



# Mountains to Sound Greenway Education Program

## Annual Report July 2018- June 2019

**4,050**

students engaged

**53%**

of students attended  
low-income schools

**3,840**

student-hours of  
ecological restoration

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Education Program seeks to inspire and empower young people with knowledge and skills they need to be conservation leaders. We engage 4th-12th grade students from King County schools in hands-on science education – in the classroom and out-of-doors – that connect to real-world issues such as the challenge of sustaining a healthy environment in balance with the needs of a growing population. Since 1998, the Greenway Education Program has engaged nearly 57,000 King County students in science education.

# Annual Report

We are proud to report that the 2018-2019 school year marked another successful year of education in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. In total, we engaged 4,050 students in school-year programming and special events, delivering a total of 15,095 hours of education.

More than 2,500 students participated in school-year programming. These students represented 30 King County schools. They received up to ten hours of education over the course of three classroom lessons, a field study trip, and a service-learning stewardship event. 1,500 youth participated in a special event, such as Salmon Homecoming, Ellensburg Salmon Education Days, Holi Festival, or Celebrate Kokanee.



## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We prioritize increasing access to our programs for youth from diverse communities. Many of the school districts we partner with are among the most diverse in the nation. This year, 53% of our students attended a school with a free or reduced lunch rate of at least 50%.



Photo credit: Ray Lapine

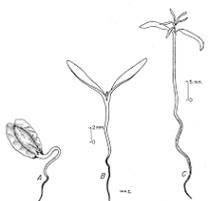
Program cost is heavily subsidized or free for low-income schools. For example, a school with a free or reduced lunch rate of at least 75% does not pay any fee for our program and we offer to pay for their school bus(es). (It costs the Greenway Trust approximately \$750 to run a full program for one class, excluding transportation). If a school has a free or reduced lunch rate of at least 25%, they are eligible to use a free King County Wheels to Water bus to get to their Greenway field trip or restoration event.

## Clean Water Ambassadors

We hired 10 high school-aged youth as Clean Water Ambassador interns. They gained valuable field experience, honed their leadership and communication skills, and made professional connections within the environmental community. They represented eight King County schools and one Snohomish County school. This paid internship program is in partnership with the King County Wastewater Treatment Division.



## Program Assessment



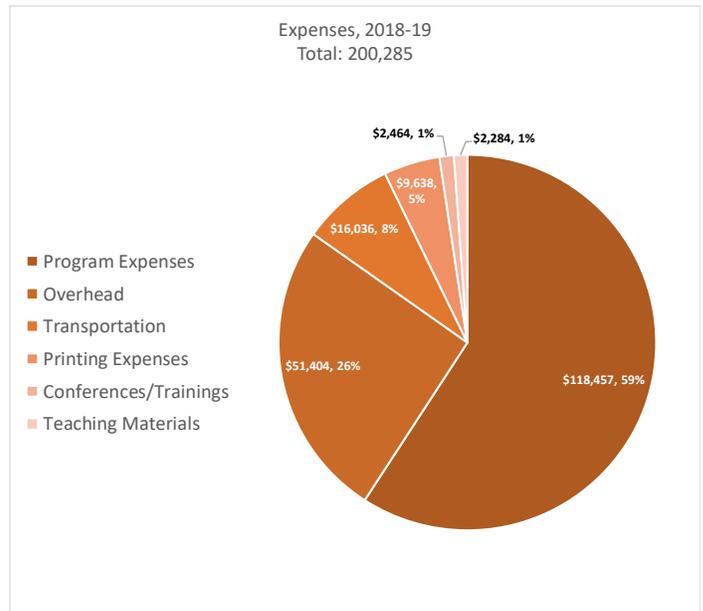
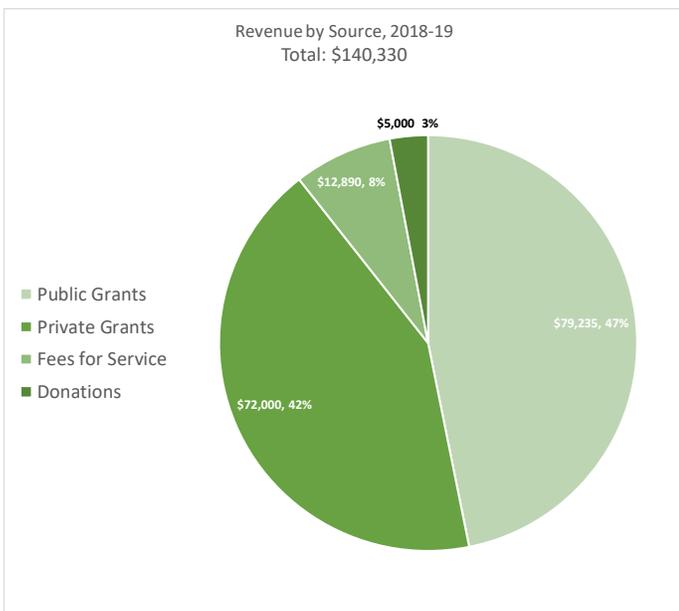
To measure the impact of our programming, we included two curriculum-specific assessments in the Greenway science journals. Students create a drawing and answer some questions before and after participating in our program, and then we use a rubric to evaluate the written assessments. In the 2018-2019 school year, 83% of students scored higher in their post-program assessment, indicating an increase in knowledge about Pacific Northwest forest ecosystems, salmon, biodiversity, or land use.

# Community Partners

We achieve success through collaboration. We have strong partnerships with the teachers who return year after year, the public lands managers, and the funders who make our work possible. Key partners this year included King County Schools, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Parks, City of Issaquah, Kokanee Work Group, and YMCA Camp Terry.

# Funding

The Greenway Education Program budget of \$200,285 was sustained by grants, donations, and class fees. Supporters include the Boeing Company, Grousemont Foundation, Harrington-Schiff Foundation, Issaquah Schools Foundation, King County Flood Control District, King County Wastewater Treatment Division, King County WaterWorks, Kiwanis Club of Issaquah, No Child Left Inside, Rose Foundation, and Russell Family Foundation.



# Curriculum

Of our four curriculums, *Next Generation Stewards* and *Forests and Fins* continue to be our most popular curriculums. (This year, 86% of our students participated in one of these curriculums). This was the sixth year of the *Issaquah Biodiversity Project*, a curriculum designed to help Issaquah School District students succeed in their science courses. And this was the fifth year of *Week Without Walls*, a custom education and restoration program for 6th-12th grade students from LEADPrep Academy.

# Staffing

The Greenway Education Program is managed by Becca Kedenburg. Educators this year were Lizzy Dowd, Maria Sheldon, and Lindsay Spangler. Seasonal teaching support came from Carlyn Roedell, Tony Allison, and Mike Stenger. And we hosted two interns from Gibson Ek High School.





Photo credit: LEAD Prep Academy



Photo credit: Ray Lapine