

# Western Redcedar Dieback Community Science Project

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**Reports to:** Volunteer Coordinator

## Program Description

Recent observations of dieback and mortality in Western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) around the Pacific Northwest have raised concerns about this iconic tree species' ability to cope with climate change. The Western Redcedar Dieback Project aims to train community scientists to measure, assign a health rating, and monitor the Western redcedars at Hoyt Arboretum as part of a larger regional community science effort to track dieback across the Northwest.

Outcomes for this project are to develop an ongoing monitoring and reporting process for Hoyt Arboretum's 69 accessioned Western redcedars using iNaturalist as part of the regional Forest Health Watch Program.

## Responsibilities

- Become familiar with the ecology of Western redcedars and their importance in Pacific Northwest forests, and learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of dieback
- Learn to measure and record tree size and to assign a health rating to Western redcedars
- Visit and monitor your assigned trees twice a year
- Record observations and submit data using iNaturalist
- Report volunteer service hours

## Qualifications

- Willingness to expand knowledge of forest ecology and tree assessment skills
- Comfortable spending time outdoors and walking on trails and uneven terrain
- Ability to follow monitoring standards and correctly report data using the iNaturalist app on your personal device
- All volunteers must pass a background check

## Time Requirements

Volunteers should be available to monitor their assigned trees twice a year, in the spring and fall. Time commitment will vary based on the number of trees assigned -- each monitoring visit should include enough time to locate and arrive at your assigned trees, measure height and diameter (once a year only), assign a health rating, and report your data on iNaturalist (approximately 15 to 20 minutes per tree). Volunteers are encouraged to be available for a minimum **6-month commitment**.

## Training

Western Redcedar Dieback volunteers are required to attend an introductory training session. During the training, volunteers will:

- Learn about Hoyt Arboretum, Hoyt Arboretum Friends and its partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation
- Learn about the ecology of Western redcedars, and how to recognize the signs and symptoms of dieback
- Choose one site at Hoyt Arboretum to regularly monitor the Western redcedars
- Learn to use the iNaturalist app to submit collected data

## Benefits

Hoyt Arboretum volunteers are eligible for an annual Washington Park volunteer parking pass and complimentary membership with HAF after **15 volunteer hours** have been completed. Benefits include a 20% discount in the Visitor Center, discounts on classes, monthly Lunch & Learn sessions, off-site field trip opportunities, invitations to members-only events, and an annual volunteer appreciation celebration.

**To Apply:** Please email [volunteer@hoytarboretum.org](mailto:volunteer@hoytarboretum.org) or call (503) 823-1649 for more information.