

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

2005 Watershed Wide Event Edition

By Jordan Vinograd, Outreach Coordinator

This year marks the seventh year that the Johnson Creek Watershed Council will host its annual Watershed Wide Event. On March 5, 2005, hundreds of volunteers and dozens of partnering businesses and organizations will converge on Johnson Creek in this exciting community-building event. This year's event is shaping up to be the biggest yet with fourteen sites planned including twelve restoration work parties and two free workshops.

In keeping with the theme of expansion, we've decided to increase our coverage of the Watershed Wide Event to our entire winter newsletter! In this issue readers will learn



Busy volunteers clear invasives at the 2004 WWE.

about our dedicated community partners, friends and volunteers. Topics include spotlighting Portland General Electric's commitment to Crystal Springs, the Wheeler Creek

neighborhood community, Lynch View Elementary School's dedicated students and staff as well as new Friends of Johnson Creek. You might also notice many advertisements placed in this issue. These companies and organizations have purchased an ad to support the Watershed Wide Event. Thank you to these sponsors! And, of course, be sure to check out our special edition fold-out page for details on the 2005 Watershed Wide Event!

We hope that these stories of dedication, support and community will inspire you to join us for our March 5th activities. Happy reading!

Thank you PGE Volunteers!

by Christine Hurst, Watershed Stewardship Coordinator

For seven years Portland General Electric (PGE) has been a faithful steward of the Crystal Springs Ravine Restoration Project. The summer of 1998, they helped with the initial work to restore the site, which entailed removing asphalt and concrete which lined the creek, placing large rocks and logs in the new channel, and planting native trees and shrubs to complete the project. Since then PGE has built a strong corporate stewardship ethic by hosting work parties twice a year in which volunteers help remove invasive blackberry vines and trash from the area.

With Scott Guptill leading the way, PGE employees have volunteered over 1,100 hours at the site! We would like to give a hearty Thank You to PGE and all the vol-



Volunteers tackle invasive plants at a work party in November, 2001.

unteers who are stewards of this tributary on Crystal Springs. Due to their continued dedication, this project has been a huge success!

PGE will be hosting a work party at a new site in the Eastmoreland Golf Course



Dedicated volunteers Dominic Green and Walt Mintkeski at a 2004 work party.

during this year's Watershed Wide Event. Check the map in the fold out section, at the end of this issue, to find out more about how to get involved with these model volunteers!



Stories from the 'Shed: The Wheeler Creek Community

By Michelle Bussard, Executive Director

As if it was the back of their hands, Ralph and Betty Hannan know this place – 5 acres purchased 32 years ago when the only light on Burnside between them and Portland was Dee's In & Out Drive-in; when, according to Ralph "it was real country." For Beth Jackson, 25 years later, it was just as real when she bought her 10 acres on Wheeler Creek, a spring-fed tributary of Johnson Creek. This is an area in the upper watershed that "stands out as a significant forested patch in excellent condition," wrote JCWC Chair Jeff Uebel in 1996 when he coordinated a restoration project along Wheeler Creek. This project featured installation of a hatch box in the Hannan's pond, a fish passageway on the Jackson's property and riparian plantings along 1200' of creek. Nearly 10 years later, JCWC is returning to Wheeler Creek as a 2005 Watershed Wide Event site.

Thirty-two years ago, when Ralph and Betty Hannan left Laurelhurst for the country, it was so country, Betty wasn't sure about the move. Today, she wouldn't trade her front porch view of Mt Hood for a world of Laurelhursts. And though Beth wondered aloud: how would she find the time needed to care for her creekside property this spring, it's clear she values this quiet reach of Johnson Creek. In all seasons she strives to be a good steward by objecting to

clearcuts when she can, identifying and working to eliminate Japanese Knotweed, improving the fish passageway and clearing blackberries.

