

EarthCorps Annual Report 2004



EarthCorps' mission is to build global community through local environmental service

On the Edge: Shoreline Habitats get a Boost

EarthCorps spent more time than ever at the water's edge in 2004

Puget Sound is a valuable resource that provides inspiration and recreation for area residents. Over the past 150 years, development, logging and industry have left their marks on the Sound's unique landscape and ecosystems. Restoring the "nearshore" – a term that includes both the land and marine areas adjacent to the shoreline – is a high priority for many of the communities that surround the Sound, in part because salmon and other native species depend on the health of nearshore habitats for their existence. Restoration projects in shallow subtidal, intertidal, backshore/bluff, and marine riparian areas are challenging, and provide exceptional educational opportunities for EarthCorps' trainees.

One EarthCorps innovation tailored for nearshore projects is a diamond-shaped pattern of lines designed to keep out the geese that feed on tender plant shoots

in wetland areas while trapping a minimum of tidal debris.

Partnering with local community groups, such as Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Groundswell Northwest, People for Puget Sound, as well as Seattle Public Utilities and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, EarthCorps expanded its nearshore restoration work significantly in 2004. A sampling of nearshore-oriented fieldwork includes salt-marsh and upland riparian planting, invasive removal, and irrigation system retrofitting at Mowitch, a reclaimed industrial site in Commencement Bay; the installation of goose exclusion systems at several sites along the Duwamish River; and the initiation of a shoreline and intertidal zone plant restoration project at the new Salmon Bay Natural Area in Ballard.

Expect more collaborations and projects in 2005, as EarthCorps continues to expand its expertise and scope in nearshore restoration. One of the most exciting will be native planting and trailwork at Seahurst Park in Burien, where the Army Corps of Engineers removed a 100-foot seawall, creating one of the longest stretches of contiguous, publicly-accessible shoreline in the region. The park is expected to quickly become a beachcombers' favorite. In a testament to EarthCorps' high quality work, EarthCorps staff members were invited to serve on a task force for Sound-wide restoration planning, starting in 2004.

Knotweed Out of the Watershed

EarthCorps participated in a demonstration project to eliminate knotweed from the upper Green River watershed. Knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*) is ranked as one of the top 10 most destructive species in the world.

Introduced from Asia in the mid-19th century as an ornamental plant, knotweed grows rapidly, prevents native seeds from germinating and thrives on being uprooted. It can re-establish after being rooted out and washed downstream. Other common names for the plant are Giant, Japanese and Himalayan Knotweed.



*Knotweed in the Green River watershed.
Photo courtesy of King County.*



Corps members Jill Politsch and Megan Hess install the frame for a goose exclusion system in Mowitch in Tacoma's Commencement Bay.

In Review

www.earthcorps.org



Steve Dubiel and son Simon welcome volunteers in Seward Park.

2004 Programs

In 2004, EarthCorps ran programs for participants from around the world and across the generational spectrum.

Community engagement – work days in area parks and open spaces for 10,000 community and corporate volunteers.

School enrichment – hands-on environmental education for 500 students from Dearborn and Kimball Elementary Schools and Aki Kurose and Madrona Middle Schools in south Seattle. Service-learning components for over 500 high school students from Seattle Prep and Global Visionaries.

Summer and afterschool service – intensive educational work experiences in urban and wilderness environments for 1,000 diverse youth ages 13-18.

Corps – year-round service learning program in environmental restoration for 60 young adults ages 18-25.

Crew leader and community outreach interns – advanced second-year leadership development training for selected corps alumni ages 19-26.

International cooperation – work camps organized by EarthCorps alumni and partner organizations engaged 250 international volunteers at 14 work camps in Lake Baikal, Siberia, and one work camp in Ipala, Guatemala.

Strong Communities, Empowered Youth, Healthy Habitats

Dear Friends,

With a growing network of supporters, EarthCorps continues to amplify the scope and impact of our work. Our success reflects your contributions of time, resources and talent. The impact of our work is visible in many forms - revitalized habitat throughout the Puget Sound; stronger and more connected communities; and young people whose lives have been changed through service to the earth.

