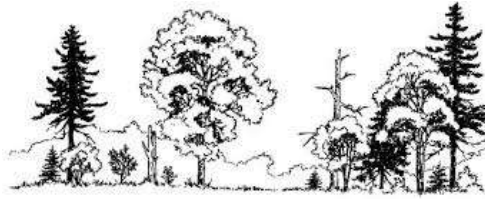


What you should Mountain Park and and Oak Habitat



know about the Vineyard Recreation District (VMRD) Enhancement.

WHAT IS THE PARK DISTRICT? The VMRD was established in the 1980s incorporating about 30 acres of land on lower Vineyard Mountain. The Park is largely open space, with thin soils covered by grass meadows (prairies), Oak Woodland, and some Douglas Fir. Most of the area is unsuitable for home sites. A 1.5-acre piece contains a pool and recreation space administered by the Vineyard Mountain Swim Club. The Park District is a municipal corporation administered by five publicly elected board members.

WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OAK HABITATS AND WHY? Several years ago Vineyard Mountain residents recognized local interest in Oak Habitats, following the recommendations and actions of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Greenbelt Land Trust, City of Corvallis, Benton County, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Oak habitats are important for ecological, cultural and spiritual reasons. Oak habitat projects nearest to us are those in Chip Ross Park, off of Lester Avenue. The Oregon white oak is one of only four deciduous oaks native to the West Coast. Oaks provide biological richness in the Willamette Valley by increasing the diversity of native insect populations, offering nest and den sites for wildlife, providing microhabitat for mosses and lichens, and also food for many species of wildlife. White Oaks, the signature tree of the Willamette Valley, support several hundred species of plants and animals. And the Woodland Savannahs and prairies associated with White Oaks are home to threatened species like the Streaked Horned Lark, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly, Fender's Blue Butterfly, Bradshaw's Desert-parsley, Kincaid's Lupine, and Nelson's Checker-mallow, to name a few..

A Document of recommendations was developed by Trout Mountain Forestry (see Park District under <https://sites.google.com/site/vineyardmountain/>), followed by a questionnaire to residents seeking comments for the plan of action. Based on public support a grant proposal was submitted to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Agency in Tangent. This resulted in a four year grant, dedicating monies for actions associated with Oak Habitat Enhancement: Forest Stand Improvement (removing the overstory trees like firs which inhibit growth by shading), Slash Treatment (burning slash piles), and Conservation Cover (replanting with grasses and forbes). You can see where these actions are headed by looking at the Oak stand near the Silo off of Sulphur Springs Road. An initial test of Forest Stand Improvement was done in 2016 on four acres above the pool. Then in August 2018 eight acres of woodland was logged to remove Douglas Firs. A dozen or so slash piles are currently covered ready for burning.

WHAT IS PLANNED FOR FALL AND WINTER 2018-19? *We have applied for a burning permit with ODF, and have contracted with Miller Timber Services to burn the slash piles in winter after significant rain. We have also contracted with the Institute for Applied Ecology in Corvallis to re-seed the exposed areas and spray for weeds.*

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BURNING SLASH PILES: *ODF establishes permitted burn dates based on air quality considerations. The VMRD will notify residents as soon as the burn dates are established: check e-mail, radio (KLOO, 1340 AM), the new Kiosk at the snow park, Vineyard Mountain Community Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/282177878876494/>), Park website (above), word of mouth, etc. We will also notify the Corvallis Rural Fire District (Locke Station).*

Significant smoke is expected, especially in the evening and early morning hours. We appreciate your understanding, patience and support of this project. . We also apologize for any annoyance associated with smoke. Windows should be closed during burn days and nights.

Some good firewood is still available should you wish to cut and haul it; contact John Snelling (541-829-6753)

The Park BOARD

Ray Topping, President raytopping@comcast.net Jen Olarra, Secretary olarraj@oregonstate.edu John Snelling, Treasurer snellinj@peak.org Jeff Powers, Board Member jepowers54@comcast.net Darlene Santich, Board Member darlene.rice.santich@gmail.com