



# Within Your Reach

A publication of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council

*reach: a) a portion of a stream or river b) an extent, esp. of knowledge or comprehension*



## Spawning Salmon Return to Upper Johnson Creek

By Matt Clark, Executive Director, JCWC

In late 2010, three adult Coho Salmon carcasses and one live adult Coho were seen in mainstem Johnson Creek near the eastern border of Gresham, about 15 miles from the mouth of Johnson Creek—much farther upstream than spawning Coho have been documented in recent years. Historically, Coho were abundant throughout the Johnson Creek Watershed, but for the last twenty years or more, spawning Coho have only been documented in small numbers in lower Johnson Creek and Crystal Springs Creek.

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, two Metro staff scientists, Jeff Merrill and Kate Holleran photographed two salmon, one live and one dead, while working at a small complex of recently-acquired Metro properties in the Springwater area near Gresham.

Six days later, Barb Ledbury, a City Councilor for Damascus, alerted Portland Audubon and City of Gresham staff to a 31-inch salmon carcass that she saw while walking along the Springwater Corridor Trail. Gresham staff members later found a third Coho carcass after collecting the other two carcasses originally seen by Jeff, Kate, and Barb. All three carcasses were provided to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who confirmed that they were wild, not hatchery, Coho salmon. This is significant, because Lower Willamette River (which includes Johnson Creek) Coho are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Anyone spotting a salmon or salmon carcass is encouraged to contact JCWC Restoration Coordinator, Robin Jenkinson at robin@jwc.org in order to improve our understanding of salmon and steelhead use of Johnson Creek. Based on this year's finds, Robin plans to organize volunteer spawning surveys on Johnson Creek next winter, noting that "we might find many more salmon in Johnson Creek if we are out looking for them on a more methodical basis."



*A 31-inch Coho carcass was discovered in Upper Johnson Creek this fall.*

For more information about the significance of this discovery, see *The Oregonian* online article (www.oregonlive.com) by Tom Hallman Jr., "Johnson Creek shows signs of health after decades of restoration work" published Monday, January 10, 2011. A letter to *The Oregonian* Editor is reprinted on page 2 of *Within Your Reach*.

## Invasives, Trash and Donuts

By JoAnn Herrigel, Community Services Director, City of Milwaukie

I have attended the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's Watershed Wide Event (WWE) for almost ten years in a row. When I began attending this event, my daughter was 3 years old and she and I spent most of our time eating donuts and wandering about talking to people. Thankfully, the donuts were plentiful (and yummy) and there were lots of fun people to chat with! People of all ages, vocations and interests attend these events and I always meet someone with an interesting story to tell. One year I brought my two friends who were visiting from New York state and not only did they have a great time, but they entertained their work teammates with stories of their east coast lives and won the prize for having travelled the farthest for a JCWC Watershed Wide Event!

A few years in a row, I cajoled the members of the Milwaukie Riverfront Board, which I staff, into attending the WWE and we spent the morning working side by side talking and getting to know each other. It was a great team building exercise! It also renewed the Board's commitment to enhancing the riparian area along the Willamette River in Milwaukie

*Continued on page 2*

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

PLANT PULL RESTORE INSPIRE

13th Annual Watershed Wide Event

Saturday, March 5 • 9am-noon  
10 Restoration Sites • Appreciation Lunch

See page 6-7 for more site details and registration information

Continued from page 1

## Invasives, Trash and Donuts

through completion of our proposed RiverfrontPark.

As a volunteer, it is reinforcing to observe the amazing impact that these work parties have on the various focus sites. Hillsides covered in ivy and blackberries are transformed into open areas. Hundreds of bare root and potted plants are installed in just a few hours to cover previously denuded areas. Bags and bags of trash are removed from landscapes, returning littered areas to their more natural states. (Everything from tires to refrigerators have been hauled away from the focus sites over the years.) By the end of a short morning's work, teams leave behind truly transformed open spaces.

After a fun morning of planting and pulling and hauling, the Council always hosts a lunch at which free food is provided to volunteers, thank you gifts are distributed, and work team stories are shared. JCWC staff and Board members work and eat side by side with teams from various companies, individuals from within the Watershed Council and even local and regional elected officials. The energy is high and the results are phenomenal! I encourage everyone to try out at least one of these events. They're fun, educational, provide a great social experience and, according to my (now, 13 year-old) daughter—you just can't beat the donuts!

