

[START ROBERT NATURE NOISE]

IT WAS A HOT SPRING DAY WHEN MY FRIEND ROBERT AND I WENT TO COOL CREEK. WE HAD A GREAT TIME JUST TALKING, ENJOYING THE SIGHTS THE SOUNDS. OF COURSE WE COULDN'T SEE THE PROBLEMS PARKS LIKE COOL CREEK FACE EVERYDAY.

I'M ALEX CROOKSHANKS AND THIS IS AN INSIDE PERSPECTIVE

[STOP ROBERT NATURE NOISE]

[START AMANDA]

WALKING THROUGH COOL CREEK IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT MANY LIVING IN CARMEL HAVE COME TO LOVE. SEEING THE VIBRANT COLORS, THE BEAUTIFUL WILDLIFE, HEARING THE BIRDS, THE WIND, THE RUNNING WATER.

COOL CREEK HAS BEEN SORT OF A HUB COOL CREEK IS ONE OF OUR OLDER PARKS. IT'S A COMMUNITY PARK, WE HAVE NEIGHBORS LIKE WAL-MART SO IT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS SUBURBAN ALMOST COMMERCIALIZED AREA AND IT REALLY ALLOWS PEOPLE TO COME IN AND IT PROVIDES A GREAT PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO COME IN AND DUCK IN AWAY FROM THE NOISE AND GET CONNECTED TO WHAT MAKES INDIANA SPECIAL.

MY NAME'S AMANDA SMITH

THIS IS PART OF WHAT INDIANA USED TO LOOK LIKE. WE DON'T SEE THAT ANYMORE. EVEN AN HUNDRED ACRE PARK CAN PROVIDE BENEFIT TO WILDLIFE. WE'RE THAT ABILITY. WE SEE THE AMOUNT OF DIVERSITY. IT'S A RESOURCE FOR WILDLIFE IT'S ALMOST AN OASIS. IT'S AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ECOSYSTEM AND IT'S BECOMING A SMALLER PART THAN WHAT'S NEEDED

[STOP AMANDA]

[START BED]

[START DAN]

JUST HAVING A FEW TREES IS GOING TO HAVE A POSITIVE HEALTHY EFFECT ON PEOPLE. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT TREES AND PLANTS IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IT'S GOING TO REDUCE EVEN CRIME. IF YOU HAVE TWO OR THREE TREES IN A NEIGHBORHOOD IMAGINE IF YOU HAVE A WHOLE FOREST. PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE. MORE RELAXED. GOING OUT THERE ENJOYING THE WILDLIFE

I AM DAN POPIELA. OFTEN REFERRED TO AS NATURE DAN

WE HAVE OVER TWO HUNDRED SPECIES WORTH OF PLANTS IN THE PARK. THESE ARE WONDERFUL PLANTS AND FLOWERS THAT ARE A BENEFIT TO THE ANIMALS WE ENJOY AND TO THE PEOPLE THAT COME TO THE PARK. WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.. WE HAVE ABOUT A DOZEN WEEDS IN THE PARK. INVASIVE SPECIES. LIKE THE BUSH HONEYSUCKLE. THERE'S GARLIC MUSTARD. A COUPLE OTHER SPECIES.

[STOP DAN]

[START AMANDA]

ESSENTIALLY INVASIVE SPECIES IS TYPICALLY A PLANT THAT CAME IN FROM ANOTHER CONTINENT THAT IS NON INVASIVE BUT HAS EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE TENDENCIES. THESE PLANTS DID NOT EVOLVE HERE AND THERE'S NO NATURAL PREDATORS AND THEY HAVE AN ADVANTAGE BECAUSE THEY CAN BASICALLY INVADE AN AREA AND REALLY START TO DECREASE THE OVERALL DIVERSITY.

[STOP AMANDA]

[START DAN]

THEY DON'T BENEFIT THE WILDLIFE AS MUCH AS NATIVE PLANTS. WE WANT PEOPLE TO ENJOY THAT DIVERSITY, NOT JUST TEN PLANTS THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE AS FUN. WE NEED TO KEEP THE PLANTS UNDER CONTROL. WE'VE HAD VOLUNTEERS COME IN THEY PULL UP THE HONEYSUCKLE AND THEN THE FOLLOWING YEAR THERE'S A WHOLE BUNCH OF WILDFLOWERS AND IT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE.

[STOP DAN]

[START HOLLY]

MY NAME IS HOLLY FAUST

WE PLANT NATIVES AFTERWARDS. I'M PROUD TO SAY MY SON WAS ONE OF THEM. THEY PULLED ALL THE HONEYSUCKLES NATIVE PLANTS POPPED UP VERY SOON.

