

Native demonstration gardens in western WA

We frequently get questions regarding public gardens and plantings where folks can view labeled native plants and see native plantings in action. The gardens listed here offer signage and interpretive resources, either onsite through guides and signage, or downloadable online. Be sure to check websites for visitation information.

Thurston County

- The Evergreen State College (2700 Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia) campus has numerous interpretive gardens, and new plantings are added often. Native gardens include the Longhouse Ethnobotanical Garden and the Red Square Native Plant Demonstration Garden among others (academic.evergreen.edu/projects/gardens).
- Thurston Native Plant Salvage Project maintains a small garden beside the San Francisco Street Bakery (1320 San Francisco Ave NE, Olympia) – signage listing the species can be found at the entrance.

Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas

- Kul Kah Han Native Plant Demonstration Gardens (nativeplantgarden.wordpress.com/) is located at the H.J. Carrol Park Picnic Shelter (9884 Rhody Drive, Chimacum) – all species are labeled. The plantings are organized by ecosystem type and include species from montane, subalpine, meadow, forest and edge communities.
- Theler wetlands (22871 NE State Route 3, Belfair) features a native plant demonstration garden including over 800 species in addition to saltwater marsh, freshwater marsh and forested woodland walking trails.

Pierce County

- Northwest Native Garden Club has a native plant garden in Point Defiance Park (5400 N Pearl St., Tacoma), located on 5 Mile Drive on the right near the park exit, managed in conjunction with Metro Parks Tacoma (www.tacomagardenclub.us/plantgarden.html).
- Tacoma Nature Center (1919 South Tyler Street) has trails and an interpretive guide for its 71-acre preserve (www.metroparkstacoma.org).
- Heritage Native Plant garden at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor (10123 78th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, 98332), stewarded by Pierce County Master Gardeners, has plant signs with scannable QR codes embedded, linked to plantsmap.com where more photos and plant details can be found.

King County

- Burke Museum (NE 45th St, Seattle) on the UW campus features the Erna Gunther Ethnobotanical garden on the near the front entrance (www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/).
- Krukeberg Botanic Garden (20312 15th Ave. NW, Shoreline) collection includes both native and nonnative specimens. The garden is open to the public on weekends and free guided tours are offered frequently – check the website for more information (www.krukeberg.org).
- Bellevue Botanical Garden (12001 Main Street, Bellevue) has a Native Plant Discovery Garden and 19 acres of woodlands, wetlands and meadows (www.bellevuebotanical.org). The garden is open daily from dawn to dusk and has no visitor fee.
- Daybreak Ethnobotanical Garden (www.cityofseattle.net/Parks/environment/discovparkindex.htm) in Discovery Park (3801 W Government Way, Seattle) includes native species that are useful to Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest.
- Washington Park Arboretum (2300 Arboretum Drive E, Seattle) has a section devoted to native species located on

the north end of the property (depts.washington.edu/wpa/index.htm). Within the Arboretum is an area along Lake Washington's Union Bay that is now open to the public after a recently completed shorelines restoration project.

- WA Native Plant Society's website houses a map of native plant habitat restoration sites in Seattle city parks (www.wnps.org/restoration/documents/Starflower_Map.pdf). More information on each of the projects listed can be found at wnps.org/restoration/index.html.

Kitsap County

- Bloedel Reserve (7571 NE Dolphin Drive, Bainbridge Island) is a 150-acre nature preserve and garden open by reservation only, reservations can be made online and admission is \$12 per adult (www.bloedelreserve.org/).

Other avenues

- Thurston Native Plant Salvage Project works throughout Thurston County and offers a woody twig identification workshop every January and a 'Meet the Trees of Washington' workshop every June (<http://www.nativeplantsalvage.org/workshopsandclasses.php>). Native plant salvage projects hold salvage events throughout the winter – native species are salvaged from areas slated for construction, potted up and used for future restoration projects - these are excellent opportunities for volunteers to learn identification of native species in their dormant condition.
- Washington Native Plant Society maintains plant lists for natural areas throughout the state as well as native plant ID cards, download these on their website (www.wnps.org/).
- For more advanced study, the University of Washington Botanic Gardens in Seattle periodically offers plant identification classes targeting field identification skills and identifying species using dichotomous keys (depts.washington.edu/urbhort/html/education/education.htm).