Today we are seeing the longer-term impact of EarthCorps' work since our founding in 1993. Our alumni are making a substantial difference in their communities as they progress in their lives and careers. Just a couple of examples: Hayes Swinney stewards restoration projects in King County with the Cascade Land Conservancy; Tony Macias organizes migrant farm workers with the national Student Action with Farmworkers; Suzanna Paz works at the United Nations Youth Development Program; and Erwin Galido heads the Palawan Conservation Corps in the Philippines. Many more alumni serve on the staff or boards of environmental and community organizations around the world, demonstrating that educated, empowered and supported young adults can help make the world a better, more livable place. You can read about more EarthCorps graduates in the "alumni" section of this report.

2004 heralded the launch of the Green Seattle Partnership at EarthCorps' Earth Day celebration in Cheasty Greenspace. The partnership is Mayor Greg Nickels' campaign to restore 2,500 acres of forested Seattle parklands over the next 20 years. Over the next year alone, EarthCorps will lead 100 volunteer events as part of this ambitious project. Other highlights of the year included a spectacular show of support by EarthCorps supporters who rallied to preserve funding from King County;

Five Strategic Plan Priorities

In 2004, with input from many supporters – participants, alumni, donors, partners, and staff – the Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan that sets five key organizational priorities:

- Civic engagement
- Professional expertise
- International reach
- Organizational sustainability
- Communication

a new emphasis on nearshore habitat restoration projects (see cover article); and 15 overseas volunteer work camps organized by EarthCorps alumni.

Our success is a direct reflection of a strong community of supporters like you. Your support enables EarthCorps to provide life-changing training opportunities to young leaders six days per week, fifty weeks each year. In turn, these young leaders reach out to thousands of youth and community volunteers who make a visible contribution to healthy forests, wetlands, and shoreline areas. You help create young leaders who strengthen community and responsibly steward our planet.

Thank you!

Steve and Dave



Board President, Dave Tetta, surveys ivy removal in Seward Park.

Financial Report (audited)

www.earthcorps.org

Statement of Activities

for the year ended December 31, 2004

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE			
Individual and Corporate Contributions	106,461		106,461
Foundation Grants	178,222	33,000	211,222
Other Grants	386,482	-	386,482
In Kind Contributions	793	-	793
Fundraising Event	56,873	-	56,873
Program Services	1,125,956	-	1,125,956
Interest and Other Investment Income	11,532	-	11,532
Funds Released from Restrictions	101,959	(101,959)	-
Total Revenue	1,968,278	(68,959)	1,899,319
EXPENSE			
Program Services	1,695,357	-	1,695,357
Management and General	126,426	-	126,426
Fundraising	93,409	-	93,409
Total Expense	1,915,192	-	1,915,192
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	53,086	(68,959)	(15,873)
			<i>See Note 1</i>
NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR	393,192	103,109	496,301
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	446,278	34,150	480,428

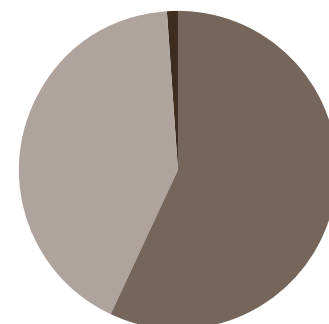
Note 1: Reduction in net assets is due to spending the surplus accumulated in prior years.

Statement of Financial Position

at December 31, 2004

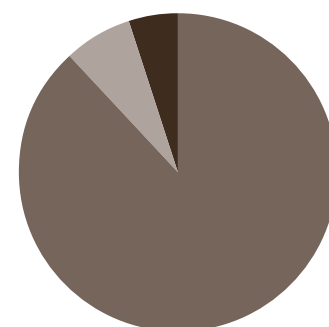
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash	252,151	24,650	276,801
			<i>See Note 2</i>
Investments	1,012	1,000	2,012
Prepaid Expenses	21,212	-	21,212
Accounts Receivable net of allowance for doubtful accounts (\$5000)	217,605	8,500	226,105
Total Current Assets	491,980	34,150	526,130
Net Property and Equipment	61,322	-	61,322
TOTAL ASSETS	553,302	34,150	587,452
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Accounts Payable	48,566	-	48,566
Payroll Liabilities	35,982	-	35,982
Vacation Pay Payable	22,476	-	22,476
Total Current Liabilities	107,024	-	107,024
Net Assets	446,278	34,150	480,428
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	553,302	34,150	587,452

Note 2: Cash includes \$100,000 reserve fund.



