

## **Community outreach project.**

You will be participating in one or two focus teams for the development and distribution of information related to the suburban/greenspace boundary. Our goal is to improve both environments through public education. Nature does not have to end at the edge of the park - by helping people change the way they think about their yards and gardens we can facilitate the extension of natural greenspaces into the surrounding community.

Below is a list of the topics for our outreach focus groups that are related to these goals. What you should be thinking about is:

1. What topics you would like to see our group focus on (from the list below or other ideas).
2. Which topics are the most feasible.
3. Which topic(s) groups would you like to participate in.

To accomplish these three goals will require some ground work- think of this as a feasibility study. For any particular topic, do a search on the internet and check local sources of information to try to determine “what’s out there.” Try to answer the following questions:

1. What has been done on this topic by other organizations?
2. Are there adequate sources of information to develop this topic?
3. Can you think of new angles or ways of presenting the information that would make it more accessible/palatable to the general public.

Here is the candidate list of topics - please add any others you can think of:

1. Eco-friendly gardening practices including the subtopics:
  - Alternatives to grass lawns.
  - What plants not to plant.
  - Native plant equivalents to common garden plants.
  - Sources of native plant species in the Portland area.
  - Eco roofs for residential and commercial buildings.
  - Pesticide and herbicide alternatives.
  - Native alternatives for house and balcony plants.
  - Encouraging mosquito predators.
2. Improving greenspace quality including the subtopics:
  - Reducing edge degradation (invasives, etc.)
  - Reducing human use impacts.
  - Impacts of local land use on greenspaces.
  - Finding or starting volunteer groups for greenspace maintenance.
3. Human uses of natural products.
  - Herbal and medicinal uses of native plants.
  - Uses of plants by Native Americans
  - The Native American demonstration garden.