

# U of W Restoration Ecology Network RFP Form

**Question 1.** Client Name:

Bonnie Miller

**Question 2.** Organization:

Yesler Creek Headwaters Reforestation Project

**Question 3.** E-mail address:

Bmiller@serv.net

**Question 4.** Phone number:

206-524-8713

**Question 5.** FAX:

N/a

**Question 6.** Mailing Address:

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Seattle, WA 98115-7618

**Question 7.** Name of Project:

Yesler Creek Headwaters Reforestation Project

**Question 8.** Site Location (city, county, watershed, cross-streets, section, township, range):

YCHR Project is located in northeast Seattle, King County, SW 10 25 04. The Park property sits in a triangle bound on the southeast by Sand Point Way NE, with Burke Gilman Village Apartments on the east, to the north by the Burke Gilman Trail just south of NE 55<sup>th</sup> St, and on the west by 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE (map attached).

**Question 9.** Site Description: (Size of project area, topography, watershed positioning, level of disturbance, existing land use):

Yesler Creek Headwaters is defined as the wooded natural area approximately 3.4 acres in size, nestled within the boundaries of Burke-Gilman Playground Park, a 7.1 acre active recreation park with picnic and basketball facilities. The student group will choose from one of two ½ acre sites within the natural area that have been prioritized for restoration based on Parks management goals.

Yesler Creek Headwaters is a shallow ravine divided in half by an east-west berm with access road. The bottom of the ravine sits at approximately 80 ft and slopes top out at 100 ft above sea level. At one time, it was all one ravine but in the early 1980's, fill was used to divide the ravine in half and provide a surface for a service road to the adjacent apartment complex. The ravine is highly disturbed and heavily invaded with English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. Dominant canopy cover is alder and cottonwood, both in decline. Seattle Public Utilities has invested in several drainage projects at the site, as have adjacent landowners. It appears that the ravine once fed into Lake Washington, however a documented history of the development of the ravine is not available at this time.

The ravine is in a context of mixed use residential development, the broad surrounding community being single-family homes, while immediately adjacent to the ravine is a number of varied high-density residential complexes, many with special-needs residents. Active dumping of both trash and yard waste by immediately adjacent neighbors is a problem for the ravine.

**Question 10.** Project Goals & Objectives (What is to be accomplished and why):

This project has three main goals with objectives following each goal here:

**1. Explore the history of development and drainage at the ravine to inform restoration possibilities.**

- Gather historical records of the site related to drainage projects
- Collect and analyze soil samples to assess current condition
- Monitor water depth and movement at the site

**2. Develop an implementation plan to clear the site of invasive plants and plant with appropriate native species.**

- Develop design/build planting plan relying on SUNP data and WA DNR Chappelle plant palettes

**3. Implement design/build project**

- Coordinate project schedule with Friends of and Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Work with Friends and Seattle Parks to get materials (plants, mulch) on site
- Recruit volunteers and lead at least two volunteer events to implement project

**Question 11.** Deliverables (What are the deliverables you expect from the UW-REN student Group):

1. Report detailing drainage history, current water and soil conditions and recommendations for future plant communities at the site.
2. Brief Design/Build Implementation Plan (2 pages or less)
3. Installation of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of an appropriate native plant community in the ravine.

**Question 12.** Reference Material (what reference information can be provided to assist in the research and development of the project goals/ baseline data, reports, site reconnaissance information):

Students will have access to the GIS system and data layers at Parks Horticulture and Forestry facility at 1600 S Dakota by appointment. Layers include Lidar-derived canopy and topographic data, Seattle Urban Nature Project habitat assessment vegetation layers, streets, parcels, etc. Seattle Parks Urban Forester is available for consultation regarding site goals and objectives and may be reached at 206.233.5019.

#### SPU Maps

"The Flora of Seattle in 1850: Major Species and Landscapes Prior to Urban Development" with a map from the Government Land Office survey records.

**Question 13.** Volunteer Resources (If volunteers are going to assist in aspects of the project does your organization have access to a volunteer resource pool):

Friends of lead Bonnie Miller is a dedicated Forest Steward and has lead multiple volunteer events at this and other sites throughout the City for more than ten years. Bonnie is available to help the students develop a plan for volunteer events and can guide students to volunteer resources. This site does not have a large, local volunteer force and students are expected to recruit for events for this site. Local neighborhood recruitment strategies are preferred to bringing in an outside group for a one-of event.

**Question 14.** Other Relevant Information:

Some project goals may not be accomplished without the use of materials prohibited by volunteers including mechanized equipment and herbicide. Seattle Parks Natural Area Crew is available to assist the project in these areas. Please contact Parks Urban Forester at 206.233.5019 to arrange for crew assistance on this project. Natural Area Crew work should be incorporated in the Implementation Plan.

This project is in the context of the Green Seattle Partnership's 20 Year Plan for restoring 2500 acres of urban forest by year 2025. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with the Green Seattle Partnership 20 Year plan found at [www.greenseattle.org](http://www.greenseattle.org).