



Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Within Your Reach
reach: a) a portion of a stream or river b) an extent, esp. of knowledge or comprehension



Children learn about nature while enjoying creative activities at last year's Children's Discovery Carnival (this year's Nature Crafts and Games Circle).

September 12-25

Johnson Creek Days 2014



RSVP's are appreciated. Contact amy@jwc.org or call 503-652-7477 to sign up for an event.

Nature Crafts and Games Circle – Saturday, September 20 @ 11am - 3pm Reed Community Day - 3203 SE Woodstock Boulevard, Portland, OR

In the tradition of the annual Children's Discovery Carnival, JCWC will host several hands-on nature-themed crafts and games as a part of Reed College's Community Day. Activities will include a salmon obstacle course, homemade bird feeders made from recycled materials, nature journals also made from recycled materials, and live animal guests.

Bike Tour - Sunday, September 21 @ 9am - 11am Meet at Linneman Station – 3804 West Powell Loop, Gresham, OR

In partnership with the Gresham Bicycle Tourism Initiative, JCWC will host a group bike ride exploring the City of Gresham along the Springwater Trail. Points of interest along the route include: Gresham Woods, Ambleside Natural Area, Main City Park and Upper Johnson Creek Natural Area. All ages and skill-levels are welcome for this ride.

Science Talk - Thursday, September 25 @ 6pm Tour / 7pm Talk Not So Boring Bar and Grill, 28014 SE Wally Road, Boring, OR

In partnership with the Clackamas River Basin Watershed Council, participants are invited to a nearby project tour, followed by a brief presentation on the science and ecology of riparian forests, especially their importance for small tributary streams and their downstream benefits. The evening's speakers will include Steve Cramer of Cramer Fish Sciences and Jenne Reische of the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Help Monitor Salmon Recovery Volunteer Coho Spawning Surveys Will Begin Soon

Amy Lodholz, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

Volunteer orientation for coho spawning surveys is planned for early October. The surveys take place each weekend for ten weeks following the orientation event. Volunteers commit to a minimum of one survey with an assigned or chosen partner. Volunteer pairs will walk one-mile sections of Johnson Creek (identified by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) searching for spawned coho carcasses. JCWC volunteers have successfully found fish each year. These important findings tell us what parts of the stream salmon prefer, and where good spawning habitat may be lacking. The findings also give us insight on recovery trends for this once plentiful salmon run.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old with no physical injuries or mobility limitations. Volunteers should be prepared to wade through the stream for up to three hours to accomplish a survey. This is one of JCWC's more physically challenging volunteer activities.

Ready to sign up? Contact Amy Lodholz at amy@jwc.org or call 503-652-7477. Thank you to partners East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. This project would not be possible without your support.



Volunteers Jill Bonanno and Ashley Smithers - bruceamacgregorphotography.com

Luther Road Sewer and Stream Restoration Project Update

Ali Young, Environmental Specialist, City of Portland Environmental Services

Environmental Services is working to stabilize Johnson Creek, protect and bury an exposed sewer pipe and manhole, and improve water quality and stream habitat by moving and restoring the creek channel and restoring natural floodplain functions.

Work To Date - July 30, 2014

Construction is moving quickly at the project site despite a few days of record rain.

- The contractor completed construction on the temporary channel and diverted Johnson Creek into it so fish can travel through the project area while the new creek channel is constructed
- Staff from the Bureau of Environmental Services, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and volunteers from the Johnson Creek Watershed Council salvaged over 5,000 native fish from the old channel and moved them safely downstream of the project. Fifty juvenile steelhead trout, 9 juvenile cutthroat trout, and 1 adult Pacific lamprey (see photo below) were among the fish moved safely downstream.
- The contractor is beginning to mine stream bed gravels from the old channel to re-use in the new channel.

Upcoming Work

At the end of this week the contractor will replace the old sewer manhole and reinforce and bury the sewer pipe (see photo at right of sewer pipe in old channel). Work on the new stream bed and bank construction will begin next week.

For More Information

If you have any questions please call or e-mail me. For more information visit the project website at www.portlandonline.com/BES/lutherroad

Ali Young
Environmental Specialist, City of Portland Environmental Services
ali.young@portlandoregon.gov
503-823-5781



An adult Pacific lamprey is among the 5,000 native fish in Johnson Creek caught and moved downstream of the Luther Road project.

