



## Student Conservation Corps

### 2018 Program Report

The Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park and Recreation District (BIMPRD) Student Conservation Corps (SCoCo) has completed its ninth successful year, with two core summer sessions of noxious weed control efforts at eight Island Parks. The program focused on goals outlined in the BIMPRD Vegetative Management Plan created in collaboration with the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board. The goal of SCoCo is to significantly advance noxious weed management in our Parks while educating students and future environmental stewards on conservation sciences and related career opportunities.



**The 2018 Student Conservation Corps has four program components: Spring volunteer application work-parties, Spring Break session, two Summer sessions, and Fall volunteer restoration.** Twenty-four applicants were selected to participate in the two summer sessions, thirteen of which served on both summer session crews. A waitlist was maintained.

**Spring Application Work Parties** take place during the months of March and April. Attendance of at least one application work party is required in order to apply for a position as a SCoCo member. This system is to ensure students are familiar with the duties required of a SCoCo crew member and are ready to participate in the Spring Break and Summer activities. Three application work parties are offered in the Spring over multiple weekends to provide various dates for applicants' schedules.

**The Spring Break Session** looked different this year from past sessions. Historically, Sustainable Bainbridge initiative Let's Pull Together (LPT) has funded student wages during the four-day Spring Break session to direct attention to Scotch broom removal in parks. However, due to funding changes with LPT, the 2018 Spring Break



session was fully funded by the Park District. This change meant that focus expanded beyond Scotch broom to include blackberry, holly, ivy, tansy, and other invasive plant species. A full crew of eight students and one leader worked at Eagledale Park, Blakely Harbor, Hilltop Meadow, and Camp Yeomalt totaling 178.25 hours of invasive species removal. Additional efforts were given to Hilltop Meadow where the SCoCo crew joined up with Land Trust volunteers to increase efforts of Scotch broom and Tansy ragwort removal. Of the eight Spring Break members, seven continued on to work during the summer sessions.

**The Summer Session** expanded in 2018. In response to desires from previous and current Student Conservation Corps members and to address the needs of the Park District, an additional 12-day summer session was added this year, doubling the days of invasive removal and student employment. In the past, SCoCo participants had the option of continuing invasive species removal with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust (BILT) after the conclusion of the Park District's session, expanding the length of their summer employment. However, in 2017 BILT developed a separate program running concurrently to SCoCo, eliminating the option to extend summer employment for SCoCo members. Feedback from 2017 participant surveys indicated that SCoCo members were highly interested in a longer Summer Session. Therefore in 2018 two summer sessions were offered: Session A and Session B. SCoCo Applicants had the option of applying for just one or both sessions. Dividing into two 12-day sessions rather than doubling the length of one session allowed interested participants to extend summer employment without eliminating those who preferred the single 12-day session structure. Session A had a hiring limit of 18 participants, while Session B would be slightly smaller with 15 participants. This year both Session A and Session B had a full crew and a substitute crew member for days when someone was unable to attend. A waitlist for both sessions was maintained. This additional session added 760 hours of invasive species removal to the existing summer program and supported the program's goal of educating future environmental stewards on conservation sciences and related career opportunities.

**Three Fall volunteer restoration work parties** will take place in October and November for maintenance and native plant restoration in critical areas. Restoration days serve as a conclusion for 2018 SCoCo members and



as an outreach opportunity to potential 2019 members. 2018 SCoCo members are expected to participate in a minimum of two of the three volunteer restoration work parties and are highly encouraged to bring friends and family to participate.

**2018 Accomplishments:**

- The Spring Break Session provided a cumulative 178.25 hours of invasive plant species removal in four parks: Eagledale, Blakely Harbor, Hilltop Meadow, and Camp Yeomalt
- The two Summer Sessions provided 1723 hours of invasive plant species removal in eight parks: Blakely Harbor, Waypoint Woods, Williams-Olson, Hawley Cove, Hidden Cove, Fay Bainbridge, Fort Ward, and Moritani Preserve
- 13 employees worked both Summer Sessions
- During the Summer Sessions, invasive plant species removed and disposed of included 8 yds English holly, 16 yds of Himalayan blackberry roots, 13 yds English ivy, and 2 yds Scotch broom
- 80+ hours of restoration work are expected to be added during fall volunteer work parties
- 807 trees were cleared of ivy in the 2018 Summer Sessions bringing SCoCo’s grand total to over 14,500 trees cleared in the program’s nine years



**Summer Session Data by park:**

**Blakely Harbor Park – 12 days**

- 89 trees cleared of English ivy
- 15 yds Himalayan blackberry roots hauled out
- 11 yds English ivy hauled out

**Waypoint Woods – 2 days**

- 21 trees cleared of English ivy
- 6 yds of English holly hauled out
- 2 yds of ground English ivy hauled out

**Williams-Olson Park – 2 days**

- 107 trees cleared of English ivy

**Hawley Cove Park – 1 day**

- 141 trees cleared of English ivy

**Hidden Cove Park – 1 day**

- 120 trees cleared of English ivy

**Fort Ward Park – 1 day**

- 125 trees cleared of English ivy

**Moritani Preserve – 3 days**

- 45 trees cleared of English ivy
- 2 yd English holly hauled out
- 1 yd Himalayan blackberry roots hauled out

**Fay Bainbridge Park -2 days**

- 159 trees cleared of English ivy
- 2 yds of Scotch broom hauled out

## Budget Facts:

- Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District provided \$19,000 in funding for the 2018 SCoCo program, expanding \$8,000 from the 2017 budget.
- The Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation granted \$6,000 towards student employment, doubling their contribution from the previous year.

## 2018 Educational Program:

One aspect of SCoCo that differentiates it from other conservation corps is the educational speaker series. During our lunch break the program includes a one-hour educational component, in which time local community members are invited to speak about their career paths and how their work relates to environmental conservation. This serves as an opportunity for corps members to learn about the multitude of ways one can work within the field of conservation, while pursuing their interested and skillset. The following speakers were extraordinarily generous with their time, knowledge, and encouragement when presenting during our 2018 summer session:

**Terry Lande** BI Parks Executive Director; **Olaf Ribiero** Plant Pathologist; **David Harry** BIMPRD & National Park Service; **Ann Lovejoy** Urban landscaping; **Kayla Swerin** Asplundh tree assessor; **Evan Bombardier & Nico Honeylion** One Earth Treecare; **Taylor Swift** NET Systems, Inc.; **Nora Harrington & Lauren Holt** Teen Talking Circle; **Barb Trafton** BI Parks Foundation Executive Director; **Megan Herdon** Heyday Farm; **Sky Miller** Cardno engineer; **Deb Rudnick** Watershed Council President; **Mark & Hana Doucette** Permaculture; **Mike Pratt** Wildlife Biologist; **Stella Collier** City of BI NPDES Permit Coordinator; **Christina Doherty** IslandWood; **Dan Hamlin** BI Parks Division Director; **Kathy Wolf** UW Research Scientist; **Betsey Peabody** Puget Sound Restoration Fund ; **Glenn Haber** Fletcher Bay Foundation; **Dana Coggon** Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board



Thank you to the Bainbridge Island Metro Park & Rec District, the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation, and everyone who has taken time to speak with SCoCo. Your ongoing support makes this incredibly valuable program possible.

## ***Thank you for your support!***

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*"I really liked the idea of working outdoors and thought this would be a great way to build experience for later jobs. I think SCoCo did both."*

– 2018 SCoCo member