



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of this project?

The project will restore native habitat, improve stormwater filtration, and reclaim the Kilbourne ravine as a natural amenity in the community.

Why is it necessary?

Wild clematis (old man's beard), Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and other invasive plants in the ravine have been a problem for many years. They have forced out almost all the native-plant species that benefit wildlife and provide a natural filter for stormwater runoff into Fauntleroy Creek. The wind has been carrying clematis seeds to nearby properties, where this insidious vine has gained a foothold.

When will the project start and how long will it take?

June 2014 is the target date. The bulk of the project will take about three years because much of the work will be seasonal; herbicide treatments must be done in the spring and new plants must be installed in the fall. Then for three more years, a crew will return periodically to weed/treat tenacious invasives and replace any plants that didn't survive.

Will I know when work is about to be done?

We will email or call you before each major work period so that you will know when a crew will be working in the ravine near your property.

How is the project funded?

With support from Seattle Public Utilities, we received nearly \$50,000 in grant funding from the King Conservation District for the first four years of the project and have the option of returning for another two years of funding. We also received \$5,000 from the Rose Foundation, an environmental-mitigation fund.

Who is "we"?

The Fauntleroy Watershed Council is working side by side with Seattle Parks and Recreation so that the project will encompass the entire ravine (Kilbourne Park, undeveloped city right-of-way, and private slopes).

Who is the contractor?

EarthCorps, the same organization that has done the "heavy lifting" to restore the entire Fauntleroy Creek system, is the contractor. You may read about this international training program at www.earthcorps.org. EarthCorps has assigned a crew chief to lead a team of trainees (usually six people). The crew chief is responsible for training crewmembers while doing the work, using techniques that have proven effective on many similar projects. Seattle Parks will be selecting its own contractor for Kilbourne Park and the two contractors will coordinate.

What will EarthCorps be doing?

EarthCorps has created a revegetation plan and established procedures for monitoring plant survival and invasive return. On the ground, the crew will use a combination of hand weeding, small equipment, and state-approved herbicide to clear the ravine, area by area, of invasive trees, shrubs, vines, and groundcovers. As it goes, the crew will compost debris on site and revegetate each area with a variety of native plants suited to soil, water, and light conditions. To prevent erosion, the crew will use stabilizing techniques when working on slopes and avoid working in any area especially prone to landslide.

Will work be done in my yard?

No. Work will be done only on the sloped portion of your property and in the base of the ravine.

My slope is mostly ivy. Will all the ivy be removed?

No. In several slope locations, EarthCorps will remove a patch of ivy a few feet in diameter and plant a tree in the middle that has already gained several feet in height. The crew will then cover exposed soil with erosion-control webbing and top that with mulch. This strategy protects new trees from ivy long enough for the tree canopy to develop, making the area too shady for ivy to thrive again.

Won't clematis and other invasives simply re-establish themselves over time?

With sufficient shade from native trees and shrubs, the ravine will no longer be a hospitable habitat for clematis, blackberry, and other sun-loving invasives. Native species that have demonstrated their ability to discourage invasives in nearby Fauntleroy Park will be used throughout the Kilbourne ravine. Because clematis seeds can remain viable in the duff for up to six years, we have included a three-year monitoring period, for a total of six years, and will rely on that monitoring to inform any post-project decisions. Seattle Parks will be doing the same, using a combination of contractor and city crews.

Will I be liable for any accidents or damage?

No. EarthCorps has the necessary liability insurance to protect its crew and a wealth of experience to protect your property throughout the course of this project. Also, we will satisfy all terms of permits that the city and state have required for work in the ravine.

Will I need to provide crew access through my yard?

No

Will the project create public access into the ravine?

No

Will I have any responsibility after the project is over?

A bit. You will need to conserve the ravine portion of your property in its natural, restored state. We'll also ask you to do the same thing we've asked other ravine neighbors to do: Pull any wild clematis that might pop up in your yard and avoid planting any noxious plant species or species of concern on your property. See those lists at www.kingcounty.gov/weeds.

How can I keep informed?

We are posting project information at www.fauntleroywatershed.org. In addition, you are welcome to contact either of the following project volunteers:

Judy Pickens, 938-4203 or judy_pickens@msn.com

Peggy Cummings, 932-8755 or peggyc@seanet.com