

## **AGENDA**

### **9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introduction**

Olivia Price, Adult Education Programs Supervisor, University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Joy Wood, Restoration Ecologist, Restoration Analytics & Design LLC

### **9:15-10:00 Environmental Injustice: Visualizing Environmental Health Impacts**

Dr. Leslie P. King, MD, MPH, MEM

The most vulnerable, marginalized populations suffer outsized environmental injustice, a reality readily visualized via "disparity mapping" created from the Centers for Disease Controls "Place & Health" Indexes: Social Vulnerability, High Heat and Environmental Justice.

Moderated by Joy Wood, Restoration Ecologist, Restoration Analytics & Design LLC

### **10:00-10:20 Break**

### **10:20-11:00 EarthCorps and Black Farmers Collective's Yes Farm Collaboration**

Johnny Billecci, Ecologist, EarthCorps; Taj Ruffin, Farm Manager, Black Farmers Collective; and Brukab Sisay, Community Educator, Black Farmers Collective

EarthCorps has begun implementing a co-design methodology that will more meaningfully engage communities in environmental project planning. Through the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead Grant, EarthCorps is partnering with community organizations to provide environmental restoration planning services using a co-design framework that centers community needs and perspectives in the final project outcomes. Through this opportunity, EarthCorps and Black Farmers Collective have partnered to co-design an Urban Farm Conservation Plan for Yes Farm, a 1.5-acre community farming space located in the Yesler Terrace neighborhood of Seattle. This plan seeks to provide ecological restoration strategies at the intersection of community agriculture and conservation. To do this, Black Farmers Collective and EarthCorps collaborated to identify priorities, establish shared goals, and actively engaged community members throughout the design process. As this project is currently ongoing, this presentation will highlight the co-design process and share insights from our work to date.

Moderated by Chelsea Brogan, Ecologist and Natural Area Program Manager, Dirt Corps

### **11:00-11:45 Places of Medicine- Lessons From The Land**

Loreisa Lepine, Sessional Professor in Environmental Studies, University of Victoria

As the first ever and "ongoing" Indigenous Land Steward it was integral in my time at the University of Victoria to build opportunity to support Indigenous faculty, staff and students to have access to learn from and with the land. This conversation will share lessons gathered from time spent doing good work across four places of medicine (place-based restoration projects) on the University of Victoria campus. I'll share lessons learned from working alongside these endangered ecosystems and the importance of restoration and stewardship work that values true socio-ecological integrity, recognizing the integral importance of Indigenous people seeing themselves reflected in their homelands, reaching beyond acknowledgements and superficial relationships.

Moderated by Chelsea Brogan, Ecologist and Natural Area Program Manager, Dirt Corps

**11:45-12:45 Lunch**

**12:45-1:30 Deep Grounding – Land Care and Human Health**

Kathleen Wolf, Research Social Scientist, University of Washington

Thousands of studies across recent decades indicate the scope and depth of human health response from nearby nature experiences. When scanning this research one begins to understand how restoration ecology is really a form of healthcare. Restoration, on many levels, is the grounding of person and place. Dr. Wolf will present the highlights of nature and human health response (from Western science perspectives). She'll then offer insights as to how restoration ecology, from sites to stewards, can more directly incorporate health promoting practices.

Moderated by Jason Saura, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, King Conservation District

**1:30-2:15 Nurturing Our Community to Nurture the Urban Forest**

Jessica Farmer, Urban Tree Health & Supply Advisor, Seattle Public Utilities and Ali Lakehart, Trees for Neighborhoods Team Lead, Seattle Public Utilities

Seattle Public Utilities' Trees for Neighborhoods team engages with community to grow, plant, care for, and celebrate trees. Through program elements like the new Cedar City tree holding facility, learning serves as a powerful tool to connect volunteers, program participants, and partners in long-term stewardship. This presentation will share how Seattle Public Utilities is engaging with students, neighbors, community volunteers, and workforce development programs to help shape the future of Cedar City as a place of learning. We will also discuss how group learning is woven through all our programs and events, sharing the example of "tree care and skill share" volunteer stewardship events.

Moderated by Jason Saura, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, King Conservation District

**2:15-2:35 Break**

**2:35-3:20 University of Washington Graduate Student Presentations**

**2:35-2:50 –The UW Native Food Ecosystem: Weaving Together Culture, Restoration, and Community**

Eric Alipio, Master of Landscape Architecture Student, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture; Marina Figueroa-Rowen, MLA Student and Monitoring Lead at the Burke Meadow Project, College of Built Environments; and Jazzmyn Wittrell, Landscape Architecture

The UW Native Food Ecosystem is a web of sites and partnerships across the UW that allow us to proliferate Indigenous food knowledge and culture; create opportunities for Indigenous community to practice land-based culture; and spiritually, culturally, and nutritionally nourish Indigenous students on campus. Seeing the Burke Meadow as our homebase, we partner with entities like the UW Farm, Intellectual House, SER, Center for Urban Horticulture, College of Built Environment, and UW Grounds to share stewardship responsibilities concerning the Native Garden, Wapato Pond, and Earth Ovens in addition to the Burke Meadow. At each of these sites, our collective of UW students, faculty, staff, and community members (Native and non-Native) are working to grow traditional foods and reconnect Native plant communities using integrated Indigenous ways of knowing and Western science.

