

# Partner Newsletter

## Spring 2016



# WATERSHED WORKS



### *In this issue:*

Clackamas River Basin Council  
Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District  
Johnson Creek Watershed Council  
Molalla River Watch  
North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council  
Oswego Lake Watershed Council  
Sandy River Basin Watershed Council  
Tryon Creek Watershed Council  
Tualatin River Watershed Council  
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District  
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring, Summer, & Fall 2016 Events Calendar

## CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL

### Clackamas Partnership Teams Up for Salmon Recovery

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded \$137,696 to the Clackamas River Basin Council on behalf of the Clackamas Partnership.

The Clackamas River watershed is an incredible resource to our state, providing drinking water to over 10% of the population and a recreation haven for thousands who fish, swim, and raft as well. The river is home to genetic legacy fish species whose historical abundance and its potential for salmon recovery is recognized nationally for Spring Chinook, coho, and steelhead. With local landowners and community partners, the Clackamas River Basin Council has nearly two decades of proven results transforming the watershed. *"The OWEB award will help us achieve greater restoration success as we work together,"* says Cheryl McGinnis, Executive Director of the Clackamas River Basin Council. The Clackamas Partnership will develop an enhanced strategic action plan for recovery of listed Clackamas fish populations by addressing degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas. Planning is expected to begin this spring and be completed by July 2017.



Coho salmon returning to spawn.

The Clackamas Partnership includes Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Co. Water Environment Services, Clackamas Co. Parks, Clackamas River Water Providers, Metro, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Portland General Electric and US Forest Service, joined by Greater Oregon City, North Clackamas Urban, and Johnson Creek watershed councils. Tribal partnerships include the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Contact Cheryl McGinnis at [cheryl@clackamasriver.org](mailto:cheryl@clackamasriver.org) for more information.

## CLACKAMAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Saving Water for Summer Uses

It is official; this was a very wet winter! According to the National Weather Service, totals for the "meteorological" winter (December-January-February) were 25 to 35 inches throughout the Portland metro area and northern Willamette Valley, about 175 percent of average. Much of this precipitation fell as rain, even in the Cascades, although some periods of colder weather and mountain snow have kept the seasonal snowpack near average.



Drip irrigation.

As we move into the dry season, we expect to see above average spring and summer temperatures. With the potential for another hot summer, water demand will likely be high. Conservation practices will be important tools to help us use our precious water resource wisely.

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District is working with agricultural producers to reduce their water usage. A number of producers have implemented irrigation-water-management practices and installed efficient irrigation systems. For example, a Clackamas County berry grower converted from big gun to drip irrigation and realized a total water savings of 304,128 gallons per acre for the season. Additional benefits of these irrigation projects include reduced energy use, increased water availability for wildlife, and reduced irrigation-induced erosion. All this with no decrease in production!

If you need technical assistance to convert to a more efficient irrigation system, contact Clackamas SWCD at 503-210-6000 or send us a message [info@conservationdistrict.org](mailto:info@conservationdistrict.org)

## Watershed Wide 2016

As the days get longer again, the Oregon Grapes and Indian Plums begin to break their buds - reminding us that spring is here, and with it, our annual Watershed Wide event.

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, nearly 300 volunteers tackled restoration work at ten sites spanning the entire Johnson Creek watershed—all in one day. We planted and mulched over 5,000 native plants, removed over 1,000 square feet of invasive plants and 200 pounds of trash from sensitive riparian and wetland areas. After a morning of hard work, we gathered together to refuel over pizza. There is nothing like hot food after working outside on a spring morning, surrounded by the cheerful hum of friends and neighbors.

Watershed Wide is truly an event too big for one organization alone to tackle. Our partners at Portland Parks and Recreation, the City of Gresham, Crystal Springs Partnership, Friends of Trees, Friends of Powell Butte, and Friends of Tideman Johnson, and Clackamas Water Environment Services all help us pull off this day of community service. Thanks to generous food donations from Bellagios Pizza, Dave's Killer Bread, Great Harvest Bakery, Grand Central Bakery, Marsee Baking, Bob's Red Mill, and New Cascadia gluten-free foods. And of course - we couldn't have done it without the hundreds of tenacious volunteers who help us care for this urban salmon-bearing stream.

