



## EERC

### July 1 Newsletter

*"What we believe can significantly affect what we can achieve."*

Thich Nhat Hanh.



Hello Community members,

It's a bit hard to fathom that spring has rolled into summer and that July 4, 2020 is this weekend! While much in our society seems to be on pause, we have also witnessed unprecedented rates of change over the first six months of 2020 resulting from pandemic, economic downturn, and social upheaval. Many summer plans may also be on hold as the virus keeps us in social distancing mode and all the uncertainty can get a little overwhelming (and tiring) at times.

Yet one thing we know for sure is that the physical, mental, and emotional health benefits of connection to nature have not, and will not change. Nature is always there for us and generously offers her gifts when we take the time to connect, if even if pausing to appreciate a tree in our yard or neighborhood. The EERC is excited to announce that visitors to St. Edward SP will soon have



Native Plant Tag courtesy of UW Bothell



Forest Island

### Native Plant Garden and Camera Phone Tour

Thanks to our partnership with the University of Washington, Bothell and the Friends of St. Edward State Park, as well as support from the Washington Native Plant Society, the EERC will restore the “forest island” located in the St. Edward SP north parking lot as a Native Plant Garden and Camera Phone Tour. Phase One of the project will include eradication of non-native plants which currently exist and a general cleanup of the forest island. Phase Two will entail siting and planting approximately twenty new native plants in the forest island area. During Phase Three, we will create plant tags, each of which will include a QR code specific for each plant species. A QR code is a square matrix of dots that works with a smartphone like a bar code crossing a checkout counter scanner. Simply pointing a smartphone camera at the QR code will direct users to a webpage with profiles on the plant’s natural history, conservation values and ethnobotanical uses by Indigenous peoples.

The St. Edward Native Plant Garden and Camera Phone Tour is modeled after a similar project developed by Sarah Verlinde at UW Bothell which helps to educate students, faculty, and visitors to native plants that occur on UW Bothell and Cascadia College campuses. Learn more about Sarah’s work here.

<https://www.uwb.edu/news/march-2020/qr-code-plant-tour>

Let us know if you are interested in helping with the Phase 1 work party, Tuesday August 4, or Phase 2 Native Plant, planting party Tuesday August 11, by sending a note to Keegan O’Neill at [info@steadwardeerc.org](mailto:info@steadwardeerc.org).



### Online and Field-based Learning

Like so many others, the EERC has been forced to take summer learning online. We spent considerable time over the spring to create six Wild Wednesday Youth and Family modules that were slated to begin as small group, in person sessions in the Park, July 15. With COVID cases back on the rise, we ultimately determined it would be irresponsible to go forward with in person offerings, and have pivoted to delivering our 2020 Youth and Family modules on the EERC's website. The upside of online delivery is that it will allow the EERC's summer programming to be available for hundreds more youth and families throughout the region, than we would have been able to accommodate under the current Phase 2 opening restrictions.

Each online EERC Youth and Family module will include background on the subject matter, instructions for parents and care givers, hands on activities for youth, and supported by short videos. Watch for announcements of newly modules Youth and Family modules to the EERC's website such as Trees and Me; Salmon and Streams; Water, Water Everywhere, and more, as these go online.

*Let us know if you have any special requests for online education offerings by sending a note Keegan at [info@steadwardeerc.org](mailto:info@steadwardeerc.org)*

### Help the EERC Grow

Please forward our newsletter to your friends, family and colleagues.

**Visit us and add your pictures and experiences of St. Edward State Park on the EERC's Face Book and Instagram.**

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST](#)

*The EERC's Community-Informed Vision, Mission, and Program Framework*

**Vision** - *The EERC is a living laboratory where experience transforms learning and stewardship takes root.*

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*advancing public understanding, connection with nature, scientific knowledge, skills and stewardship of Pacific Northwest ecosystems.*

**Programming** - EERC's programming will be targeted to support three distinct yet overlapping interest areas identified by the community.

- Community, Youth and Family Outreach and Interpretation Programs
- Community K-12 School Partnered Programs
- Community Engaged Science Research and Monitoring Programs



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