

Sustainability Mini-Grant Final Report

Boeing Creek Park Restoration Project

King's High School

Fall 2004

I. What was the project?

* This is taken and adapted from the project proposal submitted to the Shoreline Park Advisory Board in September 2004

Project Statement:

On Saturday, October 9 from 8-11 am, King's Environmental Science class carried out a three-part project to help restore an area of Boeing Creek that has been disturbed and degraded by human activity.

Project Site:

The site includes approximately 450 square feet of land on the trailside (south) of Boeing Creek in Boeing Creek Park. It includes portions on both sides of the trail. The area is after the North and South Forks merge and before Hidden Lake. The land feature of primary interest is an exposed sandy bluff which has been degraded by people carving, drawing, and digging in it. For that reason, the bluff is eroding at an increased rate and has 2 to 3 feet of overhanging tree roots at the top. The dimensions of the site on the bluff side are 28 feet long by 11 feet wide at the widest point.

The streamside portion of the site is 24 feet long and 12.5 feet wide at the widest point. It is exposed sand which gives evidence of enormous foot traffic. It is probable that a fair amount of stream sediment enters Boeing Creek at this point. This has potential for disturbing aquatic life and also for eventually entering Hidden Lake.

Project Summary:

The main goal of this threefold project is to return this area to a natural state for people to enjoy and for the conservation of the surrounding environment. To do this, King's Environmental Science class built a simple fence, planted native vegetation, and posted Restoration Area signs to encourage people to stay on the trail. The hope is to not only restore the area, but also to instill greater appreciation and consideration of natural areas in those who utilize the park.

II. Who was involved?

The grant was awarded to the 18 member 2003/2004 King's HS Environmental Science class in January 2004. They wrote the original proposal that was awarded at the "I Buy Different" Scavenger Hunt at the Northgate Mall. Since the class ended at the end of January, the project was postponed until the fall with the next 13 member Environmental Science class.

Melanie Lehman, the Environmental Science teacher did planning for the project starting in August before the school year began. She met at the project site with Debbie Meisinger of the King Conservation District. Meisinger came up with the “Boeing Creek: Streamside Restoration Project Technical Assistance Packet” which outlined the threefold plan that was ultimately carried out. The King Conservation District also provided the native plants for the project in exchange for the students volunteering at their native plant nursery.

Lehman also had frequent correspondence with the Shoreline Park Superintendent, Kirk Peterson concerning the project. Lehman and two students presented the project proposal to approximately 10 park employees and park advisory board members in September and were approved the same day. The entire class had worked to make posters for the presentation and worked on some of the project details.

On September 30, the Environmental Science class went to Boeing Creek and began the project by wiping the sandy bluff clean of graffiti, laying out the fence location, and taking measurements. On October 9, seven students, one parent, a park employee, a CRISTA grounds worker, and Lehman carried out the project.

Boeing Creek Park is a park utilized primarily by locals on a regular basis, especially by people walking their dogs. At least 10 of these visitors had communication with project participants on the project day. The many visitors to the park will receive a small amount of education from the project and signs themselves.

III. What was the project outcome?

The project came out close to the plans, hopes, and expectations. The project day lasted until 3:00 pm for those willing to stay. There are now approximately 50 moderately mature, native ground covers, shrubs, and trees covering the 450 square feet of the project site; there is a 20-foot cedar split rail fence on the bluff side of the site; and there is one restoration sign posted on a 6-foot wooden post on each side of the trail. (* Two days after the project one sign had been taken by a park visitor. This is still being worked out with Shoreline Parks and Recreation.)

It is too early to tell if the long term goals have been met of restoring the area and enhancing visitor appreciation and consideration of natural areas. However, the initial product of a fence, native vegetation, and signage are a great improvement over the bare, eroding sandy bluff and stream side.

IV. How were the environment and economy involved in your project?

The Boeing Creek Restoration project focuses on restoring and preserving the riparian area of an aquatic ecosystem. The plants will reduce the amount of sand eroding from the bluff and entering Boeing Creek. This is helpful for aquatic organisms and also provides habitat for terrestrial organisms. It may also benefit the local economy if Hidden Lake does not have to be dredged as often.

V. How did you use the funds?

Fence	101.93
Ferns	36.50
Signs	65.28
Home Depot (Concrete, gravel, gloves, sign posts)	86.08
Fence book	13.00
Gloves and tape measure	20.74
Food and drinks for project day	20.00
TOTAL	\$343.53

* Remaining funds will be used to purchase another sign and for maintenance of plants

VI Would you recommend this project to others?

Yes! This project was kept simple so that students and adults with little experience could be successful. It had immediate results of turning an eye sore into an area with aesthetic possibilities. The project brought many practical skills together including planning, working with the local government, and doing landscaping activities.