

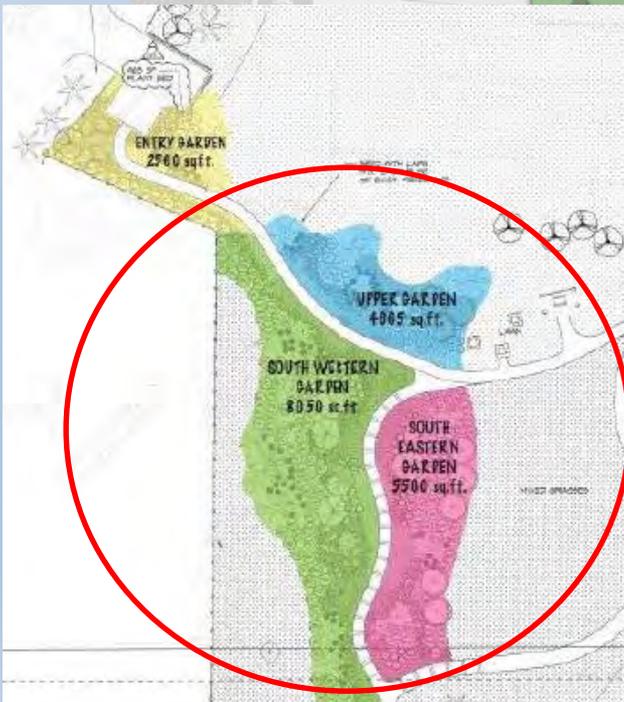


**LOWER SAMMAMISH COMMONS
NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
2020**

A Joint Project of the City of Sammamish,
Washington Native Plant Society Stewards
and Sammamish Botanical Garden Society

Supported by City of Sammamish,
National Wildlife Federation,
Sammamish Friends and King County

Welcome to the Sammamish Commons



The Lower Sammamish Commons Native Plant Garden is situated northwest of the Sammamish City Hall. It can be reached by a ½ mile paved pathway from City Hall or by vehicle via SE 4th St. It will connect directly to the future Town Center.

HISTORY



2008



2020

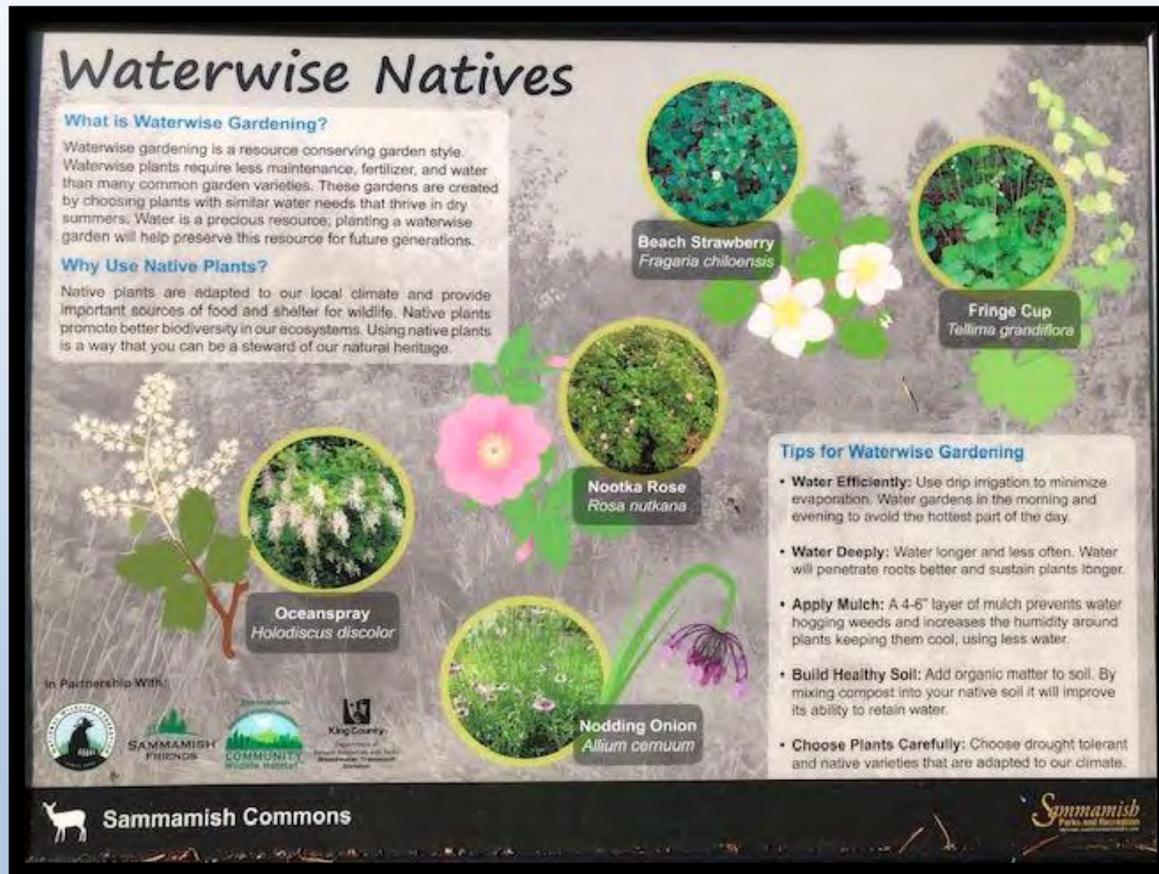
In 2008 Linda Hines, a 2005 Washington Native Plant Society Steward spearheaded an effort in cooperation with the City of Sammamish, the Washington Native Plant Society, and the Sammamish Garden Club to convert approximately 20,000 sf of land in the Lower Sammamish Commons to a native plant sanctuary as an educational benefit for the public.



