



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE CENTER**



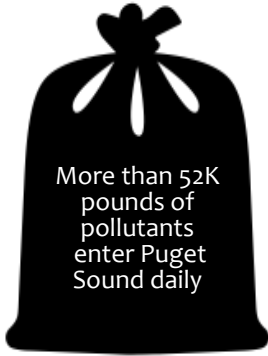
2018-2019 COMMUNITY REPORT



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CENTER

Promoting environmental stewardship and academic achievement through science-based education

Serving south King County since 2000 to address community concerns:



More than 52K pounds of pollutants enter Puget Sound daily



Cities in south King County have fewer low-cost family outdoor science options than Seattle

On average, lower science test scores occur at schools with high numbers of low-income students




Typically, kids daily spend only 4-7 minutes of unstructured play outdoors, while more than 8 hours are on electronic screens.

Sources: Washington State Department of Ecology, OSPI WA State Report Card, Common Sense Media

We deliver HANDS-ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS at local beaches, forests, rivers and classrooms FOR FREE OR LOW-COST:



to deepen connections to the outdoors



to foster a sense of place and of responsibility in our watershed



to provide STEM opportunities for our next generation of leaders

2018-2019 stats

9,615



Hours community members engaged in programs

14,050 PEOPLE SERVED

33,854



Hours students spent in outdoor school programs

304

hands-on science programs offered



230

volunteers enhanced their communities



2,828

students gently explored shorelines at Seahurst Beach



3,290

students visited a creek or river with spawning salmon



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members;

We are proud to celebrate our many accomplishments in the 2018/19 fiscal year. Community support has helped us reach almost 10% more people this year than last year. Program participation has more than doubled in the last 5 years! We now have a presence in 10 cities and 8 school districts in King County.

Salmon Heroes and Beach Heroes have been our core programs since inception and they continue to be popular with teachers. Thousands of students looked on in amazement as they saw spawning salmon for the first time in the fall. In the spring Seahurst Beach was filled with students gently exploring tide pools on their visit to the beach. Just over 6,000 students pledged to become environmental heroes in these programs by partaking in tangible everyday actions to protect the environment. That's a record for ESC! We also had more teens than ever support our salmon and beach naturalists in the field through our Junior Naturalist program.

A major win this year was forming partnerships with the Auburn District to run programs with grade levels district-wide. We also worked with the City of Burien to offer a stormwater field study program called StormFest to all sixth-graders in the Highline School District. We plan to continue to create partnerships at the teacher and administrative level in school districts in south King County, an area where kids need more access to STEM opportunities.

Over the last 12 months we were honored to partner with five local tribes to share rich tribal knowledge with students: Muckleshoot tribal members taught elementary students about the importance of salmon, a Duwamish tribal member helped middle school students understand the medicinal use of plants and incorporated the Lushootseed language into some of their projects. Staff members were also grateful to gain new insights from tribal members about the environment in the Pacific Northwest. We are excited to continue fostering partnerships that offer a variety of perspectives about the environment, making our curriculum more inclusive and enriching for all.

A highlight this year was becoming a part of the STREAM Team, a new afterschool program serving low-income youth in Renton. In the weekly science club, students participated in hands-on lab experiments and took a variety of eye-opening field trips where they got to witness and interact with experts in STEM fields at their job sites.

Our growth has inspired the hunt for a second location, which is very exciting! We look to open a community hub in Renton that is more centrally located in south King county. We will offer dynamic programs to youth, families, and adults at both locations in the future. Stay tuned for more details as we explore our options.

It's amazing to look back on what we've accomplished this year with the community's support. I've only scratched the surface here. Please check out our many innovative programs within the pages of this annual report.

Warmly!,



Tara Luckie, Executive Director

P.S.— Come to a free community program! The passion our high-caliber naturalist educators have towards nature is contagious.



Students are excited to see salmon swim up stream at Mary Olson Farm.



Renton kids in STREAM Team discover the internal anatomy of a salmon.



A Muckleshoot language teacher shares Lushootseed vocabulary with students at Mary Olson Farm.



The Seattle Aquarium was one of many field trips for the STREAM Team.



Second-graders examine barnacles and dog whelk snails at the “Whispering Rocks” of Seahurst Park.

125
CLASSES

2,828
STUDENTS

891
ADULTS

Beach Heroes

The Environmental Science Center was delighted to once again partner with the Highline District to deliver our 19th Beach Heroes season at Seahurst Beach! In the classroom students acted out some of the marine adaptations they might see at the beach and learned how to explore marine life at Seahurst while protecting their habitats. During the field study students met creatures that normally live underwater but were uncovered by the low tide. They also conducted an investigation to learn about the impacts of the former seawall on marine life. Thanks to generous support we served 80 classes from the Highline District (more than ever before) and many schools registered multiple grade levels from the same school.

