

The Canopy

February 2026



Celebrating our exciting progress!

Trees protected
to date:

493,129

Trees planted
to date:

5,745

Tree Connect
Events to date:

216

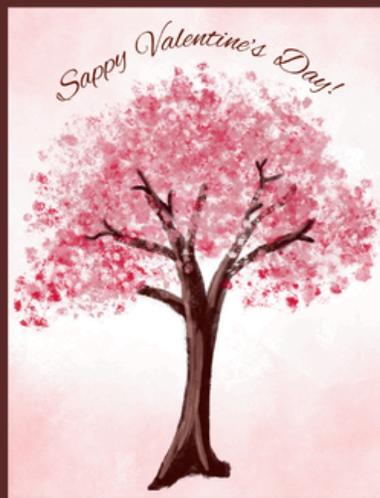
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Send Your Love a Sappy Valentine

Do you love a tree-lover? Don't be afraid to get a little sappy about it! Share the love this Valentine's Day by donating to support tree planting and protection in their name, and we'll send them a valentine to acknowledge your gift. Donate by Feb 11th to ensure delivery in time for Valentine's Day!

Valentines for Tree-Lovers



Share the love
with your tree
hugger today!



Pot-a-palooza on March 1st!

A popular and essential part of our tree-planting program is less than a month away – tree-seedling potting at NSEA's native plant nursery! Sunday, March 1st, 12-3 pm: help us get hundreds of bare-root native tree seedlings and plugs safely into pots so they can survive and grow until it's time to plant them in their permanent home somewhere in Whatcom County. It's a fun and accessible way to support our tree-planting program!



[Sign up!](#)



Plant Trees, Plant Hope - 2026 Spring Work Parties Need Volunteers!

There's still room for more volunteers at all these exciting tree-planting work parties coming up at two NEW locations for WMTP – Whatcom Humane Society's Division Street animal shelter in Bellingham and Jensen Family Forest Park.



All are 12-3 PM. March work parties are Sundays, April work parties are Saturdays.

WHS

March 8

March 15

March 22

Jensen

March 29

April 11

April 18



Local Trees Supported by Secondhand Shopping



Thanks to Bellingham Buffalo Exchange and shoppers for supporting WMTP through the Tokens for Bags program! The program gives shoppers 5-cent tokens at checkout in lieu of shopping bags. Shoppers can choose from a selection of local non-profits and drop their tokens in the box where they want to donate funds. WMTP was a beneficiary of the program from July to December last year, and received 3,780 tokens in that time. What a cool community effort to promote secondhand shopping, reduce waste, and fund local tree planting and protection!

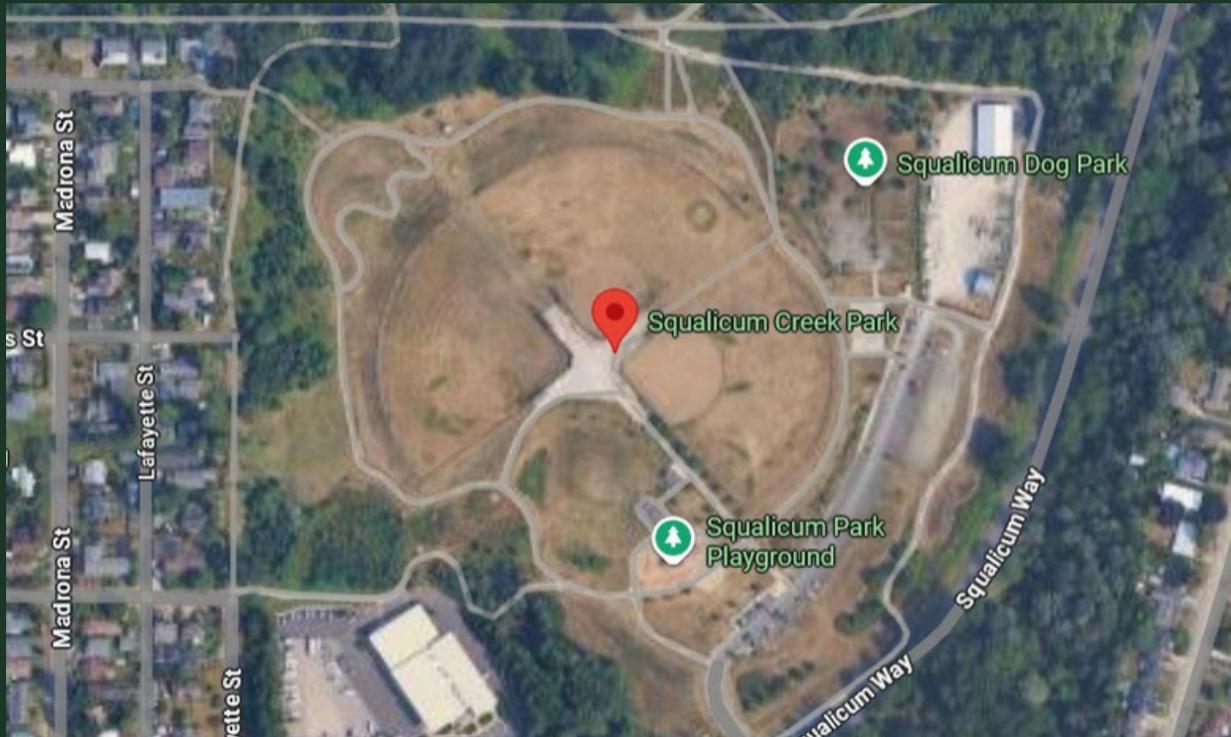
Celebrating 3 Years of Sehome Eye Care Support!