Revenue

- Program Revenue 57%
- Grants & Donations 42%
- Other 1%



Expenses

- Program Services 88%
- Management & General 7%
- Fundraising 5%

Empowered Youth

www.earthcorps.org

Alumni Corner

Suzana Paz to UN Youth Development

Suzana Paz is now a project manager for the United Nations in Honduras. Her experience at EarthCorps gave her the confidence to apply for this position and to stand out above a pool of 123 other applicants. Suzana is now working with youth to build their skills and find jobs when they leave the school system. "It's pretty cool, because I'm doing what I love to do."

Jammie Stauffer Returns from Philippines

After serving as an EarthCorps corps member and crew leader, Jammie Stauffer was fortunate enough to get assigned to the Palawan Conservation Corps (where EarthCorps alumnus Erwin Galido is currently Executive Director) for her two-year stint in the U.S. Peace Corps. While in the Philippines, Jammie worked with community members to restore local watersheds, protect old-growth mangroves, and propagate native hardwoods for community planting events in local villages. Now back in Seattle, Jammie has taken on the awesome responsibility of coordinating the education program for the current corps members at EarthCorps. "It's the most rewarding way for me to pay back the incredible experience and opportunities I had."



In addition to her other duties, Jammie oversees the native plant nursery at EarthCorps.

Youth Programs

EarthCorps engages youth through programs that combine experiential learning and environmental stewardship. In 2004, youth programs included:

- **School Programs:** Students at South Seattle's Dearborn Park Elementary combined forest restoration with their classroom curriculum. Students from two middle schools benefited from the new Magnuson Outdoor Learning Lab, a field based enrichment program for middle school students.

- **National Parks Programs:** EarthCorps led more than 300 students on 2-3 day environmental service learning projects in the North Cascades, Mount Rainier, and – for the first time in 2004 – San Juan Island National Historic Park.

- **Out of School Programs:** EarthCorps led after school and summer programs for young people ages 15-18 from underserved communities. They restored nearby parks and had an opportu-



Teenagers in EarthCorps' Summer Parks Corps take charge of their local green spaces. (There are nine times as many applicants as spots for this stipended summer program.)

nity to build backcountry hiking trails while learning about camping, forest management and watershed health.

- **Mountain Works Summer Youth Program:** This is a free program offered to youth (ages 11-18) through an established partnership with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Youth are led by EarthCorps crews for six days of camping, trail maintenance, logging road removal, education, and lots of fun!

An Emerging Leader

In 2004, Terrawatu sponsored Allan Alais Meing'arana Mollel – a young Tanzanian man with Maasai roots - to participate in the EarthCorps program. He was selected to be an EarthCorps Crew Leader starting in June 2005. (Excerpted from Allan's article On Becoming a Natural Man in a recent Terrawatu newsletter.)

"A crew leader position is hard and challenging. This person is responsible for leading and managing a crew of five corps members and driving a van, which is fun! Seeing the responsibilities that I will have makes me a bit scared. But I know it brings a huge change and growth in me that will help me in leading people in my country.

Six days in the field, waking up early in the morning and coming back home in the late evening is also tough and made me realize that people do not get rich as they sleep. It is a matter of working hard and devoting themselves into work.

I believe that Terrawatu can change the brown-looking villages in Tanzania into green through our Tree Planting Networks. I will be one of the pioneers of these projects by the time I am done with my training in Seattle. The knowledge and skills that I'm getting here will be helpful in consulting with and developing Terrawatu's projects in rural areas of Arusha Region. I have learned a lot during the time that I have been in the United States. I feel more close to Nature now and would love to have Tanzanian youth feel the same as I do."



