Alex Scott, City of Vancouver

Alex Scott is a Planner at the City of Vancouver in the Green Infrastructure Implementation Branch, focusing on the design and implementation of rainwater management practices in the right-of-way. She has worked on multiple complex, high-profile blue green systems projects in Vancouver, creating beneficial places for people, plants, and animals. Alex holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of British Columbia.

Alex Takagi-Stewart , Sustainability Ambassadors

Alex Takagi-Stewart, a rising senior at Tesla STEM High School, is driven to learn as much as he can about incorporating sustainable practices into the Engineering Design Process. Winning multiple awards for his research in aerospace engineering at the regional and state science fairs, Alex is passionate about working toward a career in the engineering field within a sustainability mindset.

Alice Lancaster, Herrera Environmental Consultants

Alice is a civil engineer at Herrera with expertise in integrated stormwater planning and green infrastructure. Her work centers on optimization of green and gray approaches to stormwater management with an eye towards community benefits and equity, including community-based public-private partnerships. She is currently helping to deliver Seattle's RainCity Partnership Program and supporting the WA State Department of Ecology Technical Assistance/Grant Program to increase our local governments' capacity to implement performance-based contracting and CBP3s.

Alisa M. O'Hanlon Regala, Metro Parks Tacoma

Alisa is the Strategic Planning Manager for Parks Tacoma leading analysis of the needs expected to be served by the parks system, identifying and advancing key strategies to develop a responsive system, and leading the organization in ensuring its practices adhere to the highest standards of operation in the parks and recreation industry as established by the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). Prior to joining Parks Tacoma, Alisa held leadership roles in various local non-profit organizations and, most immediately, served the City of Tacoma for fifteen years in government relations focused primarily on supporting the Mayor and Council in cultivating their relationships with the Federal government and with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Amanda Barnett, City of Seattle

Amanda is the Liaison between Seattle Parks and Recreation and Seattle Public Utilities, celebrating the nexus of water, cities, and people. She has worked as an engineer and planner in the public and private sectors in the Pacific Northwest. Her background includes work, research, and advocacy committed to local and regional urban environments, with a focus on sustainable infrastructure, ecosystem restoration, environmental and transportation justice, and water equity.

Amanda holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering, a Master of City Planning, and Professional Certificates in Green Stormwater Infrastructure and New Media Studies.

Amy Kuhl, World Relief

Amy is a lover of people, nature, art, and extra dark chocolate. For the past two and a half years she has managed World Relief Western Washington's Resiliency Programs, following her passion to walk alongside people and communities as they grow towards a place of thriving. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan holding an M.A. in Liberal Studies and has spent the majority of her careers overseas as a humanitarian supporting displaced people as they moved forward after war and disaster.

April Mendez, Greenprint Partners

As a co-founder of the firm, April brings her expertise as a community organizer and educator to advocate for and develop community-centered, equitable approaches to the planning, design and implementation of climate resiliency solutions. She has over 20 years of experience working closely with residents and community-based organizations to augment their capacity to lead on environmental and social issues.

Prior to founding Greenprint, April dedicated 13 years to building Interfaith America, a national nonprofit that inspires, equips and connects leaders and institutions to unlock the potential of America's religious diversity. She began her career as a grassroots community organizer and founded an organization dedicated to developing social entrepreneurship amongst Black and Latinx youth on Chicago's West Side.

April earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Carleton College and completed coursework towards her Master of Business Administration at Northwestern University focusing on social innovation. She is an Advisory Board member for the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure.

Austeen Pradhan, World Relief

Austeen Pradhan is a Mechanical Engineer student at the University of Washington, with passion for working and building automotive vehicles. Outside of academics, he enjoys playing guitar, whether it's learning new songs or creating his own music. Soccer is another big part of his life, both as a player and a fan. Austeen is also dedicated to community work, finding ways to give back and make a positive impact.