Sehome Eye Care clearly sees the importance of coming together as a community to protect the health of our environment and enhance local climate resilience. Since 2023, they've made monthly donations to WMTP, helped raise awareness of our mission, and offered generous discounts to hard-working work party volunteers. We're so grateful for their continuing support and partnership!



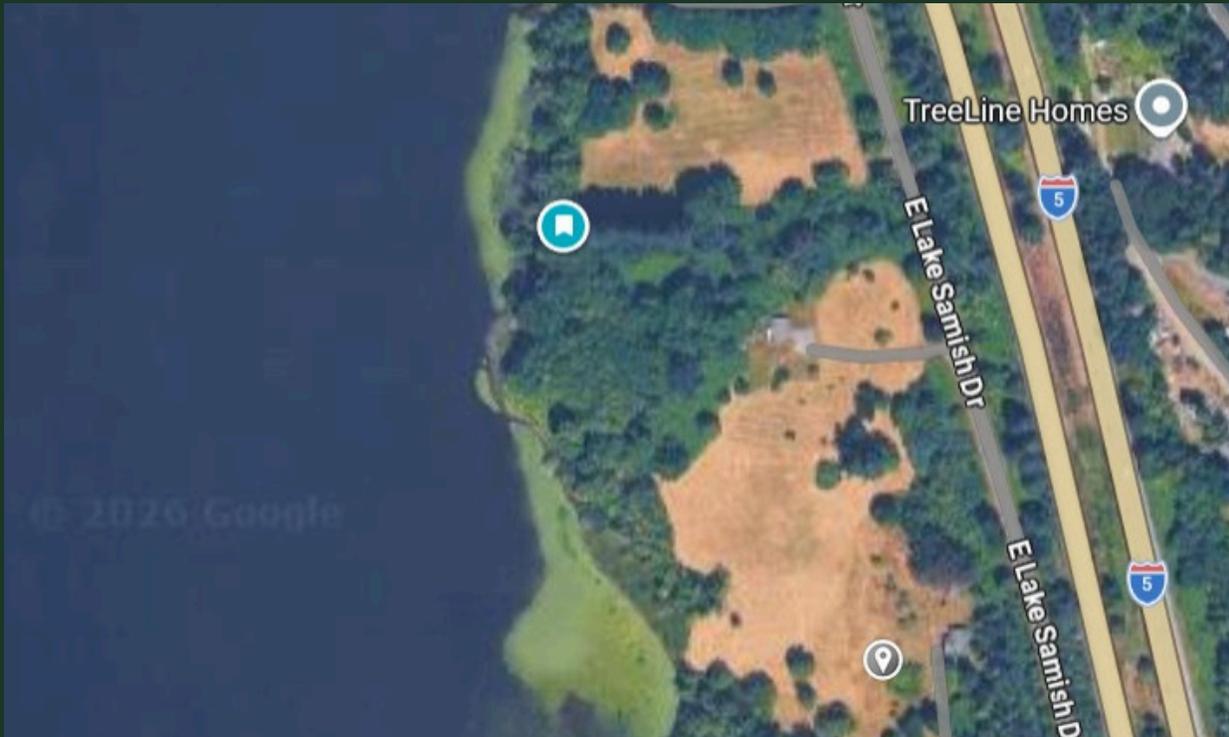
Honoring MLK, Jr. with Restoration Work at Two Local Parks



On Saturday, January 17, WMTP volunteers and Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew joined forces with Bellingham Parks & Recreation, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA), WWU LEAD, and over 260 community members to tackle a variety of restoration efforts at Squalicum Creek Park. They removed hundreds of pounds of invasive plant species and planted native trees and shrubs in their place to improve the creek's health for salmon. Volunteers also donated over 50 pounds of food to Birchwood Food Desert Fighters, a local mutual aid organization working to promote community health and well-being by ensuring neighborhood residents can get enough to eat. [Click here](#) to read a terrific Western Front article about this effort.



