

MISSION

Welcome to the
Wenatchee River Institute!

We believe the greatest hope for the future is through connecting people, communities and the natural world.

We provide environmental education to students and adults of all ages and backgrounds here on our campus and other sites across North Central Washington. Each interaction is meant to help people understand their environment and discover the impact they can have in their community, the nation, and the world.

Our campus is on the ancestral homelands of the šnpəšqʷáwšəxʷ (p'squosa or Wenatchi band). We acknowledge they are the original stewards of this land.

The beauty of our property is the result of the dedication of many volunteers. Each have their passion and devotion to this place. If you see anyone working in the gardens as you tour around, please thank them for their commitment.

Wenatchee River
INSTITUTE

CONNECT WITH US

THE
GARDENS

You can support the mission today!
Donations can be made by mail,
phone, or online.

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1 DRY STREAMBED GARDEN

This sweet little garden mimics a native streambed after the swift waters from the spring mountain snowmelt has subsided. Bunch grasses, heather and irises all sprout up between the water-polished rocks. Stumps from the native Quaking Aspen tree provide a solid foundation for the two benches.

2 WATERFALL GARDEN

Trickling sounds from the waterfall garden greet you when you ascend the stairs from the parking lot. Look closely for birds who often enjoy the brisk waters tucked under the majestic Heritage Birch. This garden rests on the footprint of the original waterfall that greeted guests to the River Haus when it was a bed and breakfast in 1982-2002.

3 POND GARDEN

Follow the sounds of the Wenatchee River to the back side of the River Haus and you'll discover the Pond Garden. Keep your eye out for furry or feathered visitors coming to enjoy a bath or a drink in the tranquil waters. Marmots have even been seen!

4 FRANCES B. FIELD MEMORIAL GARDEN

Frances and Robert Field purchased this remarkable property in 1921. Frances, an avid gardener, created this garden. It was restored through the hard work of committed volunteers from the Cascade Garden Club. The flowers were selected to replicate those that would have been planted from the 1920s-1950s by Frances. Pose for a photo under the enchanting archway and rest a moment on the bench.

5 NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

Native plants thrive in their local soil and climate, providing important food and habitat for wildlife. This garden space invites you to learn more about the remarkable diversity of the upper Wenatchee watershed. Local fauna such as deer, chickadees and Western Skinks can be found browsing and hiding here. Check your knowledge on the posted plant name cards.

6 BIRD NEST ROCK GARDEN

Feel the love from the mother Raven as she watches over her nest. The Bird Nest Rock Garden captures the beauty of natural stone. Ravens often build their nests on rocky cliffs and soar in the thermals above. Here we bring together two locally made art structures, *The Raven* and *The Nest*.

7 ELY COMMUNITY GARDEN

E. Lorene Young, an early mayor of Leavenworth, donated the land for this garden, and the adjacent little red house, for education and community purposes. Enter the gates and you are immediately struck by the charming artwork surrounding neatly tended community garden plots. Created in 2012 by a group of local volunteers, this garden was revitalized in 2018. An interactive mural by Methow artist Ginger Reddington, invites the imagination on a scavenger hunt. Help yourself to a treat in the public strawberry patch while you search and enjoy this special place.