Contact: Danielle Miles, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Johnson Creek Watershed Council,  
[danielle@jcw.org](mailto:danielle@jcw.org), 503-652-7477



### Improving Riparian Habitats One Landowner at a Time

When landowners ask for assistance, Molalla River Watch (MRW) helps them out. The Buells, who live where the Molalla River and Cedar Creek meet, felt overwhelmed by their ivy problem. They approached MRW for advice.



ODFW fish biologist, MRW executive director, & Buells discuss conservation goals.

Through our partnerships with Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, we brought in riparian and fish conservation experts to the Buells' property. The experts assessed the extent of invasive weed infestation and determined the importance of their property to trout and salmon habitat. The riparian and fish experts discussed options to improve the Buells' property for wildlife. With the Buells' goals in mind and a Conservation Plan written by Clackamas SWCD and tailored for their property, MRW submitted a grant to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to fund invasive weed removal and planting natives.

MRW was awarded the grant and will implement the Conservation Plan by collaborating with the Buells, volunteers, and Wilderness International, which runs at-risk youth work crews. MRW will oversee the work and Clackamas SWCD specialists will assess progress towards accomplishing Conservation Plan goals. The Buells are glad they asked MRW for advice and now significantly more wildlife will benefit. Contact Asako Yamamuro, [MRW@molalla.net](mailto:MRW@molalla.net), 503-559-0885, [www.molallariverwatch.org](http://www.molallariverwatch.org)

## NORTH CLACKAMAS URBAN WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

### Streamside Stewards Program Grows Watershed Stewardship

NCUWC has finished its 5<sup>th</sup> year of the popular Streamside Stewards Program (SSP). During the 15/16 planting season, NCUWC has worked with excited landowners to plant over 8,400 native plants in the Kellogg, Mt. Scott, River Forest and Boardman watersheds. In December 2015, NCUWC hired a new Council Coordinator. Andrew Collins-Anderson brings a background in community organizing and a passion for river conservation. With the guidance of NCUWC's new strategic plan and a dedicated Board of Directors, Andrew is working to build partnerships and projects to strategically improve the ecological health of these often overlooked but valuable urban watersheds.

Planning is underway for the 2016 SSP season. Strong partnerships with the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, The Wetlands Conservancy and many others are helping to expand and improve on NCUWC's restoration, volunteer and education programs. Look for NCUWC at local events performing public outreach and keep an eye out for details on our summer Willamette River paddle. Our restoration crew will be out this summer maintaining plantings and removing invasive species throughout the watersheds. You can contact Andrew Collins-Anderson, Council Coordinator, at [coordinator@ncuwc.org](mailto:coordinator@ncuwc.org) or 503-550-9282. Visit our website at [www.ncurbanwatershed.wordpress.com](http://www.ncurbanwatershed.wordpress.com) to learn more.

Invasive plant removal along Kellogg Creek highlights one of NCUWC's successful homeowner association partnerships, funded by WES.



Photo credit: Jason Dumont

## Springbrook Restoration

In 2015, the Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) was awarded funding from the City of Lake Oswego to restore tracts of private land at three sites: Boutwell Creek, Hallinan Creek, and Springbrook Creek. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, OLWC has been removing invasive species from these project sites and replanting with native species.

The largest of these three sites lies on Springbrook Creek, which is a major tributary to Oswego Lake. Due to the size of the site and the large amount of invasive ivy and blackberry, most of OLWC's volunteer efforts have been focused here. Since August 2015, OLWC has hosted 6 work parties at the site, engaging 110 volunteers in removing .5 acres of invasives and installing 310 native species.

OLWC is looking forward to hosting additional planting work parties at Springbrook Creek in late March to finish this final phase of restoration at the site.

If you would like to join OLWC for a work party, please contact Coordinator Adra Lobdell at [adra@oswegowatershed.org](mailto:adra@oswegowatershed.org)



# SANDY RIVER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

## The Blitz is On: Earth Day at Sandy River Delta

**ECO-BLITZ SERIES**  
PORTLAND-VANCOUVER!

**SANDY RIVER DELTA ECO-BLITZ**

Come volunteer and use technology to identify plants, amphibians, insects, and other organisms!

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 9:30AM - 3PM  
at the Sandy River Delta in Troutdale

Register online at: [tiny.cc/ecoblitz](http://tiny.cc/ecoblitz)

No Experience Necessary!  
Dress For The Weather  
Wear Sturdy Shoes

Hosted by:

**Sandy River Basin Watershed Council**

Working together to restore the Sandy River

THE INTER TWINE

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

EAST MULTNOMAH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Sandy River Basin Watershed Council, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon Zoo, and The Intertwine Alliance, is offering the first ever Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30am to 3:00pm.

