

SPRING, 2017

Madison Meadow springs up

by Susan Jerde, Madison Meadow board member

Spring has arrived at Madison Meadow! Trees and shrubs are starting to bud and the wildflowers aren't far behind. The low-lying camas area will be a field of blue in May. Red flowering currant and osoberry are leafing out, while the pink clarkia is returning from its own seed. As the days get warmer, watch the twinberry, ninebark, and ocean spray open up, and later in summer check out the flowering coyote bush!

The meadow is now home to 11 added native trees, 17 native shrubs, and over 20 types of wildflowers—in addition to the filberts, hawthorne, fruit trees, and madrone that have been part of these two acres for many years. The more recent plantings were chosen with guidance from Doak Creek Native Plant Nursery, Friends of Trees, and other plant experts with the goal

of enriching wildlife and pollinator habitat. Volunteers have donated countless hours clearing invasives, hauling away brush, and spreading loads of chips to maintain the meadow as a welcoming place.

Watch for tree work and a plaque coming soon at the dead cedar on 22nd Ave. Scott Altenhoff, our city Urban Forester, has volunteered to "snag" the tree to create a high rise hotel for birds, insects, and other animals.

Madison Meadow always welcomes planned school groups of all ages, as well as unplanned visits from everyone who passes by. Give yourself time to walk through this greenspace in the heart of our neighborhood.

For more information: madisonmeadow.org, 541-683-3430, and follow us on Facebook!

