

Tutko Landscaping (Redmond, WA)

Riley Gray—Summer 2019

- Introduction:

- Tutko Landscaping is a division of its parent company Brandywine Nursery. Tutko Landscaping is a mostly new construction landscaping company in which their projects are typically for new housing developments and commercial areas. This company has been around for 60+ years in what began as a family owned nursery in Mount Vernon, WA. They then decided to branch out and begin landscaping using their own nursery's plant material. They began doing installations along with maintenance jobs, however due to the declining positive income of maintenance jobs, they have slowly stopped maintenance and focused on big picture installations.

- Main Section:

- In the beginning of the summer my boss had me working in the office for a full month doing the following:
 - Bidding Maintenance Jobs
 - Estimating Maintenance Jobs
 - Bidding mulch/bark jobs
 - Estimating mulch/bark jobs
- After the first month, my boss had me go out with the construction/installation crew to really understand what goes on in this industry, my jobs varied for whatever the crew needed to get done that day:
 - Mix the compost with the old soil to help combat compaction
 - Flatten/level soil to spot water build up
 - Lay gravel for hardscapes
 - Dig holes and plant trees, shrubs, groundcover etc.
 - Lay bark on top of soil and planted plants and rake to enhance appearance up to standards of the home builder
 - Laying sod for turf areas
- After my time in the field, I had a variety of jobs that led to the end of the internship including:
 - Driving the company truck picking up material for the crews including bark, mulch, soil, gravel, drain rock, and pavers for hardscapes
 - I would then drive these materials to different job sites to for the crews to use
 - My last project was the restoration of a wetland that was needed in order to fulfill a bond with the city of Redmond, this included planting trees and shrubs, weed whacking weeds around the plants as well as mowing the grass between them, and finally installing tree guards to prevent rodents from damaging them

- Summary:

- This experience will foster my growth in very particular ways because I am so inclined to pursue this line of work that it has really built my knowledge in the industry and ways that I can hope to start my own company at some point in time
- The ways I learned how to bid the jobs and come about certain projects will help me learn how to get started and the estimates help me get a feel for how much the jobs may cost and how much I can predict to profit off of them
- I also learned a lot out in the field that will help me delegate work to my construction crews to make sure the jobs get done correctly and use their time efficiently
- Lastly, it really helped seeing a small business be so successful in such a competitive field that it makes me believe it isn't about the money and size of the company, its about the knowledge, hard work and perfection of a company that really makes it work.
- This will help me begin my career out of school and then hopefully start my own business one day once I continually learn the inside and outs of this industry.



Plants held at office ready to be planted at a new job site



Rows and rows of plants held at the office ready to be picked up and delivered to a job site



Full wetland restoration project near the end of my internship experience



Tree guards placed around trees at wetland restoration project