The Eco-Blitz engages community members and pairs them with species identification specialists to inventory the biota of the Sandy River Delta, a focus of regional conservation efforts. Teams of identification specialists, families, students, teachers, and other local community members will work together to find and identify as many species of plants, birds, amphibians, insects, mammals, and other organisms as possible, using the iNaturalist smartphone app to record observations.

We will host morning and afternoon outings, with morning groups meeting at the Delta at 9:30am to receive training and survey from 10:15am–noon. The afternoon groups will gather at 12:30pm for training and inventory from 1:15–3:00pm. To register as a community volunteer for the day, visit our online registration: [tiny.cc/ecoblitz](http://tiny.cc/ecoblitz).

For more information, contact Jesse Holt, AmeriCorps Community Involvement Specialist, at [jesse@sandyriver.org](mailto:jesse@sandyriver.org) or visit [www.sandyriver.org](http://www.sandyriver.org)

## TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL



### Tryon Creek Watershed Wide Event

On February 20, 2016, the Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) hosted its 7th annual Watershed Wide Event. This is the council's largest volunteer event each year where they invite volunteers and community members to celebrate and restore the Tryon Creek watershed. All participants are invited to a lunch and registration to kickoff the event and then they split into teams and travel to various restoration sites.

TCWC was awarded a grant from the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., which expanded the capacity of the event. This year, 75 volunteers attended and removed a ½ acre of invasive species and installed 1300 native plants.

TCWC would like to thank all of the partners and sponsors who help make this important event possible: Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., SOLVE, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Portland Parks and Recreation, Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation, Friends of Tryon Creek, Southwest Watershed Resource Center, St. Mark Presbyterian Church, New Seasons Market, Grand Central Bakery, Einstein Bagels, and Starbucks.

If you would like to learn more about how to volunteer with TCWC, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Adra Lobdell at [volunteer@tryoncreek.org](mailto:volunteer@tryoncreek.org)

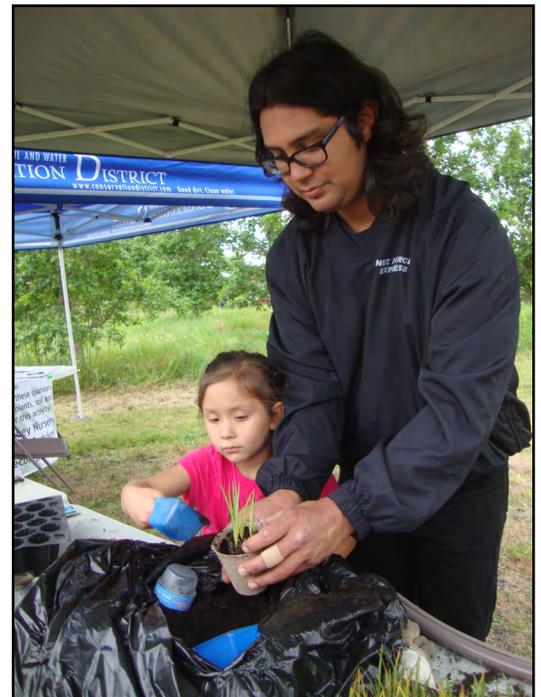
## TUALATIN SWCD & TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

### Teaming Up for Education at Refuge Bird Fest!

There's learning, and then there's learning by doing. We've all had the experience of rolling up our sleeves to get the job done and finding deeper understanding in the work itself. Families at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Bird Festival can literally dig deep to learn. Last year, Tualatin SWCD and the Tualatin River Watershed Council teamed up to host a Native Plant Pot Up. By repotting native plant seedlings like blue eyed grass and yarrow, kids learned about the native plants wild birds depend on.

Getting their hands (and sometimes arms) into the dirt drove home the value of protecting soil health too. The activity drew in wildlife lovers and amateur botanists from many backgrounds. Everyone made new connections to local conservation resources with the council and the district. The watershed council and SWCD will team up again this year at the Bird Festival on May 21.

You can learn more about the festival at <http://friendsoftualatinrefuge.org/TualatinBirdFestival>. Be sure to visit our booth and take home your very own native plant!



## Get Help Removing Your Tree Ivy!

For several years, we've administered a program to help landowners control invasive weeds that are growing into their trees. For the most part, this includes English ivy control. Not only can ivy kill large trees as it takes over their canopy, but seeds spread a lot easier from tree canopies than from the ground.