Bernie Alonzo, Herrera Environmental Consultants

Bernie Alonzo, Associate Landscape Architect, has 29 years designing, collaborating, leading, and managing client and consultant teams through complex processes to create highly functional, beautiful, and dynamic landscapes. His expertise ranges from planning and conceptual design to plans, specifications, and estimates. Bernie's process is focused on delivering well-crafted, ecologically resilient, healthy landscapes. His technical experience bridges the gap between ideas and constructible, maintainable landscapes. Bernie has contributed to transformative projects in Seattle including the Washington State Convention Center expansion, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Lower Rainier Vista at the University of Washington.

Bob Spencer, City of Seattle

Bob Spencer has worked in salmon and creek restoration, stormwater, and citizen stewardship and education for over 30 years. He is currently a line of business representative for Seattle Public Utilities working on projects involving green stormwater infrastructure, fish passable culvert replacement, and floodplain reconnection on south Seattle creeks. Bob also supports workforce development programs, and is the liaison for Seattle Opportunity Work Corps with partners Seattle Jobs Initiative and the Machinists Institute.

Brenda Gardner, CIS

I am a civil engineer with 15 years of experience in stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, specializing in strategic planning, design, and program management. My work is rooted in collaboration, bringing people together to create solutions that are both technically sound and community-driven.

I believe that trust and strong relationships are the foundation of meaningful projects. With experience in both consulting and public service, I work at the intersection of engineering and equity, ensuring that infrastructure investments reflect community priorities. My passion lies in bridging technical expertise with local knowledge to build resilient, inclusive, and lasting solutions.

Cari Simson, Urban Systems Design LLC

Cari Simson founded the award-winning consulting firm, Urban Systems Design LLC (USD) in 2009. USD provides collaborative, whole systems approaches to improving public engagement outcomes for wastewater and stormwater planning, workforce development, project delivery, and partnership development. Cari also co-founded the River Access Paddle Program on the Duwamish River, and is co-producer of the Invisible Histories podcast.

Christian Nilsen, Geosyntec Consultants

Christian Nilsen is a hydrologist with over two decades of experience specializing in stormwater management, water quality, and watershed planning. He has overseen numerous watershed management plans for a variety of clients at local, state, and federal levels. Recognized for his contributions to stormwater infrastructure and watershed management, Christian has helped develop new tools and methodologies to enhance watershed decision-making processes.

He has served as technical advisor to several statewide efforts such as the Washington State Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, the Puget Sound Partnership's Toxics in Fish Workgroup, and Ecology's 6PPD-Q Spatial Technical Advisory Committee. He has also provided his expertise to the City of San Francisco's Green Infrastructure Advisory Panel, helping shape the city's Green Infrastructure Plan.

David Burger, Stewardship Partners

David Burger joined Stewardship Partners as executive director in 2000 and has over 30 years of experience working on community-based salmon recovery and managing nonprofit organizations. David focuses on working cooperatively with various stakeholders and developing and fostering relationships with private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats and advance green infrastructure while maintaining the economic viability of small businesses and farms. David has developed several conservation programs that solve emerging critical environmental challenges.

Deb Guenther, Mithun

Deb Guenther is a partner and landscape architect at Mithun, an integrated design firm with offices in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles, who is committed to connecting people with their surroundings and each other. Her work with site sustainability and community resilience is focused on collaborating with neighborhood-based leaders to create a more equitable and inclusive built environment. Deb serves on the board of the Seattle Parks Foundation and the Just Growth advisory council for the Partnership for Southern Equity, working to create actionable and sustainable solutions that establish equity and racial justice for disinvested communities of color.

Demarus Tevuk, Seattle Indian Services Commission

Demarus Tevuk is an Inupiaq woman from Nome, Alaska and as a consultant she specializes in community engagement projects for the Seattle urban Native community. Her reports utilize Indigenous research methodology and her work Indigenizes processes by centering cultural values and uplifting traditional knowledge. She is also an environmental educator with expertise in traditional ecological knowledge, native plants, and native pollinators. Demarus earned her degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington and she enjoys sharing her capstone research on the definition of traditional sustainable values and sustainability from the Indigenous perspective.

Dustin Atchison, Jacobs

Dustin is Jacobs' Global Principal for Stormwater and Watershed Management with over 24 years of experience (16+ at Jacobs/CH2M) in water resources and stormwater management. Mr. Atchison is a recognized regional and national leader in green infrastructure with project management and technical expertise in development of master plans, guidelines, education and implementation of stormwater solutions that bring multiple benefits to communities. Additionally, Dustin enjoys extending this skillset to ecosystem restoration projects including stream and wetland restoration and culvert fish passage replacement projects.

