Environmental Rotary Club Action Report 2021 to 2023

A Caused-Based Club is defined by Rotary International as a club whose members are passionate about a particular cause and focus their service efforts in that area. It is geared



to individuals who want to connect with others while addressing a particular set of problems.

EcoClubs are one of many ways to become involved with Rotary. The Environmental Rotary Club is part of District 5030 and was chartered in July 2021.

This report offers a 2-year action

update on the breadth and depth of the service and activities that club members have been involved with and offer a glimpse of what we are envisioning for the future.

In 2022 our club, with the help of District 5030 visioning team engaged in a two evening session to develop a vision for our club and to establish a 5 year plan to put this vision into action.

The following statement is a result of this visioning work and has guided our program and service efforts.

The Environmental Rotary Club of Puget Sound is a <u>bridge</u> to <u>connect and serve</u> individuals, <u>communities</u>, <u>and organizations</u> who choose to work towards <u>protecting</u> <u>Mother Earth and improving the environment</u> locally and around the world.

As an e-club we meet through zoom twice a month. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in both our Network meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and our Monthly Speaker meeting held on the 4th Tuesday

Unique to our club and in line with our vision of connecting organizations and communities we have a large Network of individuals and organizations that receive monthly news-emails that include environmentally focused activities happening throughout the Puget Sound as well as the invitation to come to our network meeting and share information about their passion projects. Through our Network we have been able to connect with eco clubs in other parts of the world as well as with organizations locally that are committed to addressing climate and environmental issues. We also enjoyed the many visitors we had at our meetings from other Rotary Clubs in our District and through this have discovered opportunities to collaborate!

During the first 2 years, the Environmental Rotary Club has taken advantage of District 5030's Community Needs Grants. In 2022 we funded and built a pergola and picnic table at Horseneck Farm proving shade and seating for staff and volunteers during summer

workdays. Horseneck was a new project of the South King County Food Coalition. This 5 acres of farmland in Kent provides food bank farming and supports new immigrant and refugee farm businesses.



In 2023 we were able to

fund scholarships for the YMCA summer program day camp that focused on Outdoors and the Environment. When young people have opportunities to learn, play, and grow outside, we change our future for the better.

In 2022 we helped to sponsor the District-wide Rotary Day of Service a the Duwamish preserves which involved planting shrubs, trees and ground cover as well as attending a



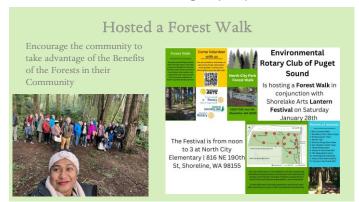
talk presented by a Duwamish elder and leader of the restoration work on this part of the Duwamish River.

In 2022 we sponsored a team to participate in the world-wide EcoChallengeThe **Ecochallenge** is a digital platform that gamifies behavior change. They sponsor fun challenges that encourage new habits. Taking Small steps leads to big change. We challenged Rotarians throughout the district to



participate in the 2022 Plastic Free July EcoChallenge. The platform provided resources and ideas to help all of us, along with the 120 million participants in 177 countries, reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and even at your local cafes.

In 2023 the Club hosted a Forest Walk in conjunction with the Shorelake Arts Lantern Festival. Interpretive signs posted through out the North City Park forest offered participants (we had 60+ people participate in the Walk) information on the value of our Urban forests. We encouraged people to build a habit of Walking through forests since the



benefits include lowering levels of anxiety and stress as will as improving overall well being. Hosting activities like this in conjunction with other organizations helps us to expand our reach and support the good work that others are doing in our community.

On Earth Day 2023 our Club hosted a drop off point for lithium-Ion Batteries. Safe recycling of lithium-ion batteries at the end of their lives conserves the critical minerals and other

valuable materials that are used in batteries and is a more sustainable approach than disposal. Making this a community event and advertising in local news helped to educate people about the importance of recycling rather that disposing.



One of our ongoing volunteer opportunities is at the Beacon Food Forest. The 7-acre food forest is adjacent to Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill in Seattle, located in the vicinity of 15th Avenue South and South Dakota Street.



Volunteers turned a swath of grass into a vibrant, thriving ecosystem that now provides fresh produce, uplifting beauty, pollinator habitat, healthy soils, climate change mitigation, storm water filtration, educational opportunities, and - perhaps most importantly - a community where everyone is welcome to be, participate, learn and teach.

During the Summer months of 2023 we joined with others at the YMCA to pick up trash in

Echo Lake and around the YMCA campus.

Building relationships with organizations like the Y help us to expand our network and work along with other community members.





Environmental Rotary Club is joining the Lake Forest Park Rotary in Operation Pollination project In 2023 the Environmental Club joined other clubs in the District in signing of the Pollination Pledge through Operation Pollination.

Operation Pollination has two goals: pollinator habitat restoration and education projects.

We were pleased to join with Lake Forest Park in their initiative to

establish a Pollinator Garden at Animal Acres Park. Here is our President Elect Douglas (lower left) helping with the clearing of the designated area.

In November of 2023 the Environmental Rotary Club joined with the Shoreline Museum and







November 2023 Pollinator Hill

A project of the Environmental Rotary Club and the Shoreline Museum Community





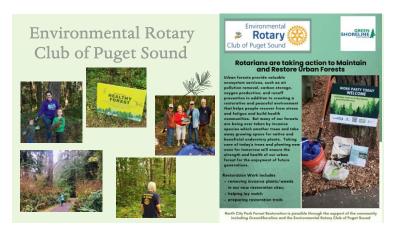


members of the community to install a Pollinator Hill on the Museum's Field. On December 9th, as a part of the Miyawaki Planting Day seeds native to this area, known to provide food, nesting, and resting for pollinators will be planted

In 2023 the Environmental Rotary Club established its first Club Sponsored Project.

members were encouraged to submit their passion projects for Club support!

Our Club had been invited to participate in restoration work parties in North City Park since 2021 and had dedicated many hours clearing invasive plants, shrubs and trees and planting natives to restore this Park's



forest. With Club Sponsorship the project is able to expand community outreach and education about the value of our Urban Forests.





Rotary grant supports Miyawaki Urban Forest History Project at the Shoreline Museum

The Environmental Rotary Club, along with Rotary Clubs of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Mill Creek, and Emerald City, are working together to ensure the success of the Miyawaki Urban Forest History Project at the Shoreline Historical Museum. A 2023-34 matching District 5030 Grant will help these clubs make a difference!

In November 2023 we learned that the Environmental Rotary Club's District 5030 matching grant had been approved. Along with Rotary Clubs of Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Mill Creek, and Emerald City, we will contribute to the Miyawaki Urban Forest History Project at the Shoreline Museum. We are excited for this project and the opportunity to watch the Miyawaki Forest and the community of committed volunteers grow through the coming years.