

BFC Yes Forest Project

Yes Farm is an urban farm in central Seattle developed and managed by Black Farmers Collective. We grow food for the community and offer education and community building programming. The south end of the farm space is heavily shaded. We have chosen to activate the space by restoring it with native plants, creating a mini urban forest. The project has many functions. The trail connects the farm and Yesler Terrace neighborhood with the Chinatown/International District. The native plants provide habitat and food for animals and pollinators. The forest is a welcoming greenspace in a neighborhood highly impacted by the I-5 freeway.

The project is a model for partnerships between large organizations with expertise, funders, and a community-based organization. Mountain to Sound Greenway and Earth Corps brought their experience in restoration, the City of Seattle and King Conservation District provided funding and Black Farmers Collective developed the idea for a creative use of the space they controlled. We engaged the community in choosing plants and managed the many staff and volunteer hours that have created the first phases of the project. We hope this project can be an inspiration for other groups to find a way to bring a bit of nature into their urban neighborhoods.

Raymond Williams

BFC