

# Spring Creek Neighbors Natural Gardens

## Spring Creek Educational Opportunities

The Spring Creek Neighbors Natural Gardens project was funded August 1 by Lane County Commissioners using Secure Rural Schools federal funds. It will provide opportunities for Master Gardeners work with Santa Clara community members and school kids to enhance natural gardens in this unique drainage corridor. The Master Gardener Program of Lane County supports the project and recognizes volunteer time for Master Gardeners. The project will coordinate information to neighbors along Spring Creek and organizations that have an interest in the storm drainage, wildlife, and natural features of the drainage corridor.

Spring Creek meanders from a point a few hundred yards south of Spring Creek School, through residential back yards around the Crocker and Blackfoot intersection, then forms a marsh/wetland area next to the Spring Creek School parking lot. It continues north through the filbert orchard and Linnbrook subdivision and crosses under River Road at Awbrey Park. A connecting drainage channel and marsh begins on the east edge of Awbrey Park School parking lot and joins Spring Creek as it continues north, under East Beacon Road and through farm lands between River Road and the Willamette River.

Spring Creek and Awbrey Park elementary schools are located on Spring Creek and will be integrating elements of the project into their curricula. Residents of the Santa Clara area are encouraged to participate in the improvement of the storm/flood drainage waterway by attending meetings and information sessions. Information will be provided to residents on how to improve their individual property, increase property value, enhance wildlife, increase native plants and work with neighbors to retain Spring Creek natural features and increase flood safety. A principal goal of the project is to inform residents about watershed stewardship and forest health. Master Gardeners can participate at any level, from demonstration projects, technical assistance with plantings, and education programs. Please contact Peter Thurston at 688-4664, or [thurstop@gmail.com](mailto:thurstop@gmail.com) if you have an interest in participating.

Spring Creek Neighbors Natural Gardens will provide community meeting opportunities, information and educational programs in the coming months about: steamside gardening, native plantings, water quality improvement, butterfly and hummingbird attraction, attraction of pollinators, and gardening techniques that integrate natural plants with urban gardening. The OSU streamside gardening web site at the following addresses provide a wealth of information about natural gardening.

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pdf/sources\\_for\\_native\\_plants.pdf](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pdf/sources_for_native_plants.pdf)

[http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/gardening\\_natives.html](http://extension.oregonstate.edu/yamhill/pages/gardening_natives.html)

If you are interested in gardening with native plants, biology of soil, composting, natural systems, forest health, wetlands, birds, wildlife, and related subjects, please call me and we can get you connected to resources.