Every project within the Native Food Ecosystem considers not only the capacities of our team members, but also our campus partners, our student volunteers, our off-campus allies and partners, our tribal partners, and each individual sites' plant communities. We acknowledge that we do not work in a vacuum – our sites, our human communities, our more-than-human communities – are all woven together. Weaving has become a central theme and activity of this Ecosystem. Our presentation provides an overview of our work weaving together different knowledge systems, culturally-informed restoration practices, and community. From this, we highlight the potential of such work to deeply connect land and community.

**2:50-3:05 –Integrating Human Dimensions into Shoreline Restoration Monitoring: A New Online Survey Instrument for Understanding Community Perceptions in Puget Sound**

Morgan Arrington, PhD Student, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

Shoreline restoration in Puget Sound aims to re-establish natural coastal processes in places where shorelines have been altered by artificial, built structures. Restoration involves removing built structures such as docks or shoreline armoring made of boulders, concrete, or creosote-treated logs. Additional actions are sometimes taken to speed up recovery, including re-planting native vegetation, placing logs on the upper shore to mimic driftwood, or adding sediment to build up the elevation of the beach. Long-term ecological outcomes of shoreline restoration in Puget Sound have been documented through the Shoreline Monitoring Toolbox. This community-based monitoring resource includes information from over 30 restoration projects, some of

which have been monitored for more than a decade. The Toolbox has historically focused on long-term biophysical monitoring to support restoration design and shoreline management. However, a recent social-ecological conceptual model of shoreline restoration highlights the need for a better understanding of people’s use, preferences, and perceptions of Puget Sound shorelines. These human dimensions are fundamental aspects of shoreline ecosystems, yet remain less monitored. To address this, we developed an [online survey](#) to integrate into the Shoreline Monitoring Toolbox and distribute during annual monitoring at shoreline restoration sites throughout Puget Sound. The goal of the survey is to better understand community preferences and perceptions of shorelines and restoration outcomes across the region. By incorporating community perspectives alongside biophysical monitoring, this work contributes to a more holistic understanding of shoreline ecosystems. These insights can guide future planning and help ensure that restoration goals reflect the values and experiences of people connected to these shorelines.

Moderated by Amelia Keyser-Gibson, University of Washington PhD student

**3:05-3:50      Restoration as World-Building: An Intergenerational, Land-Based Framework for Reckoning, Relational Continuance, and Public Futures**

Shameka Gagnier, Futures Rising: Restoration & Co-Creation

This workshop offers a braided, land-based framework for understanding restoration as a form of world-building—one that integrates Indigenous leadership, Land Back, embodied learning, and intergenerational responsibility into ecology, public lands governance, and graduate-level inquiry. Grounded in the living history of places such as Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, the session situates contemporary environmental and institutional crises within deeper timelines of geological time, Indigenous stewardship, colonial interruption, and ongoing continuance.

Participants are invited to examine how inherited systems—policy, governance, conservation, education—continue to reproduce colonial logics through land control, resource extraction, epistemic dominance, and intergenerational disruption. Using a set of gentle, non-shaming maps and somatic practices, the workshop supports participants in locating how these systems move through their own work, bodies, and institutions, while distinguishing responsibility from individual blame.

The workshop introduces two complementary learning tools: (1) a timeline tracing the “Five Interlocking Stages of Colonization” and the “River of Culture: Sacred → Scared → Scarred,” shared by the late Skokomish knowledge keeper Gary Peterson, and (2) a set of orientation maps that help participants reframe their roles through an intergenerational lens. These tools make visible the policy, legal, and cultural underpinnings of contemporary ecological and governance challenges, while creating space for participants to reflect on how their own lineages, disciplines, and institutions have been shaped—and sometimes benefited—by these systems.

Rather than offering solutions, the workshop cultivates capacity: the capacity to remain present with complexity, to engage climate anxiety and polycrisis as relational signals rather than individual failures, and to imagine forms of public work rooted in accountability, co-authorship with land, and long-view responsibility. Participants leave with conceptual maps, reflective prompts, and embodied practices that support the ongoing work of reckoning, reorientation, and building futures that are ethical, adaptive, and grounded in relationship across generations.

Moderated by Elby Jones, Urban Forester, City of Seatac Parks & Recreation

**3:50-4:00      Announcements and Closing Comments**

Jeremy Jones, Green Kirkland Partnership Coordinator, Kirkland Parks & Community Services, City of Kirkland, WA

**4:00-5:00      Reception**

Optional tours of the SER-NW Native Plant Nursery with Emma Latendresse, SER-UW Native Plant Nursery Manager