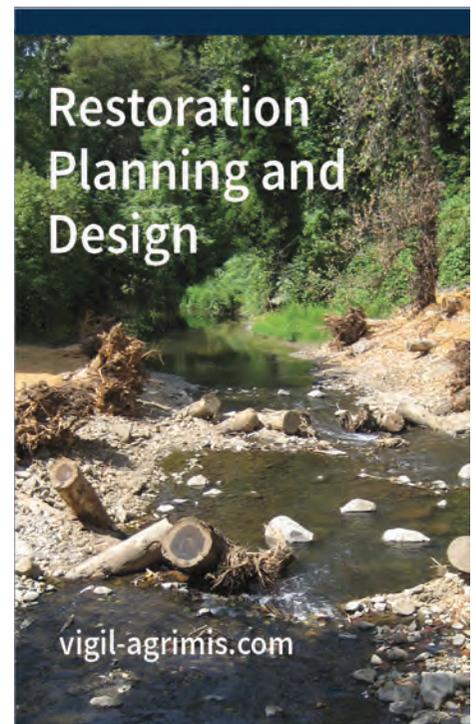


Johnson Creek at Luther Road before construction.



The existing sewer pipe will be reinforced and buried before new stream bed is laid.

JCWC sponsor:



Looking At The Big Picture – Watershed Assessment and Planning

Bruce Newton, Board Of Directors

The objective of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council and its supporters is ambitious – to preserve, protect, and restore the health of Johnson Creek. But what does that mean exactly? How close or far from the goal are we? And how should we go about getting there? These are not simple questions as it turns out.

First, there are many aspects to watershed health. Just mentioning a few will serve to illustrate this point – chemical water quality, disease-causing bacteria, fish populations, water flow patterns (hydrology), wetlands, water temperature, streamside vegetation that supports a healthy stream ecology, habitat, fish passage, and the list could go on.

Then there is the challenge of measuring the current condition of the Creek and its tributaries. Measuring many aspects of stream health is difficult because of variability. Even completely healthy streams exhibit great variation within the day, between seasons, and in response to weather events.

Some factors (such as stream temperature) are more variable than others (such as insect communities) as indicators of health.

In addition to this temporal variability there is often great variability from place to place (spatial variability).

Finally, once we have a good assessment of current conditions, there is the challenge of deciding what goals are realistic and which strategies are the best to achieve those goals.

Having a plan is essential. Ideally, the plan would start with a comprehensive assessment of current conditions, identify desired future conditions, and lay out specific actions to attain the desired future conditions. A monitoring strategy would be part of the plan so that at some point in the future we can determine progress.

...we will have a solid baseline for planning the next ten years.

The JCWC has been guided by an Action Plan that was completed in 2002. The assessment portion of that plan was based on data that had been collected mostly in the 1990's. A few years ago the Council began an effort to develop a new Action Plan that would guide the Council for the next



Johnson Creek Watershed Council
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ten years. Robin Jenkinson, Restoration Coordinator, has been leading this effort with support from the scientists on the Inter-Jurisdictional Committee (IJC).

As part of the effort to develop a new Action Plan, this winter and spring we conducted a review of current monitoring efforts within Johnson Creek. The Council report is available for download at www.jcwc.org/wp-content/uploads/jcwc-actionplan10.30.03.pdf, or call 503-652-7477.

There are many governmental entities as well as educational and non-governmental groups that engage in monitoring. Johnson Creek may well be the most intensively monitored watershed in Oregon. Yet each entity has different reasons for monitoring and uses slightly different approaches. Although most of the entities have periodically developed reports based on their data, a comprehensive watershed-wide analysis of the monitoring data has not been done.

Finally, the review concluded that there are opportunities for the entities to restructure the current approaches to monitoring to allow for a more integrated watershed-wide assessment of conditions.

A subcommittee of the IJC is beginning to explore how current monitoring efforts

can be better coordinated, so that in 2025 we will be able to assess the progress that has been made since 2015.

One of the recommendations of the review was to undertake a project to assemble and consolidate the existing data and prepare a watershed-wide assessment of current conditions. Based on the monitoring review study, the Council was able to secure a small grant in July and hired James McConaghie, a recent PhD graduate, to carry out this project.

Although the project is not complete, there is good reason to believe that the assessment will show important progress in watershed health. But most importantly, we will have a solid baseline for planning the next ten years.

One final note of a personal nature – as a recently retired scientist from the federal government I have been impressed by the dedication and technical expertise of both the Council staff and the jurisdictional representatives of the IJC. Watershed assessment and planning is complex and we are lucky to have highly qualified individuals (supported by their agencies) who are willing to give substantial amounts of their time to restore Johnson Creek watershed.

Bruce Newton retired last year from the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture where he was Director, West National Technology Support Center. He was formerly the national program manager for water quality planning and monitoring with the US Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. He has been volunteering with the Council and was elected to the Board this summer.



