



Autumn
2004:
Community
Partnerships
in Action



The Source of Homewaters Project

~North Seattle Community College & Wetland Mapping~

Looking for an exercise route or nature walk in the north end of town? You may not realize it, but Homewaters Project's headquarters, North Seattle Community College (NSCC), has a restored wetland on campus. Coming this fall, 6 welcome signs, 12 points of interest and 1/10 mile markers will all be posted on campus. You can choose the long route (1.6 miles), medium route (1.25 miles), or meander through restored wetlands on both the north and south ends of campus.

Homewaters Project is under the umbrella of the NSCC Foundation and is housed on the NSCC campus, and has worked closely with the community college to create a map for the wetland trail system. Creating the map involved partnering with not just NSCC, but also Seattle Public Utilities and the University of Washington Department of Geography.

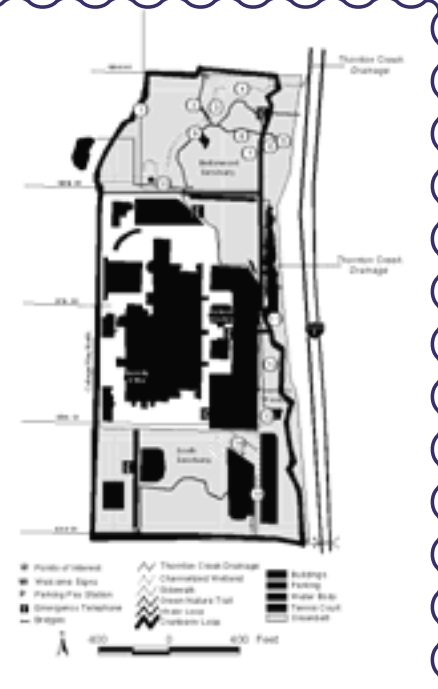
Four UW Geography students - Kelly Schneider, Man Wang, Matthew Warren, and Elise Bowditch - worked with Sharon London to create most of the greenbelt map. They not only received course credit, but also gained valuable experience working with a non-profit and satisfaction from helping their community. In exchange Homewaters got the extra help needed to get the map off the drawing board and into the wetland.

Michael Brokaw, NSCC Grounds Supervisor, says the wetland trail map and signage is a long awaited event. "Since the early '90's, I have dreamed of a trail system with supporting maps and signs to educate the public about our wetlands and their relationship to the downstream Thornton Creek community. Many creek people have volunteered over the years, helping to plant trees, grub out ivy, and clear trails through the campus greenbelt and the Bartonwood Sanctuary. Now, thanks to our partnership with Homewaters, we are able to press ahead creating maps and signs that improve the public education value of the campus greenbelt."

"It was exciting to work with so many diverse partners in the community to create a product that we can all benefit from," says London. "The educational value of the greenbelt trail map will extend the cooperation we experienced into the entire community."

Don't take our word for it, visit this great new trail system yourself!

North Campus Greenbelt Trails



Our Mission:

"To develop an engaged and informed citizenry by connecting people to nature and each other in the context of their home communities."

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

Homewaters Project
discovery • linking • community
North Seattle Community College
Science and Math Division
9600 College Way North
Seattle, WA 98103-3599

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Not Just a Drop in the Bucket

Your **support** of Homewaters makes all the difference, however it comes. As a small organization, **every drop counts**. Please consider jump-starting our year with a donation to help connect students to their home place.

And remember your support can come in many forms:

- ◆ Financial
- ◆ Time
- ◆ Skills
- ◆ Gifts

Homewaters Project is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization under the umbrella of the North Seattle Community College Foundation; all donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks out to *NSCC Foundation*, with *Homewaters Project* in the memo.

Thanks to:
Sky Nursery

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
for their recent support!



Coming this Fall . . .

Northeast Seattle History House
November 6, 2004 - January 30th, 2005
History House of Greater Seattle

Homewaters will be featured at the History House's Northeast Seattle neighborhood exhibit this fall. Stop by their hall in Fremont (790 N. 34th St.) to learn about our home neighborhood and our past.

Tiny Neighbors Teacher Training
October 19, 2004 4:15-7:15pm
North Seattle Community College

Homewaters will train 5th grade teachers in designing field investigations that explore local ponds and lakes, complementing the inquiry-based microworlds science unit. Contact Linda Versage to sign up.



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Send Your
Email

Stay connected to us with our new e-newsletter. By sending your email address to us today, you can receive this occasional and brief electronic newsletter. Please send emails to homewaters@sccd.etc.edu.

