

# Project Summary

Project Site 7 can be found in the southeast portion of North Creek Forest. Located in Bothell, Washington, it is part of the Puget Sound lowland mixed coniferous forest ecosystem. This 0.27 acre parcel slopes downward from SW to NE and contains the remnants of an orchard planted by early homesteaders. To the north, you will find the homestead with a large grass lawn. Upslope, to the west, is mixed coniferous forest vegetation with an understory dominated by Himalayan blackberry. South of the site lays a mix of native and invasive deciduous vegetation for approximately 15 m, before turning into the managed lawn of an apartment complex. Just east of the site runs 112<sup>th</sup> Ave and Interstate 405.

Contributing to the efforts of our five (5) student University of Washington Restoration Ecology Network (UW-REN) Capstone Team were two Community Partners (CP). Representing the City of Bothell Parks Department were Tracey Perkosky and Scott Purdy. On behalf of the Friends of North Creek Forest (FNCF), a local non-profit conservation organization, were Sarah Witte and Ashley Shattuck.

The **Site Assessment** section contains the formal documentation of the assessments necessary to gain an ecological understanding of the project site. Within, you will find materials covering the various characteristics relative to the desired outcomes of this restoration effort. Included is information on the soil quality, the vegetative species diversity, the vertical structure of the forest, the habitat potential, observed wildlife, and the hydrology of our site. The **Project Proposal** section contains the proposed plan for moving forward in the restoration process. In preparing for the proposal, our team referenced a wide variety of public, academic, and government literature. Along with each of our sources is the breakdown of the site's ecological state and desired outcome. We provide a reference location for ecological comparison, discuss the benefits of our proposed actions, and explain the feedback expected once our efforts to enhance this portion of forest are complete. The **Planting Plan** section contains the suggested vegetation species determined by the team to fulfill the lacking ecological function of this disturbed ecosystem. Building on the information and knowledge acquired during the Site Assessment and Project Proposal phases, we present documented accounts of how suggested native vegetation communities will provide an added benefit to the forest. Documents within illustrate the value of our suggested plant species in terms of native food resources and habitat structure. Finally, the **Work Plan** section contains the outlined actions required to meet the needs of the CP while also fulfilling the requirements for the UW-REN Capstone Team. Here, we present an account of the work output needed to complete all tasks and requests previously submitted. Each activity is designed to support the needs of the forest, the desires of our CPs, the constraints of legislature, and the learning objectives of our coursework.

Vital to the successful establishment of our plantings, and the maturity of Project Site 7, is the **Stewardship Plan**. Inside, we present our vision of the site, which spans the coming three (3) growing seasons. Literature sources from similar restoration projects and regional research efforts were used to guide our planning for the future. Moving forward, the forest will depend on stewardship, collaboration, and adaptive management if it is to take advantage of its restored ecological potential. The CPs will continue to provide on-site maintenance to decrease the effects of encroachment by invasive species. With support from the City of Bothell Parks Department and the Friends of North Creek Forest, Project Site 7 will continue to develop into a mature mixed conifer forest.