

## **Summary of Research**

Throughout the research and testing that we did relating to the water quality of Bowker Creek, we discovered an abundance of intriguing information about the characteristics of Bowker's water as well as the sources and effects of these characteristics. In some instances, we were pleasantly surprised, such as the apparent safety of the pH levels, the decrease in the presence of fecal bacteria, and the general distinction as a healthy creek. In other cases, the findings prompted concern: the unsuitability of the water for Coho salmon, the prolific existence of bacteria and pollutants, harm to animal life due to a surplus of sediment, and blockage of sunlight for aquatic plants caused by water opacity bring to light the need for change. Many of these pollutants enter the creek when rains wash fertilizers, automobile fluids, and other chemicals into storm drains or directly into the creek, which is why the creek becomes more contaminated after heavy rainfall. The condition of the water can have dire consequences on the biotic organisms in the creek and its surrounding area, which ripples through the food web, having widespread effect on the ecosystem. Although Bowker's water has improved in recent years and is of fair quality, the current efforts to aid the health of the creek are of vital importance to the local environment.