Communities Come Together to Improve Water Quality in Johnson Creek

JCWC Legacy Giving Program

Dick Schubert, JCWC Vice-Chair, Board of Directors



Johnson Creek rafting, circa 1975. Photo courtesy of Don Carlson.

What better way to remember your continuing attachment to the watershed we cherish and have been upgrading over the years than to remember JCWC in your will. While annual gifts and grants are critical to JCWC, our ongoing success and the long-term health of Johnson Creek is predicated on our ability to build sustainable sources of funding that provide for today, tomorrow, and beyond. By creating a bequest, you help ensure that JCWC continues for generations to come.

You can remember JCWC with donations of cash, real estate, or securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds). Sometimes people choose to give a certain dollar amount. Other times the gift is stated as a percentage of the estate. A residuary bequest can be specified, meaning a gift of what remains in your estate after debts, expenses, and other specific bequests have been paid. There are many flexible options and an attorney can help you decide what works best for you.

In response to growing interest among our supporters, JCWC recently initiated a formal legacy giving program. Matt Clark, Amy Lodholz, and I have already visited with several of JCWC's long-time supporters to discuss a legacy gift with them. In our visits, we have been treated to photos and stories of the early years of Johnson Creek rehabilitation. For example, we were given photos of a 1975 volunteer clean-up and inner-tubing excursion on Johnson Creek. Those are now part of the JCWC archives.

If any of you have photos or stories about your early volunteer activities please contact us, we would love to share them with the JCWC community! Call Matt Clark, Executive Director at 503-652-7477.

Shady Deals

Riparian Reforestation

Noah Jenkins, Riparian Program Manager

CreekCare, JCWC's program to work with private landowners to revegetate Johnson Creek and its tributaries, has had a banner year! Since last year's update, we've added 11 new landowners to the program, bringing total enrollment to 30; ongoing outreach will add at least another 15 over the course of this year. We installed over 8,000 new native trees and shrubs on CreekCare properties this winter, after clearing more than 8 acres of invasive plants; these efforts will provide shade to roughly one mile of streams in the watershed.

Meanwhile, in addition to our ongoing funding from the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, PGE Salmon Habitat Fund, and OWEB (thank you, thank you, thank you!), we have received a three-year grant from the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District to expand our efforts into Gresham, complementing the Council's work in the Clackamas County portion of the upper watershed and EMSWCD's highly successful StreamCare program on the Multnomah side of the line.

Together, we're cooling the waters for salmon, trout, and all the other animals that call Johnson Creek home!

Newest Council Member Arrives

On August 7th at 9am, JCWC Restoration Coordinator, Robin Jenkinson her husband Brian, and daughter Bryn welcomed Buddy Mackenzie Pyper to their family. He was 8-pounds, 9-ounces and 20.5 inches long at birth. Everything is going great. Reports are that Buddy is a good day-sleeper and night-feeder (and that Robin is a wee bit sleep-deprived -- go figure!).

We look forward to meeting you, Buddy.



Hey there Buddy! Welcome to the JCWC family!

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Fish Passage Barrier Assessment is Now Complete

Removing Barrier Culverts Will Open Tributaries to Juvenile Trout and Salmon

Robin Jenkinson, Restoration Coordinator

Over the past year, JCWC Restoration Technician Jan Mehaffy and I conducted an in-depth assessment of fish passage at culverts, stream crossings, and ponds throughout the Johnson Creek Watershed. In all, 410 potential barriers were identified in the watershed via existing data from cities and counties, aerial maps and map layers of roads and trails.

Of these, 232 are located on private properties. With landowner permission, 283 identified potential barriers were surveyed (117 private stream crossings and 166 public crossings). Unfortunately, 71% of the surveyed structures were found to be barriers to juvenile fish passage, while only 52 provided open, year-round passage. Thirty-one others were located on small streams not suitable for trout or salmon or there was no crossing apparent when ground-truthed.

By jurisdiction, there were 35 public barrier culverts in Gresham, 28 in Portland, and 4 in Damascus. In addition, on County-owned roads, 32 barriers were identified on Clackamas County roads and 19 on Multnomah County roads. Six barriers were



Jan Mehaffy displays a salmon carcass found during a Coho spawning survey.

found under the Springwater Trail.

Three barriers to fish passage were found on Metro properties, and three under Highway 26 owned by Oregon Department of Transportation.

After completing the assessment, a prioritization was conducted by calculating potential trout and salmon rearing habitat upstream of each identified barrier and running it through an optimization model called APASS (Anadromous Passage Assessment Tool). Several top-ranked barriers (nearly all of the top-ranked ones were public) are now on the docket for removal next summer.

