



City of Wilsonville Natural Resources Program

Environmental Stewardship

**A Guide to How You Can Help
Protect the Natural Habitat
in Your Community**

“When one tugs at a single thing in Nature,
he finds it hitched to the rest of the Universe.”

- John Muir



What is Environmental Stewardship?



Environmental Stewards give back to the earth by engaging in practical activities that reduce our environmental footprint and promote a culture that values the environment and acts to protect it. Environmental Stewardship is the act of caring for the environment.

Living near wildlife habitat, a riparian corridor or wetland, you have the ability to positively impact the ecological health and future of those natural areas around you. Being aware of what actions you can take to improve and maintain the environment around you is the first step to environmental stewardship.

What is a Watershed?

You live in a watershed! A watershed is a geographic region starting at a high point, such as a mountain range or a glacial lake, and ending in the ocean. Understanding your watershed is important because something that happens at the top affects everything else.

Why Are Our Waterways Important?

The forested land along rivers, streams, and lakes is a sensitive area that we call a riparian zone. The vegetation that grows in this zone is vital to the health of our waterways and native habitats for many reasons. Riparian zones help filter polluted runoff when it rains, controls erosion, and provides rivers room to expand during rainy seasons. Healthy waterways promote diversity of birds, mammals, amphibians, insects, and plants. By taking care of our neighborhoods and cleaning up after ourselves, we are protecting our drinking water and aquatic habitat.

What is Biological Diversity?

Biological diversity is the balance between different wildlife species. In a truly biologically diverse area, no one species dominates. Instead, species act in benefit of each other, promoting a healthy environment.

What are Invasive Species?

An invasive species is introduced to the region by an outside source (such as boats, animals, and humans). Not all non-native species are invasive; a species is invasive when it outcompetes native species through aggressive behavior. English Ivy and Nutria are examples.



What Can I Do?

Did you know that the pesticides used on lawns end up in your water? Pet and livestock waste runs into our waterways after it rains, causing changes in the water ecosystem? Non-native plants can take over the native ones? Making small changes to your lifestyle, such as picking up dog waste or switching to organic gardening, help make our neighborhoods more healthy.

Get Involved...

The City of Wilsonville is committed to sustainability, in the way it operates and by helping residents take steps to reduce their impact on the environment. You can contribute to the cause through a variety of event and volunteer opportunities.

The Natural Resources Program holds several environmental events throughout the year. The events are designed to encourage community participation, create volunteer opportunities for families, provide education and outreach, and promote environmental stewardship. The Natural Resources Staff coordinates and works together with the City's Community Services and Public Works Departments, in addition to other outside organizations, to ensure a successful events program:



- Earth Day
- Film viewings
- Goats in the park
- Walking tours
- Planting opportunities
- Natural area restoration
- Fall Harvest Festival
- Wilsonville Environmental Resource Keepers (WERK) Day
- Arbor Day tree planting
- Ongoing activities with partners
- Community service events with local businesses

... Make a Difference!

Provide stewardship for your natural habitats in the Wilsonville area. We are always looking for new ways to be good stewards of our environment. We have opportunities for everyone to express their support for environmental stewardship and learn how to improve their world.

- Contact the Environmental Education Program Coordinator Kelsey Walsh at 503-682-1011 ext. 1438 or walsh@ci.wilsonville.or.us
- Visit the City of Wilsonville's website to learn about current events: www.ci.wilsonville.or.us
- Look for event information in the Community Center's quarterly newsletter





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For More Information

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www.ci.wilsonville.or.us

**Oregon Department of
Fish and Wildlife**
3406 Cherry Ave NE
Salem OR 97303
www.dfw.state.or.us/lands

**Clackamas County Soil and
Water Conservation District**
421 High St Suite 105
Oregon City, OR 97045
www.cc-swcd.org

**Metro | Nature in
Neighborhoods**
600 NE Grand Ave
Portland, OR 97232
www.metro-region.org

Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Rd
Portland, OR 97210
www.audubonportland.org

Friends of Trees
3117 NE MLK Jr. Blvd
Portland, OR 97212
www.friendsoftrees.org

**Center for Environmental
Science and Technologies**
11265 SW Wilsonville Rd
Wilsonville, OR 97070
www.crest.wlww.k12.or.us

Champoeg State Heritage Area
8239 Champoeg Rd NE
St. Paul, OR 97137
www.oregonstateparks.org

Xerces Society
4828 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97215
www.xerces.org

Our Partners

Many of our stewardship accomplishments are made possible through partnerships and collaborations.



THE XERCES SOCIETY

CREST