## Letter to *The Oregonian* Editor

Dear *Oregonian* Editor,

Tom Hallman's article in Monday's (January 10, 2011) *Oregonian* (Coho carcasses confirm Johnson Creek's rebound) highlights the important and not widely understood story of Johnson Creek's gradual and fragile turnaround. Water quality and habitat conditions appear to be improving for salmon, trout, and probably for other wildlife too. The public and private investments in education, creek restoration, stormwater management, and land conservation coupled with environmental protections for sensitive areas—especially when new development is proposed—are paying off.

But the restoration of Johnson Creek will face new challenges in future years which should not be underestimated. State law has required Metro to expand the urban growth boundary (UGB) to maintain a 20-year supply of residential and industrial land. This has led directly to decisions that have added over 9,000 acres of the Johnson Creek Watershed to Metro-area UGB since 1998. These lands designated for new urban development remain mostly rural, but will be ripe for urban development in the coming years as the population grows and public roads and infrastructure are extended. Where and how new development occurs in these new UGB expansion areas in Portland, Gresham and Damascus will be

critical to our continued success in restoring the health of the Johnson Creek Watershed.

In the past urbanization has meant eliminating nature from the city by cutting trees, filling wetlands, piping streams, and paving vast areas with impervious asphalt and concrete. These practices have made our neighborhoods less livable for wildlife and resulted in the degraded habitat and flooding problems in Johnson Creek that we are just beginning to remedy. Can we urbanize another 9,000 acres of Johnson Creek Watershed in a way that enhances rather than degrades local ecosystems that support us? Can we protect our successful investments in Johnson Creek? Success will depend on political will to set and maintain the right policies, the willingness of voters to support environmental protection and investment, and the many, small positive actions of individuals and businesses throughout the watershed.

Sincerely,

Jim Labbe  
Urban Conservationist  
Audubon Society of Portland

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# Johnson Creek Watershed Restoration Project Census Underway

By Robin Jenkinson, Restoration Coordinator, JCWC

Over the past decade, many organizations have implemented hundreds of restoration projects throughout the Johnson Creek Basin to conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitats. However, there has been no coordinated tracking or follow-up of projects at the watershed scale.

Johnson Creek flows through five different municipalities and two counties. While individual entities track their own restoration projects, collectively, our basin-wide understanding of completed, underway, and planned restoration projects is limited.

As a solution, the Council explored online project mapping and sharing tools and identified the Conservation Registry (conservationregistry.org), developed by the Defenders of Wildlife, as the most appropriate tool for our needs. Restoration project locations and descriptions can be input to the Conservation Registry for free and are easily updated by the project manager. This information can then be queried and downloaded.

In September, the Council was awarded \$25,000 from the Meyer Memorial Trust to create a Johnson Creek Watershed landing page in the Conservation Registry and included a map and database with restoration project records. Working with JCWC and Defenders of Wildlife staff, professional-level interns Thatch Moyle and Peregrine Edison-Lahm have been entering completed, underway, and planned project locations and descriptions.

And now (drumroll!), we invite you to check out the fledgling Johnson Creek Watershed "portal" at [jcw.cconservationregistry.org](http://jcw.cconservationregistry.org). It features a watershed-scale map linked to the database of restora-

tion projects. Each mapped project includes a link to a detailed description of restoration activities, funding sources, lessons learned, goals accomplished, and more.

With help from the Cities of Gresham, Damascus, Milwaukie, and Portland, plus Metro and Clackamas and Multnomah Counties and Conservation Districts, we will continue to add detail to these project descriptions and refine the project database.

During the summer of 2011, paid interns will ground truth selected projects, photograph the projects, assess maintenance needs, and update project descriptions as needed.

The mapped projects convey past and planned investments in the watershed, inspiring stakeholders to continue their contributions of time, energy, and funds that improve water quality and wildlife habitat within the Johnson Creek Watershed.

Please visit  
**[jcw.cconservationregistry.org](http://jcw.cconservationregistry.org)**  
to see restoration projects in  
the Johnson Creek Watershed



Restoration projects such as this along the banks of lower Johnson Creek on ODS Companies' campus in Milwaukie are included in the Restoration Project Census. Each mapped project includes a link to a detailed description of restoration activities, funding sources, lessons learned, and more.