Ralph and Betty have stewarded their land as well, carefully clearing the space where they would build their home - the first and only home they ever built. Over the years, Ralph and Betty have replanted their land with natives, naming the Douglas Firs and Cedars after departed friends. Sadly, in this season of their lives, they have virtually reforested their land. Anything that can be composted, is and goes right back into their garden. They annually produce a bumper crop of veggies – most of which are either donated to "SnoCap," an agency that provides food for families in need, or served up in the fall for friends and neighbors.

Ralph and Betty are no strangers to the Johnson Creek Watershed, or Oregon for that matter. Betty's great grandfather, FX Matthieu, cast one of the votes that transferred the Oregon Territory to the USA. And Ralph's great grandfather homesteaded in Buckston, just off Hwy 26. The family ran a general store for area logging mills. Just prior to WWII, when "things were drying up," Ralph's family moved into the neighborhood around 82nd and Foster where at grammar school, Betty met Ralph.

As a young boy, Ralph recalls outings when he would spot bob cats in the hills and trap muskrat along Johnson Creek for "2 bits a pelt." Betty and Ralph attended rival high schools, Ralph going to Franklin and Betty to Commerce, now known as Cleveland, and married in 1947. Three children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren later, they are raising a new crop of watershed stewards with an endearment and love of the place most only dream of.

Continued on page 3



Wheeler Creek along Beth Jackson's property

Enjoy views of beautiful Johnson Creek right from our dental chairs...

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www.trwc.org

2005 Event

The Council's 2005 upcoming event, May 14, 2005 will celebrate the Council's 10th anniversary. For more details, contact us at trwc@easystreet.com or 503-846-4810.



Education Spotlight: Lynch View Elementary

Lynch View students use the school's courtyards as education tools

by Keri Handaly, JCWC Board Member and City of Gresham Employee

Lynch View Elementary, a recognized Oregon "Green School," has been working to give students an appreciation and understanding of sustainable development techniques for over 11 years. In 1993, the school converted a small courtyard (400 sq ft) in the school into a naturescaped area with native plants, a fish pond, birdhouses and compost bins. Because of the success and student appreciation of the small courtyard, Lynch View decided to convert another larger area (2,000 sq ft) into a native landscape in 2002. The school and community partners purchased about 130 native shrubs, flowers, grasses and groundcover. Stockamp and Associates donated 8 em-



Students work in the smaller of two courtyards at Lynch View Elementary

ployees who amended the soil with compost, installed the plants, mulch and temporary irrigation to help the plants establish themselves over the next several summers. While this large courtyard is still maturing, the smaller courtyard is still being used for many science-based education activities.

In addition to this positive work, Lynch View Elementary has agreed to host the Landscaping Secrets 101 Workshop in the Watershed Wide Event this year! Thank you Lynch View for your continued support! JCWC applauds your good work! For more

information about the Oregon Green Schools Association see www.oregongreenschools.org.

Along with neighbor Beth, they've watched the beaver, possum and otter come and go while coyotes now roam the pastures keeping the rabbits down, much to the pleasure of area nurseries. Quail freely wander the area while eagles and osprey call the tall trees home as do 12-24" rainbow trout, bullheads, heron, wood ducks and bullfrogs in the Hannan's pond. Stocked 4 times since 1996, 3 times with salmon that never made another appearance, then once with trout, Ralph's pond is fishing haven. Ralph says he heard there were once

sightings of salmon in Wheeler Creek. We peer into the clear cool waters and imagine...maybe, just maybe, Ralph's salmon might yet make an appearance one of these days. Maybe long after we're gone. But that would be okay.

Beth welcomes us onto her property on a slightly overcast day. Stories quickly surface of neighborhood work parties in 1996-97. Rubber boots are pulled on and the reconnaissance is underway to find the work that wants to be done

March 5th, bringing investments full circle, friendships and commitments back into play.




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As one of only 55 community development banks in the country, we're here to extend opportunities to the underserved. All the while offering the expertise, services and returns of other banks. To learn more, call or stop by.

