Make Seattle Green Again: Attempts to Restore Forest Health in Magnolia’s Thorndyke Park.

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Background

- Anthropogenic activity is causing ecological disturbances to the resilience of our forests and if not mitigated in 20 years the earth will lose 70% of its forests
- But luckily, the key factor to mitigation is all-year forest restoration
- Aim of my study was to understand how to develop more community engagement in forest restoration efforts.

Question

What are the best approaches for engaging local communities in forest restoration efforts?

Achievement (result)

Ivy Plants

Figure 2a. A before picture taking of Phase one. Most areas are covered with Ivy and blackberries, and have taken over where native plants once thrived in. Area covers around 0.005 acres of land (1.5 acres of parkland).

Figure 2b. An after picture of figure 2a taken from Phase 2. Removing aggressive plants (Ivy and blackberries) for native plants to be planted in phase 3. With enough area (0.005 acres) cleared, we can now plant new native plants.

Results (Continued)

Successful approaches:

- Social Media:
  - Facebook community to share our work with the world and get more people involved. See figure 4
  - Over 40% growth in the last month
- Work-party Events:
  - Nothing brings people together like a party. It is the best way to meet people and engage in community activities.

Implications

GSP should create more social media accounts. It is difficult to get people to volunteer when only using a website only previous volunteers are aware of.

- By ensuring community engagement using social media, we can increase the likelihood of saving our forest before the deadline is due

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