If everything falls into place, we will be helping to remove five fish passage barriers next summer, 2015 – three on North Fork Johnson Creek and one on Badger Creek. Two of these are under the Springwater Trail and three are located at the East Multnomah SWCD's Incubator Farm property.

Simultaneously, we will be coordinating designs, funding, and educational opportunities while working towards removal of additional barriers with private landowners on Sunshine and Mitchell Creeks for summer, 2016. Currently, we are pursuing funding for the design and permitting phases of these projects and working closely with landowners and watershed partners.

Johnson Creek Clean Up Recap

Over 135 volunteers joined in the 7th annual effort to remove trash from the main channel of Johnson Creek on Saturday, August 23. Over five miles of the stream were cleared – filling 300 trash bags!

Thank you to our partners: City of Portland's Community Watershed Stewardship Program, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Green Lents, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation, Overland Park Coalition, and Portland Parks and Recreation.

Volunteer Rebecca Hickox says, "Being that the Johnson Creek is a part of my local environment, it brings me joy to have a hands-on part in cleaning up the creek and seeing the long-term impact my efforts have on the Watershed's wildlife habitat."

Over the past several years this trash removal effort has contributed to the enhancement of many native animal populations that call Johnson Creek home. These include: Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout, pileated woodpeckers, freshwater mussels, painted turtles and red-legged frogs, amongst dozens of others.

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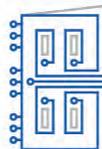
HEALTHY STREAMS PROGRAM

Free Downspout Disconnection for Qualified Homes

- Disconnecting downspouts improves the health of Johnson Creek
- Reconnection if you are not satisfied for any reason
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JCWC Formalizes Policy On Board Representation

Matt Clark, Executive Director

This spring, JCWC developed a policy on board representation, which articulates a framework for what has always been our goal, namely to be representative of the Johnson Creek Watershed. The policy is already proving itself an effective board recruitment tool.

At the end of this article, I'll share some of the reasons why we've developed this policy. For now, suffice it to say that we have done it from a position of strength; we have a competent and committed board already in place. That said, we have been somewhat ad hoc in our approach to board representation. We felt that the Council would benefit from a formal policy that helps us to continue to achieve a diverse, balanced, and inclusive board.

Foremost, the policy makes explicit our commitment to diversity: "The Johnson Creek Watershed Council actively strives for a Board of Representatives whose composition reflects the diversity of the people who live, work, and recreate in the Johnson Creek Watershed."

It formalizes our goal of broad geographic representation, specifically to have at least two sitting Board members that rep-

resent each of three geographic areas of the watershed:

- 1) Lower -- Milwaukie to I-205
- 2) Middle -- I-205 to the eastern border of Gresham
- 3) Upper -- Eastern border of Gresham to the eastern watershed boundary.

The new policy specifies what we consider representative community interests, not every community interest, but a broad cross-section. It is our goal to have at least one sitting Board member representing each of the following perspectives:

- 1) Business / Commercial / Industrial
- 2) Agricultural
- 3) Recreation
- 4) Education / Academic
- 5) Watershed Science / Natural resource management / Conservation
- 6) Public Utility
- 7) Neighborhood Association / Friends of group / Streamside Landowner

It maintains our commitment to have the watershed jurisdictions (cities, counties,

special districts and regional government) represented on the JCWC board. And finally, the policy allows for at large positions, members with specific skills and expertise of benefit to the JCWC, or who represent important additional perspectives not specifically mentioned among the representative community interests above.

I think it's helpful, in closing, to cite another factor that prompted us to develop a formal policy of board representation. Because that, in turn, is helpful in understanding what it means for JCWC to be a watershed council.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council, as an Oregon Watershed Council, is mandated by Oregon statute and administrative rule to represent a balance of interested and affected persons within our watershed, in order to assure a high level of citizen involvement toward achieving a healthy watershed. This has been the case since the 1995 Oregon State Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 3441 providing guidance for the voluntary establishment of watershed councils in Oregon. And it is a charge that JCWC has taken seriously since we formed as a watershed council in 1995.

...we are mandated by Oregon statute and administrative rule to represent a balance of interested and affected persons within our watershed...

In July of this year, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) adopted updated rules defining which councils are eligible for Council Capacity Grants, which are a significant source of income for JCWC. One of the grant eligibility criteria is that the "council's governing body has adopted a list of the geographic areas and community interests the council intends to include on its governing body in order to engage a balance of interested and affected person in its watershed."