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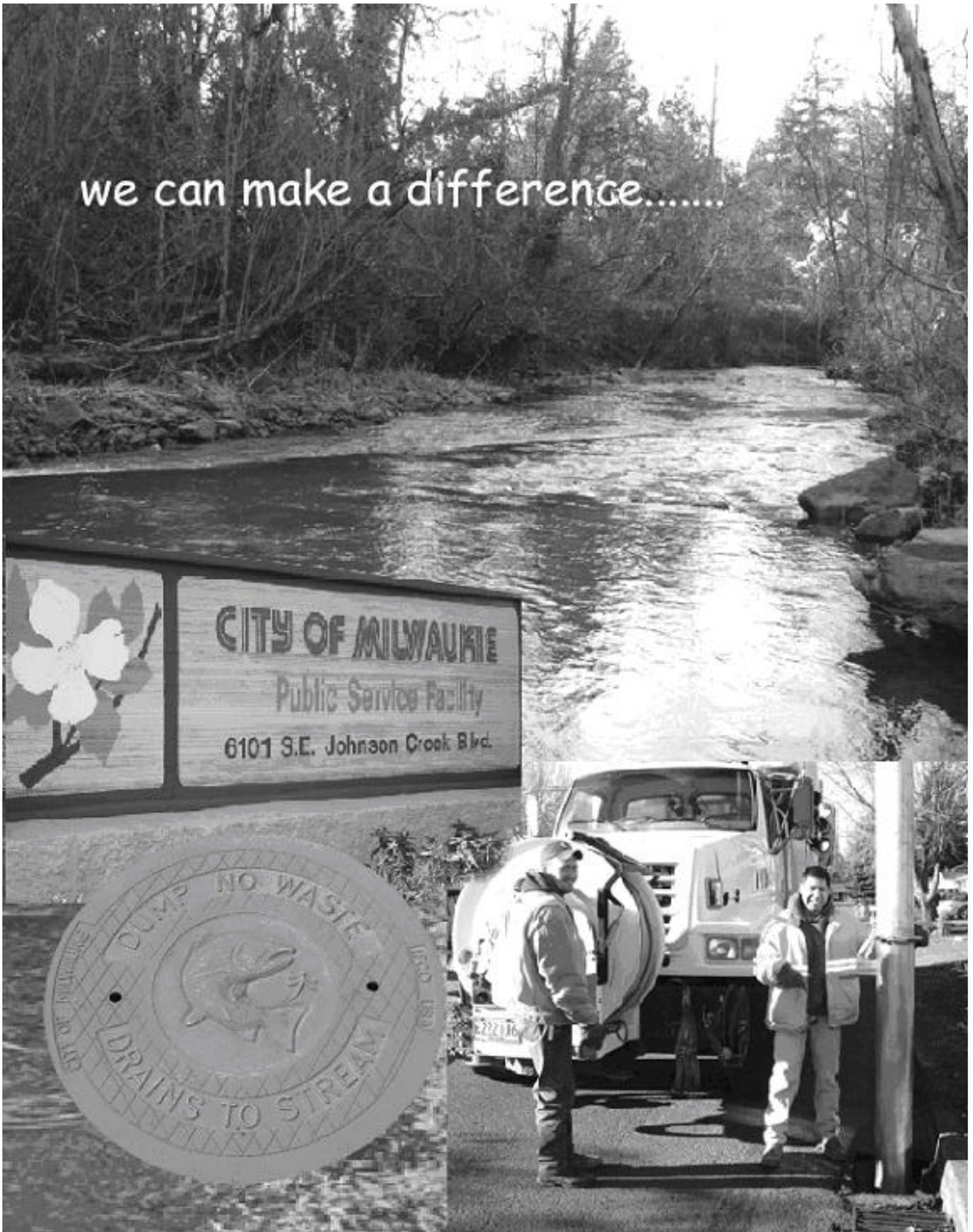



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COME IN. HAVE A COFFEE. LET THE COMMUNITY BUILDING BEGIN.

we can make a difference.....



