

Illehee Garden Club Roadside Park

Native Plant Interpretive Trail



Natives are Necessary

[Native plants](#) are those that occur naturally in a region in which they evolved. They attract pollinating bees, butterflies, moths and birds while also providing shelter and food for large and small mammals. Since they are in their natural habitat, native plants are low maintenance, have little need for additional water and thrive without pesticides or fertilizer. Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. For an easy care, colorful and environmentally sustainable garden, consider adding native plants to your landscape.

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

1. Pacific Dogwood



This spring flowering tree has been called the queen of our native hardwoods. It can reach heights of 20-30 feet. Its very hard wood has been used for everything from salmon harpoons to golf clubs. Birds love its fall red berries.

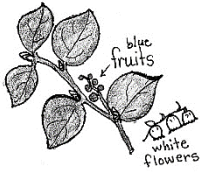
2. Blue Elderberry



When crushed, the leaves produce an unpleasant odor. Riders were once known to attach the leaves to their horses' manes to repel flies. The Elder Wand, which plays a pivotal role in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*, was made from Elderberry.

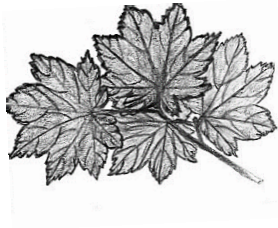
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3. Salal



Although used as a food source by early Native Americans for centuries before, Salal is included in a list of plants “discovered” during the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The leaves are popular with florists, and the berries are prized by bears.

4. Vine Maple



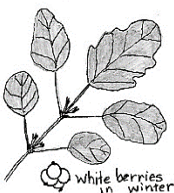
In open sunshine, the vine maple grows to a small tree. However, in a shaded forest, the species twists, contorts and becomes a sprawling vine. Frances McMahan, longtime Illahee member, noted that loggers and farmers hated it due to the obstacle course of branches it creates.

5. Western Red Cedar



This cedar has been called the cornerstone of Northwest Native Americans due to its many uses. From homes, to bentwood boxes to clothing, its uses were, and still are, many. The world’s largest Western Red Cedar is located in the Olympic Peninsula Rain Forest.

6. Snowberry



This plant has long been grown as an ornamental shrub and is effective in controlling erosion on banks. It is especially conspicuous in the winter when the white berries stand out against the leafless branches. The berries are enjoyed by birds, deer and bears.

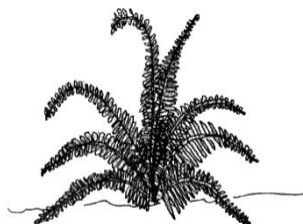
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7. Tall Oregon Grape



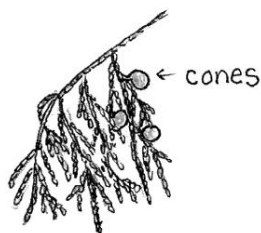
This evergreen plant is attractive year-round. In the spring, large clusters of yellow flowers bloom on the tips of canes. Glossy, holly-like leaves hold blue, edible, very tart berries in the fall. Found in open woods and clearings it can reach a height of 10 feet.

8. Sword Fern



While growing largest under classic fern conditions – moist, loamy soil in nearly full shade, Sword Ferns do quite well in dry or part shade and in soil with low to moderate nutrient levels. Early Native Americans found many uses for Sword Ferns, including using boiled roots as a treatment for dandruff.

9. Alaska Cedar



This tree can grow to 100 feet and live for 1500 years. Its foliage droops from widely spaced branches and is also known as false cypress. Coastal Native Americans used it for paddles, dishes and bows. Its wood is valued for its straight grain, yellow color and resistance to decay.

10. Red Huckleberry



This plant is the most common woody plant to be found growing on “nurse logs” and rotting stumps. Red Huckleberries are delicious treats and have been harvested over centuries. They were also used in Native American cultures as fish bait, because of their resemblance to fish eggs.

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11. Pacific Silver Fir



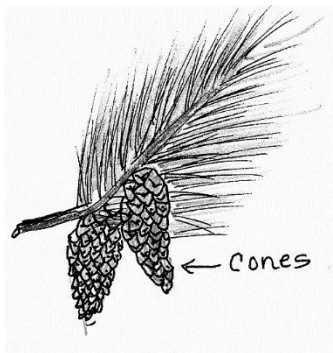
This tree is a true fir as it sports upright cones and needles. It can reach 120 feet in the wild. Its thin bark and highly flammable foliage contribute to its low level of resistance to fire. Early Native Americans used the boughs as preferred bedding and floor covering.

12. Wild Strawberry



Wild strawberries can be found in every state except Nevada, Alaska and a band of southeastern states from Kansas east to Florida. The juicy, edible part of the strawberry is not truly the berry. The true fruits are the tiny brown achenes that are evenly spaced over the surface. The sweet flesh we enjoy is the receptacle part of the stem.

13. Lodgepole Pine

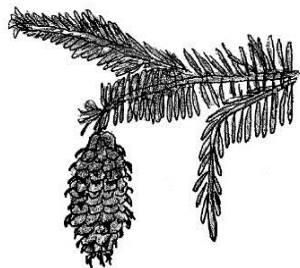


This tree can reach 25-30 feet and 12-18 inches in diameter. Scientists from Oregon State University predict that Lodgepole Pines will be largely gone from the Northwest by 2080. Warming temperatures are eliminating spring frosts that keep other trees from competing with the pines and creating favorable conditions for Bark Beetles that kill the trees.

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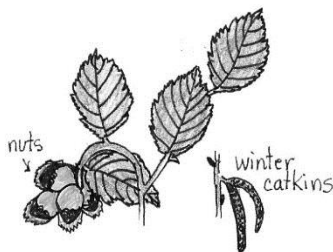
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14. Douglas Fir



With amazing reproductive ability, the Douglas Fir is the most important lumber tree in America. They reach 120 feet when mature, but they can grow as tall as 250 feet in old growth forests. In 1925, the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) needed restoration, and the white pines that had been the masts were no longer to be found. Today, Old Ironsides sails in Boston Harbor with three Douglas Fir masts.

15. Hazelnut



A member of the birch family, Hazelnut trees prefer well-drained soil and plenty of moisture. Hazelnut trees grow in many places, and the nuts (also known as filberts) are prized for their culinary uses. 748,000 metric tons of hazelnuts are commercially produced each year.

*Funding for this Native Plant Interpretive Trail was made possible by a **PLANT AMERICA Community Project Grant** sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. This educational, interpretive trail was an Illahee Garden Club conservation project in 2019-2020.*

Park History

In 1973, the twenty-five members of the Illahee Garden Club recognized the need for creating an inviting entrance to the unincorporated town of Randle. Having no city public works or 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.

In 1976, a representative from the Washington State Highway Commission wrote, “*Your club has created a useful roadside amenity out of an old drainage ditch full of weeds, brush and litter. The Illahee Garden Club is a good example of concerned, active citizens improving their community.*”

The garden club is committed to maintaining and further developing the Illahee Roadside Park. Thank you for visiting and please come again. Things look different each season!

Drawings by Illahee Garden Club member Vicki Westerberg. For information on Illahee projects or membership contact Vicki at avwest@lewiscounty.com.

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