Phase 1 in 2008 consisted of removal of invasive species and sheet mulching the entire site.



In 2009, members of the Washington Native Plant Society Stewardship Program initiated Phase 2 of the project. Volunteers recruited through the City of Sammamish Volunteer Coordinator planted native ground cover, shrubs and trees. Planting of additional native species was continued by various groups over the years.



Waterwise sign installed 2019

As of 2020 the public education goals of Phase 2 had yet to be fully realized: “Design public education brochures, signs and plant tags to educate the public about native plants, native plant upland habitat, and environmentally friendly mulching techniques to place along established public walkways through the area”



2009



2020

Eleven years after planting, the native vegetation had filled in so completely that it was difficult to see the trees for the forest. Yellow arrow shows point of reference

In 2020 Jan Bird and Anna Yorba, WNPS Native Plant Stewards and Sarah Cheng of the Sammamish Botanical Garden Society decided to continue the interpretive phase of the project.

After an initial attempt at mapping the plants on the site, they realized that volunteer vine maple, bigleaf maple, thimbleberry, and nootka rose had filled in open areas to obscure valuable understory species.

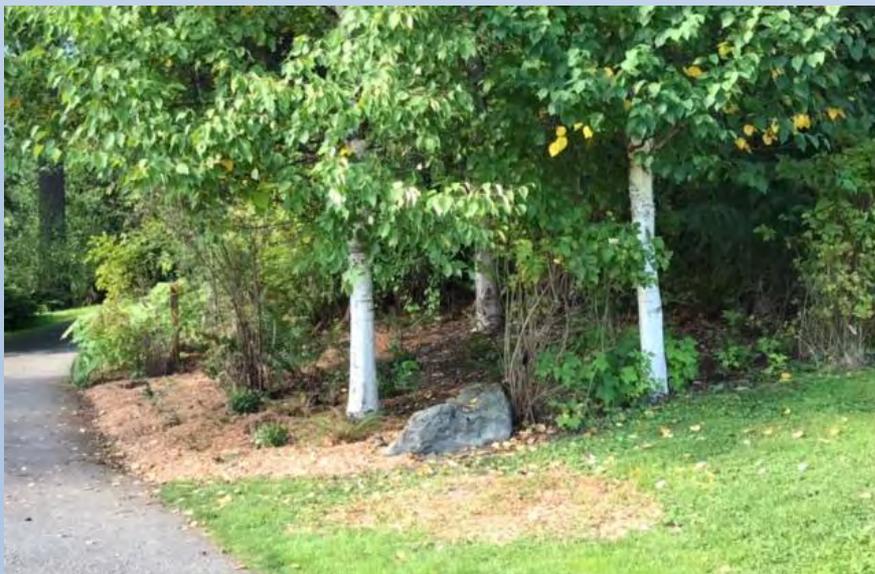
With the help of City workers with chain saws, they began clearing surplus trees and underbrush in early summer 2020.



As a result of selective clearing the garden began to take shape.



From this



to this

Funding from the City of Sammamish, the National Wildlife Federation, and contributions from the Sammamish Native Plant Nursery provided groundcover and understory plants to fill in newly cleared areas.



A grant from the National Wildlife Federation paid for 44 plant identification tags.

