

Oswego Lake Watershed Council

We all live in a watershed. Watersheds go beyond political and property boundaries to encompass all the land that contributes water to a local water body. As residents of the same watershed, we share the benefits and the responsibility for protecting and improving the health of our land and water.



A healthy watershed benefits our communities by resisting invasive species, encouraging beneficial native wildlife, improving air quality, and filtering and storing fresh water for this and future generations. Healthy rivers, lakes and wetlands increase our property values and benefit the local economy through reduced maintenance needs and increased community livability.



Who is the Oswego Lake Watershed Council?

The Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) is a locally organized, non-profit, non-regulatory watershed stewardship organization established to improve the condition and health of the Oswego Lake watershed and its stream network.

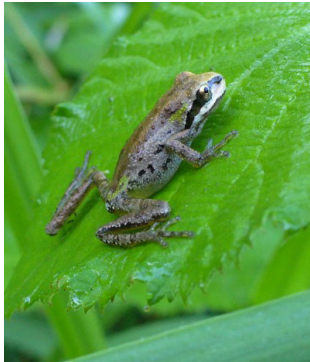
The OLWC formed in 2010, and the Council meets regularly to work together on projects that support watershed health.

Council members currently include:

- City of Lake Oswego
- Lake Oswego School District
- Lake Oswego Corporation
- individual land owners and community members
- local businesses
- neighborhood groups
- local conservation organizations
- local government
- and others.

Anyone can get involved with the Council by attending monthly Council meetings, working on Council sub-committees, or helping with projects.

Council meetings are held the second Friday of the month from 8am to 9:30am either virtually on Zoom or at the Mountain Park HOA ClubHouse, Lake Oswego OR. For more details see our website at www.oswegowatershed.org.



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What kinds of projects does the Oswego Lake Watershed Council do?

Projects. The Council fosters the planning, development, funding, and implementation of projects to enhance, restore, and maintain physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Oswego Lake watershed.

Action Plan. The Council develops a dynamic strategic watershed action plan to foster the conservation and restoration of watershed and stream functions in a holistic way from ridge top to ridge top and from headwaters to and including Oswego Lake.

Monitors Progress. The Council monitors watershed health parameters and progress toward achieving the watershed vision.

Monitors Projects. The Council monitors project effectiveness.

Watershed Information. The Council researches and organizes data that provides awareness and knowledge of watershed health.

Condition Assessments. The Council performs condition assessment projects that enhance awareness and understanding of the watershed and facilitate adaptive management of the dynamic strategic watershed action plan.



Facilitation. Through this watershed partnership, Council members collaborate to identify issues, promote cooperative solutions, focus resources, agree on goals for watershed conservation, enhance natural watershed functions, and foster communication among all watershed interests.

Landowner Assistance. The Council identifies landowner participants for important projects, develops priorities for local projects, and establishes goals and standards for future conditions in the watershed.

Outreach and Education. The Council promotes continuing education and outreach to inform people about watershed processes and functions.

Planning. The Council provides a coordinated, broad-based review of land management plans to local, state, and federal decision-makers.

Funding. The Council helps bring state, federal and private funding to our local community for ecosystem restoration, monitoring and education.

Over the years, human modification of Oswego Lake and its watershed has had unintended negative effects on ecosystem health and function.

- Impervious surfaces such as rooftops, roads and parking lots generate large volumes of stormwater runoff that carry pollution and cause erosion and downstream flooding.
- Heavy metals, oil and grease from cars, pesticides, fertilizers, and bacteria are commonly found in our waterways and are known to be harmful to humans, pets, fish and other wildlife.
- Removal of native vegetation from streamside areas and invasion by aggressive non-native plant species damages wildlife habitat and contributes to stream bank erosion and collapse.
- Invasive weeds also obstruct and damage public infrastructure like pipes and roadways and must often be removed to maintain public services, while bank erosion and downstream flooding contribute to property loss and decreased property value.

You can help Oswego Lake!

- Visit our website www.oswegowatershed.org to sign up for our free e-newsletter and for OLWC information including meetings, publications and more resources for residents
- Contact us to schedule a free OLWC presentation for your community group
- Join us for an Oswego Lake watershed tour
- Sign up for a workshops and volunteer events through the OLWC



Be part of the solution at home

Find more detailed how-to information on our website!