Our approach is seen by the larger community as an innovative strategy to control ivy and interact with landowners. Later this month, staff from WMSWCD will present information on this program to several professionals from across the Willamette Valley. We've also worked with partners to secure a \$300,000 grant that includes several forest restoration initiatives including control of tree ivy.

In the rural portion of our District, we plan to expand our partnership with the Forest Park Conservancy to help us treat ivy on more acreage. We'll be targeting landowners in the McCarthy Creek Watershed including properties on NW McNamee Road, NW Cornelius Pass Road, and NW Sheltered Nook Road.

Landowners can sign up for the program, and we'll arrange to have the ivy cut off the trees, either by a contract crew or Forest Park Conservancy. A landowner need only agree to maintain the ivy in the future by keeping it from growing back up the trees.

If you are interested and live in our target area, please contact Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr at 503-238-4775 extension 109 or [michael@wmswcd.org](mailto:michael@wmswcd.org) for more information or to get a one-page application form.

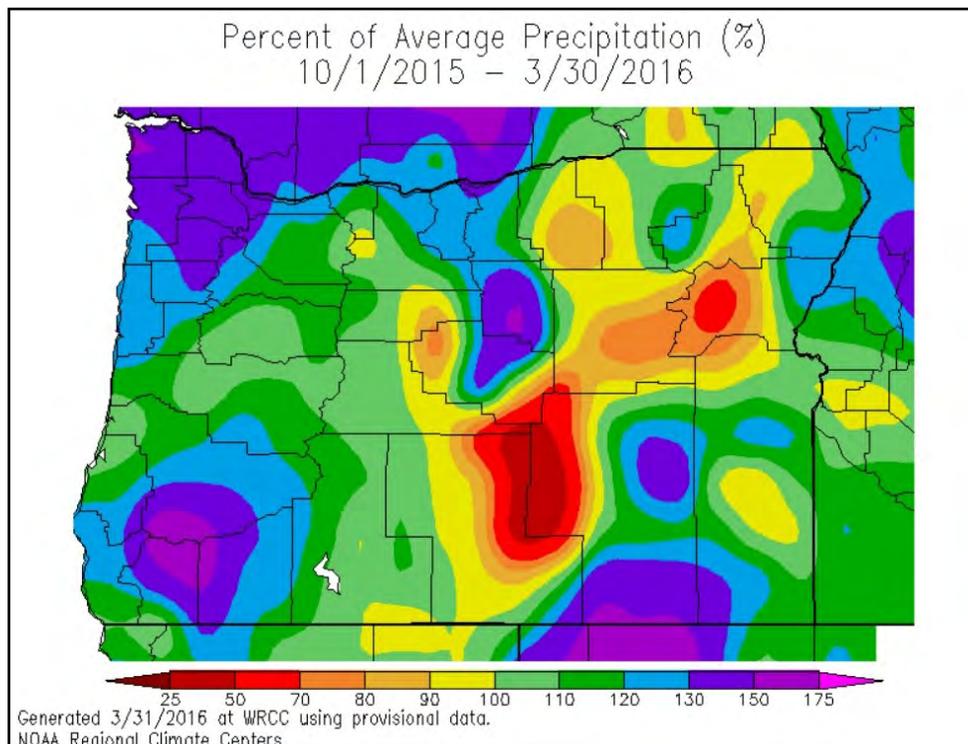


English ivy taking over trees on private property in the West Hills.

## About this Publication

Watershed Works is a collaboration of Portland-Metro regional Watershed Councils and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This publication is a platform for sharing our regional efforts in improving water quality and overall watershed health. Many thanks to our partner contributors:

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL  
CLACKAMAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL  
MOLALLA RIVER WATCH  
NORTH CLACKAMAS URBAN WATERSHEDS COUNCIL  
OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL  
SANDY RIVER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL  
TRYON CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL  
TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL  
TUALATIN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WEST MULTNOMAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Oregon precipitation averages for a 6 month period between 2015-2016.  
Contributed by Clackamas SWCD, page 1.

# Spring, Summer, and Fall Events Calendar

Click on the event heading to be directed to the link for more information.

## April

**[Sandy Delta Eco-Blitz:](#)** April 23, 9:30am-3pm, *Sandy River Delta*  
A family-friendly community science event to get outside & identify organisms!

