

Cary Watters

Mike Lindberg Scholarship Urban Studies and Planning Portland State University

I am excited to be studying environmental planning in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at Portland State University. From 2009 through 2011, I worked as a Policy Assistant for Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, and this formative experience nurtured my passion for public service and equitable infrastructure allocation. I am particularly excited about ecosystem services provided by green infrastructure that has myriad benefits in addition to reducing burden on existing built systems.



As a Tlingit tribal member, I am fascinated by traditional ecological knowledge and the concept of cultural infrastructure, whether as heritage foods, traditional medicine or other important materials. I am currently an intern with Cogan Owens Cogan, working primarily on the Tulalip Tribes' Lower Quilceda Neighborhood Planning project. It is inspiring to see this sovereign nation develop their own vision for cultural and natural resource management through the development of a vibrant built environment, form based code and green infrastructure plan near an important and sensitive ecological area on the reservation.

I love learning about landscapes at both the broad and minute levels. I grew up in Gresham and Vancouver, yet went to middle and high school on the west side of Portland, so I have gained a valuable regional perspective on the Portland Metropolitan Area and beyond. I love exploring Oregon's natural gems, such as dog parks and hidden swimming holes, as well as Portland's urban culture, especially underground hip hop and bluegrass shows.

I am grateful for the support that I have received through the Mike Lindberg scholarship from the Oregon Chapter of APWA. I look forward to networking with others in the public works field in order to share information to expand our collective capacity to provide essential services to the communities of Oregon.