# Calling Volunteers to Action in 2011

## Outreach Task Force

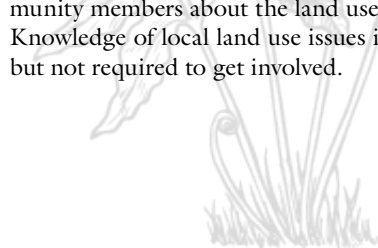
For volunteers who enjoy interacting with others and representing the mission of the Council in one-on-one conversations at outreach events and fairs. There is no minimum time commitment required for this activity—JCWC will send an email to the Task Force when events need volunteer support, and volunteers respond when available.

## Events Committee

This new committee is for volunteers who enjoy planning events. The Events Committee had its first meeting in January. This group of volunteers is committed to coordinating this year's series of free community events during Johnson Creek Days in September. If you have ideas you'd like to share or interest in joining this planning group, please contact Amy Lodholz, JCWC Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator (amy@jwc.org).

## Land Use Committee

Do you have an interest in the ins and outs of local land use planning? Do you ever wonder who provides the voice for the protection of our local natural resources? Are you interested in how open spaces are created? If so, this is the group for you. The Land Use Committee is always looking for motivated volunteers who want to assist with protecting the resources of the Johnson Creek watershed. Opportunities include developing testimony to local and regional governments regarding land use policy, providing technical advice and support to city and county planners, and talking with community members about the land use process. Knowledge of local land use issues is helpful but not required to get involved.



## Internships

For volunteers who have an interest in 60 or more hours of volunteer service—typically for students looking to build their skills or people interested in a unique project. Interns work in areas like marketing, outreach, communications, restoration, research, volunteer recruitment, grant assistance, and much more. If you have an interest in an internship with the Council, contact Amy Lodholz (amy@jwc.org) to set up an interview.

## Restoration Volunteer

Ideal for people who enjoy being outside, don't mind getting dirty, and want to help clear the way for native plants and animals. Restoration events occur midweek and on weekends. The Council works with volunteers at several different sites throughout the year. Volunteers help remove invasive species, tend young plants with mulch, control weeds, and plant new shrubs and trees.

## JCWC Volunteers Earn Presidential Recognition

By Amy Lodholz, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, JCWC

This winter marked the first annual JCWC Volunteer Appreciation Potluck on Saturday, December 4th. It was an opportunity for people who had volunteered on behalf of the Council in 2010 to come together, celebrate the holidays and enjoy some food and merriment. It also served as the occasion to present the Presidential Service Award to two exceptional volunteers, Jason Howard and Peregrine Edison-Lahm. The United States created this award to honor Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service. Jason and Peregrine both served over 100 hours last year on behalf of the Council. This award

highlights Jason and Peregrine's trail-blazing attitudes, and their earnest concern for the well being of others and the environment.

The Council's volunteer program had an amazing impact on the Johnson Creek Watershed in 2010. JCWC engaged over 450 volunteers and completed over 30 volunteer stewardship events at 20 different locations. The number of volunteer hours more than doubled this year. Over 75 volunteers attended at least two restoration work parties, and approximately 40 volunteers earned more than 10 volunteer hours. Julie Chapman, Nicole Alexander, Pearl O'Brien, Russ Stoll, Roger Amey, and Gary Klein each earned more than 25 hours of service.

The Council also developed new volunteer opportunities—45 volunteers participated in freshwater mussel surveys last summer.

What a JCWC volunteer does isn't a cakewalk. The determination and commitment the Council sees from all of them to get the job done is truly inspiring. The Council hopes to continue to award many more volunteers the Presidential Service Award in 2011.

### What's next for the volunteer program in 2011?

- The Council will “adopt a road” for trash removal along Johnson Creek in Damascus
- Volunteers will continue **restoration work** at several regular sites in the watershed
- A new **Events Committee** will help plan Johnson Creek Days in September
- The Council will continue its successful **intern recruitment** from local colleges



*Peregrine Edison-Lahm (left) and Jason Howard accept Presidential Service Awards after completing 100 hours of volunteer time during 2010 with the Council.*





