

EAGLESONG

Horticulturist, Willows Lodge

Since 2002, gardener, herbalist, and horticulturalist EagleSong has graced Willows Lodge with her extensive environmental knowledge and experience.

Initially, EagleSong served as Head Gardner for both Willows Lodge and the Herbfarm Restaurant, a five-diamond dining establishment that share the Willows Lodge site. During her four and a half year tenure at the Herbfarm, EagleSong designed and implemented a 2.5 acre organic production farm, restored the formal kitchen gardens at Willows Lodge and fulfilled the kitchen staff's need for organic herbs and vegetables. After training a new "farmer" to take over these gardens, she turned her focus to the grounds at Willows Lodge.

Independently, the Seattle native founded RavenCroft in 1992 to share her love of tending small vegetable and herb gardens. RavenCroft Garden integrates a land-based educational program, designed to connect "people, plants and the Earth" using curriculum-based workshops and apprentice programs. EagleSong also developed a line of herbal products from her gardens at RavenCroft to incorporate a hands-on experience for her students and apprentices.

EagleSong currently manages the landscape at Willows Lodge where she works to create a lush and engaging, sustainable woodland garden for guests to experience at the hotel. She has initiated a program to eliminate harmful chemical use on the grounds by using mindful monitoring and maintenance. The landscape at Willows Lodge is now certified as a five-star EnviroStar – the only resort property to achieve this honor. EagleSong also secured an Earth Tub, an in-vessel composter, for Willows Lodge to maintain the "nutrient cycle" between the kitchen and the rest of the property.

Throughout her career, EagleSong has focused on the future growth and sustainability of her surrounding environment in the spirit of community involvement. She continues to partner with college horticultural programs, such as Washington State University's extension service and delivers public presentations to businesses, government groups and local garden clubs. Through partnerships with EarthCorps and Sammamish Valley Stewards, Willows Lodge adopted the section of the Sammamish River adjacent to the hotel grounds, to ensure protection of the salmon and the preservation of the river for future generations.

Along with 30% native plants, Willows Lodge is surrounded by numerous interesting and unusual types of species of plants, such as finely pruned Japanese laceleaf maples, stewartia, Persian parrotia, Japanese snakebark maples, columnar Swedish aspen and the ubiquitous weeping willows seen up and down the Sammamish Valley.

The landscape was expertly designed by Brumbaugh & Associates to convey a sense of cultured maturity from the beginning. Joined together with EagleSong's view that nature is one of Willows Lodge's most spectacular amenities, the Lodge shines as the premier business and romance destination just a stone's throw away from Seattle's urban scene.