



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Arboretum Seeks Volunteers to Help Care for Historic Azalea Way

The Arboretum Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and the UW Botanic Gardens, are launching a new volunteer initiative to help maintain Azalea Way, an historic component of Washington Park Arboretum's original Olmsted design. Flanked by a spectacular array of azaleas, rhododendrons, and other flowering shrubs and trees, Azalea Way runs for about two thirds of a mile from the Graham Visitors Center to the Japanese Garden and is one of the Arboretum's most popular and enduring attractions.

The new [Azalea Way Garden Stewards](#) program is modeled on the [Pacific Connections Garden Stewards](#) program, which has, since its inception in fall 2011, resulted in the recruitment of close to 30 volunteer gardeners to help maintain the new eco-geographic displays at the south end of the Arboretum. Like the Pacific Connections Garden Stewards, the Azalea Way Garden Stewards will provide volunteer support to salaried Arboretum staff in caring for Azalea Way.

The work will consist primarily of weeding, mulching, and edging with hand tools, as well as some planting of native groundcovers. As with the Pacific Connection Garden Stewards, the Azalea Way Garden Stewards will receive special training from Arboretum staff and benefit from enrichment activities such as lectures and instructional tours hosted by plant experts within the Arboretum's extended family.

To join the Azalea Way Garden Stewards, we ask that volunteers have some previous gardening experience and commit to working 24 hours over the period of March to November.

To launch the new initiative, we are hosting a work party on Azalea Way on Tuesday, August 7, from 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to sign up, email our stewards coordinator Rhonda Bush at RhondaBush@comcast.net or call her at 206-941-2550.

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