

(office use only)  
Date of NB entry:

**Name of project:** Oregon Garden Oak Grove Restoration

**Organization in charge of project:** Oregon Garden Oak Grove Committee

**Contact person:** John Miller

Mahonia Vineyards & Nursery  
4985 Battlecreek Rd. SE #205  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
Phone: 503-585-8789  
Email: wildwoodco@aol.com

Other committee members: Al Shay, Wilbur Bluhm, Rob Tracey, Keli Kuykendall, Melanie Gisler

**Dates of project:** September 1999 to present

**Location of project:** The Oregon Garden, Silverton, OR

**Brief description of project:**

In 1999, The Oregon Garden proposed to restore the oak grove on its property in Silverton to a condition that might have existed prior to settlement of the Willamette Valley by European immigrants. The project received funding from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, and a committee was formed to guide the project. Several committee members have considerable expertise in native plants and ecological restoration.

The primary obstacle to reestablishing native flora was the presence of invasive European blackberry as the dominant component of the understory. The first initiative was to remove as much of the blackberry as possible, and keep it under control in subsequent seasons. Because we wished to minimize use of pesticides in the oak grove, most of the blackberry removal was accomplished mechanically.

During the second season of the project, a gravel trail was built along the upper edge of the grove to facilitate visitation to the grove. Five interpretive signs were designed, built and installed to tell the story of native Oregon white oak to garden visitors.

The third season a native plant garden was established adjacent to the oak grove to demonstrate to garden visitors the landscape uses for native plants. That garden may be expanded to include an exhibit of plants that were originally described by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Other restoration projects within the oak grove remain to be accomplished. Some of those under consideration include restoration of the meadow to native grasses and forbs and burning the understory and meadow to encourage native plant establishment.

**Type of Research:** demonstration project

**Funding source:** grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund