

Get a taste of gardening at an open house

Alder Creek Farm hosts gardening day Aug. 20

NEHALEM — If you've ever thought about joining a community garden or turning a garden in your own backyard, here is the chance to get started: Alder Creek Farm & Wildlife Sanctuary will host a community garden open house and work party at its organic community garden at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 20.

Visitors will see a small-scale working farm in action and learn more about composting and irrigation. Be prepared to work alongside volunteers and master

gardeners weeding, pruning and harvesting.

All experience levels are welcome, and it's recommended children come with an adult and be old enough to work independently. Master gardener lesson begins at 10 a.m. Bring water and your own gardening gloves if you have them.

Alder Creek Farm is located at 35955 Underhill Lane. This is a free event, and registration is not required.

Lower Nehalem Community Trust is a community land trust dedicated to preserving land and nurturing conservation values in partnership with an engaged community in the Nehalem

region of the Oregon Coast. Its community garden at Alder Creek Farm is that rare place of colorful beauty and magic where volunteers come together to grow food to share among themselves and with families and neighbors served by the North County Food Pantry in Wheeler. Last year the community garden donated nearly a ton of fresh organic fruits and veggies to the food pantry.

Alder Creek Farm is a 59-acre natural area and wildlife sanctuary, and the community garden honors conservation with organic and sustainable food systems. The farm is also a beloved birding site and a

stop on the Oregon Coast Birding Trail. In addition to the garden, the farm hosts a native plant nursery, greenhouse, fruit orchard and ethnobotanical trail.

For more information, visit nehalemtrust.org or call Lower Nehalem Trust at 503-368-3203.

This programming is part of the Explore Nature series of hikes, walks, paddles and outdoor adventures throughout Tillamook County. Created by Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Lower Nehalem Community Trust, Lower Nehalem Watershed Council, Friends of Netarts Bay WEBS, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council and Friends of Cape Falcon



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The community garden at Alder Creek Farm in full bloom.

Marine Reserve, these nature-based experiences highlight the beauty of Tillamook County and the work being done to preserve and conserve the area's natural resources and natural resource-based economy.

This effort is partially funded by the Economic Development Council of Tillamook County and Visit Tillamook Coast. Learn more about the Explore Nature series at www.tbnep.org/ExploreNature

coast weekend

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Jon Wickershan, associate director of North Coast Land Conservancy, and Lynette Villagomez, administrative and outreach assistant, walk the trail at NCLC's Circle Creek Habitat Reserve in Seaside, which will host a 30th anniversary picnic Thursday, Aug. 25.

PHOTO BY DANNY MILLER

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