

Springtime in Madison Meadow April, 2014

By Susan Jerde, FAN Resident

Madison Meadow is starting to come alive with green energy- the grasses are growing, fruit trees are starting to flower and new buds are opening every day. As the weather warms the birds and pollinators are enjoying the natural habitat, along with Meadow visitors of all ages looking for a quiet walk or a playful romp.

Since the last Meadow update was printed in F.A.N. the Meadow has stayed much the same, but with the enhancement of several new, native plantings. This will be the 4th year that the camas islands on either side of the northwest path begin their blooming cycle, and snowberry thrives on the southwest border. Eighteen months ago Meadow volunteers planted 3 white oaks, a Willamette Valley Ponderosa pine, a second madrone, and 2 big leaf maples around the perimeter. A new shrub island on the south border was also established, containing Oregon grape, Nootka rose, vine maple, blue elderberry, ocean spray and cow's parsnip. Volunteers will be re-fencing and tending to the wildflower garden, full of milkweed and many varied plants chosen to attract bees, butterflies and other lesser known but increasingly important native pollinators. The most recent addition has been the donation of two substantial cedar "sitting logs" and they have been well-used already.

This open space has hosted nature classes, small concerts, and just last summer a lovely wedding on a perfect August day.

All these positive changes to the Meadow happened with the advice, help and donations from naturalists, tree experts, nurseries, local businesses, school groups (from pre-school to university) and lots of volunteer energy. Madison Meadow is as much a part of the community as it is a part of Nature. Please come walk through the paths and be part of this green island in our neighborhood.

The Meadow is always looking for volunteers- for mowing, weeding, maintenance, advice. If you want to know more or do more visit www.madisonmeadow.org or call 541-683-3430.



Photo courtesy Susan Jerde