We look forward to building an advanced Beach Heroes program to involve students in scientific data collection.



Southern Heights first-graders conduct a model forage fish survey to determine the effects of seawall armoring on marine food webs.

95% of teachers surveyed **STRONGLY AGREE** that their students are proud to be Beach Heroes (to take care of marine habitats and organisms)

“[My favorite part was] giving the students hands-on experience with these creatures and teaching them about how this world belongs to all of us so we need to be respectful of other living things.” *-Midway 2nd-grade teacher*

Salmon Heroes

The Environmental Science Center reached over 3,200 students with our Salmon Heroes program this year. It includes two classroom presentations and a three-hour outdoor field study. Students learn about the lifecycle of salmon, test the water quality of local streams, and determine how they can take actions to maintain healthy salmon habitat. The program continues to grow and now supports field studies at three main sites - Miller/Walker Creeks at Normandy Park Cove, Cedar River at Renton Community Center and Green River at Mary Olson Farm in Auburn.

We embarked on a new exciting partnership with the City of Auburn, the White River Valley Museum at Mary Olson Farm, the Muckleshoot Tribe, and King Conservation District for Sea to Stream in December 2018. Students rotated through five stations: (1) water quality testing, (2) stormwater runoff and composting, (3) spawning salmon viewing and predator evidence in the creek, (4) stinging nettle medicinal and functional uses, and (5) native fishing practices and the Lushootseed language.

With our assistance, schools continue to go above and beyond our typical Salmon Heroes program. Students at Olympic Middle School in Auburn stenciled 41 storm drains and picked up over 30lbs of trash on and around their campus. Mill Creek Middle School and New Start High School conducted regular water quality tests and restoration projects at the creeks/ivers near their campuses following participation in our program. These units concluded with presentations to local community members about the harmful effects of stormwater pollution and the community's role in keeping these harmful pollutants from entering Puget Sound.



Olympic Middle School. Students stencil storm drains near campus to keep out pollutants.

91%
of students
increased their
knowledge of
watershed
health and
stewardship
practices after
participating in
the program.

124
CLASSES
3,290
STUDENTS
549
ADULTS



A student "makes it rain" on an EnviroScape, a 3-D watershed model that shows how pollution impacts waterways.



Students look up close at coho eggs and alevin as they learn more about the salmon life cycle.

"Engaging for ALL students! We loved coming back for the second year. I am once again impressed with how well all the naturalists are able to engage students and elevate learning! Thank you!"
-Soos Creek fifth-grade teacher

"Even with the extreme cold, my students were super engaged. Viewing the dead salmon in the river and seeing this as a success story for a complete cycle left a memorable impact."
-Nautilus K-8 fourth-grade teacher

STREAM Team After School Science Club

After a successful summer camp session at the Highlands Community Center, the Environmental Science Center partnered with the City of Renton, Techbridge Girls and Centro Rendu to offer dynamic STREAM programs (science, technology, recreation, engineering, art, and math) during the year. Kids from second to sixth grade partook in weekly science club activities with fun experiments and projects based on their interests. Club activities included regular off-site field trips to some awe-inspiring places such as Landsburg Dam, the Cedar River Education Center, and the Seattle Aquarium, to name a few. Club members had the opportunity to meet professionals in environmental science careers not far from their homes. The City of Renton staff played a major role in providing staff assistance and transportation for field trips, which were popular with all age levels. The first year of the STREAM Team was a major success. The community center went from a drop-in space with limited structured activities to offering collaborative programs with engaging opportunities for all.



Seattle Public Utilities employees share what they do for a living with STREAM Team science club members at the Landsburg Dam and Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery.

Camp CRAZ

The Environmental Science Center was thrilled to be invited back to support the City of Burien’s summer program Camp CRAZ at Dottie Harper Park. Our naturalists delivered 20 one-hour experiential science labs to elementary school students. They met macroinvertebrates, built bug houses, learned about bird adaptations, played a salmon survival game, and experienced how blubber keeps marine mammals warm.

New Futures Summer Programs

The Environmental Science Center continued to partner with New Futures, a youth development program through Southwest Youth and Family Services. Elementary-aged students visited Seahurst Beach during a low tide to witness the marine invertebrates. Additionally, middle school students participated in a weekly summer program focused on the health of our Puget Sound Watershed. They sampled plankton, tested the water quality of the creeks, explored the plants and birds in Seahurst’s hiking trails, and learned more about the park’s restoration efforts.

585
PARTICIPANTS
2,588
CONTACT HOURS



Students quiz each other in plankton Pictionary.



In spring, ESC's Junior Naturalists from the Marine Tech Center at Seahurst commonly explained how crabs molt. In fall, students from Waskowitz Environmental Leadership School share about the salmon anatomy at Mary Olson Farm in Auburn.

