



Bainbridge Island
Metro Park & Recreation District



2023 SCOCO **ANNUAL REPORT**



SCoCo Crews Making a Difference

With their vibrant neon shirts and boundless energy, Student Conservation Corps (SCoCo) crews stand out as they dedicate their summer to working with the Park District's Natural Resources team. Their tasks include managing invasive species, installing boot brush stations, spreading mulch, and enhancing habitats across ten island parks all while earning a paycheck.

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My work has impacted the environment because we all made way for native plants to grow back in their rightful locations.

I learned how to work with people I don't know and work with everyone's special skills to get tons of work done!

Impactful Conservation Efforts

Over nine weeks and three summer sessions, these dedicated teen crews achieved remarkable results. They removed over 175 yards of invasive species, including ivy, holly, scotch broom, herb Robert, and blackberry. Additionally, thanks to a Community Grant from the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, they installed two boot brush stations at key trailheads, helping curb the spread of invasive weed seeds from our boots and shoes.

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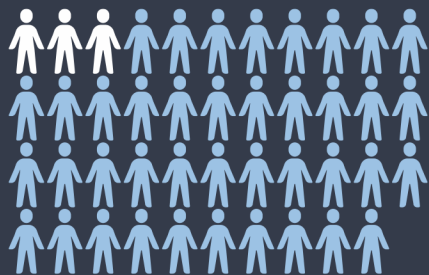
The most rewarding part was when I found myself looking forward to going to work and pulling weeds.

We have provided more space for native plants to grow and develop as well as preventing the spread of native species substantially.

Personal Growth and Learning Opportunities

Lunch hours were spent learning from conservation professionals, including an introduction to studying salmon habitat in Kitsap County with Hannah Brush and Theo Suver from the Suquamish Tribe, forestry and geometry with Andrew Wodnik from Silva Solutions, and a special visit from biologist Mike Pratt and Orion the owl. Speakers introduced crew members to work, “I wouldn't have found otherwise,” shared one crew member, with many adding that their experiences over the summer shaped their future college and career goals.

2023 Crew Snapshot



40 teens
3 leadership staff



10+ individuals on the waitlist for each of three summer sessions



3,200 work hours in the field by the crew



175 yards of invasive species removed (and learned to identify!)



35 yards of mulch spread



10 parks



21 guest educational speakers

- Sean Smith-Sell
- Jeannette Franks
- Barb Trafton
- Andrew Fraser
- Lydia Roush
- Deb Rudnick
- Hanna Brush
- Theo Suver
- Mira Rosenkotz
- Karen Hust
- Tod Vogel
- Matt Keough
- Andrew Wodnik
- Casey Price
- Kathleen Wolf
- Ian Shiach
- Mike Pratt
- Chloe Boeker
- Ryan Schelcht
- Stella Collier
- David Harry



2 boot brush stations installed

Special Projects

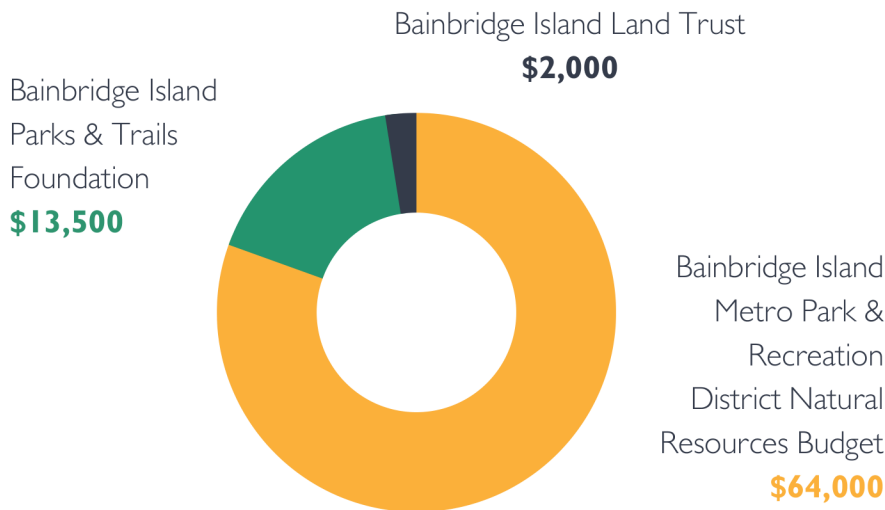
This season, our SCoCo crews installed two new boot brush stations at Blakely Harbor Park and Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. These stations allow park users to remove dirt and invasive weed seeds from their shoes, helping to prevent the spread of invasive species such as tansy ragwort, herb Robert, garlic mustard, and purple loosestrife.

At Blakely Harbor Park, the crew had immediate boot brush users as they completed the installation. They also took the opportunity to educate a class from Islandwood about invasive species and their construction project.

Funding for these boot brush stations, along with two others, was provided through a Community Grant from the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.



2023 Budget



Special Thanks To:



Interested in applying for SCoCo 2024? Have questions about the program?
Reach out to...

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