Honoring MLK, Jr. with Restoration Work at Two Local Parks, Cont.



On Monday, January 19, we teamed up with Whatcom Parks & Recreation Land Management Division staff to coordinate an ivy removal work party and free heavily ivy-burdened trees on the shore of Lake Samish. We focused on a portion of Dittrich Park, a county-owned parcel not yet open to the public. Altogether, 30 volunteers worked hard to free 55 mature trees from vast swaths of ivy and filled around 50 yard waste bags that were taken off-site to be composted. Some of the ivy vines climbing large Douglas firs were as thick as a small tree -- up to 8" in diameter -- and required extensive sawing to detach them from their roots. A younger tree had already been felled by the voracious vines.

Honoring MLK, Jr. with Restoration Work at Two Local Parks, Cont.

The winter sun smiled on all these hard workers taking good care of the natural spaces and community we share. Their efforts were a wonderful way to honor the legacy of MLK, Jr., who championed not only civic rights, but also inspired the environmental justice movement through his concern for the urban environment.

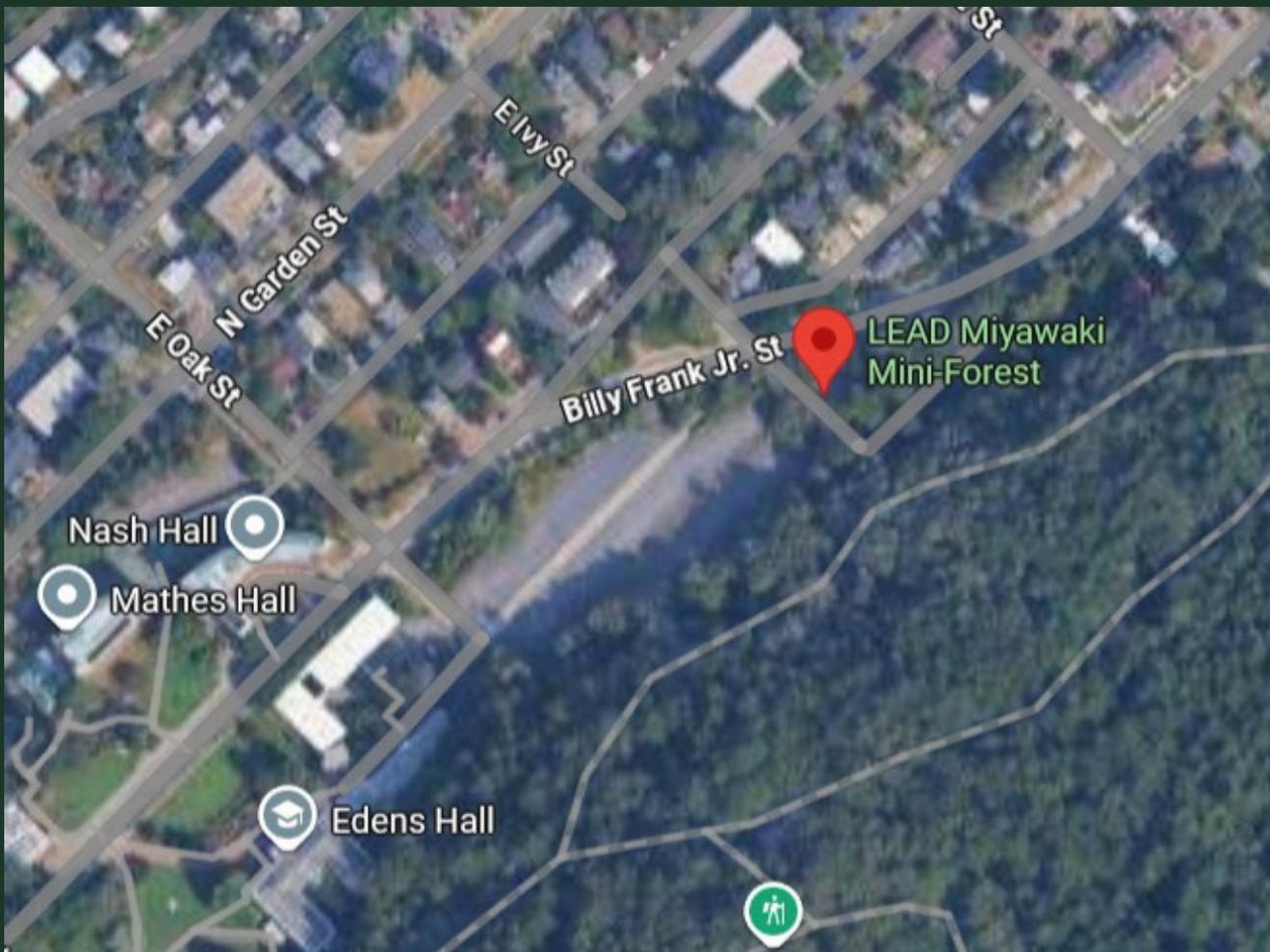


[More photos](#)

What's Up With Our Miyawaki Mini-Forests?

They're growing lickety-split!

The first Miyawaki Mini-Forest in Whatcom County was planted at the north end of WWU's campus on Earth Day in 2023. Since then, students in the LEAD (Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery) program have held a series of work parties to pull invasive weeds, monitor plant growth, replace dead plants, and repair the fence that protects the growing forest while it's young. These are all essential tasks in the Miyawaki Method as they support the forest's development to ensure it gets a permanent foothold in its first few years.



What's Up With Our Miyawaki Mini-Forests? Cont.