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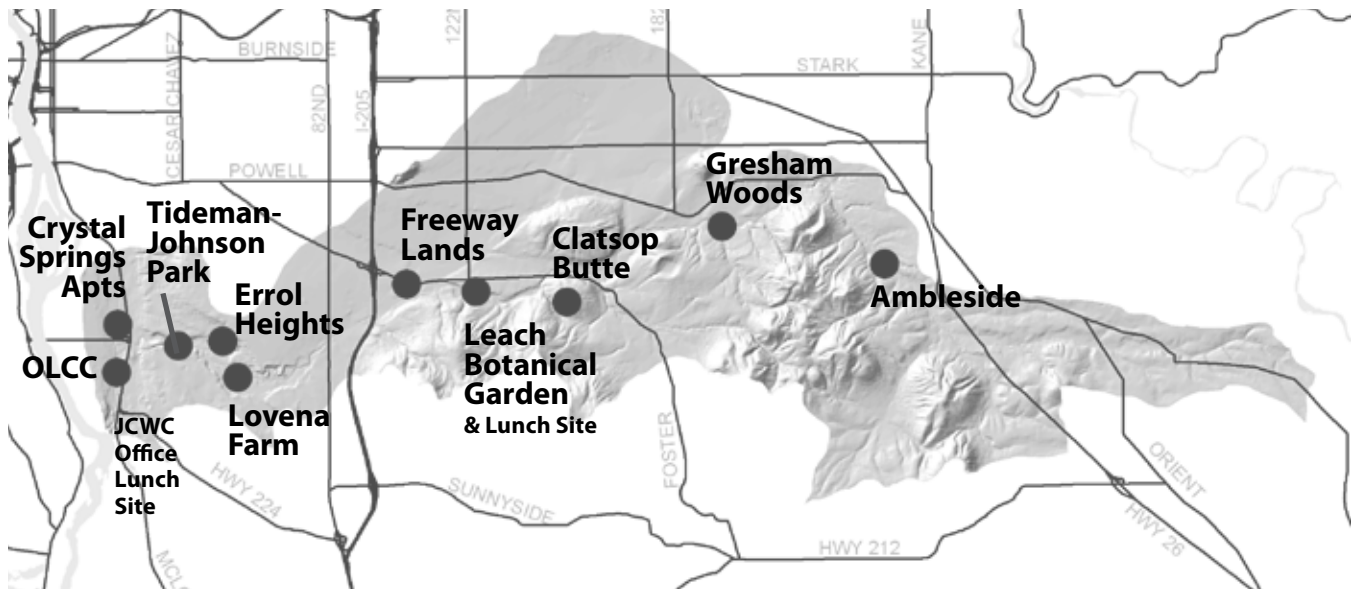
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# Johnson Creek Watershed Council



## 13th Annual Watershed Wide Event



**Saturday, March 5 • 9am-12noon**  
**10 Restoration Sites • Appreciation Lunch**

For more details visit our website at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org).  
Contact [amy@jcwc.org](mailto:amy@jcwc.org) or call 503-652-7477 with questions.

Group and individual registration required.

Register online at [www.jcwc.org/wwe\\_register.php](http://www.jcwc.org/wwe_register.php)

# Johnson Creek Watershed Council Watershed Wide Event Saturday, March 5 • 9am-12noon 10 Restoration Sites • Appreciation Lunch

## **OLCC**

**9079 SE Ochoco St. off Frontage Rd., Milwaukie**

Help New Urban High School students revitalize one of the Council's first riparian restoration projects, begun in 1996. We'll be digging out Himalayan blackberry and planting a few native trees and shrubs.

## **Crystal Springs Apartments**

**2215 SE Miller St., Portland**

This is a collaborative project to restore a streamside forest along Crystal Springs Creek. Join SOLV and Friends of Crystal Springs to pull weeds and continue planting native shrubs and trees.

## **Tideman-Johnson Park**

**SE 45<sup>th</sup> and Johnson Creek Blvd., Portland**

Join Friends of Tideman Johnson and Portland Parks and Recreation to plant and mulch native plants along the Springwater Corridor where weeds and brush were cleared last year.

## **Errol Heights**

**SE 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and Tenino St., Portland**

Errol Springs is a coldwater spring tributary to Johnson Creek. Join Friends of Trees and Portland Parks and Recreation to restore an oak woodland at the headwaters of Errol Springs in an area already cleared of weeds.

## **Lovena Farm**

**9313 SE Stanley Ave., Milwaukie**

This is an urban organic farm, bordered on two sides by Johnson Creek. We'll help restore streamside forests by planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers with species that benefit both birds and pollinators.

## **Freeway Lands**

**SE Foster Rd. and 106<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland**

Volunteers have worked hard all year removing ivy from this remnant forest patch in an industrial area. We'll be planting native understory species such as sword fern and snowberry. Join Jameson Partners, Green Lents and Lents Corridor Restoration Project volunteers to continue to "free the trees."

## **Leach Botanical Garden**

**6704 SE 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Portland**

In this historic garden, we'll install native herbaceous species along with identification placards. In undeveloped areas along Johnson Creek, Portland Parks and Recreation and Friends of Leach Botanical Garden will plant trees and shrubs along Johnson Creek. (In January, a wild coho carcass was found here!)