Welcome new and returning Friends of Johnson Creek!

The Council would like to take this opportunity to recognize all of the new and returning Friends of Johnson Creek! JCWC has been a committed steward of this watershed for over a decade. It is only with the support of friends, volunteers and staff that we can ensure that future generations can live, work and recreate in a healthy environment. Thank you to all of these people and organizations that have shown their support through a Friends donation to the Council!

Anderson Earth & Environmental	Douglas & Miranda Fix	Jim Labbe	Matthew Rinker
Shirley Anthony	Nick Gianopoulos	E. Labinowicz	Lisa Rinker
Jim Barrett	Dave Green	Gary Leaverton	Gary Rydout
Steve Bennett	Dominic Green	Karl Lee	Robert Sanders
Ruth Blackburn	Reinhart & Nancy Haack	Robert Liberty	Timothy Shannon
Kyla Broderick	Keri Handaly	Jeff Locke	Maggie Skenderian
Bill Bulick	James Harrison	Ron Machlan	Debra Skinner
Daniela Cargill	Roland Hege	Kathy Majidi	Shaun Smith
Elmer Case	Lisa Marie Hemesath	Dean Marriott	Scott Stephens
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Lisa Marie Cosgrove	Deborah Hofmann	Catherine Meiburg	Jeff Uebel
Melinda Dan-Ehrlich	Teresa Huntsinger	Walt Mintkeski	Gerald & Rita VanDeene
John & Margaret DeLacy	Steven Johnson	Adam & Amanda Molson	Mary West
Julie DiLeone	Jess Kimball	Nadine Morris	Robert Williams
Troy & Lori Doss	Gary Klein	John Nagy	Jim Williams
Jim Dryden	Arden & Joyce Knepper	Portland General Electric	Jay Wilson
		Dean Riechman	Karen Young

You can become a Friend of Johnson Creek too! Check out the Friends donation form at the end of this newsletter or go to www.jcwc.org and click on the "Donate" button. Thank you!

Thank You Salmon Spawning Surveyors!

Several watershed residents volunteered this past winter to survey Johnson Creek and its tributaries for spawning salmon. Over the past 4 months they have monitored sections of the Creek in Tideman Johnson Park, Errol Heights, Crystal Springs and beyond.

Winter 2004 Volunteers: *Ted Gresh, Jay Wilson, Ron Wierenga, David Prause, Carri Marschner, Ken Leghorn, Karl Lee, Gary Klein, Michele Koehler, Marsha Hanson, Drew Corbin*

The JCWC sends a **Hearty Thanks** to you for donating your time to this important effort!



WHEN PEOPLE GET TOGETHER THINGS GET DONE.

TOGETHER WE CAN PRESERVE ALL THAT'S GREAT ABOUT OREGON. VISIT SOLV.ORG



Gresham Stormwater Launches New Education Programs

The City of Gresham is proud to partner with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to help protect Johnson Creek. Last year, with the help of AmeriCorps Volunteer John Walker, the Stormwater Division launched two new public education & take action campaigns.

OUR PROGRAMS:



"Doggy Doo? Doggie Don't!"

- Did you know that pet waste is a source of harmful bacteria that can cause people & other pets to become ill and is a serious source of pollution in Johnson Creek?
- To encourage pet waste scooping, Doggie Don't Bag Dispenser Boxes were placed at Red Sunset Park, Kane Park, Thom Park, Bella Vista Park and Hall Elementary Park with many more parks coming soon.
- These boxes are voluntarily stocked by the park users—so the next time you are on a walk—bring a few extra bags to leave for those who forget!

Community Car Wash Program

Q: What in the world is "Fish-Friendly" car washing?