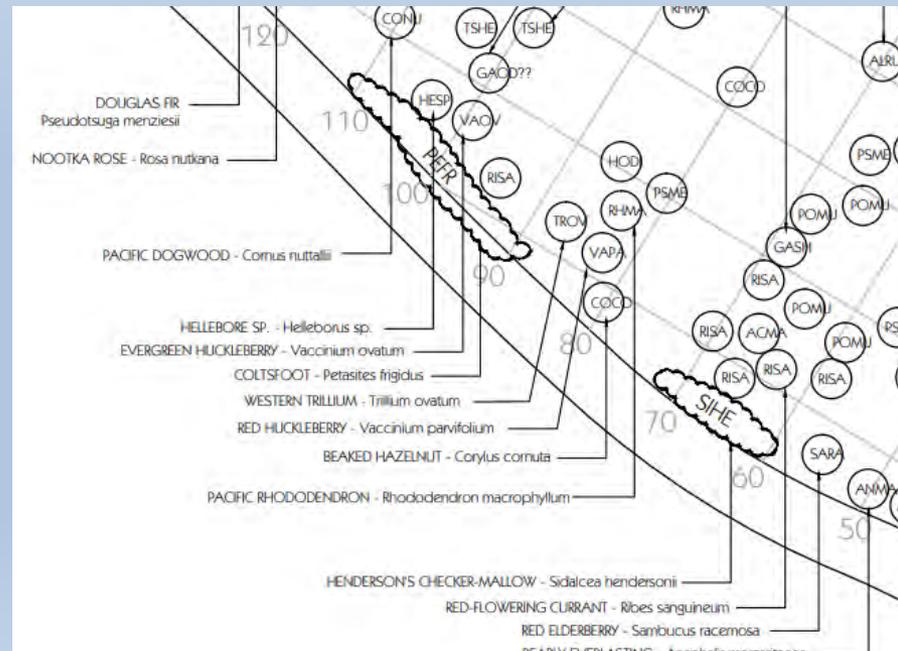


INFORMATION SHARING

Taxon	Plant Scientific Name (from Taxon)	De.	Bed / Sublocation	How Received	Plant Count
Alaska yellow cedar	<i>Callitropsis nootkatensis</i>		SE Garden		1
Inside-out flower	<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i>		Upper Garden		7
evergreen huckleberry	<i>Vaccinium ovatum</i>		Entry		3
Pacific Coast iris	<i>iris sp.</i>		Upper Garden		5

To further our quest for plant information and accurate records, the Sammamish Botanical Garden Society is developing a modified botanical garden data base.

Detailed planting plans drafted by Anna Yorba will be accessible from the City of Sammamish website



Wayfinding signs and identification tags for plants added in the fall will be installed in the future.



SAMMAMISH
NATIVE PLANT
SELF-GUIDED
WALKING TOUR

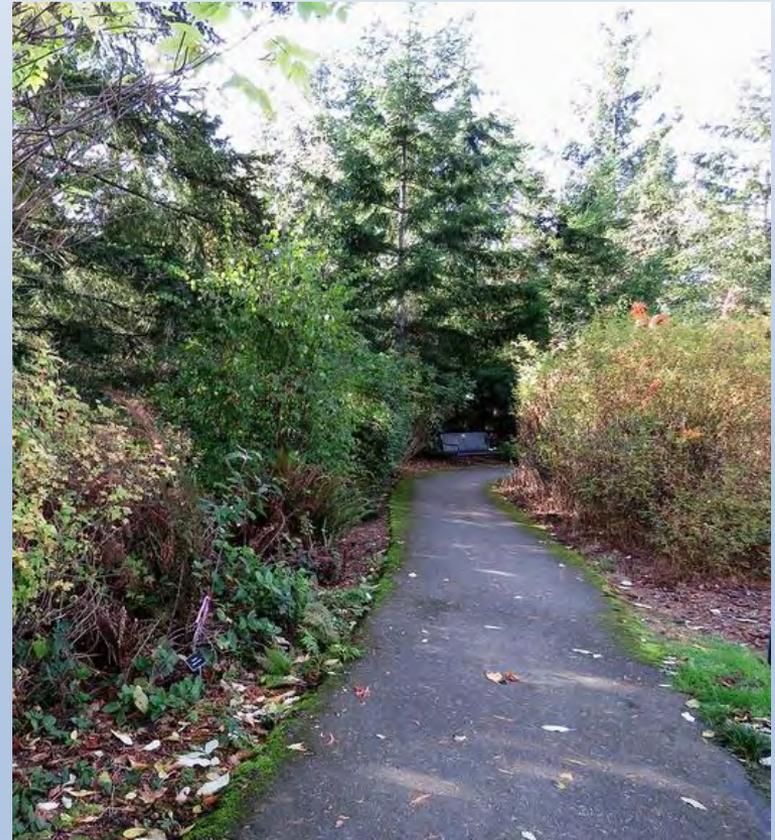


The final phase of the project is to design brochures to educate the public about native plants and habitat and to encourage property owners to include native landscaping on their property. A self-guided native plant walking tour of Sammamish is also in the works.

BEFORE AND AFTER



2009



2020



2009



2020



2009



2020



2009



2020

It must be noted that this phase of the project was carried out during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, thus there was no access to the usual community volunteer labor force.



Thanks to Sarah Cheng, Jan Bird, and Anna Yorba
for all the hours in the garden