Dylan Ahearn, Herrera Environmental Consultants

Dr. Dylan Ahearn is a hydrologist who has spent the past 20 years studying the environmental consequences of human alteration to aquatic systems. He is currently Director of Science with Herrera Environmental Consultants and an adjunct professor of Geology at Edmonds College. Dylan helps his clients conduct research on pollutants of emerging concern with a particular focus on Green Stormwater Infrastructure and stormwater treatment research and development.

Ella K Sandquist, SALMON-SAFE

Ella Sandquist serves as the Director of Salmon-Safe Puget Sound, bringing a wealth of experience in Business Development and Marketing within the environmental consulting and construction sectors. With an expansive network spanning the Pacific Northwest's Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) community, Ella is deeply rooted in her native Washington state, having spent her formative years sailing the waters of the Salish Sea with her family. Ella's has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from The Evergreen State College. She embarked on her career in the field of environmental forensic consulting and that led her to a career in Business Development and Marketing. Ella is devoted to forming collaborative partnerships with developers, architects, designers, and general contractors. Her primary objective is to champion and integrate Salmon-Safe standards into urban development projects, contributing to the sustainability and ecological preservation of the region.

Ellen Southard, Site Story LLC

Ellen is the founder of Site Story, a firm dedicated to social and environmental impact that supports healthy vibrant communities. Site Story works at the nexus of human ecology, green building and community planning. With a B.A, in History and an M.A. In Diversity and Social Inclusion, Ellen has created a unique niche of facilitating and engaging the public in planning processes through a comprehensive understanding of the built and un-built environment. Her work emphasizes co-creation with stakeholders as the lead planners. She has worked on green infrastructure low impact development projects for over 20 years. Ellen is Vice Chair of Puget Sound Partnerships Ecosystems Coordination Board. She is also an Oxfam America Ambassador addressing human rights and climate resiliency policy across the U.S.

Fatima Alsinai, City of Tacoma

Fatima is a Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Washington, currently working as an Environmental Scientist for the City of Tacoma. Her research focuses on developing methods to extract 6ppd-quinone from soil, contributing to environmental remediation efforts. Fatima also has experience in Plastic Waste-to-Pyrolysis Oil Conversion, optimizing processes to treat the main products of plastic pyrolysis—light oil, medium oil, and heavy oil—while advancing sustainable solutions for waste management and the circular economy.

Gladys Ly-Au Young, Side x Side Architects

Gladys Ly-Au Young is a founding partner of the Seattle firm, Side x Side Architects (formally SKL Architects). SxS is working on changing the practice as normal by broadening the spectrum of architectural services, to promote community focused design, that supports equity and sustainability in the built environment.

Gladys' work is focused on the under-served population in the mission-driven sectors, including affordable housing, community and cultural spaces, K-12 education, and social supportive services. She is known for creating engaging, uplifting, energy efficient and toxic-free community landmarks, including the White Center HUB Community Center and Housing, Othello's U-lex Limited Equity Cooperative Homeownership housing, and Friends of Little Sài Gòn Cultural and Economic Center.

She held a Graduate Certificate in Social Justice from Harvard University Extension School, an MS in Sustainable Design from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Bachelor of Architecture from Washington State University. She has been practicing architecture at the intersection of design, sustainability, and equity for 30 years.

Gladys served on the 2022-2024 International Living Future Institute Organizational Equity TAG, and currently Council President of the Cultural Space Agency, on the Seattle 2030 District's Board of Directors and Housing Development Consortium's Sustainable Buildings Core Strategy Group.

Hannah Kett, The Nature Conservancy

Hannah currently serves as the Urban Program Director at The Nature Conservancy in Washington, where she has the opportunity to collaborate with communities and those working on the ground to support community resiliency. Her focus includes urban forestry and green infrastructure workforce development as well as supporting capacity building with organizations interested in pursuing and managing public funding. Hannah values the opportunity to work with community-shaped and implemented projects that are grounded in equity and result in healthy spaces for people and the broader environment.