A: When washing your car over pavement, it is possible for dirt, grease, soap and other pollutants enter the nearest stormdrain and enter directly into our local creeks and wetlands. To assist Gresham Community Groups/Schools hosting fundraising car washes, the Stormwater Division assembled "Fish-Friendly" Car Washing Kits to keep dirty water from entering stormdrains. These kits are free for loan and are available by calling Keri Handaly at 503-618-2657. A Car Washing & Motor Oil Recycling educational brochure is also available in *Spanish*.

Hosting a Community Fundraising Car Wash this Spring?
Redeem this Coupon to Earn Extra \$\$ for your School or Charity

Fish-Friendly Car Wash Kit



Each time your school or non-profit group checks out our FREE car wash kit, the City of Gresham will make a **\$25 contribution** to your organization.*
*Limit one contribution per group per car wash. Valid only for schools or non-profit groups within Gresham city limits. Offer valid for the first 100 coupons received. *This coupon is also available in the Chinook Book: Coupons for Healthy Living.*



Find Out More at: www.ci.gresham.or.us/cleanrivers

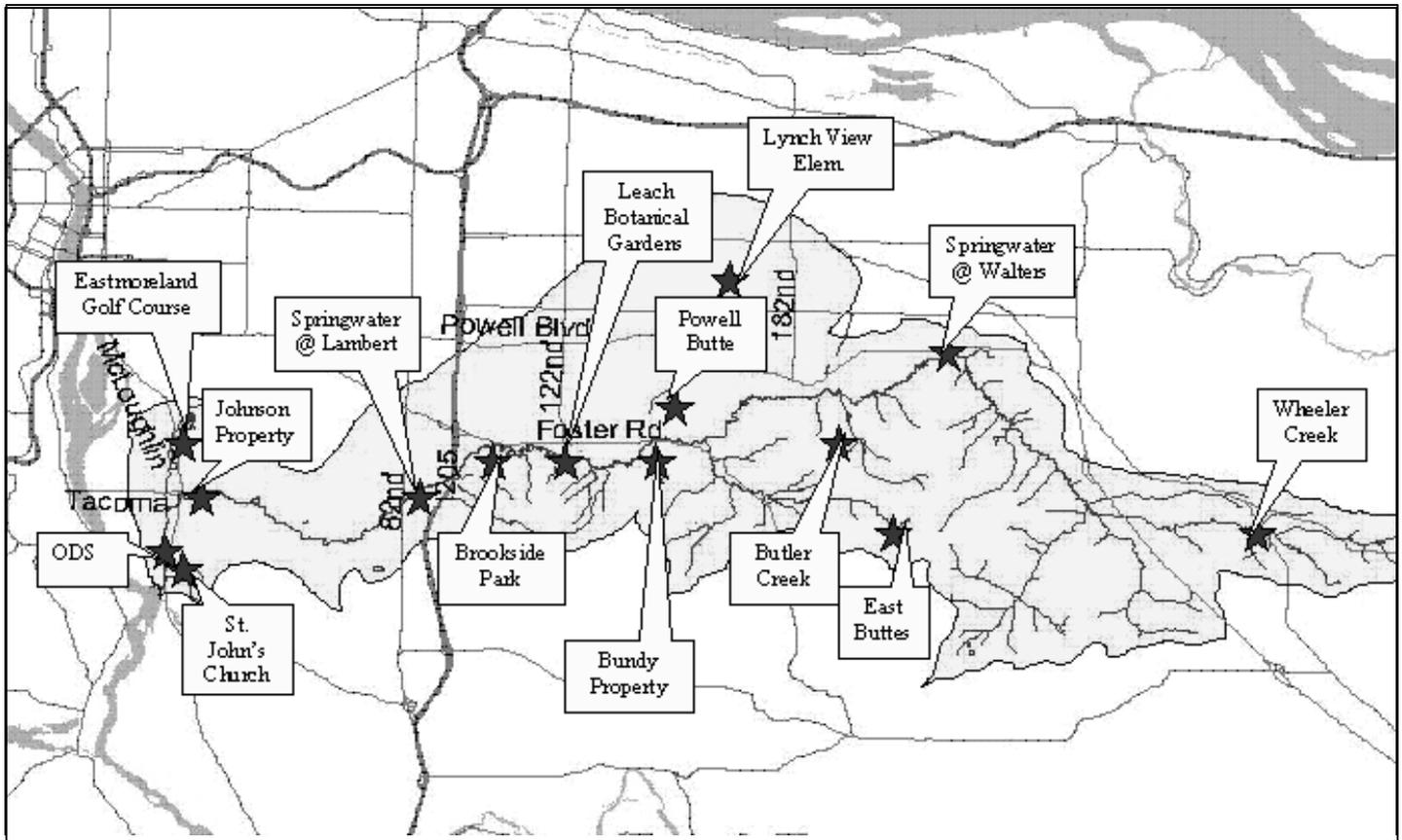


March 5, 2005

Seventh Annual



Watershed Wide Event!



For the seventh year the Johnson Creek Watershed Council will host its **Watershed Wide Event**, with twelve different restoration sites and two free workshops planned!

The two FREE workshops will educate watershed stewards about composting and landscaping secrets.

At the twelve restoration sites, volunteers of all ages and abilities will help enhance the creek by removing invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and mulching new plants. Restoration parties take place from 9am-12pm followed by a volunteer appreciation lunch party!

A brief summary of each site's activities is provided here, but be sure to check out our website: www.jcwc.org/wwe.htm for complete event details!

WORKSHOPS:

Registration Appreciated

Composting Workshop, 10am-12pm, Leach Botanical Garden - Come learn all the ins and outs of making your own compost. It's better for the creek and diverts organic matter from the landfill. Learn about hot composting, different kinds of bins, vermicompost (composting with worms), and much more! Lead by Master Recyclers.