Junior Naturalist Program

We worked with more youth leaders in 2019 than in any previous year! Teens from the Learning Center, Marine Tech Center, and Waskowitz Environmental Leadership School (WELS) became mentors for younger students in ESC's signature Beach Heroes and Salmon Heroes programs. The teens used their naturalist training and leadership skills to help students further appreciate local species. We worked with 33 students in our 2018-2019 Junior Naturalist Programs.



Kim Ha helps create crafts with children at Arts-A-Glow, Mony Thach records data at the International Coastal Cleanup at Seahurst Park.

High School Volunteers and Interns

Teen involvement enriched our programs each season. Five high school students assisted in festivals, summer camps, and adult and family programming to learn more about local species, natural systems and stewardship opportunities. We were happy to increase their skills and their confidence in community engagement.

77 TEEN LEADERS

Urban Forest Restoration

Our community and watershed continue to benefit from the dedication of teen leaders. Thanks to 15 students of Big Picture Middle School, and 20 students from New Start High School, there are fewer invasive plants and more native ones at Seahurst Park and Salmon Creek. Come see their hand-drawn trail signs highlighting the important role these species play in restoring natural areas!



Big Picture Middle School and New Start High School students created trail signs.



Invasive English Ivy and Himalayan blackberry were removed by dedicated students and native plants were installed in their place.



Puget Sound is cleaner thanks to friends and neighbors!



Partners gave great presentations and info at Bird Fest.

Seahurst Discovery Zones (Jul-Aug)

Many natural discoveries were made this summer, from walks on the beach and in the forest, to viewing macroinvertebrates and plankton in the water. In eight weeks, ESC naturalists and volunteers engaged 451 people in hands-on activities and crafts, sharing easy ways to improve the health of our watershed.

Moonlight Beach Walks (Dec-Jan)

The mysteries of the night continue to draw people out into the cold to view marine animals. Over 160 people visited Seahurst Beach during low tides on dark winter nights to learn how to explore the beach in gentle ways. The walks were so popular, we had many folks on wait list and many newcomers are eager to participate next season.

Tide Pools for Tots (May-June)

The tides were out but songs, dances and stories about the beach were in! 155 kids and adults learned proper beach etiquette in fun ways before exploring Seahurst Park at low tide. Adults were as eager to learn as the students and appreciated knowing how to respectfully observe low-tide creatures with friends and families.

Toddler Time (Weekly)

This weekly program has evolved into a staple for many families and caretakers with toddlers. The hour of seasonal activities, stories, songs and outdoor exploration has helped cultivate a strong connection to seasonal changes for both children and adults. People spent 679 hours in the program last year and we will continue our partnership with the Burien

3,737
PARTICIPANTS
9,425
CONTACT HOURS

HIGHLIGHTS OF FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Beach Cleanups (Sept & Apr)

120 people beautified the beach and park at our two annual events. With partnerships from Puget Soundkeeper and the City of Burien, 178 pounds of marine debris were removed in the fall for the International Coastal Cleanup, the Ocean Conservancy’s largest worldwide volunteer effort to protect the oceans. Collected data on every item found was submitted for a global report and some people added some of their interesting finds to the Salmon Trash Sculpture near our building, which remains a hot topic for visitors.

Birdfest (Feb)

After a record-breaking snowstorm, 107 folks flew their coops to attend Bird Fest. Local residents deepened their appreciation for birds and participated in community science for the Great Backyard Bird Count through counts, presentations, activities and discussions with local partners. Local city community members helped out the annual effort to assist the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in determining the status of bird populations across the world by counting local birds.



Families dissected owl pellets in summer to discover and identify prey.



Seasonal activities help toddlers make natural connections and friendships.

1,482
VOLUNTEERS
HOURS

CORE VOLUNTEERS

Brenda Sullivan
Cailin Hunsaker
Chris Jansen
Colin Downey
Dana Wu
Don Hunsaker III
Jack Santo
Jacqueline Drumheller
Janice Mathisen
Jarett Kaplan
Jean Spohn
Kazue Yoshida
Karen Adams
Karl Mejia
Kim Ha
Kim Nguyen
Kristine Ashcraft
Kristyn Clayton
Larry Reymann
Mony Thach
Nanci Leonard
Nancy Tosta
Nicole Killebrew
Ny Ha
Samson Melaki
Scott Luckie
Scott Stolnak
Sharyl Yamamoto
Sheri Barr
Stephanie Meyn
Terrill Chang
Timothy Hobbs
Vale Martinez
Victoria Hall



Every person can make a positive, lasting impact.
The communities we reach continue to grow and expand in enriching ways because of the care and commitment from giving volunteers.

THANK YOU for sharing your time, skills and passion. You inspire us all!