## **Clatsop Butte**

**SE 156<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Evergreen St., Portland**

Restore an upland forest and meadow in the Kelley Creek Watershed, a tributary to Johnson Creek. Help Friends of Trees, Portland Parks and Recreation and the local homeowners plant trees and shrubs in an area already cleared of blackberries.

## **Gresham Woods**

**SW 14<sup>th</sup> Dr. and Binford Ave., Gresham**

Work with the local Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis Club, Youth Engaged students from Alpha High School and Cub Scout Pack 740 to remove blackberry and ivy and plant willow and dogwood stakes along the banks of Johnson Creek.

## **Ambleside**

**Springwater Trail at SE Hogan Ave., Gresham**

Multnomah Youth Cooperative students will maintain past WWE plantings by controlling invasive weeds. Visit this unique area where Hogan Cedars thrive, where dams are being removed and where three wild Coho salmon carcasses were found this winter.

### **Coordinated by Johnson Creek Watershed Council with Thanks to our Sponsors and Partners**

Albertsons • Alpha High School • Bob's Red Mill • Brown and Caldwell • Cargill Bakery • City of Gresham • City of Milwaukie • City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Service and Portland Parks and Recreation • Clackamas County Water Environment Services • Crystal Springs Apartments • Cub Scouts Pack 740 • Downtown Historic Gresham Kiwanis • East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District • Fred Meyer • Friends of Crystal Springs • Friends of Tideman Johnson • Friends of Trees • Great Harvest Bread Co. • Green Lents • Hawthorne Ridge Homowners Association • Jameson Partners • Lents Corridor Restoration Project • Leach Botanical Garden • Lovena Farm • Marsee Baking • Metro • Multnomah County • Multnomah Youth Cooperative (MYC) • New Seasons • New Urban High School • Noah's Bagels • ODS • OLCC • Oregon Hunters Association • Overland Park Coalition • PCC Structural • Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association • Powellhurst-Gilbert Neighborhood Association • QFC • REI • SOLV • VolunteerMatch • Whole Foods

**Building Communities Through Stewardship**

# A Symbiotic Internship with Johnson Creek Watershed Council

By James Parrish and Omar Salazar

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council was kind enough to accept us as their Land Use interns. We, James Parrish and Omar Salazar, are two 4th year students from California, who attend California Polytechnic State University under the City & Regional Planning program. Our graduation date is set in the Spring of 2011.

Our internship consisted of a 60 hour work plan in which we were responsible for recording the events and subjects of discussion at five meetings: the City of Gresham Planning Commission, the City of Portland Planning Commission, the Natural Resources and Sustainability Committee, the Portland Plan Community Involvement Committee, and the Portland Urban Forestry Commission. These meetings encompassed a wide spectrum of land use and planning topics that relate directly or indirectly to Johnson Creek Watershed Council and their Land Use Committee. Topics ranged from the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project (whose proposed stations impact natural and built environments), to



Interns James Parrish and Omar Salazar attend California Polytechnic State University in Santa Barbara.

the approval of a Buildable Lands Analysis as part of the Portland Plan that determines areas of land development, and the type of development, can ensue.

We constructed a final report summarizing important points of these meetings, their relevance to JCWC and the Land Use Committee and whether the Council should attend additional meetings. Contact information of

influential members and attendees is also included in the report to expand the Council's resources.

Along with the final report, we assisted in outreach efforts to maintain relationships with supporters of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council in promoting the monthly e-mail newsletter and the quarterly hardcopy newsletter. These efforts strengthened and reconnected the Council's supporters, and we enjoyed learning about Johnson Creek's history!

Through this experience, we learned how planning commission meetings are structured, and confirmed about how lots of city

projects can relate to, and impact each other, despite differences in their function. This is an important point to remember for planning students like us! This internship provided us with valuable real world experience that will strengthen our career paths. We hope our work for Johnson Creek Watershed Council benefits the Council to reach its goals, much how working for the Council benefited us!

## \$200 Rain Garden Grants for Gresham Residents



### Planning to landscape this spring?

By installing a rain garden to manage stormwater runoff on your property, you could be eligible for up to \$200 from the City of Gresham. To be eligible, your property must be in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood in Gresham, staff must pre-confirm the safety of your site, and your rain garden must adhere to grant application guidelines. Call today to request a free site assessment.