**[Weed Watcher Workshops:](#)** Four dates and locations in April-May  
Worried about weeds? So are we! Learn which ones to watch for, meet them live in our Speed Dating round, and learn how to report them for management to become a certified.

## May

**[Rain Gardens 101 Workshop:](#)** May 14, 9am-1pm, *Mt. Hood Community College*  
Learn how to build your own rain garden! In partnership with East Multnomah SWCD & Sandy River Basin Watershed Council.

**[Clatsop Butte Tree Care:](#)** May 14, 9am-1pm, *6430 SE 152nd Ave, Portland*

**[Clackamas Watershed Celebration:](#)** May 19, 6pm-8:30pm, *Oregon Trail Interpretive Center*  
Join the Clackamas River Basin Council for a salmon dinner, silent & live auction, watershed presentation, awards, and more!

**[Powell Butte Eco Blitz:](#)** May 21, 7am-4pm, *16160 SE Powell Blvd, Portland*

**[Molalla-Pudding Rivers Celebration:](#)** May 21, 10am-2pm, *Canby Community Park*  
Festival featuring wildlife, people, & activities associated with the Molalla & Pudding Rivers; fun for the whole family!

**[Johnson Creek Watershed Council's Annual Meeting & Science Symposium:](#)** May 26, 1pm-6pm, 4:30pm-8pm, *Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland*

## June

**[State of the Watershed:](#)** June 16, 5-7pm, *location TBD*  
Open house with updates on the Tryon Creek watershed from partners, volunteers, and landowners - a fun evening of learning, networking, and celebrating Tryon Creek. Light refreshments provided.

### **[Soil Health Workshops for Teachers](#)**

Districts and Councils in Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties are teaming up to host free soil health workshops for teachers this summer and fall. We'll cover why soil health matters, how to plan for it in the garden, class activities tied to NGSS and OELP standards, and managing volunteers. For details and dates, please contact Jen Nelson at [tualatinswcd@gmail.com](mailto:tualatinswcd@gmail.com).



## July

**Confluence Kayak Tour:** July 16, *times and location TBD*

Join Tryon Creek Watershed Council and Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a fun and educational paddle down the Willamette. More details to be announced in May. Save the date!

## August

**Annual Johnson Creek Clean Up:** August 27, 9am-1pm, *Mill Park, SE Linwood Ave & Overland St*

## September

**Clackamas Down the River Clean Up:** September 11, 9am-3pm, *Boats ramps from Estacada to Oregon City*

Make a splash and clean up trash! Join the Clackamas River Basin Council for this 20-mile on-water clean up event.

**Horses, Hikers, and Mountain Bikers Poker Ride/Hike:** September 18, 9 am, *Hardy Creek Trailhead in Molalla River Recreation Corridor*

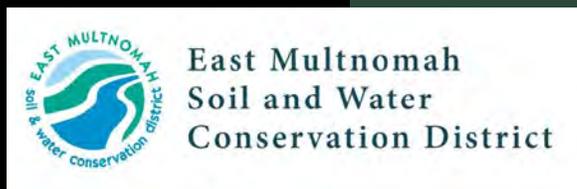
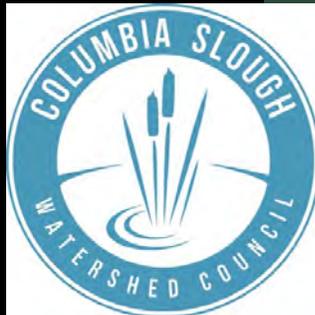
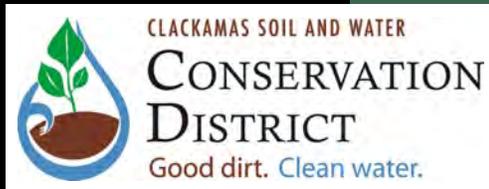
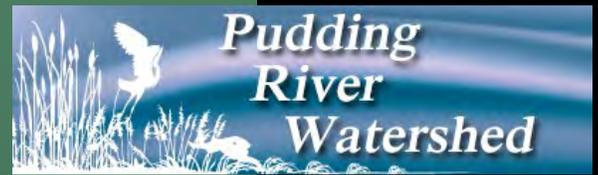
Bringing equestrians, hikers, & mountain bikers together for trail maintenance and improvement fundraiser.

## October

**Molalla River Cleanup & Enhancement:** October 8, 9 am, *Feyrer Park*

Volunteers will disperse into Molalla River Corridor and other public access areas for cleanup & trail/restoration work.





Great Things Happen When We Work Together!