



## Volunteering with the Backyard Habitat Certification Program – 2018

### **How do Volunteers Support the BHCP?**

**General Volunteers:** help with a wide range of duties such as supporting native plants sales, data entry, outreach at community events, and other administrative tasks

**Volunteer Certification Technicians:** have a significantly higher-level of natural gardening expertise, a strong knowledge of Willamette Valley native and invasive plant identification skills and attend additional BHCP program trainings. They schedule and conduct Backyard Habitat Certification visits, provide support and recommendations to program participants, and record data online. Additional training is required to become conduct certification visits.

### **Required Skills:**

- Strong background in natural gardening and native plant identification
- Ability to identify common invasive plants and educate the public about best management practices to eradicate or control them
- Solid knowledge of basic wildlife stewardship elements (wildlife habitat needs) and stormwater management
- Desire to educate the public in sustainable gardening and habitat enhancement
- Knowledge of regional resources for property managers

### **Commitment:**

- Must attend a New Volunteer Orientation, plus additional required trainings - depending on level of volunteerism. See full training schedule for details.
- Must be willing to become an official Audubon volunteer (requires background check) and commit to logging hours on Audubon's website.
- Must commit at least 10hrs per year or 10 certification Visits (for *Certification Technicians*) – this DOES NOT include time spent in BHCP trainings

### **Benefits of being a BHCP Volunteer:**

- Improve knowledge of native and invasive plant identification, basics of backyard habitat enhancement, and sustainable stormwater management
- Join a fun and quickly growing movement of passionate and enthusiastic people greening up our cities to create healthy gardens, for people and wildlife.

For more information about volunteering with the BHCP contact [nwest@audubonportland.org](mailto:nwest@audubonportland.org) or 503-292-6855 x126

*The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaborative effort of the Audubon Society of Portland and the Columbia Land Trust*