

NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS SLATED TO GIVE 8th Avenue South & "Industrial-Strength" Natural Drainage swales AN EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

The Georgetown Community Council and CleanScapes ask volunteers to join in on April 17 to help clean up 8th Avenue South & Gateway Park in South Seattle.

Volunteers will be planting over 200 native plant species in Seattle's first "Industrial Strength" Natural Drainage swales in front of the Markey Machinery manufacturing site. Markey Machinery Company is a 102-year old Seattle-based designer serving professional mariners with custom deck machinery, including winches. The "Industrial-Strength" Natural Drainage swales collect and filter stormwater that falls on the paved areas in front of Markey's facility. "It's a win-win situation," says Bob LeCoque of Markey Machinery, who approved of the low-cost natural drainage swales in conjunction with physical improvements to his property, including driveway paving. The planted swales improve the look and function of the marine-industrial facility, which is two blocks from the Duwamish River.

In addition, volunteers will remove invasive blackberry, remove trash from the Duwamish tide line, mulch native planting areas, and work to keep the street's pedestrian areas clear of weeds and debris. Volunteers are asked to meet at Markey Machinery, 7266 8th Avenue South. For information, email katie.collier@cleanscapes.com

The site is one of 12 Duwamish Alive! restoration sites along the Duwamish River where over a thousand volunteers are expected to work beginning at 10 AM on April 17. The four-hour annual event is in its fifth year and is cosponsored by over 30 conservation groups and governmental entities.

Other work sites include a kayak cleanup of the river, shoreline salmon restoration and forest tree planting. Families, company groups, clubs and fraternities and sororities are encouraged to participate, and no experience is necessary.

More information on sites, volunteer signups, sponsors and participating organizations is found at www.DuwamishAlive.Org.

To volunteer, email da@pugetsound.org or call (206) 382-7007.
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