Heidi Horlacher, City of Vancouver

Heidi Horlacher is a Senior Environmental Geoscientist with the City of Vancouver, Canada where she leads the Rain City Strategy's Streets and Public Spaces Action Plan, aimed at accelerating the City's adoption of Green Rainwater Infrastructure. With over 20 years of professional experience, Heidi is passionate about fostering equitable, livable and joyful communities through enhanced environmental outcomes. She serves on the executive committee for the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange and has held the position of Local Government representative for the Society of Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals of British Columbia. Heidi's commitment to environmental stewardship continues to drive her impactful work on nature-based solutions in Vancouver and beyond.

Isabelle Massoudi , Sustainability Ambassadors

Isabelle Massoudi is a junior at Roosevelt High School in Seattle and an active member of the Envirothon club. She is studying AP Environmental Science, where she worked on the GSI Project and Sacred Waters unit. In her free time, Isabelle enjoys hiking and biking on the Burke Gilman Trail with friends.

Jean Jensen, CIS

Jean is a Project Manager for Community Outreach and Grant Fundraising for CIS's Seattle Team and for RainCity Partnerships. Jean began her career in the nonprofit sector, where she built partnerships with community based organizations and led business development efforts to support the mission of accounting for the benefits of nature. Jean is passionate about working with communities to build equitable climate resilience.

Jenna Leverich , Sustainability Ambassadors

Jenna Leverich, is a recent graduate from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology. She is Sustainability Ambassadors' Communications Coordinator responsible for managing content marketing campaigns, curating problem-based curriculum using real-world local resources, and mentoring middle school and high school youth in project management and impact storytelling skills. She leverages her marine biology background to help students connect to their watershed and the salmon that inhabit it.

John Phillips, Parametrix

John has been working in the water industry since 1999 and is the Director of Integrated Watershed Management with Parametrix. John has experience in emergency planning, long range planning, climate change science, climate adaptation, wet weather issues, green infrastructure and co-benefit analysis. John has an extensive background in climate adaptation and applying climate science to pro-active actions. John has spent many hours working with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group scoping specific studies to better understand how science impacts urban planning and utility planning. John's work has been featured in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report and the 2014 National Climate Assessment. In addition to climate adaptation, John has been a national leader in the use of green infrastructure for addressing combined sewer overflows (CSO) and integrating green infrastructure into long-term CSO control plans.

Kate Sievers

Kate (Katherine) Sievers (she/her) is an environmental engineer with The Nature Conservancy. She provides technical, project-based leadership and support to design, test and implement nature-based solutions that address challenging societal and conservation issues. Her current projects focus on accelerating Green Infrastructure in the Puget Sound region. Prior to working in conservation, she served in the US Air Force as a Bioenvironmental Engineer for 10 years.

Kevin Burrell, City of Seattle

Kevin Burrell is a Senior Policy Manager for Seattle Public Utilities. His team oversees SPU's Beyond Code incentive program which provides funding and technical assistance to community groups, nonprofit organizations, developers, and partner agencies to upscale their stormwater projects and incorporate roadway runoff into their designs. Prior to joining SPU, Kevin was the Deputy Director of Seattle's Office of Economic Development and the Executive Director of ECOSS, a South Seattle-based non-profit that focuses on engaging immigrant and refugee communities to promote environmental justice and sustainability. Kevin has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from Western Washington University.

Lucas McClish, World Relief

Lucas McClish has been working with refugees and immigrants in South King County for over 6 years as the Community Garden Coordinator for World Relief Western Washington. He has a B.S. in Environmental Science and spent his years before World Relief building stormwater treatment systems across Western WA, leading youth conservation crews in Colorado, and working on international agricultural projects. Outside of work, he continues his own backyard vegetable growing operation and enjoys nearly every form outdoor recreation ranging from the mountains to the sea.

Madison Bristol, Washington State Department of Ecology

As a 6PPD Stormwater Planner, Madison represents the Washington Department of Ecology and is one of the agency's lead planners addressing 6PPD. They hold a Master of Public Administration, Master of Marine Affairs, B.S. in Environmental Science, and a B.A. in Dance from the University of Washington. Their work and life experiences reflect their passions for Indigenous sovereignty, community-based climate resilience, and collaborative governance centered in the Pacific Northwest – their lifelong home.

Margot Walker, Lotus Water

Margot has been water resource planner for over 15 years on both east and west coasts. After spending 12 years in the public sector, she became a consultant with Lotus Water in 2021. One of Margot's primary interests is providing owner services for program development for scaling and expanding capacity for delivery of water quality and drainage solutions, particularly in the urban context. As a former public sector manager, Margot understands the balance of regulatory compliance, capital planning, and smart policy to provide cost-effective solutions that can deliver multiple benefits to infrastructure and community.

Marianna Makowska, Sustainability Ambassadors

Marianna Makowska is a senior at Lake Washington High School in Kirkland where she is the president of her School Green Team. She moved from Poland to America in 2023 and discovered her passion for environmental sustainability. Outside of school she is a member of the Sustainability Ambassadors where she is a Water Systems Intern in collaboration with Cascade Water Alliance.

Mark Grey, Stephen C. Grey & Associates L.L.C.

Founder & President of Clean Lake Union, Partner at HessCallahanGrey Group, and Principal at Stephen C. Grey & Associates

Mark Grey has 25+ years of experience developing deep green, speculative commercial buildings and is the visionary founder of Clean Lake Union (CLU), a nonprofit organization tackling Seattle's most pressing environmental issue: untreated stormwater runoff.

Mason Bowles, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Mason Bowles is a professional wetland scientist, restoration ecologist, planner, program and project manager. He manages the King County Wetlands Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program. Current projects include the publication of a new comprehensive geospatial inventory of King County wetlands, and the Climate-Smart project to identify native plants adapted to the climate future. For twenty-two years he worked on habitat restoration projects where he planned, designed, and managed a variety of small and large river, wetland and shoreline creation and restoration projects in King County and Seattle. Mason has collaborated closely with the UW's Green Futures Lab on constructed floating wetland demonstration and research projects as lead designer and co-investigator.

Matthew Kelley, University of Washington

Dr. Matthew Kelley is an urban geographer, cartographer, and participatory mapping enthusiast focused on spatial intelligence, youth engagement, and community-driven planning. He is the Director of the Action Mapping Project (AMP) at the University of Washington Tacoma, where he also teaches and leads the university's Geospatial Sciences programs. Through AMP, Dr. Kelley has pioneered youth-centered participatory mapping, engaging over 20,000 students in producing high-resolution spatial data that informs municipal planning, transportation safety, and public space investment. His work is used by agencies such as the City of Tacoma, Parks Tacoma, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to incorporate youth perspectives into decision-making.

Matthew Siddons, Snohomish County, WA

Matthew Siddons is a Senior Planner in the Long Range Planning Division with Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS). Matthew has been with the County for over 3 years, and has had the opportunity to work on several projects with a focus on land use planning in preparation of Sound Transit's Everett Link light rail extension. This includes the new Urban Core Subarea Plan Element that was part of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, and new Mixed Use Corridor (MUC) and Light Rail Community (LRC) zones for the County's Development Code. Prior to his employment with Snohomish County, Matthew worked as a Current Planner for the City of Fort Saskatchewan in AB, Canada.

Miranda Redinger, Sound Transit

Miranda Redinger is a Development Manager for Sound Transit, focused on the Everett Link Extension and Model Code Partnership. Prior to coming to Sound Transit in 2019, she worked for the City of Shoreline as a Senior Planner. She managed subarea planning for two light rail stations that opened in August 2024 as part of the Lynnwood Link Extension. She also co-chaired the City's Green Team and managed implementation of the Deep Green Incentive Program and Shoreline becoming the first Salmon-Safe certified city in the State of Washington.

Nathan Polanski, MIG

Nathan has 18 years of experience planning and designing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) for public projects. His work spans a range of project types, including transportation corridors and public parks. He specializes in integrating GSI solutions that accommodate all users, work with existing infrastructure systems and are designed for operations and maintenance. Nathan applies valuable experience coordinating with multiple agencies, stakeholders, and the public to bring high-performing, feasible designs to completion and has experience GSI construction administration.