IT KEEPS THE INVASIVES OUT WHEN YOU PLANT YOUR NATIVES.

[STOP BED]

[STOP HOLLY]

[START AMANDA]

NATIVE SPECIES YOU HAVE HAVE A CATERPILLAR THAT FEEDS THIS THAT FEEDS THIS. INVASIVE SPECIES DON'T HAVE ANY NATURAL PREDATORS AND OUR INSECTS HAVE NOT EVOLVED TO EAT THEM. NOT ONLY ARE THEY TAKING OVER BUT THEY'RE NOT EVEN PROVIDING FOOD.

IT'S A MASSIVE ISSUE

[START WATER]

OUR BIGGEST ISSUE WITH WATER IS PROBABLY WATER RELATED. ECOLI IS AN ISSUE AND THE BIGGEST SOURCE IS DOG POO. IT'S A BIG PROBLEM FROM ALL THE RUN OFF. WE'RE A WATERSHED SO WE'RE COLLECTING ALL THAT. IN MOST CASES THE WATER SHEETS OFF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS REALLY FAST AND THEN COME TO A PARK.

[STOP WATER]

[START BED]

ACTUALLY THE BIGGEST POLLUTANT ISN'T WHAT YOU WOULD THINK.
THE BIGGEST POLLUTANT IN OUR WATER IS SEDIMENT. IT'S THE EFFECTS OF
EROSION. THAT DIRTIES THE WATER IT MAKES IT HARDER TO ANIMAL TO
SURVIVE IT CHANGES THE WHOLE ECOSYSTEM OF THE WATER

[STOP AMANDA]

[START DAN]

LOT OF PEOPLE GO INTO THE CREEK WHICH IS GREAT, BUT THAT PICKS UP A
LOT OF THE SEDIMENT AND THAT HAS A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON NESTING FISH
AND THE WILDLIFE IN THE CREEK. EVEN GREATER THAN THAT IS WE'RE RIGHT
BY A HIGHWAY AND WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT ROAD SALT
GETS INTO THE WATERWAYS. DEFINITELY NEED TO DO OUR PART AND
FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON SO WE CAN ALWAYS HAVE THIS PARK TO
LOVE AND ENJOY.

[STOP DAN]

[START HOLLY]

I LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THAT YOU GUYS DRINK THAT WATER AND I ALWAYS
GET THE "NOOO" AND I'M LIKE YEA HIS GOES INTO WHITE RIVER. THE CLEAN
IT UP, BUT YOU CAN ONLY CLEAN SO MUCH..

[STOP BED]

EDUCATION IS REALLY IMPORTANT. PEOPLE DON'T APPRECIATE WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.. WE'RE ALL GUILTY OF THAT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER

[STOP HOLLY]

[START DAN]

YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE AND THE VALUE BEHIND ALL THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND WHAT'S ON THE LAND. LITTLE BIT OF EDUCATION. ALSO VOLUNTEERING. BUT ALSO DOING YOUR PART IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD AT HOME. IT'S KINDA NEAT WE DO THINGS LIKE COMMUNITY SEED TODAY WHEN YOU COME TO COOL CREAK AND WE HELP YOU GATHER THE SEEDS FROM OUR PRAIRIE AND THEN YOU HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF COOL CREEK IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD. YOU DO YOUR PART TO HELP OUT THE PLANET. IT'S THE ONLY PLANET WE HAVE. IF WE TAKE CARE OF THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS WE'RE GOING TO BE TAKE CARE OF OUR OURSELVES.

[STOP DAN]

[START AMANDA]

WE NEED AS MUCH HELP AS WE CAN POSSIBLE GER. WE NEED PEOPLE TO GET KIND OF ANGRY AND REALLY KINDA EDUCATED. PEOPLE SEE PRETTY THINGS AND THINK "OH THIS IS LUCH", BUT A LOT OF TIMES ARE LOOKING AT AN AREA THAT IS VERY UNHEALTHY.

UNDERSTANDING THAT THINGS COULD GET BETTER AND NEED TO GET BETTER AND GETTING MOTIVATED AND GETTING A LITTLE BIT ANGRY CAN REALLY REALLY HELP.

[STOP AMANDA]

[START DAN]

KEEP COMMIN BACK. EVERY TIME YOU COME TO COOL CREEK YOU'RE GOING TO FIND SOMETHING DIFFERENT. I'VE BEEN WORKING HERE NINE YEARS AND EVEN JUST THIS WEEK I'M LIKE "IVE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE" DEFINITELY KEEP COMING BACK YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO FIND SOMETHING NEW AND THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

[STOP DAN]

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