



Forest Stewardship on Mercer Island

Creating Healthy Forests & Strong Communities

A THREATENED URBAN FOREST

The City of Mercer Island is home to over 300 acres of beautiful, forested parks and open spaces that provide invaluable benefits to our community such as stormwater abatement, clean air, outdoor recreation, human health benefits, and wildlife habitat. Invasive plants such as English ivy and Himalayan blackberry threaten our existing forest canopy, inhibit the next generation of trees from establishing, and decrease habitat quality.

THE SOLUTION

Community Forest Stewardship plays a pivotal role in helping the City address these challenges. The City of Mercer Island works with professional contractors, non-profit partners Mountains to Sound Greenway and EarthCorps, and community volunteers to remove invasive plants and replant with native trees and shrubs. Together we ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of our invaluable open spaces for current and future generations.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Service Learning and Team Building

We work with private groups such as Boy and Girl Scout troops, school clubs, companies, and religious communities to create events for as many as 100 volunteers. Projects include all tools, logistical help, and on-site guidance needed to foster a great sense of teamwork, community, and care for our forest resources.

Mercer Island Forest Stewards

Do you love the outdoors and want to learn about forest restoration? Is there an open space that has captured your heart? Consider becoming a Forest Steward at your local park or open space. Our Natural Resources staff provide volunteers with training, tools, and ongoing support. Training includes information about native plant identification, invasive plant identification and removal, native plant installation, and volunteer event coordination. Forest Stewards may work independently, making their own schedule, or lead volunteer events for friends and neighbors.



FOREST STEWARD PROGRAM – VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTION

REPORTS TO: Natural Resources Project Manager

LOCATION: Mercer Island park or open space as agreed upon by volunteer and Natural Resources staff

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Mercer Island Forest Stewards participate in ecological restoration efforts in Mercer Island parks and open spaces. This can be done through adopting a park or specific section of a park, or through leading (or co-leading) volunteer events or offering educational opportunities to other stewards and public volunteers (ie: Native plant walks, guided birding tours, etc). Forest Stewards may work individually, making their own schedule engaging in restoration in their assigned spot. They can serve as community leaders through hosting volunteer events and other engagement opportunities. Additionally, a group of volunteers can also form a “Friends of” or “Adopt a Park” group and nominate a “Forest Steward” lead to be the liaison with the City of Mercer Island.

SPECIFIC DUTIES:

- Attend training/mentorship session with Volunteer Coordinator to learn plant identification and restoration practices.
- Work with the Natural Resources staff to identify goals and develop an annual restoration work plan.
- Request tools and supplies from the Natural Resources staff.
- Manually remove invasive species using best management practices.
- Dispose of debris on-site as outlined during orientation.
- Submit monthly volunteer hour logs to Natural Resources staff.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ability to perform physically demanding work such as planting, mulching, and manual removal of Himalayan blackberry and other weedy species.
- Ability to maintain positive working relationship with staff, other volunteers, and park visitors.
- Good organization and communication skills.
- Willingness to learn about ecological restoration practices

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of PNW native and invasive plants.
- Knowledge of forest restoration and invasive plant removal methods.
- If hosting volunteer events, experience working with youth, young adults, and adult volunteers in an outdoor setting.

CONTACT:

Jordan Fischer, Parks Volunteer Coordinator
2040 84th Avenue SE • Mercer Island, WA 98040 • (206) 741-2464



FOREST STEWARD PROGRAM APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

1. Tell us why you are interested in becoming a Mercer Island Forest Steward.

2. Which park or open space would you like to work in?

3. Do you have experience in gardening, landscaping or on-the-ground restoration work? If yes, please describe.



City of Mercer Island, Natural Resources
Forest Stewardship

4. Tell us about your plant identification skills. Are you familiar with Pacific Northwest native plants and local invasive plant species?

5. Do you want to work independently on your own time or are you interested in leading other volunteer work parties?

6. If interested in leading and coordinating volunteer events, please tell us about any experience you have leading or teaching children, youth, or adults. (Note: Forest Stewards who lead volunteer events where youth and children will be present are required to pass a complete background check before they host their first event.)

7. All volunteers are required to complete the City of Mercer Island Volunteer Service Agreement. Are you willing to do this?

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