

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



Caused-Based Rotary eClub
Chartered in July 2021

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 bridge to connect and serve individuals, communities, and organizations who choose to work towards protecting Mother Earth and improving the environment 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB APPLIED FOR
DISTRICT 5030 COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

2021

Project Description: Horseneck Farm There was no infrastructure yet on-site. Our staff and volunteers really needed access to shade and seating for summer workdays. We built a pergola and picnic table at the site.







2023

When all young people have opportunities to learn, play, and grow outside, we change our future for the better. Experience the amazing natural world through exciting adventures in environmental education with YMCA Outdoor Day Camp



In 2022 we helped to sponsor the District-wide Rotary Day of Service at 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.

Participated in the District-wide Rotary Day of Service at the Duwamish Preserves





Planted shrubs, trees, and ground cover.

In 2022 we sponsored a team to participate in the world-wide EcoChallenge. The **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

Organized the 2022 Eco challenge

- Our Club worked toward reducing plastic use in a one-month challenge during July
- Free to sign up
- Lots of tips for reducing single use plastics
- We wanted to make a difference






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

Hosted a Forest Walk

Encourage the community to take advantage of the Benefits of the Forests in their Community

The Festival is from noon to 3 at North City Elementary | 816 NE 190th St, Shoreline, WA 98155

benefits include lowering levels of anxiety and stress as well 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 than disposing.

Participated in the District-wide Project Celebrating Earth Day 2023



Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling
April 22, 2023

Take Charge!
Recycle lithium-ion batteries responsibly.

April 22, 2023 at 10am - 3pm
Bellevue Downtown Park
10000 1st St S, Bellevue, WA

Popular household items to bring:
Cell phones, Tablets, iPods/iPads, Laptops, Smart TVs, Game Consoles, Camcorders, Power Tools, etc.

- We accept lithium-ion (Li-ion) and nickel metal hydride (NiMH) batteries.
- We do not accept lead-acid or alkaline batteries.
- We may bring the unit to the station, but need to remove battery from the device.
- Before dropping off a personal device, you should sign out of all your accounts and deactivate the device!

Bellevue Rotary | REDWOOD MATERIALS

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.

The food forest integrates food plants into a self-sustaining, semi-natural ecosystem





Environmental Rotary Club members volunteer at the Beacon Hill Food Forest.



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.

Joined other volunteers to pick up trash in Echo Lake




- First Friday of each month -
- Meet at the Dale Turner YMCA and then head out
- 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
- More information on givsum







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



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



November 2023 Pollinator Hill

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



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.

Environmental Rotary Club of Puget Sound

Rotarians are taking action to Maintain and Restore Urban Forests

Urban forests provide valuable ecosystem services, such as air pollution removal, carbon storage, oxygen production, and runoff prevention. In addition to creating a restorative and peaceful environment that helps people recover from stress and fatigue and build health communities. But many of our forests are being over-taken by invasive species which smother trees and take away growing space for native and beneficial understory plants. Taking care of today's trees and planting new ones for tomorrow will ensure the strength and health of our urban forest for the enjoyment of future generations.

Restoration Work includes

- removing invasive plants/weeds in our new restoration sites,
- helping lay mulch,
- preparing restoration trails

North City Park Forest Restoration is possible through the support of the community including GreenShoreline and the Environmental Rotary Club of Puget Sound

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.

Environmental Rotary Club of Puget Sound

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!