Other steps make the WWU mini-forest an attractive site for visitors to directly experience the benefits of an urban forest and learn about the work that goes into it. These include the beautiful natural wood bench and interpretive sign we installed last year in collaboration with A1 DesignBuild as well as a new trail which will be installed through another collaborative effort with LEAD on May 16th (sign up below if you want to help with this and other forest maintenance tasks that day!).

Volunteer!



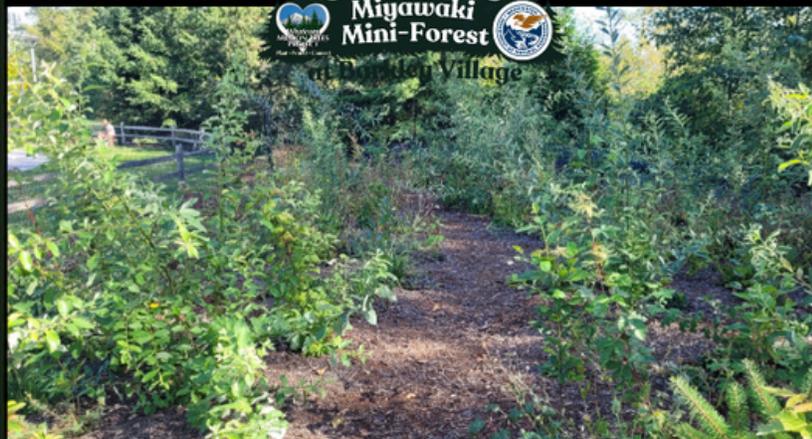
What's Up With Our Miyawaki Mini-Forests? Cont.

At the Scramble Miyawaki Mini-Forest in Barkley Village (behind the Scramble Playpark), which was planted in April 2025, WMTP volunteers and neighborhood residents have been regularly and carefully monitoring its health and growth. The forest of nearly 800 seedlings made impressive progress in its first growing season, filling out the small fenced area and stretching up toward the sky.

April-May
2025



August
2025



Although the seedlings are now in their dormant period, we're looking forward to seeing even more progress this spring! The park is open to the public (although inside the fenced area is not), and you can stop by anytime to view the forest for yourself and check out the beautiful interpretive sign (also installed by A1 DesignBuild).

What's Up With Our Miyawaki Mini-Forests? Cont.

Thank you to all volunteers who have monitored, maintained, and provided updates on these Miyawaki Mini-Forests! They've been a wonderful community effort, and it's heartening that so many people are watching them grow and caring what happens to them!



The Miyawaki Method is spreading!
A mini-forest was planted by volunteers and scientists in Los Angeles about the same time we planted ours at WWU. You can listen to a fascinating NPR podcast about it - [click here!](#)



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