THANK YOU ESC SUPPORTERS!

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$3,000 +

Anonymous
 Anne & Peter Buzy Hummel
 Brenda Sullivan
 Georgette Valle
 Peter & Junko Valle

\$1,000 - \$2,999

Anonymous
 Kristine Ashcraft & Gorm Brunso
 Jim Coleman
 Terrill Chang & Jan Faull
 Bob Ewing & Nancy Tosta
 Chris & Betsy Jansen
 Kim Learning
 Karl & Stacia Meija
 Neighbors of Seahurst Park
 Jean & Tom Spohn

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
 Jackie & Steve Drumheller
 Nancy & John Feeny
 Patricia Gifford
 Nicole Killebrew
 Loran L. Kollmorgen
 John & Nanci Leonard
 Tara & Scott Luckie
 Joan & Richard Lundquist
 Julie & James Neer
 Larry & Linda Reymann
 Jo Surbrugg & Mark Benson



Member discounts provided by the following local businesses:



HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

DONATE!

Visit EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org

You can be part of this movement to protect our waterways, our salmon, and our future.

\$1,000

Leadership training for 15 students—Students learn about salmon recovery and train to teach younger students about stewardship actions.

\$350

Scholarship for Salmon Heroes—A classroom of students from a low-income community learn about salmon recovery while visiting salmon habitat. Students test water quality and pledge personal actions to help salmon.

\$50

10 hours of outdoor learning—Students connect with the world around them and learn to be stewards.

BECOME A MEMBER!

BOOST your impact with a **monthly donation!** You'll become an integral part of getting MORE people outside.

Member benefits: discounts at local businesses, discounts on our merchandise and invites to members-only events!

Find out more at

EnvScienceCenter.org/become-a-member/

- Sea Star—\$10 per month
- Chinook Salmon—\$15 per month
- Great Blue Heron—\$25 per month
- Sea Otter—\$50 per month
- Orca—\$100 per month



VOLUNTEER!

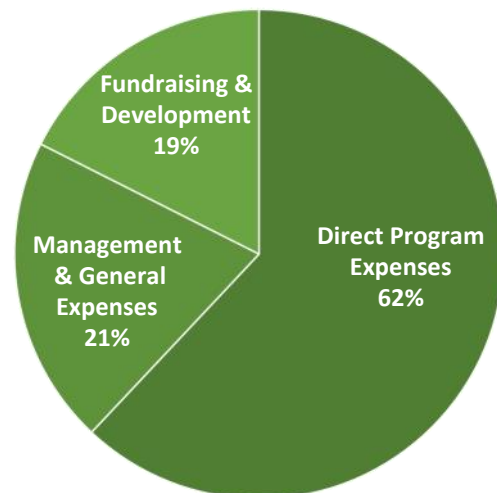
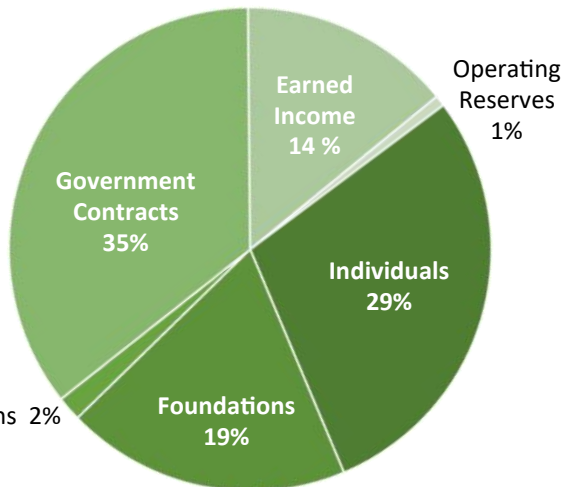
Help support or deliver programs in a variety of ways!

If interested, please contact:

Kharli@EnvironmentalScienceCenter.org

(206) 248-4266

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 FINANCIALS



REVENUE

INDIVIDUALS	\$113,209
FOUNDATIONS	\$74,850
CORPORATIONS	\$6,464
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$139,379
EARNED INCOME	\$55,836
OPERATING RESERVES	\$2,802
TOTAL REVENUE	\$392,540

EXPENSES

DIRECT PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$243,862
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL EXPENSES	\$80,288
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT	\$69,107
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$392,540

OUR MISSION: To promote environmental stewardship and academic achievement through science-based education.

Serving South King County since 2000.



CORE STAFF

Dr. Tara Luckie, Executive Director
Jennifer Dumlao, Development Director
Joanna Stodden, Program Manager
Kharli Rose, Community Engagement Manager
Kelly Steffen, Grants & Programs Coordinator

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NATURALISTS

Madeline Cooper	Alyssa Lind
Jennifer Dumlao	Dan Lombardo
Orian Grant	Robin Lutton
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