Puja Kashyap, KPFF Consulting Engineers

Puja Kashyap has 25 years of civil engineering experience and a special interest in stormwater management, community parks, and sustainable design. She works closely with owners, developers, architects, and other clients from the project's early planning stages through construction. Where others see challenges, Puja sees unique opportunities to think outside the box and achieve creative solutions.

Rachael Meyer, Weber Thompson

Rachael Meyer, Director of Sustainability and Landscape Architecture Principal at Weber Thompson, champions the firm's commitment to sustainable urban development. Rachael has helped strengthen the integration of health and wellness, biophilia and stormwater management into the firm's projects. Her notable work includes the award-winning Aurora Bridge Bioswales and the innovative landscape design at Northlake Commons, showcasing her dedication to cleaning toxic runoff and enhancing green infrastructure.

Reece Rehm, City of Vancouver

Reece Rehm is a Construction Coordinator at the City of Vancouver (British Columbia, Canada) in the Green Infrastructure Implementation Branch of Engineering Services.

His role is primarily based in the field: inspecting the construction of new GI practices and training new teams; translating the designs to the operational crews and relaying their challenges; and providing practical & cost effective recommendations back to the design team and consultants.

Reece's training was an old school 'boots on' rigorous apprenticeship, working directly with Canada's leading firms on the largest Landscape & Civil Construction projects, which propelled his career in Urban Renewal, Parks & Transportation, Riparian Restoration & Green Roofs.

Roz Jenkins, Emerald Cities Collaborative

Black Belt LEAN Six Sigma, Green 2.0 Environmental Expert of Color

Jenkins advances "green" innovation by building new pathways into technical trades vital to clean energy deployment.

Highlights 2018 to 2025:

Launched Emerald Cities' "HVAC Career Preparation Academy" from which 100+ people have graduated and pursued careers in residential indoor comfort, commercial building engineering, and allied fields.

Partnered with the UW Geography Department to build Seattle City Light's first interactive service outage mapping tool with demographic overlays that support GIS-based equity analysis.

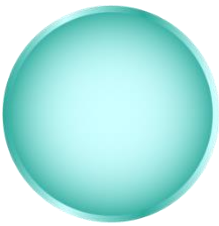
Currently launching Emerald Cities' new "Electrical Pathways Pre-apprenticeship" that offers top graduates direct entry to union electrical apprenticeship.

Ryan Durocher, City of Portland

Ryan Durocher is Portland's primary representative to the Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange and was recently elected to serve on the Exchange's Strategic Planning & Policy Committee. As an active member of the Exchange, he participated in the previous Asset Management peer learning circle and attended annual meetings in 2020 and 2024. In his day job, he is the Watershed Operations and Maintenance Division Manager at the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES). Ryan's prior roles at BES include Green Stormwater Infrastructure O&M Manager, Watershed Revegetation Program Manager, and Natural Resource Ecologist. He received his bachelor's degree in Resource and Ecology Management from the University of Michigan.

Shanti Colwell, City of Seattle

Shanti Colwell, PE, is a Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) engineer who works for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). She is responsible for managing the drainage and wastewater capital projects in the West Seattle area for SPU. She has been a lead in developing GSI policy and regulatory requirements, defining technical standards for GSI in Seattle, and leading the planning and implementation of GSI capital projects in the right-of-way for SPU, specifically around Seattle's Natural Drainage Systems Partnering Program, which has the goal of optimizing community and cost benefits by partnering with other city departments.



Shauna Hansen, City of Tacoma

Shauna is the Stormwater Management Program Coordinator for the City of Tacoma. She has over 20 years of experience working for Environmental Services as a Professional Engineer in the Stormwater Management Program and Watershed Planning Team.

Shelby Giltner, Washington State Department of Ecology

Shelby Giltner is an Environmental Engineer with the Washington State Department of Ecology's 6PPD Team, where she focuses on stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) effectiveness studies. With a strong foundation in both biological and engineering principles, Shelby holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Oregon and an M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. Her work contributes to advancing the understanding and implementation of effective stormwater management strategies in the state of Washington.