Inside Homewaters Project

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- ◆ Executive Director
Sharon London
- ◆ Schools Coordinator
Linda Versage
- ◆ Outreach Coordinator
Todd Burley
- ◆ History Coordinator
Bob Lapsley
(Lakeside School)

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A.J. Skurdal, Community Volunteer
Sam Stalin, Northgate Mall



Tiny Neighbors... "Teaming" with Life

Homewaters Project excels at assisting schools with opportunities that extend classroom learning to the real world. We do this by developing closely woven relationships with key players in schools and at the district level. A perfect melding of this type of partnership occurs with the Seattle School District (SSD).

Several years ago the SSD contacted Homewaters (then Thornton Creek Project) and asked us to work with them in developing a field program that would complement Microworlds, the inquiry-based 5th grade science unit that teaches students about microscopes, cells and microorganisms.

The product of our team approach is Tiny Neighbors, a program that supports teachers and students in designing their own field investigation to explore local ponds or lakes and the microscopic life that resides in the water world.

The support provided includes teacher training, planning advice, lessons, student assessments, equipment loans and field assistance. Homewaters now implements most of Tiny Neighbors, yet we could not do it without the support of the SSD. Kathryn Show, SSD's Elementary Science Consultant, is instrumental in recruiting teachers, offering advice and assisting with training and equipment distribution.

The soul of the partnership, however, is with the passionate and adventurous teachers who do Tiny Neighbors. This program is logistically intensive, yet the rewards for students are enormous!! Van Asselt teacher, Nancy Howard sent us this note last spring:

"The kids stayed very engaged during the afternoon investigations and we found LOTS of cool stuff. I can't think of many other activities that would have "grabbed" them this late in the year. Thanks again for your help."

Our focus for Tiny Neighbors in 2004-05 is to encourage trained teachers to do a field investigation, train a few more new teachers and to evaluate how to improve the program.

If you have already been trained and are interested in doing an investigation, OR if you would like to attend the next training on October 19th, contact Linda Versage, Homewaters Project's Schools Coordinator at 526-0187 or lversage@sccd.ctc.edu.



Van Asselt students meet their "Tiny Neighbors" up close last spring.



Building Community Through History



Rich history abounds in all Seattle's neighborhoods. These pictures of the Rainier and La Villa Dairies remind us of a time when people were more connected to their food's source.

www.historylink.org

This past summer, four social science teachers at Washington MS adapted Homewaters' Exploring Local History curriculum for their 8th grade classes, with support from Bob Lapsley. The teachers came up with the idea for students to adopt different sections of the Jackson Street corridor. Students will become experts in different subjects by conducting interviews with residents and businesses, researching data, creating maps, drawings, and taking or collecting photographs.

This unit relies on student initiative, curiosity, and detective work, as well as outside classwork – supporting the inquiry focus of Homewaters Project and strengthening local communities. The unit culminates in a Local History celebration, where members of the community gather and hear presentations from the students about their research, putting together a jigsaw of the community at large.

The Washington MS teachers - Rik Katz, Lisa Becerra, Kathy O'Leary, and Stella Bass - developed parts of the curriculum over the summer, and they will collaborate with each other, Lakeside School and Homewaters Project to finalize their lessons. All told, at least 150 students will explore their local history at Washington Middle School this year, with more adding to this tapestry of community education in the future.

Imagine 8th grade students interviewing neighbors to learn about their community's history, visiting museums or online resources to find pictures of what it used to look like, and discussing how their home might look in the future. Soon this type of place-based citizenship will be a reality with Homewaters Project's new integrated history program.

Since its beginnings as Thornton Creek Project, Homewaters Project has always valued place-based education. Homewaters' Exploring Local History (ELH) program, initiated by Bob Lapsley (a teacher at Lakeside School), is now expanding to other watersheds. Originally focused on the Thornton Creek watershed (see our Exploring Local History website <http://northonline.sccd.ctc.edu/cl/elh/index.htm>), the ELH program is now incorporating the West Lake Washington watershed at Washington Middle School in south Seattle.

This past summer, four social science teachers at Washington MS adapted



Homewaters is Named Youth Green Map Hub for Seattle!

This summer, the international Green Map System named Homewaters Project the hub for Seattle youth green mapping. With ties to schools, community groups, government agencies and businesses, Homewaters is uniquely situated to provide guidance to Seattle-area youth using the Green Map System.

In addition, Homewaters received a Bill Wright Community Technology Matching Fund Grant from the City of Seattle to create Green Maps with students from both Cleveland High School and Nathan Hale High School. Using GIS technology, students will identify new connections to their communities. This recent award recognizes the success of our Community Mapping Program, which continues to grow.



Learn about Homewaters Project's own history at the Northeast Seattle History House this Autumn.

Education Advisory Council

Homewaters Project has started the 2004-5 school year by seeking advice on how to improve and evaluate our programs from a variety of professionals in the community. The Education Advisory Council will convene for the 2004-5 school year to ensure all our programs better connect students to their local communities, and fulfill our mission and goals. To learn more contact the Homewaters Project office at (206) 526-0187.