

Stewardship Opportunities-

In 2022 the City started planning efforts to hold a cleanup event at Edgewood Community Park and nearby roadways on Earth Day 2023. Discussions began with City Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee which were open to the public. Magazine articles were published, and social media posts were made looking for volunteers and input into the event.

The event was held on 4-22-2023. The city used this event as a “pilot” event to gauge community interest in cleanup activities. We had a turn out of approximately 40 citizens to pick up litter, remove invasive plant species, and place mulch throughout the park. The event was an overall success, with many compliments from the volunteers and other community members as well as the City Council and other advisory committees. Plus, the park looked great after the event.

The event was such a great success the city held our second Earth Day event in 2024. In 2024, the event was held at Edgewood’s Nelson Nature Park and focused on invasive species removal throughout the park and around the wetland in the center of the park. Events held at the Nelson Nature Park have been conducted in order to improve wildlife habitat and improve water quality in and around a wetland.

The City has partnered with the Pierce Conservation District (PCD) to make the Nelson Nature Park one of PCD’s steward sites. The PCD held an event in March 2024, at the Nelson Nature Park for local high school seniors to start the invasive species removal effort. Pre-selected locations within the park where blackberries, ivy, holly plants were removed. After removal of the invasive species burlap and mulch were placed to reduce invasive regrowth.

The PCD held additional events in October and November where each event had approximately 20 volunteers from the community removed invasive vegetation. City Staff and PCD staff attended open meetings of the City’s Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to get input in ways to continue holding these beneficial stewardship opportunities in the future.