To find out if you live in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood:

- 1) go to [gis.GreshamOregon.gov/](http://gis.GreshamOregon.gov/)
- 2) enter your address
- 3) select the Healthy Streams box at the top
- 4) click 'refresh map' on the right - if your house is highlighted in purple, you are in a Healthy Streams Neighborhood.

Grant application and rain garden guidelines are available on the City of Gresham's website at [www.greshamoregon.gov/watershed](http://www.greshamoregon.gov/watershed).

The City of Gresham and EMSWCD will also offer a free rain garden workshop in Gresham on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Space is limited, call to register.

Contact Jamie Stamberger at 503-618-2793 or [Jamie.Stamberger@GreshamOregon.gov](mailto:Jamie.Stamberger@GreshamOregon.gov)



This program is supported by the Partners in Conservation grant from East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND

Supporting  
Restoration  
Projects  
in the  
Johnson Creek  
Watershed



Bruce MacGregor

## Do You Love Your River?

By Teresa Huntsinger

Oregon's rivers are beautiful forces of nature, which give us fish to eat, places to play and relax, and clean water to drink. But, they need us to take better care of them.

That's why Oregon Environmental Council created the Love Your River challenge. Visit [LoveYourRiver.org](http://LoveYourRiver.org) to figure out which watershed you live in, get great information about Oregon's rivers, and take the monthly challenge. Each challenge is about something you can do in your daily life to prevent pollution and be a better steward of local rivers.

Take the monthly challenge, and you'll be entered in a prize drawing for outdoor gear and other prizes donated by REI, Next Adventure, Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe, Portland Kayak Company and other local businesses. Take at least six challenges, and you'll be in the drawing for the grand prize: a family size tent, two sleeping pads, and a mini camp kitchen. So come on, show your river some love.

**February's challenge** is "turn the rain into a resource"—about rain gardens and rain barrels.

**March's challenge** is "get involved", meaning do a project with your local watershed council or SOLV, or get involved politically by signing up for OEC's action alert list.



Visit [LoveYourRiver.org](http://LoveYourRiver.org) to learn more

## Free Workshops!

Are you thinking about landscaping your yard and don't know where to start? Interested in rain gardens but aren't sure if one is right for your yard? We can help! Attend one of our free workshops or invite us to speak at your event or meeting.

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, February 26 • 9am-1pm  
Tualatin Hills Nature Park

### Rain Gardens 101

Saturday, February 26 • 9am-12pm  
Portland Home & Garden Show

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, March 5 • 9am-1pm  
Whitaker Ponds Natural Area

### Naturescaping – Site Planning 1

Saturday, March 12 • 9am-1pm  
Tualatin Hills Nature Park

### Rain Gardens 101

Saturday, April 2 • 9am-12pm  
Cornelius City Council Chambers

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, April 2 • 9am-12pm  
Leach Botanical Garden

### Naturescaping Basics

Sunday, April 10 • 1pm-5pm  
Kenton Firehouse

### Naturescaping Basics

Saturday, April 30 • 9am-12pm  
Redeemer Lutheran Church

### Naturescaping – Site Planning 1

Saturday, May 14 • 9am-1pm  
Kenton Firehouse

### Naturescaping Basics

Sunday, May 15 • 1pm-5pm  
Troutdale City Conf. Building

### Rain Gardens 101

Sunday, May 22 • 1pm-5pm  
Troutdale City Conf. Building

### Rain Gardens 101

Sunday, June 5 • 1pm-5pm  
Kenton Firehouse



Please visit [www.emswcd.org](http://www.emswcd.org) to find out more and register online.

You can also call us at 503-935-5383.

# JCWC UPDATES...



Noah Jenkins (right), JCWC Education and Research Associate, meets regularly with Youth Engaged students from six different schools in the watershed. Students from New Urban High School in Milwaukie survey restoration work at Powell Butte.

## Youth Engaged Enters Another Year

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council's Youth Engaged program entered its fourth year this fall, with more schools and more student involvement than ever! Eight class groups from six different schools monitored water quality and aquatic insects at sites throughout the Johnson Creek basin this fall; two groups also got involved in studying freshwater mussel populations, adding to our understanding of this curious animal.

In the coming months, they will engage in restoration activities—such as removing invasive plants and planting native shrubs and trees—and present their work in several different forums, including the JCWC's Annual Meeting and the Student Watershed Research Project summit.

Participating schools for this year include: Alpha High School, Clackamas Web Academy, Cleveland High School, Marshall High School—BizTech Academy, Multnomah Youth Cooperative, and New Urban High School. The project is made possible through the generous support of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund, the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, and the WHH foundation.

