



NORTH  
CLACKAMAS  
WATERSHEDS  
COUNCIL

# Streamside Stewards

## Overview

Do you own property along a natural stream in Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Happy Valley, or Jennings Lodge? Join the North Clackamas Watershed Council today and become a Streamside Steward. Streamside Stewards receive native plantings, professionally-done invasive weed removal, and native tree planting and maintenance, free or subsidized, in exchange for committing to a stream revegetation project.



***Invasive Species targeted: Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, Japanese knotweed, bamboo, clematis, scotch broom, garlic mustard, reed canary grass, and more.***

The Watershed Council operates the Streamside Stewards Program to provide long-term shade that cools the stream to keep oxygen levels high, filter pollutants and make our streams healthy for fish, wildlife and people. We're trying to link streamside properties to create a continuous ribbon of habitat along our streams. If you become a Streamside Steward, your property will be part of a larger watershed-wide effort for clean water, corridors for fish and wildlife to live and migrate, and people to enjoy. Streamside Stewards is a multi-year effort to make your streamfront healthier.



### ***Phase I: Invasive Species removal & site preparation (Year 1)***

- Site walk to discuss project
- Crews remove invasive species in the planting area (at least 15' from the bank). Crews removes noxious weeds from the remainder of the property to prevent spread into the planting area.
- Work includes water-safe herbicide application, manual removal, and cutting.
- Expect at least three visits during the first year (knockdown, spring, and fall).



## ***Phase II: Planting (winter/spring, years 1 and/or 2)***

Crews will plant native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers along your stream bank. Plants are typically bare root plants (6" - 12" tall). Plants experience a 20% mortality rate, so we plant dense to anticipate this. Plants are chosen according to shade, moisture, and habitat type.



### **Planting Basics:**

- We plant a strip along the streambank at least 15' wide.
- We'll work with you to create access to the stream and views, but expect around 4' of growth in trees and 2' in shrubs after two years.

### **Why are Native Plants Important?**

- Drought tolerant in the summer and rain tolerant in the winter.
- Stabilize weak banks and prevent erosion
- Filter contaminants from soil and protects your home stream!
- Provide food for native fish and wildlife
- Many species are edible - ask us which ones.



Snowberry ( <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> )	Thimbleberry ( <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> )	Western Red Cedar ( <i>Thuja plicata</i> )
Oregon grape ( <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> )	Douglas spirea ( <i>Spirea douglasii</i> )	Red flowering currant ( <i>Ribes sanguineum</i> )

### ***Phase III: Maintenance and Monitoring (Years 3-8)***

We continue treat weeds and keep the plants alive. Depending on your property, the weather, and other factors, this could involve mulching, additional spraying, or planting to replace some inevitable plant mortality. Expect at least two years of maintenance and five years of monitoring and knocking back weeds.

#### **Typical Timeline**

Summer Year 1: Site assessment, initial weed treatment.  
Fall Y1: Follow-up weed treatment, blackberry cut.  
Winter Y1: Planting  
Spring Y1: Maintenance weed treatment, plant mulching  
Summer Year 2: Maintenance weeding & field mow  
Fall Y2: Additional planting & maintenance treatment.  
Spring Y2: Maintenance weed treatment & monitoring  
Fall Y3: Maintenance weed treatment & monitoring  
Spring Y3: Maintenance weed treatment & monitoring  
Fall Y4: Maintenance weed treatment & monitoring  
Spring Y4-Y8: Maintenance weed treatment & monitoring

*Every site is a bit different.*



### **What We Ask of You**

We'll help you become stewards of your own land, and the program is subsidized with public funds to keep streams healthy. But you're ultimately responsible for long term success of their properties. Your part:

1. Give us written permission to enter and work on your property
2. Tell us ASAP if you are considering selling the property, or making other modifications to the area near the stream (buildings, remodels, etc.)
3. Contribute \$200/year to help fund the program (each property costs about \$1,500 year in public funds)
4. Take 4 photos of your property per year (to help monitor plant growth: we'll train you on how)

5. Agree to allow us to use water-safe herbicides. While in the ideal world we wouldn't use any chemicals, some invasive plants just get angrier and grow faster when you pull them. Herbicides are sometimes the only practical solution.
6. Allow us to show off your property in photos, tours, etc.

## Other Things You Can Do

1. Observe changes in the area. Do plants look stressed? Are any invasive weeds sneaking back into the property? Does the stream look polluted or murky? If you see anything like this, please email us photos.
2. Leave leaves, branches, and other organic material on the ground in the planting area. They will break down and turn into nutrient-rich soil for the plants. They retain moisture in the soil, slow erosion, and shelter wildlife.
3. Mulch or water plants that look stressed. Placing one gallon of mulch around stressed plants in the fall, and water once a month in the summer you'll increase the plant's chance of survival a lot.
4. Identify weeds and remove them by hand. Weeds such as blackberry and ivy will re-spread from birds and hitchhiker seeds. If you remove them while they're young, you can keep your property from being overrun by invasives. *Be sure you know what you're pulling!* Contact us if you need help.
5. Talk to your neighbors. They may be interested in the program too.

### Contact

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### Funded by:

