

## MAGPIE FOREST ECOLOGICAL RESERVE



**M**agpie Forest is a 14 acre remnant of endangered Palouse Prairie that has not been plowed, burned, or grazed by cattle for many decades. Magpie Forest was purchased in celebration of Earth Day, 2005, by Washington State University to assure that the land would not be destroyed by rapidly encroaching urban development.

Magpie Forest has long been valued by local conservation groups and researchers for the rich biological diversity of its native plants, but the explosive growth of housing in Pullman caused many to worry that the land would soon be divided up for housing developments.

Washington State University purchased Magpie Forest, located on the edge of the city of Pullman, as a nearby outdoor environmental science laboratory for use by faculty, students, and the public, and to be part of a larger university package of native prairie habitat protection.

Native Palouse Prairie is one of the most endangered grassland ecosystems in the U.S. with less than 1% still surviving. Consequently, this small patch of forest, shrubs, and prairie grassland is a valuable resource for ecologists and scientists working in plant and restoration ecology. Over 160 species of plants, birds, and other animals live in or use Magpie Forest, so the land is important to WSU and University of Idaho researchers as a long-term ecological study site.

## Community Conservation Efforts

Washington State University is collaborating with the local community to develop a long-term plan for the conservation and public use of Magpie Forest. WSU is seeking to work with the [Pullman Civic Trust](#), [Pullman Chamber of Commerce](#), [Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute](#) (PCEI), [Palouse Prairie Foundation](#), the [City of Pullman](#), and [Whitman County](#) to develop future management plans.

WSU is partnering with the PCEI on initial management activities, which include placement of trail and interpretive signs to guide public use and the design of a long-term restoration plan for additional farmed acreage surrounding the forest.



### Current Conservation Activities

Magpie Forest urgently needs to have signs established to guide public use and inform people that the site is now a protected natural area and activities such as tree cutting, burning, and plant collecting should no longer be conducted. Initial meetings are being held with volunteers and volunteer community groups who have expressed an interest in helping to protect and conserve Magpie Forest.

With this assistance, trail systems will be designed and plans for patrolling, cleaning up trash, and protecting the forest for public enjoyment are being formulated. Additional plans are being made to undertake weed control and develop a scientifically-sound restoration plan for Magpie Forest and some surrounding land.

### Donations and Needed Funds

Contributions for Magpie Forest conservation and management will be used to provide the materials for wooden boundary signs, trails, benches, educational markers, public brochures, and similar materials. All labor is being donated or contributed by volunteers, so 100% of all donations to conserve Magpie Forest go directly to support the material expenses of protecting the forest itself.

### For More Information, Please Contact:

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