



Erynne van Zee

Ecological and Watershed Design Specialist

I am a designer passionate about parks and water-sensitive cities. With my background in landscape architecture, environmental engineering, and place-based education, I design beloved places in the Puget Sound. I specialize in interdisciplinary and interagency concept design, community engagement, and city-scale frameworks to guide green infrastructure and public space investments that are equitable, ecologically vibrant, and climate resilient.

Contact

Pronouns: she/they

Email
erynnevz@gmail.com

Licenses

Engineer-in-Training (#24036215)
Anticipated licensure as Landscape Architect in Q4 2026

Expertise

- Project management
- Facilitation and engagement
- Ecological design
- Urban water management
- Interagency collaboration
- Graphic communication
- Qualitative/quantitative analysis
- Technical and grant writing

Language

English
Spanish (*professional proficiency in environmental & design settings*)

Awards

- Oct 2023 & 2024 | Herrera Outstanding Owner-Employee Recognition Program Awardee
- May 2022 | Washington ASLA Student Honor Award
- 2021 Matsutaro Kawaguchi Endowed Scholarship, Landscape Architecture

Experience

May 2023 - Present
Herrera

Green Infrastructure Designer

Assistant Project Manager and project designer working across the Water and Restoration groups on feasibility and concept design of public parks, stormwater infrastructure, and long-term capital projects. Skilled facilitator engaging interagency departments and community organizations in early planning and ecological design.

July 2022 - Jan 2023
Mithun

Landscape Designer

Advanced integrated urban development projects (primarily schools) from concept development through capital project delivery. Translated design concepts into visual communication to foster design collaboration with clients and consultants. Notably worked on the Washington School for the Deaf.

June 2021 - June 2022
Seattle Public Utilities

Shape Our Water Intern

Supported SPU's community-driven, long-range water resilience planning effort, Shape Our Water, by providing geospatial analysis, environmental research and report writing, and urban design toolkits for water management with community co-benefits.

May 2016 - May 2019
Mt Adams Institute

Cascade Mountain School Interim Director / Program Coordinator

Managed K-12 place-based environmental education programs; led staff hiring, training, and supervision; and oversaw logistics and curriculum delivery in outdoor and classroom settings. Wrote, secured, and maintained local and national grants; facilitated Spanish-English communication with participants; and built partnerships with community organizations.

Education

University of Washington, 2022

Master of Landscape Architecture

Interdisciplinary focus on community co-design for environmental health, equitable climate resilience, and watershed management.

Tufts University, 2017
Magna Cum Laude,
Dean's List 2013 - 2017

B.S. Environmental Engineering

Emphasis on integrating environmental engineering principles with community health methodology for holistic green infrastructure outcomes.

Teaching

Sept - Dec 2022

Mithun

Studio Course | LARC 504 University of British Columbia

Supported Mithun Landscape Architects teaching LARC 504, Untangling Harm from Home, studio course at University of British Columbia that explored neighborhood adaptation strategies through the lens of place attachment and spatial justice. Helped create syllabus, including case study and mapping activities. Developed field-based learning and led visits in South Seattle for students to contextualize studio concepts through place-based learning. Provided feedback to students during monthly presentations and milestone reviews.

March - June 2021

University of Washington

Reader/Grader | LA 434 Soils and Hydrology

Supported LA 434 as a reader / grader. Responsibilities included curriculum and syllabus development, course material set up (Canvas), discussion and activity development, and grading.

January - March 2021

University of Washington

Reader/Grader | LA 440 Digital Media I

Supported LA 440 as a reader / grader. Responsibilities included curriculum and syllabus development, course material set up (Canvas), discussion and activity development, and grading. Held weekly technology office hours to support students in learning digital media programs (AutoCAD, Rhino, Lumion, etc)

March - June 2020

University of Washington

Reader/Grader | ESRM 426 Watershed Hydrology

Supported ESRM 426 as a reader / grader. Responsibilities included curriculum and syllabus development, course material set up (Canvas), discussion and lab activity development, and grading. Pivoted field-based labs to online, remote teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oct 2017 - May 2019

Trout Lake and White
Salmon, WA, School
Districts

Substitute Teacher

Substitute teacher for all grades with a focus on earth sciences, high school math, physics, and Spanish. Classes included multi-week substitute teaching assignments, as well as single day assignments. Classes included 9th grade science and math, 1st - 3rd grades, Spanish (1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th), para-education, high school physics.

June 2017 - May 2019

Cascade Mountain School

Place-Based Environmental Educator

Developed curricula and instructed watershed, soil science, and climate change curricula with K-12 students and adults in outdoor and classroom settings throughout the Columbia River Gorge. Wrote grant proposals and reports to continually fund place-based education and curricula development. Trained and supervised other educators on teaching practices, curricula, and program management.

Jan - May 2017

Tufts University

Experimental College Peer Teacher | Stories of Place

Developed 13-week undergraduate curriculum and course, "Stories of Place", that explored the intersection of environmental science and social justice tools to think about land stewardship through experiential learning, case studies, and field trips. Taught and graded undergraduate course. Attended weekly pedagogy seminar as part of educator training in the Tufts University Experimental College.

Sept 2014 - May 2017

Tufts University

Center for Engineering Education and Outreach | STEM Educator

Designed and taught weekly STEM classes in elementary and middle school classrooms throughout Boston. Integrated engineering, problem solving, natural sciences, and communication skills development with literacy and creativity.

Research

September 2019
National Science
Foundation

Graduate Research Fellowship Program Semi-Finalist | Investigating Community Planning Tools for Proactive Water Sensitive Rural Development

Recognized as a semi-finalist for NSF GRFP funding. Proposal focused on investigating mixed-methods research for rural community development and water sensitive planning and design tools.

May - July 2014
Monteverde Institute

Greywater Management in the Monteverde Zone NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates | Globalization and Community Healthy Field School

Assessed community perspectives on greywater in Monteverde, Costa Rica, including risks and solutions. Developed interdisciplinary methods for research, including focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and surveys in Spanish. Designed and constructed two biogardens for greywater treatment and reuse as part of a pilot project. Developed O&M manual for continued operation and community training.

Projects

Herrera Environmental Consultants

- West Duwamish Greenbelt Vision Plan | Ridge to River Coalition
- Longfellow Starts Here, technical support | Seattle Public Utilities
- Shape Our Water, technical support | Seattle Public Utilities
- Kitsap County Stormwater Park Plan | Kitsap County
- Joint Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program, technical support | Seattle Public Utilities and King County Wastewater Treatment Division
- I-5 Ship Canal Bridge Stormwater Pilot Project | WSDOT
- Tukwila Public Works Campus Development | City of Tukwila
- Meydenbauer Bay Park - Phase 2 Master Plan | City of Bellevue
- Blue Green Systems Typology Study | City of Vancouver, B.C.
- Rainwise Rebate Program, technical support | Seattle Public Utilities
- RainCity Partnerships Community-Based Public-Private Partnerships, technical support | Seattle Public Utilities
- EPA Community Change Grant, technical support | Portland Bureau of Transportation
- Hillside Park | City of Issaquah
- Chism Beach Park | City of Bellevue
- Hundred Acre Wood trail plan | City of Bellingham

Mithun

- Washington Center for the Deaf | Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth
- Camp Coleman | YMCA
- Middle School Campus Design | The Bush School
- Brown Ranch Community Development Project | Yampa Valley Housing Authority
- Phinney Neighborhood Association community plan and survey

Community Collaborations

- "Show Your South Park" capstone project | Reconnect South Park
- Community-based environmental storymap | Duwamish River Community Coalition, UW EDGE Center
- UW College of Built Environments mentor

Portfolio Highlights

From shorelines to hillsides, **leading park feasibility studies and concept design** across the Puget Sound

Meydenbauer Bay Park, Phase 2



Concept sketch by Mike Jobes, Miller Hull

Client: City of Bellevue Parks

Project Partners: Berger Partnership (Prime), Miller Hull, KPFF, Herrera

My roles at Herrera:

- Green infrastructure and shoreline ecology feasibility and conceptual design. Supporting community engagement materials.
- Facilitating interagency capital project coordination between Bellevue Parks and Public Works.
- Assistant Project Manager

[Read recommendations on the project website](#)

Hillside Park



Photo Credit: Mithun

Client: City of Issaquah Parks

Project Partners: Mithun (Prime), Herrera

My roles at Herrera:

- Stormwater management conceptual design through construction.
- Design reports
- Translating public feedback into design criteria for year-round field use
- Coordinating with wetland mitigation site design staff for offsite ecological mitigation
- Project Manager during construction support contract.

