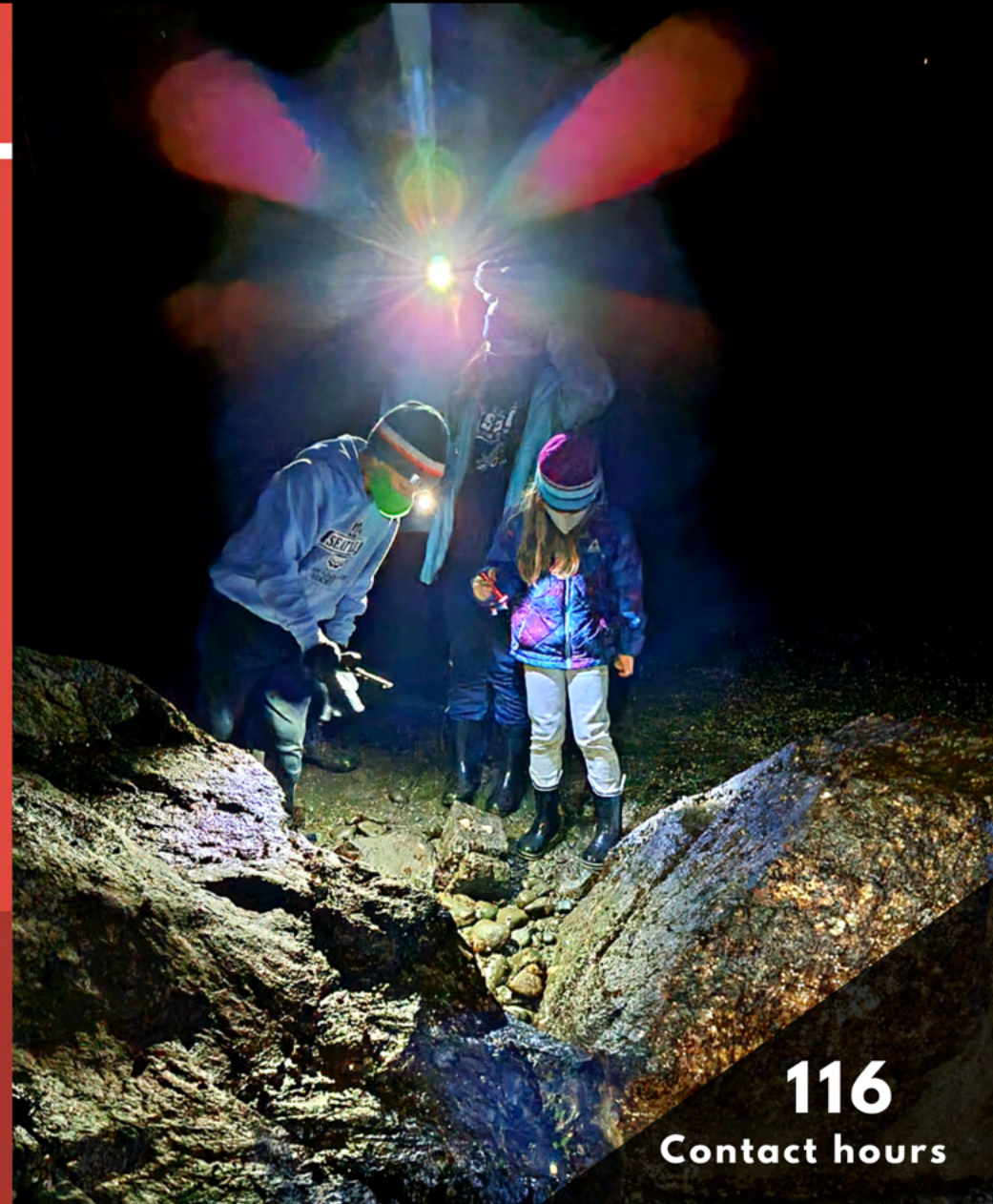
D iscovery and Exploration

Moonlight Beach Walks

Virtual events cannot compare to the brisk salt sea air nipping at participants' faces as they meandered the intertidal zone searching for camouflaged creatures at our popular Moonlight Beach Walk events! Attendees were guided along the beach by flashlight and learned how to explore the low tide without harming the organisms living there.

Some of the remarkable discoveries found at these events included baby sea stars, crabs molting, nudibranchs and dog whelks laying eggs, and even an octopus!

"As an adult, you just walk along the beach, but the Environmental Science Center gave us that childlike wonder!"
-First Time Beach Walk Participant



116
Contact hours



"The facilitators went above and beyond to customize our experience. Instead of feeling like we were just receiving a curriculum lesson, I felt like I was forging partnerships and making relevant plans...

I felt that I did not just receive something, but that I was a part of something."

-Participating Middle School Teacher

Teacher Professional Development

The teacher professional development workshops provided teachers with the tools needed to bring their students outside in safe and impactful ways. This included physical tools such as tarps, cones, and water quality testing kits, as well as teaching tools such as curricula, facilitation techniques, and best practices for hands-on environmental education.

These workshops allowed us to expand our impact to more students beyond direct student contact hours. We also supported teachers through habitat improvement projects on school campuses.

315

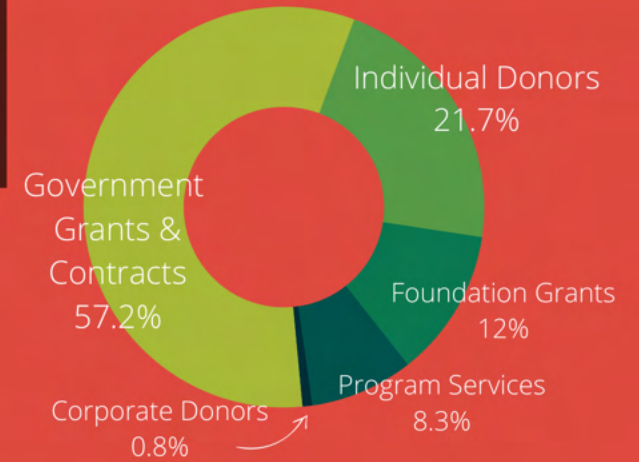
Hours of in-depth professional development time

2021-2022 Financials



Revenue

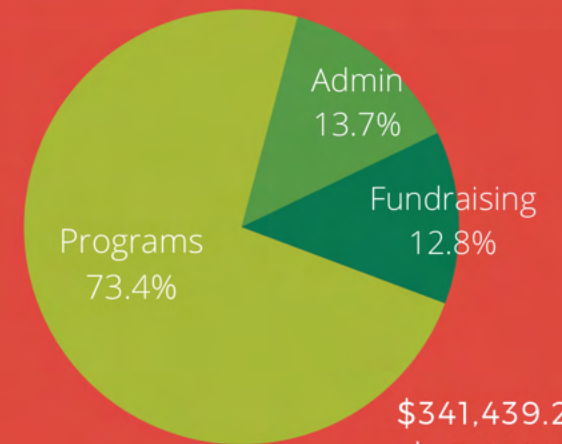
Total
\$493,220.90



Government Grants & Contracts	\$259,095.91
Individual Donors	\$138,875.31
Foundation Grants	\$54,317.50
Program Services	\$37,802.93
Corporate Donors	\$3,529.25

Expenses

Total
\$464,912.78



Programs	\$341,439.29
Admin	\$63,885.67
Fundraising	\$59,587.82

Thank you to all our donors for supporting science education!

Special thanks to these dedicated donors:

\$5,000

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ways to get involved at:

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Partners



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THANK YOU



Environmental Science Center
126 SW 148th Street, Suite C100-90
Burien, WA 98166

www.EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org