



FLY FISHING The Pacific Northwest

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship in Urban Environments Through Outdoor Recreation

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Project Statement

The goal of my project was to utilize outdoor recreation as a means of encouraging residents of an urban environment to connect with their natural world.

The project is rooted in the philosophy that interaction and education outside of traditional classroom settings can have immense and long-lasting impact.

Methodology

As an event based project, the primary focus of my methodology was creating an effective and long-lasting program. The key elements were as follows;

Preliminary Literature Review:

- Analysis of material relating to teaching methods and learning theory, to model my own lesson plans.
- Served as the basis for skills and techniques that I then applied to the development of my program

Case Studies:

- I conducted a number of case studies of fly fishing outfits in and around the Puget Sound area. These case studies were focused on determining best practices from already established organizations with similar goals.

Curriculum Workshopping:

- A two step process involving the drafting and reworking of class curriculums, accompanied with small focus groups sessions where I practiced instruction skills as well as incorporated participant feedback for curriculum.

Results

The Fly Fishing program is now fully operational within the University's Recreation department. It offers a hands on learning experience for its participants, available to all faculty, staff, and students at UW.

Currently, the program offers beginner clinics, two hour sessions where participants get a crash course in the sport of fly fishing and an introduction to the programs structure and conservation forward mission.

The program will continue to expand as we look for new ways to engage and educate our community.



Program Future

Guided trips, fishing tactics workshops, and conservation based courses are just some of the potential future offerings of the program. We are excited to have laid the groundwork for continued evolution of a unique outdoor program.

"There is a delight in the hardy life of the open. There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy and its charm. The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased and not impaired in value. Conservation means development as much as it does protection." - Theodore Roosevelt