## UERC Symposium Includes Johnson Creek Research

The 9th annual Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium of Portland/Vancouver was held at Portland State University on January 24, 2011. Several research projects within the Johnson Creek watershed were included.

Laura Guderyahn of the City of Gresham Environmental Services discussed the implications of urban center habitat for Oregon slender salamanders in Gresham.

Roy Iwai, with Multnomah County, shared two years of macroinvertebrate monitoring results from the Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee. In 2010, one site stood out from the rest. Where Kelley Creek, a tributary to Johnson Creek, flows out of a forested butte area recently purchased by Metro, abundant stoneflies (Plecoptera sp.) were found. These are indicators of cold, clean water and good aquatic habitat.

Noah Jenkins and Celeste Mazzacano, with the Xerces Society, highlighted results of 2010 volunteer freshwater mussel surveys in Johnson and Crystal Springs Creek. Surveyors documented abundant Western Pearlshell mussels in upper Johnson Creek, whereas Floater mussels and Asian clams were found in Crystal Springs Creek.

## Annual Friends Campaign Reaches Goal

Thanks to everyone who generously donated to the Council during our annual Friends Campaign. Appeal letters and newsletters were sent out to hundreds of Council supporters who generously responded to our request. With our loyal donors' support, we reached our goal of \$4,000 for the Friends Campaign, adding to the more than \$22,000 raised during the summer special appeal which included a generous challenge matching grant from the Mintkeski Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation.

Haven't yet made a gift to the Council? You can make your contribution online—go to our website at [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org). Online gifts can also be made hassle-free with automatic monthly contributions.

## Oregon Worsted – Generosity Behind the Scenes

One of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council's most important—and longest-term—supporters has been making a continuous gift that could be described as “priceless.” The Oregon Worsted Company has been providing offices and meeting space since 1988—before the Council even incorporated! The Johnson Creek Corridor Association inhabited the upstairs of the Oregon Worsted Company's building at 8300 SE McLoughlin until that site was demolished; as one of the founding members of the Association, Howard Dietrich—Oregon Worsted's Vice President—has continued to provide what has since become the Johnson Creek Watershed Council with office and meeting space at its current location, across the creek from the Mill End Store.

The Oregon Worsted Company was established in 1918 by (among others) Roy Bishop, of Pendleton Woolen Mills, and manufactured worsted wool yarn in Sellwood, later adding other mills in the United States and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The company's Mill End Store opened to the public in 1953 in the Sellwood plant, moving to its current location in Milwaukie in the 1960s. It is home to the largest display of fabric in the western United States, and is still family-owned and run by its president Nancy Bishop-Dietrich.

The Council is extremely grateful to Howard and Nancy for their continued support of our organization—we (literally) wouldn't be where we are without them!

# JCWC UPDATES...

## Tacoma Street Lightrail Station Gains Momentum

Last summer, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and Trimet co-hosted three community design charettes for the Tacoma Street station on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail line, scheduled to open in 2015. Over a hundred community members came together to brainstorm ideas about integrating fish and wildlife habitat, low-impact development, and environmental education features into the overall design of the Tacoma Street station. Many of the group's ideas focused on enhancing Johnson Creek, which is located just north of the future light rail station platform. The group was particularly excited about the opportunity to feature Johnson Creek for the hundreds of people who will use the Tacoma Street station every day.

Since the charettes, a working group of JCWC, Trimet, City of Portland, and Friends of Trees staff, and members of the Johnson Creek - Ardenwald Neighborhood Association has prioritized and refined some of the design concepts put forth at the summer charettes. The working group is focusing specifically on creating fish habitat features in the reach of Johnson Creek next to the station, namely placing large woody debris instream and excavating off-channel habitat. We are also focused on floodplain habitat features such as bat boxes, wood duck nest boxes, and a raptor platform, and educational elements like a board walk from the station platform to an interpretive creek overlook, which will highlight Johnson Creek as a place where fish, wildlife and humans all thrive together.

The working group has developed a strategy and timeline for designing and implementing these habitat and environmental education elements, and recently submitted a funding proposal to support engineered design of the fish habitat features mentioned above. We look forward to keeping you informed of our progress on this exciting project.



Over 40 volunteers planted 500 trees at Mill Park on Johnson Creek in observance of MLK Day of Service.



Rachel Landon and Shawn Derris spend the day planting trees at Mill Park.

