

# NE Ainsworth Habitat Corridor Summer Stewards Volunteer Guide



This guide was created to help volunteers who seek to help steward the NE Ainsworth Habitat Corridor throughout the summer of 2020 and beyond!

**What is the NE Ainsworth Habitat Corridor?** It is a 2-block area of nature-scaped right-of-way that is designed to help create pollinator and wildlife habitat as well as mitigate storm water flows. It is located between NE 22nd and 24th Ave on NE Ainsworth St.

This first year of management is crucial to the long-term success of the corridor. Creating suitable growing conditions for the plants and managing weeds will set up this nature patch up to be more self-sustaining in the future.

## This Guide will teach you:

- 🌿 Native plant identification
- 🌿 How to mulch native plants
- 🌿 How to water the habitat corridor

The CSWC can provide tools, supplies and organic waste pick up for volunteers. All inquiries can go to [max.samuelson@columbiaslough.org](mailto:max.samuelson@columbiaslough.org).





## What the Council can provide:

- 🌲 Watering Supplies
- 🌲 Wood Chips and Buckets
- 🌲 Instruction
- 🌲 Garbage Bags
- 🌲 Litter Pickers
- 🌲 An excuse to be outside!

## Tasks we would like people to work on:

- 🌲 Watering trees and shrubs
- 🌲 Mulching plants
- 🌲 Pulling weeds
- 🌲 Removing litter

## Mulching Native Plants

Mulching the plants will help the site retain moisture and suppress weeds. Periodically, CSWC will place a pile of mulch at NE 23rd and NE Ainsworth on the end of the east median. Each shrub or tree should get 5 gallons of mulch once a year. Ferns and forbs should get 2.5 gallons or less.

### To spread mulch do the following:

- 🌲 Focus on shrubs and trees first, then ferns and wildflowers
- 🌲 Give each plant 5 gallons of mulch
- 🌲 Spread mulch in a donut shape around the plant—leaving a 4 inch diameter donut hole (this will keep the stem from rotting)
- 🌲 See CSWC staff demo the process here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrRq-DZuOuE>





## Watering The Habitat Corridor

During the first summer, these plants will need to be watered to ensure they make it through the dry months. As their roots get deeper, they will be self-sufficient through future summer months. It is important that each tree/shrub gets **at least 2 L of water per week**. We will have additional irrigation support from our friends at Rose City Environmental in the July and August months.

### The Council Will Provide These Great Watering Devices



### Watering Tips






- 🌲 The watering device will fit the spout on standard plastic bottles
- 🌲 Make holes in the bottom of the plastic bottle for air pressure
- 🌲 Stick the spike in “donut hole” between the mulch and plant
- 🌲 Modify the water rate with blue valve
- 🌲 It takes approx. 30 minutes to drain
- 🌲 Enjoy the habitat corridor or weed while waiting!









### How to Weed!

- 🌲 It is critical to get the entire weed root
- 🌲 Please tamp out the dirt and mulch off the weed root
- 🌲 Leave weed piles at base of a tree and CSWC will come pick them up, or place them in your personal compost bin
- 🌲 If you don't know if it's a weed or not, please leave it
- 🌲 See the attached showing the native plants that could be mistaken for weeds



## Native Plants on this Site

Name	Full Picture	Leaves	Description
Deschampsia			<p>The easiest way to differentiate between native grasses and unwanted turf grass is that native grasses form bunches around 2-4 inches in diameter or greater. These dense clumps are easy to distinguish when compared to the annual turf grass, which usually only has a handful of stems coming from its base. The Deschampsia has broad green blades and large flowering stalks.</p>
Idaho Fescue			<p>Idaho Fescue is easily identified by its pale blue color and 2-4 inch diameter bunched base. The blades of this grass are also much thinner than the Deschampsia or the annual turf grass found on the site.</p>
Oregon Sunshine			<p>Oregon Sunshine is a great pollinator host plant from the Aster family. This plant is typically low to the ground and is easily identified by its grey appearance, which upon closer look results from dense woolly hairs along the stem and undersides of the leaves.</p>

Goldenrod			<p>Goldenrod is a tall flowering plant that gets its name from its large array of golden flowers that bloom between mid-summer to early fall. Goldenrod can range from 2-4 feet tall and can be easily identified by its reddish stem and small teeth along the edges of its leaves.</p>
Wild Strawberry			<p>Wild strawberry is easily identified by its compound leaves each containing three well-defined leaflets with deeply serrated edges that are low to the ground. In the early summer, the little red fruits will be a dead giveaway.</p>
Oxalis			<p>Oxalis is a woodland sorrel that can be found blanketing the floor of many forests in our area. These will typically be growing in clumps and can be easily identified by their classic clover leaf arrangement, and in the spring, their 5-petaled white flowers.</p>
Water Leaf			<p>Pacific Water Leaf is another great pollinator plant that flowers in the spring. This plant spreads by rhizomes and will hopefully grow in abundance on the site with time. In the summer, be on the lookout for these compound leaves with distinct lower and upper sections and toothed edges.</p>

# A Few Common Weeds at the Habitat Corridor

Grass



Annual turf grass on this site is our main concern. Luckily, the roots are shallow and it's easy to pull! As stated above it is easiest to distinguish the annual weedy grass from the native perennial grasses by whether or not it is bunching. The photo on the right shows the loose open base with just a few stems coming out.

Plantain



Plantains are also prevalent throughout the site, but are concentrated in the sunnier spots. These can be easily identified by their long (up to 10") basal leaves with 3-5 parallel veins running up the middle and their 6"-18" flowering stalks.

Dandelion



For anyone with a garden or yard at home, these weeds are all too common. Dandelions have deeper roots than many of the other weeds you will encounter on this site and may require a hand trowel. They can be easily identified by their deeply serrated basal rosette.