

HINDRANCES TO HABITAT RESTORATION IN DISCOVERY PARK AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

Lucas Thompson*, Program on the Environment, University of Washington

Site Supervisors: Garrett Esperum and Tom Palm, Discovery Park Advisory Council

Faculty Advisor: Tim Billo, Program on the Environment, University of Washington

Humans are a part of the environment, even those that live in urban areas. Knowing how to restore landscapes from built space back into natural environments is important for several reasons, such as human health benefits and functional ecosystems. It has been shown that contact with natural spaces improves human health, creating a need for natural spaces set within urban landscapes. If natural landscapes are going to be created out of previously built spaces, the result should be a healthy ecosystem that is not dominated by a monocrop or invasive species. The desire for healthy ecosystems creates the need for proper restoration methods to create functional ecosystems. The purpose of this study was to determine best practices for habitat restoration and any hindrances that may be encountered, as well as how to overcome them. To determine these external factors, I discussed restoration philosophies with forest stewards and how they enacted their theories in the field, and through conducting plant surveys in restoration projects. From discussions and surveys, I determined there to be two major hindrances to restoration, lack of funding, and lack of communication. These hindrances impact the perceived success of restoration projects and need to be addressed for future restoration projects to be successful.