## MLK Day of Service: Volunteers Restore Streamside Forest in Mill Park, Milwaukie

On the observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, a hardy group of over 40 volunteers—including folks from the Overland Park Coalition, Hands On Portland, and students from Portland Waldorf School—gathered to help restore Mill Park, a public park along Johnson Creek in Clackamas County. Having recently completed sewer work in the area, Clackamas Water and Environment Services (WES) was looking for restoration opportunities near Johnson Creek, and was able to fund the installation of over 500 native trees and shrubs on the south bank of the creek.

The first order of business was the removal of non-native vegetation, so the volunteer crew braved thorns and mud to remove five cubic yards of plant material to make way for the new plantings. Meanwhile, a group working with North Clackamas Parks staff erected 360 linear feet of split-rail fence to protect the new plantings, and the Overland Park neighbors provided coffee and doughnuts for everyone.

Overall, the project will provide 8500 square feet of streamside wildlife habitat, as well as vital shading for the creek to help keep water temperatures lower for fish and other aquatic animals. Thanks to the planting of several large (3"+ diameter) trees—including fast growers like red alder

and bigleaf maple—that shade won't be long in coming!

This spring, JCWC will be adding a layer of mulch to help keep weeds down and hold moisture in the soil and will install protective cages around the trees to prevent any potential damage from beavers. A swale in the park will be planted with wetland vegetation to further enhance wildlife value.

## JCWC Welcomes Three New Advisory Circle Members

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is thrilled to welcome Diane Boly, Carlotta Collette, and John Wrenn as Advisory Circle members. The JCWC Advisory Circle is a group of regional community leaders with diverse experience, expertise, and affiliations, which they use to advance the Council's mission, goals, and values.

**Diane Boly** is Managing Partner of Boly Welch, a Portland-based business consulting and employment placement agency with a strong commitment to sustainability. A dynamic businesswoman and a connector by profession and temperament, Diane is a natural fit as the Council continues to foster strong relationships with the business community. Diane is an avid cyclist. We're looking forward to Johnson Creek bike tours on the Springwater Corridor Trail with her.

**Carlotta Collette** is the Metro Councilor for District 2, which includes a large portion of Johnson Creek Watershed. She is a former Milwaukie City Councilor, and for fourteen years prior to that, worked as a public information strategist with the Power Planning and Conservation Council. It was Carlotta who first encouraged the Council to take an active role in designing the future Tacoma Street light rail station as a way to ensure that Johnson Creek restoration was an integral part of the project. Carlotta will be a valuable source of support and advice as this exciting project moves forward.

**John Wrenn** is Senior Vice President of Investments for UBS. He's long been interested in fostering sustainable investment that helps investors prioritize environmental protection while maximizing returns. To that end, John recently launched a series of conversations called Sustainable Alpha on Portland Business Journal's website. John enjoys rafting and fishing (honestly, he is enthusiastic about almost everything). His enthusiasm and his thoughtfulness will serve the Council in good stead.

# Calendar of Events

For more details, please visit our website: [www.jcwc.org](http://www.jcwc.org) or call 503-652-7477

## Restoration Parties

- Friday, February 4  
Johnson Creek Park planting
- Saturday, March 12  
Planting at 98<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
and Duke Street
- Friday, April 22  
Earth Day Restoration



## Bowling for Johnson Creek

Sunday, February 13  
1:00-3:00, Milwaukie Bowl



## 13th Annual Watershed Wide Event

Saturday, March 5  
9-12noon, 10 restoration sites  
Volunteer appreciation luncheon

Registration required at  
[www.jcwc.org/wwe\\_register.php](http://www.jcwc.org/wwe_register.php)  
Contact [amy@jcwc.org](mailto:amy@jcwc.org)  
or call 503-652-7477

## Rugg Road Adoption Day

Saturday, May 7  
10-12noon, pick up trash on  
Sunshine Creek, a tributary of  
Johnson Creek, in Damascus

## Edible Watershed Weeds

Saturday, May 14  
12-2pm; Springwater Corridor Trail  
Led by Randi Embree



## Annual Meeting Luncheon

Thursday, May 26  
11:30-1:30, Reed College  
Portland, Oregon



**Pursuing our mission:**  
To inspire and facilitate  
community investment  
in the Johnson Creek  
Watershed for the  
protection and  
enhancement of its  
natural resources.

**Putting words to action:**  
These volunteers planted  
500 trees in Mill Park in  
January. Join us for the  
13th annual Watershed  
Wide Event on March 5.