[See the City's re-opening announcement!](#)

Tukwila Public Works Facility & Shoreline Trail



Rendering by Herrera (Erynne van Zee as project designer)

Client: City of Tukwila Public Works

Project Partners: Miller Hayashi (Prime), Herrera, Cannon, Heffron, Ten West, LittleFish Lighting

My roles at Herrera:

- Assistant PM with large project leadership role to manage 15 Herrera staff across 3 disciplines and 2 subs
- Project designer from concept design to 60% design in industrial and shoreline contexts with extensive regulatory and site analysis
- Integrate shoreline connectivity between two existing parks under City and County jurisdiction
- Support design coordination between City, King County, Tribes, Ecology, and USACE

[Read about the project](#)

Portfolio Highlights

From shorelines to hillsides, **engaging community members and interagency partners in infrastructure development and decision-making** across the Puget Sound

Reconnect South Park

	TIME (HRS)	WHERE	WITH WHO	WHAT TO GAIN	ACTIVITIES		
WAYS TO ENGAGE	1	WALK BY	5	- LIBRARY VISITORS - DISPLAYED ON WALL AT RESISTENCIA	- LIBRARY PATRONS - RESISTENCIA	- PINNED HOUSES + ASSETS - RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT HIGHWAY IMPACTS AND POTENTIAL REMOVAL IN SP	FIND/SPN SPECIAL PLACE PRINT PHOTOS
	2	TABLING	15	- FESTIVAL MARKET STALL + TABLING - MODEL OPEN HOUSE AT SP IDEA LAB	- EVENT ATTENDEES - SP COMMUNITY MEMBERS - SP VISITORS	- JOURNEY MAPS + TIME DIFFERENCE AFTER HIGHWAY REMOVAL - ASSET MAPPING - COLLECTING STORIES ABOUT SP	JOURNEY MAPPING DRAW ON MODEL AUDIO TOUR
	3	FOCUS GROUP	30	- SP IDEA LAB - CONCORD INTERNATIONAL ELEMENTARY - COMMUNITY MEETINGS	- K-5 YOUTH + FAMILIES - MULTILINGUAL SPEAKERS - POST + INDUSTRIAL BUSINESSES	- IN DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF HIGHWAY IMPACTS - WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED (MOVED INTO VISIONING)	STAKEHOLDER MAPPING PHOTO WALK K-5 ACTIVITIES
	4	CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT	OO	- AT HOME - ON THE GO - ANYWHERE!	- TEENS - SENIORS - SP VISITORS	- PHOTO MAPPING DATA - COLLECT STORIES ABOUT SP'S PRESENT + FUTURES - EDUCATE ABOUT HIGHWAY REMOVAL POTENTIAL IN SP	CONTRIBUTING DIGITAL STORIES INSTAGRAM POSTCARD

Community: Reconnect South Park (RSP)

Project Partners: Erin Irby, Stephanie Roh (UW Landscape Architecture); Casey James, Office of Planning and Community Development

Engagement Goals:

- Co-design community engagement strategies to capture the perspectives of residents in South Park and envision alternative futures for Highway 99
- Train RSP to use strategies as a community-owned planning and advocacy tool
- Leverage multi-sensory means of communication, research, and visioning to center the voices of the diverse residents in South Park



Photos by Erynne van Zee / Erin Irby / Stephanie Roh

City of Vancouver's Blue Green Systems Vision & Typology Framework



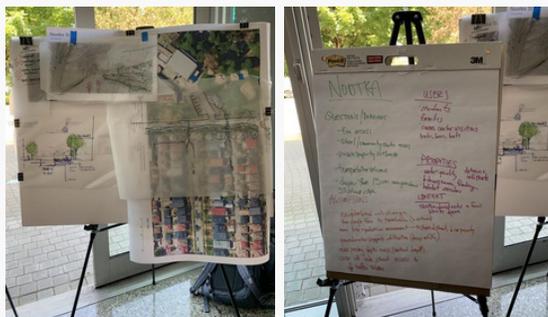
Client: City of Vancouver, B.C.

Interagency Partners: Drainage and Wastewater Division, Transportation, Parks

Engagement Goals:

- Engage multiple agencies in the development of a typology framework for “blue green system” infrastructure investments (e.g. green streets, stormwater parks)
- Facilitate inter-departmental and interagency trust and buyoff on a shared vision to spur collaborative, multi-jurisdictional capital projects
- Spark curiosity and creativity amongst City staff early on in the project engagement process through a full-day charrette and workshop
- Identify interagency gaps and goals for collaborative policy to make investments in public space and green infrastructure projects more readily feasible

[Read about the Typology Study online.](#)



Interagency charrette to brainstorm a concept for Typology 6
Photo credit: Herrera