To learn more about the history of and statutes and administrative rules that affect Oregon Watershed Councils, you can visit the OWEB site @ www.oregon.gov/OWEB, or call 503-652-7477.



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JCWC UPDATES

AmeriCorps Members—Farewell, Thank You, and Welcome

Noah Jenkins, Riparian Program Manager

JCWC bids a fond farewell and many thanks to Sarah Eastman, our outgoing Riparian Technician! After spending a year battling blackberries, leading volunteer and contract crews on plantings, and being the other half of my brain, she rides off into the sunset to Florence for a job with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Smooth water and gentle breezes to her!

Meanwhile, we look forward to hosting a third AmeriCorps member through Confluence Environmental Center; welcome to Danielle Miles, our Riparian Technician for 2014-15! She'll join the team in September, working at the intersection of the riparian and volunteer programs to engage new groups in restoration work in the watershed.

We can't wait to see what wonderful work she'll do in the coming year!

Thank you and Congratulations Jan!

Jan Mehaffy was a wonderful addition to Johnson Creek's Restoration Team, and we're sad to see her go. Following her one-year contract with the Council, Jan recently moved to White Salmon, Washington, to join the Underwood Conservation District as their new Watershed Resource Technician.



Jan Mehaffy at the Badger Creek culvert under the Springwater Trail, now slated for replacement in 2015.



Saturday Academy Interns Alison Koloszar and Denise Lopez spent the summer surveying wildlife and restoring habitat with JCWC.

Would You Like Some Fry With That?

A Summer Of Environmental Experience

Alison Koloszar, JCWC Intern

At the beginning of the summer I thought I wanted to study marine biology in college, but wasn't completely sure. Now at the end of the summer I have learned so much, and I am quite sure I want to study marine biology, as well as environmental sciences. This all became clear after completing an amazing summer internship with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Along with my fellow intern, Denise Lopez, I got to experience many things most high school students never get the chance to. I got to survey culverts, help with a fish salvage, and measure the flow of multiple sites along the creek using a FlowTracker. I got to work with my amazing mentors Robin Jenkinson and Matt Clark, who passed on so much knowledge, as well as some great organizations like Tivnu and the Northwest Youth Corps. There were some really fun experiences, like surveying macro-invertebrates and there were some other less fun activities, like pulling blackberries, but all of it came together to form a fabulous summer internship that I am extremely grateful for.

Alison and Denise will begin their senior and junior year, respectively, at St. Mary's Academy and Gresham High School in the fall. We wish them all the best.

Splurge at a commercial car wash to save the Creek!



Car washing on driveways, streets or parking lots can pollute Johnson Creek via the storm drain pipes.

Protect public health and the environment and treat yourself to a commercial car wash where the wastewater is piped to a treatment plant and cleaned.

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Johnson Creek Watershed Council

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JohnsonCreekWC

Matt Clark, Executive Director

Cathy Geiger, Operations
and Finance Coordinator

Noah Jenkins, Riparian
Program Manager

Robin Jenkinson,
Restoration Coordinator

Amy Lodholz, Volunteer
and Outreach Coordinator

Kyung Lee, Newsletter Producer

Calendar of Events

For more details or to RSVP at any event, call Amy at 503-652-7477.

Naturescaping Workshop - *Saturday, September 6, 9am - 1pm*

St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Church - 7715 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, 97266

Learn how to create a low-maintenance landscape that conserves water, prevents pollution, and saves you time & money!

Johnson Creek Days 2014 - *September 12 - 25*

See front page for a full event list & details. RSVP's are appreciated. Contact amy@jcw.org or call 503-652-7477 to sign up for an event.

Freshwater Mussel and Macroinvertebrate Monitoring in Crystal Springs Creek - *Saturday & Sunday, September 14 & 15, 9am - 3pm*

Takes place at two locations in Southeast Portland. For more information call Michele at 855-232-6639.

Coho Salmon Spawning Surveys - *October through December*

At multiple spots along Johnson Creek. See news article on the front page for more details.

Parke Diem - *Friday, October 10 @ 9am - 12pm*

A park restoration event at Veterans Creek in Southeast Portland.

Salmon Festival - *Saturday, October 25 @ 11am - 3pm*

Come celebrate our native salmon at Westmoreland Park in Southeast Portland.

Volunteer Appreciation Night - *Friday, December 5 @ 6pm*

Gresham VFW Memorial Hall - 150 W. Powell Boulevard, Gresham.

Did you know that JCWC's newsletter is also available online and sent via email? Text your subscription preferences to 541-968-3530 or call 503-652-7477.