

KEY PLANTINGS



Camassia quamash

Camas (*Camassia quamash*) is a native bulb that thrives in Washington's wet, open meadows. It plays an important part in the indigenous diet.



Achillea millefolium

Yarrow blankets the meadow in late summer, attracting many types of pollinators.



Lupinus sp.

Lupine, in the plant family (*Fabaceae*) benefit the soil by fixing nitrogen from the air and making it available for other plants.



Sidalcea campestris

Meadow checkerbloom benefit a wide variety of pollinator species including native bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and butterflies.



DID YOU KNOW?

The insects that live in the long grass of meadows provide food for insect-eating birds like swallows. They are also food for many amphibians, bats, and reptiles.

Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemeri*) is our native meadow grass. It serves a crucial role in the restoration of meadowlands and provides food and cover for various birds, small mammals, and insects.

MEET OUR TEAM



Tobin Tripp has worked at the Reserve since 2018 and is now the staff lead on the Sustainability Committee. Born and raised on Bainbridge Island, Tobin has a background in restoration ecology and noxious weed management.



Fen Vitello joined the team in 2022. She is a certified arborist and loves climbing and caring for trees.



POLLINATOR MEADOW



DONATE TODAY



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ʔutiḡdubuʔ ti swatix wʔəd | *This land takes care of us*

1955

The Bloedels acquire the land containing what is now the Bird Marsh from the Coleman family.

1960s - 1980s

The field is used to grow alfalfa to support livestock pastured on other parts of the property.

1986 - 1995

Environmental Planning & Design (EPD) extends visitor circulation along the northern edge of the meadow, connecting the Bird Marsh and field to the larger garden experience.

1996 - 2010s

The field is left fallow, but mowed annually. Careful attention is paid to prevent blackberry and alder from encroaching along the edges of the area.

2016 - Today

A Bird Marsh Task Force is formed, including staff, board members, and community experts. Landscape Architects Fischer/Bouma Partnership (FBP) create plans to convert the abandoned field into the Pollinator Meadow.

Trails are moved away from the pond edge, carrying visitors through the meadow. Pasture grasses are treated making way for native grasses, bulbs, and wildflowers. Along the perimeter, a dense hedgerow is planted.

Surveying of both pollinators and plants informs ongoing experimentation and decision making as efforts continue to establish a healthy, thriving pollinator habitat.

THE EXPERIENCE

Ringed by a hedgerow rich in bird habitat, the Pollinator Meadow spans a gentle hill, inviting visitors to emerge from the cool woodland into a bright and open space. Grasses, bulbs and wildflowers attract pollinators of all types, which in turn attract birds and rodents, making the meadow one of the most diverse places on the grounds for both flora and fauna.

The mulch trail winds away from the pond edge, leading visitors along a fern covered alder knoll. The meadow ahead is bright and exposed, especially in contrast to the dark of the trees. Bulbs bloom early in the winter, giving way to spring flowers. Growing waist-height, by summer the meadow is a riot of color and texture, abuzz with the sound of bees and butterflies.

A stone outcrop placed at the peak of the hill provides year-round interest, providing visitors an opportunity to pause and contemplate the sky before winding down through the Pollinator Meadow to the Trestle Bridge.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Why would we work so hard to build a meadow, only to light it on fire? Prescribed fire is a commonly used tool in meadow management that yields important outcomes, including:

- Removal of woody plants that encroach and over time convert meadows into woodlands
- Control of undesirable and invasive species, which are often less adapted to fire than the desirable species in our meadow
- Release of nutrients for more vigorous plant growth and in turn, more wildlife use and diversity
- Preparation of the seed bed for increased germination rates

A SUNNY GARDEN OF WILDFLOWERS