



Urban Watershed Mentors

Program Overview

Program Purpose: In concert with participating in a series of trainings (including online webinars, classroom presentations and field work) mentors learn natural area restoration “best management practices” focused on invasive species removal and native planting techniques from experienced environmental professionals and/or experienced volunteer leaders. Following the training, mentors will be invited to help lead restoration work parties on pre-existing restoration sites to build capacity, skills and community with land managers who are currently tasked with long term stewardship of their sites. After “graduating” from this program, mentors become part of a network of community volunteer leaders who can mentor new volunteers and land managers. As this network grows, more land conservation will be enhanced and maintained through a community of engaged and knowledgeable stewards.

Volunteer Commitment & Program Agenda: Volunteers will participate in 5 hours of formal classroom training and 3 hours of hands-on training. Following initial training, participants will be invited to use their new skills at pre-existing restoration sites to organize and oversee volunteer work parties showcasing best management practices and volunteer management techniques learned. Participants will also be invited to a State of the Watershed community celebration to showcase the work they’ve accomplished. The 2017 schedule is as follows:

March 21st, 5-7:30 PM (Stephens Creek Crossing Classroom, 6719 SW 26th Avenue, Portland):

- Program Overview & Introductions (Mary Logalbo, WMSWCD)
- Native Plants & Local Habitat Types (Wisdom of the Elders & Mary Logalbo, WMSWCD)
- Wildlife Enhancements (Nikki West, BYHCP/Audubon Society of Portland)

March 23rd, 5-7:30 PM (Stephens Creek Crossing Classroom, 6719 SW 26th Avenue, Portland):

- Icebreaker (get to know each other) Activity (Mary Logalbo, WMSWCD)
- Invasive Plant Management (Wisdom of the Elders & WMSWCD)
- Volunteer Management & Site Safety Basics (Quintin Bauer, SOLVE)
- Stormwater Considerations (Mary Logalbo, WMSWCD)

March 25th, 9 AM – 12 PM (George Himes Park, SW Nebraska & Parkhill Way, Portland):

- Field Demonstration of Restoration Techniques (Janelle St. Pierre, PPR & Steve Kennett, Dig In)
- Volunteer Work Party – Practice Planting & Invasive Removal Techniques (Janelle St. Pierre, PPR & Steve Kennett, Dig In)

May 24th, Evening (Tryon Creek State Park)

- State of the Watershed Celebration

Online Resources

Review prior to classroom/group time

- Home & Habitat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wD3DuqGheyk> (Watershed concepts, wildlife habitat and connectivity concepts)
- Stormwater 101: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jssvYE5mk8c> (A novice's introduction to stormwater in Western Oregon using the "water balance model") *Participants will be encouraged to join the Challenging Stormwater Sites workshops and won't be expected to provide stormwater guidance to landowners in their plans.*
- Class Materials & Updates: <https://wmswcd.org/programs/urban-watershed-mentors/>

Long-Term Support & Community: To foster long-term community building and sharing, mentors will be invited to participate via an email list serve and the WMSWCD Facebook and twitter accounts. The “graduated” mentor chapters may gather annually to share project information and receive additional training at State of the Watershed events or other chapter organized functions.

Program Coordinator Contact:

Mary Logalbo, Urban Conservationist, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Email: mary@wmswcd.org

Phone: (503) 238 4775 x103

Online Program Information: <https://wmswcd.org/programs/urban-watershed-mentors/>