Landscaping Secrets 101, 9am-12pm, Lynch View Elementary School - Learn the secrets of creating a golf course quality lawn and landscape. Discover the latest techniques to reduce fertilizer and pesticide cost and use less water to maintain their perfect looking lawns. Perfect the art of saving money by using correct irrigation techniques and identify plants that

are best suited for your property. Lead by four community experts!

RESTORATION WORK PARTIES

Restoration Parties are from 9am-12pm, with a celebration lunch to follow

ODS/Confluence (SE 17th and Lava Drive, Milwaukie) - Come help remove Ivy at this site near Johnson Creek's confluence with the Willamette River, right near downtown Milwaukie.

St. John's Catholic Church (SE 25th Ave and SE Washington, Milwaukie) - Help remove invasives along the banks of Spring Creek, a tributary of Johnson Creek, near downtown Milwaukie.

Eastmoreland Golf Course (SE 27th Ave and Bybee Blvd) - Join Americorps, Boy Scouts, and PGE as they plant native trees and shrubs to mark the beginning of this new restoration project along Crystal Springs.



Johnson Property (SE 36th and Johnson Creek Blvd) - SOLV will lead this planting at a beautiful private property opposite from Tideman Johnson Park in the Ardenwald-Johnson neighborhood.

Springwater Trail @ Lambert St (SE 87th & Lambert) - Come help Boy Scouts and area residents plant trees and shrubs along the Springwater Trail.

Brookside Park (SE 111th and Foster) - Friends of Trees will lead this planting at a unique park in SE Portland, along Johnson Creek.

Bundy Wildlife Refuge (SE 141st and Foster) - Help remove ivy from this little-known refuge, donated by the Bundy family.

Powell Butte Nature Park (SE 162nd and Powell) - Join Portland Parks and Rec. and the local chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association as they plant trees in one of the largest open spaces in the watershed.

East Buttes Open Space (Butler Rd & Rodlun Rd) - Come help Metro volunteers as they embark on restoration work at this

New Metro Open Space located within the headwaters of Kelley Creek.