Allan assisting his mother in Longido village, Tanzania with her necklaces

Healthy Habitats

www.earthcorps.org

2004 Environmental Restoration Sites

Alpine Lakes Wilderness

Auburn

Auburn Narrows
Hatchery Park
O'Grady Park
Porter Levee

Beaux Arts

Bellevue

Mercer Slough

Black Diamond

Whitney Bridge
Metzler Park

Bothell

Sammamish River Park

Burien

Seahurst Park

Carnation

McElhoe/Pearson
Oxbow Farm

Covington

Jenkins Creek Park

Enumclaw

Newaukum Creek

Federal Way

Bingaman Pond
Birch St. Oxbow
Brooklake

Goat Rocks Wilderness

Issaquah

Issaquah Creek at Dogwood
Mountains to Sound Nursery
Newport to Maple
Pickering
Sycamore wetland
Taylor Mountain
Tibbets Manor
Tiger Mountain

Kent

Wandering Creek

King County

Green River Watershed
Howard Hansen Reservoir Dam
Stewardship Sites

Kirkland

OO Denny



Lake Forest Park

Brookside

Maple Valley

Shadow Lake Bog

Marysville

Grace Creek

Mason County

Elson Creek

Maury Island

Medina

Fairweather Nature Preserve

Mercer Island

Pioneer Park

Milton

Hylebos Creek

Mt. Rainier National Park

Newcastle

Lake Boren Park

Normandy Park

The Cove

North Bend

Middle-Fork Snoqualmie River

Mt. Si

Rattlesnake Mountain

Three Forks

North Cascades National Park

Pasayten Wilderness

Redmond

Marymoor Park

Renton

Black River Riparian Forest
Elliott Bay Spawning Channel
King Conservation District Wetland
Plant Cooperative Nursery
King County Waterworks

Mouth of Cedar River at Boeing Bridge

Sammamish

Hazel Wolf wetland
King County Salvage Nursery

San Juan National Historic Park

Seattle

Camp Long
Cedar River Watershed
Central Kiwanis Ravine
Cheasty Greenspace
Colman Park
Croft Place
Dearborn Park Elementary School
Duwamish River
Fauntleroy Park
Frink Park
Genesee Park
Golden Gardens Park
Greg Davis Park
Hamilton Viewpoint
Hitt's Hill
Homewood
Interlaken Park
Kartess Park
Kimball Elementary School
Kiwanis Wildlife Corridor
Lake People Park
Leschi Open Space
Licton Springs Park
Littlebrook Tributary
Longfellow Creek
Madrona Ravine
Magnuson Park
Maple Creek Ravine
Mt. Baker Greenbelt
Pritchard Beach
Ravine in Madrona
Roxhill Park

Salmon Bay Natural Area
Seward Park
Stewardship Sites
Thornton Creek Park 6
West Duwamish Greenbelt
White Center Ponds

Snoqualmie

Snoqualmie Falls

Tacoma

Mowitch Estuary

Vashon Island

Agren Park
Pt. Robinson Park
Whispering Bog

White Center

Lakewood Park

Woodinville

Cold Creek
Sammamish @ 145th

2004 Field Accomplishments

100,000 Service hours

9,371 Volunteers

17 miles of trail maintained

56,000 plants installed

95,000 plants watered

42 acres of invasive plants removed



EarthCorps installs large woody debris to make streams more hospitable to salmon and other wildlife.

Impact

www.earthcorps.org

This work is so important...

Did you know that more than 40 great blue herons nest in Kiwanis Ravine near Discovery Park each spring? These majestic birds are the inspiration for Heron Habitat Helpers, an active community group dedicated to helping Seattlites enjoy, understand and protect the ravine and its avian inhabitants. Co-founders Heidi Carpine and Donna Kostka received the The Seattle Audubon Society 2005 Conservation Award for their work.

"EarthCorps is an integral part of our work. We recruit lots of volunteers to restore the forest on the shoulders of the ravine, but we can't work the steep slopes. We'd need extra training, hard hats, ropes, and the technical skills to deal with ivy, laurel and knotweed there. Without EarthCorps, we could not fulfill our mission. We especially appreciate the international corps members, who bring the world to our neighborhood. It helps us remember that the environment is worldwide and that we all have this common bond of caring."

— Donna Kostka and Marian Wineman, HHH



In November 2004, crew leader Ryan King and EarthCorps stabilized slopes and removed ivy in Kiwanis Ravine to protect the maple and alder trees where herons nest.

EarthCorps
LOCAL RESTORATION • GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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