Garden naturally:

- Certify your yard through the Backyard Habitat Certification Program – visit: www.tryonfriends.org/protect/backyard-habitat



- Avoid combined fertilizer and pesticide products like “weed and feed”
- Remove invasive weeds and replant with native vegetation
- Keep soil from washing into the storm drains in the street



- Reduce your use of toxic gardening products
- Use slow-release fertilizers

Soak up stormwater runoff:

- Rain gardens slow down and soak up stormwater runoff on your property, but are not safe for some steep or soggy properties
- Call your local government to make sure your property is safe

Maintain your vehicles to reduce pollution:

- Fix vehicle fluid leaks to keep them from washing into streams
- Wash your car at a car wash or over grass

Watershed friendly household maintenance:

- Soak up driveway spills with kitty litter, then throw it in the garbage
- Sweep your driveway instead of washing it
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at a disposal facility – drains in the street lead to local streams



Even your pets can help:

- Please pick up after your pets – bacteria from dog waste pollutes our waterways

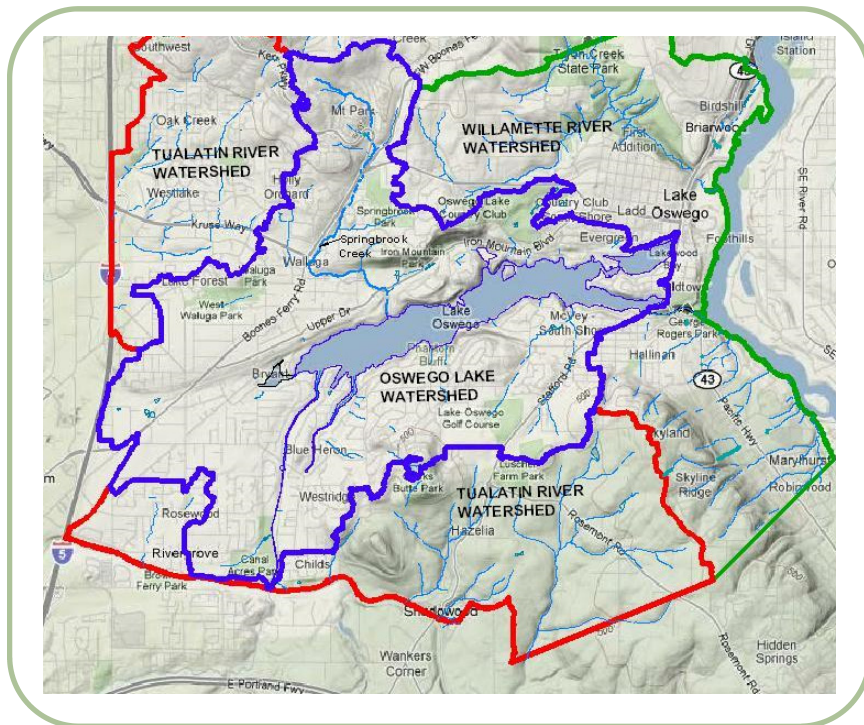
What Is the Oswego Lake Watershed?

The Oswego Lake watershed is all the land, or catchment area, that contributes water to Oswego Lake. It is comprised of 4,168 acres in Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah counties in northwestern Oregon.

The Oswego Lake watershed provides food, water, shelter, and many economic benefits and ecosystem services to the 21,550 people and diverse plant and animal communities (including bird, fish, mammal and amphibian species) that live there.

Water enters Oswego Lake through Springbrook Creek, Lost Dog Creek, Blue Heron Creek, and the Tualatin River (by way of the Oswego Lake Canal). Water exits the lake through Oswego Creek, which drains into the Willamette River.

Oswego Lake formed naturally when an abandoned channel of the Tualatin River was flooded during the Missoula Floods (also called Bretz Floods) 13,000-15,000 years ago.



The **mission** of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

As a result of everyone's efforts, the OLWC envisions a healthy, properly functioning watershed. This **vision** is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

Oswego Lake
Watershed Council



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