Butler Creek Trail (Willow Pkwy & Meyer Dr) - Join Gresham ESA Program, and area residents as they work to improve this trail and remove invasives along Butler Creek.

Springwater @ Walters Rd (SW Walters and Springwater Trail) - Join SOLV, Gresham Parks and Rec, and local students as they plant native shrubs and remove invasives along the Trail & Johnson Creek.

Wheeler Creek (287th & Stone Rd) Come help plant native shrubs and trees, as well as, remove invasives, along this beautiful, little known tributary, just East of Hwy 26.

To Register for the Watershed Wide Event go to www.jcwc.org/wwe.htm call 503-652-7477 or email info@jcwc.org

The Watershed Wide Event would not be possible without the support of the following Sponsors and Partners:



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| Friends of Trees | Oregon Hunter's Assn. |
| Portland Parks & Rec. | Master Recyclers Program |
| City of Gresham | ODS |
| SOLV | Clackamas County SWCD |
| Boy Scouts of America | East Multnomah SWCD |
| Eastmoreland Golf Course | Flat Creek Garden Center |
| Stone Creek Golf Course | THANK YOU! |



Johnson Creek
Watershed Council
1900 SE Millport Rd, Ste. B
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Place
Stamp
Here

Yes! I want to support the
Johnson Creek Watershed Council!
Here's my commitment card!





Maybe it should be. Before you reach for that weed and feed, please consider this: insecticides and herbicides can harm people and pets. Rain can wash chemicals off your lawn and into storm drains and streams. This pollutes the water that people and fish depend on.

The good news—it's easy to have a beautiful lawn without weed and feed.

- Build healthy soil
- Use organic fertilizers or compost on your lawn
- Water deeply but infrequently
- Aerate, thatch, and reseed with a Northwest grass

To receive a **FREE Native Plant Guide** contact **Water Environment Services** at **(503) 353-4561** or email hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us

By calling, you will automatically be entered to win one (1) of three \$25 gift certificates for native plants from a local nursery in Clackamas County. For information about a chemical free lawn, visit www.clearriversandstreams.org Winners will be announced the first week in March.



FOLD HERE TO MAIL

I want to a Volunteer at the March 5, 2005 Watershed Wide Event!

Yes!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

How many people will you be bringing with you? _____

Which site would you like to attend? (Please choose only one)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODS | <input type="checkbox"/> Powell Butte Nature Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. John's Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Springwater at Walters Rd |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Johnson Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Bundy Wildlife Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastmoreland Golf Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Butler Creek Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Springwater Trail at Lambert St | <input type="checkbox"/> Wheeler Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brookside Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping Secrets 101 Workshop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Buttes Open Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Composting Workshop |

I am a Friend of Johnson Creek!

Please include this commitment card in an envelope with your tax-deductible donation.

Yes!

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$500 Chinook

\$100 Coho

\$50 Steelhead

\$25 Cutthroat

\$ _____ Other

I will make my donation of \$ _____ on-line at www.jcwc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I want to learn more about the work of Johnson Creek Watershed Council and how I can get involved. Please send me updates

via e-mail.

via quarterly newsletters like this one.

Thank you for your support!

Restoring Johnson Creek



A narrow ribbon of green and blue, Johnson Creek is one of the resources that makes the Portland area a wonderful place to live. The creek flows 26 miles from its headwaters near the Sandy River to its confluence with the Willamette River, passing through four cities and two counties along the way.



Water that once flowed clear and cold through dense forests and verdant wetlands now travels through neighborhoods, under freeways, and next to parking lots. Historic salmon and steelhead runs are threatened with extinction, and the creek suffers from pollution.



Fortunately, there is hope for one of our community's most important resources. The Johnson Creek Watershed Council works with local citizens, agencies, and organizations to protect and enhance Johnson Creek.



To get involved, call us at (503) 652-7477 or visit us on the web at www.jcwc.org Look inside to find out more!



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