Shelly Basketfield, Seattle Public Utilities

Shelly Basketfield, PE, manages Seattle Public Utilities' Source Reduction Programs Section, which includes the RainCity Partnerships Program, a community-based public private partnership, and the Street Sweeping for Water Quality Program, a partnership with Seattle Department of Transportation. She brings an operations-based continuous improvement approach to her work gained through public and private sector experience as a practicing professional engineer in Seattle's urban environment, the Nevada desert, the Canadian and Alaskan arctic, and Nicaraguan jungle.

Stephan Classen, Cascadia College

Stephan Classen is the Assistant Director of Sustainable Practices at Cascadia College, where he manages the sustainability bachelor's program, supports facilities and grounds management for the permaculture campus, and works with partners to create programming and education activities. He was the Aquaculture Education Specialist for the Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resources Center (PACRC) in Hilo, Hawai`i and a Biological Technician for two national parks. He received his Master's of Science in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo, and his Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Science at the University of Arizona.

Tatiana Dreisbach, WSDOT

Tatiana Dreisbach has worked in Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Environmental Services Office since 2005. She worked for many years in WSDOT's Wetland Program, helping WSDOT avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters during transportation planning phases of project development, and on wetland compensation for unavoidable impacts. Tatiana performed wetland delineation, rating, ordinary high water mark delineations for streams, rivers, and tidal waters, mitigation site monitoring, and rare plant surveys before moving to the Stormwater Branch in 2023. Currently as the Stormwater Retrofit Outreach and Innovation Lead, Tatiana works on WSDOT's stormwater retrofit program and developing a prioritization system to determine where to best invest in projects that improve water quality and quantity, benefit salmon and other species and habitats, consider environmental justice and tribal treaty rights, and incorporate best available science into WSDOT stormwater retrofit planning decisions. One innovation Tatiana is working on is creating pathways for partnerships on stormwater retrofit to leverage environmental and human health benefits, which is what she'll be talking about with you today.

Tom Chontofalsky, City of Tacoma

Tom Chontofalsky has been an Environmental Scientist for the past 20+ years. He has always had a passion for science since a very young age which lead him to ultimately studying and getting his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Pacific Lutheran University. He enjoys learning new things because it allows him to tap into his creative side with figuring out who how things work and fit into the bigger picture of life.

Tony Bush, WSDOT

Tony Bush has worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) since 2003. He first served in WSDOT's Wetland Program, helping to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands, and monitor and manage WSDOT's many wetland mitigation sites. Tony managed the Wetland Program before moving to WSDOT Stormwater, as the Stormwater Branch Manager in 2022, where he manages programs on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, Monitoring & Research, Stormwater Features Inventory, and Stormwater Retrofits. He brings a focus to partnership, collaboration, and innovation in stormwater management.

Valerie Strassberg, The Nature Conservancy

Valerie Strassberg, P.E., serves as the Director of Urban Water Infrastructure for The Nature Conservancy's Brightstorm program, where she leads public partnerships and advances projects at the intersection of public policy, design, community engagement, and integrated water resource management. She provides technical, policy, and regulatory support for stormwater management and climate-resilient freshwater protection initiatives across North America and globally.

With 20 years of experience, Valerie has led transformative projects, including Detroit's first Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinance, Ann Arbor's pioneering Green Streets Policy, and supported the development of the State of Michigan's Low Impact Development Manual and the City of Ann Arbor's Climate Action Plan. As the past Director of Detroit's Healthy Cities Program, she spearheaded the integration of nature-based green stormwater infrastructure into city policies, programs, and tools, benefiting public and private properties. A founding member of Engineers Without Borders USA and former Environmental Commissioner for Ann Arbor, she has also co-directed nonprofit initiatives and served on multiple academic and advisory boards, including Wayne State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and Detroit Future City.

Valerie holds a BA in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, with a Professional Engineering license (P.E.) in Water Resources.

Zahara Waezzada, World Relief

Zahra is an amazing individual who was born and raised in Afghanistan in a big family of seven. She moved to the United States three years ago and is currently a senior in high school. She has developed a love for nature and enjoys hiking, painting, and reading books. Her passion for the environment led her to intern at World Relief Western Washington, where she is learning how to make a positive impact on the world around her.