

Ilahaee Roadside Park

Native Plant Trail

Natives are Natural and Necessary



Native plants are those that occur naturally in a region in which they evolved. They attract pollinating insects and birds while also providing shelter and food for large and small animals in the region.



Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. Since they are in their natural habitat, native plants are very low maintenance, and unless drought conditions occur, they have little need for additional water.



Follow the numbered posts to discover the 15 Native Plants along this self-guided trail.



Funding for this Native Plant Interpretive Trail was made possible by a **PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant** sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Ilahaee Roadside Park

The Land & Our Past

Big Bottom Valley



Imagine a triangle formed by Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams and Mt. Saint Helens. Near the center of that triangle you will find Randle. The rural area surrounding Randle is known locally as the "Big Bottom Valley". It is descriptive of the valley floor in which the Cowlitz River winds westward through Randle. This flat, fertile valley is "big", measuring more than 3 miles wide in places.

Mary Kiona, Matriarch of the Upper Cowlitz Indian Tribe, lived her entire life in what is now East Lewis County and the Randle area. At her death in 1970, her age was reported as 115-121, with birthdates of January 1, 1849 from her family and January 1, 1855 recorded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



White settlers explored the area around 1882.

In 1885 the first post office in the area was established in Vance, just south of the Cowlitz River. The post office in Randle was established in 1886, bearing the name of the first justice of the peace in the area, **James L. Randle**.



Cowlitz Indians - Divided into the Upper and Lower Cowlitz Tribes, our area represents the Upper Cowlitz. The Upper Cowlitz Tribe traded horses, dried camas roots, dried berries and meats, hides and furs, and the highly valued mountain goat and dog hair that was woven into blankets. Also prized were the water-tight baskets created by the Cowlitz women. These baskets are thought, by some specialists, to be the most "perfect imbricated baskets with more stitches in the same space and also more beautiful designs" than any others. Mary Kiona was among the best-known Cowlitz basket-makers, continuing her craft for over 100 years.

Honoring our Land and our Past

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Cowlitz People

Illahee Roadside Park

Blue Star Memorial

Honoring Those Who Have Served



Blue Star Memorial Highways are a tribute to all men and women who serve in the United States Armed Services. The National Council of State Garden Clubs, now known as National Garden Clubs, Inc., started the program in 1945. The Blue Star became an icon in World War II and was seen on flags and banners in homes for sons and daughters away at war. The Blue Star Highway system covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii.



Illahee's
Blue Star
marker
was
dedicated
July 7,
2007



Our Story - In 2006, garden club members began talking about making changes to the Roadside Park. Shrubs had grown and were blocking the sprinklers. Drought tolerant weeds were flourishing. The area around the flagpole was particularly unattractive. The club applied for and received a \$1500 grant for a Blue Star marker. This renewed energy around the park guided the club into the future and the space you enjoy today.

Illahee Roadside Park Park History

Illahee

The universe...the sun, moon and stars,
the earth and every growing thing.

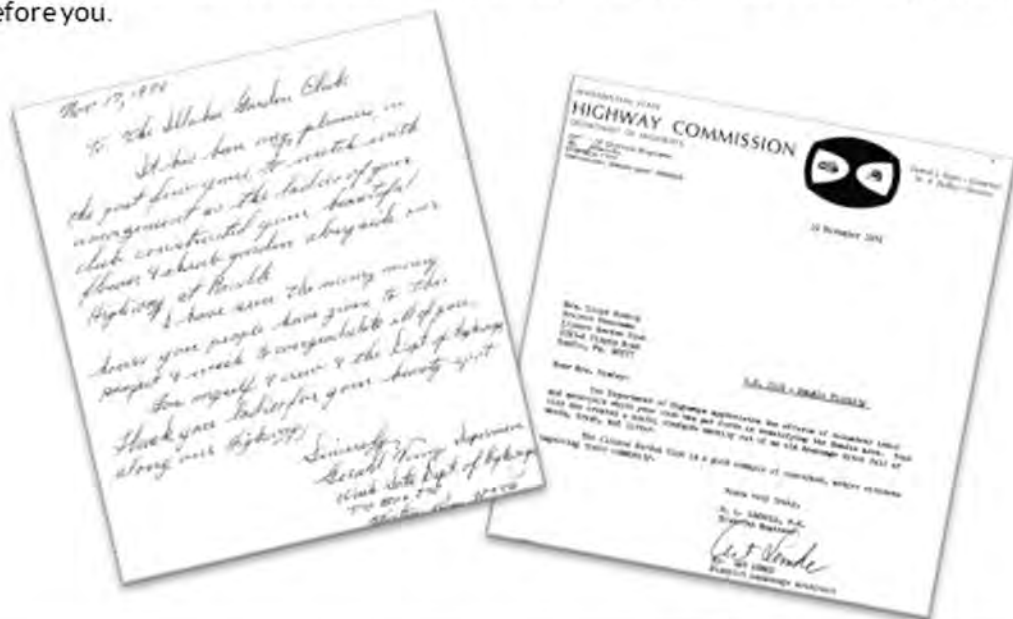
Illahee Garden Club

Founded in 1931, Illahee Garden Club members meet monthly, sharing their love of gardening, enhancing their skill in design and providing leadership and support for local improvement projects. Illahee is a member of the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs and the National Garden Clubs, Inc.



Roadside Park History

In 1973, the twenty-five members of the Illahee Garden Club recognized the need for creating an inviting entrance to the town of Randle. Having no city public works, parks department or service organizations in town, the club members decided to go it on their own. With donations, monetary awards, assistance from community members and lots of hard work, they created the area before you.



Illahee Garden Club is committed to maintaining and further developing this roadside park. Thank you for visiting and do come again - it looks different each season.

Illahee Roadside Park

Good Stewards

Take Only Pictures & Leave Only Footprints

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- ❖ **Illahee Garden Club maintains this Roadside Park. Please join us in the stewardship of this area by picking up any litter you find.**
 - ❖ **We hope you enjoyed the trail that identifies 15 native plants.**
 - ❖ **We would love for you to keep the trail guide and use it to identify native species throughout the Northwest.**