

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

Following the Flow of Johnson Creek

After an unusually wet spring, Johnson Creek and its watershed council are flowing into summer with renewed vigor! This issue of Within Your Reach focuses on following the flow of the creek and the Council, connecting where we've been to where we're going with the common undercurrent of progress.

Reflections from the Executive Director,
Michelle Bussard



The JCWC is extremely fortunate to have the strong support of its jurisdictional partners, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), members of the Oregon legislature who call the watershed their home, and other elected leaders. We are also immeasurably strengthened by you, the Friends of JCWC. Recently JCWC learned that out of 57 watershed councils funded by OWEB, we received the #1 merit ranking on our Council Support Application. Although we didn't set out to receive that distinction, the application process required that we address

one of the most fundamental questions a non-profit must answer: Why should we be funded? It is a good question and one to which all of our supporters should know the answer. So, just like our regularly featured column, "Stories from the 'Shed,'" this is *our* story. It is one about investment in partnerships to produce measurable accomplishments in the name of our mission.

Partnerships define the JCWC whether engaged in land use and natural resource planning or habitat restoration. Our philosophy is that the more we can bring people together for a common goal, the better the results for the Johnson Creek Watershed. This

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Back Cover: Save the Date!

JCWC Open House: Sept. 8, 2005

New Website Addition!

Have you seen wildlife in the watershed and want to tell people about it? We invite you to post your fish and wildlife sightings in the Johnson Creek Watershed! Check



A river otter poses for a picture taken by Steve Johnson in his backyard along the lower mainstem of Johnson Creek.

out **Critter Watch**, created by JCWC staff member Tony Cast, which is a new web-based bulletin board that helps create a catalog and map of fish and wildlife seen throughout Johnson Creek Watershed.

Critter Watch helps us track wildlife sightings within the watershed by using a bulletin-board that allows you to document fish and wildlife observations online. You can upload images (250kb or less) if you were fortunate enough to have snapped a digital photo of your sighting!

Please contact us if you have any questions or problems using the bulletin board. We hope you enjoy sharing your experiences as

A Great Blue Heron
perches along Crystal
Springs as it flows
through the Reed
College campus.



well as reading about and viewing pictures of what others have seen, including a river otter and sturgeon!

While you keep your eyes peeled for wildlife in the watershed, we also encourage you to keep an eye on our website as we continue to make updates and changes!

Critter Watch: <http://www.jcwc.org/florafauna/sprainbook/sprainbook.cgi>



Watershed Wide Event 2005

A Summary of Success!



For the 7th Annual Watershed Wide Event, over 500 volunteers and 36 community partners said "YES, IN MY BACKYARD," a.k.a. YIMBY!, when they turned out at over 14 sites throughout the Johnson Creek Watershed on Saturday, March 5th.



"YES, IN MY BACKYARD," a.k.a. YIMBY!, when they turned out at over 14 sites throughout the Johnson Creek Watershed on Saturday, March 5th.

Those included the Cities of Gresham, Portland and Milwaukie, Clackamas County, Multnomah County, Johnson Creek Dental Care, Safeway, QFC, Albertsons, PGE, Metro, NOAA, FishAmerica Foundation, Vigil Agrimis, Heffernan Insurance Brokers, Lynch View Elementary School, Leach Botanical Gardens, Papaccinos, Coffee Cat, Coffee's On, and Village Street Coffee House.

The volunteer investment at this year's event was astounding! Volunteers from the Northwest Service Academy, Friends of Trees, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Alpha, Marshall, Franklin, Grant and West Linn High Schools, St. Phillip Neri, CH2M Hill, Portland Parks and Rec., SOLV, AMEC, Yamhill Basin Council, SWRP, PGE, Cities of Portland, Gresham, and Milwaukie, Clackamas County SWCD, East Multnomah SWCD, Milwaukie Riverfront Board, Patagonia, Metro, ODEQ, Oregon Hunters Association, Kiwanis, Gresham Rotary, Parametrix, St. John's Church, ODS and watershed residents watershed wide made a volunteer commitment **valued at \$22,500, in one day!**

Check out these stats!

- Total Volunteers: 502
- Volunteer Hours: 1,506
- Number of Plants Planted: 3,904
- Invasives Removed: 11,000 lbs.
- Trash Collected: 1,800 lbs.
- Supporting Organizations: 36

Urban restoration is expensive and requires years of committed work. On March 5th, the time and investment of volunteers, government and corporate partners enabled the Johnson Creek Watershed Council to continue its 10+ year history of investment in 14 high priority restoration sites throughout the watershed.

In this way, we are working to assure future generations that they can continue to enjoy the creeks' fish and wildlife habitat so unique to an urban area. Be sure to watch for updates as we prepare for the 2006 Watershed Wide Event!

This investment, coupled with over \$10,000 in underwriting by government and business partners was unprecedented in the

Many thanks to all of our 2005 Watershed Wide Event sponsors!
Our success would not have been possible without you!



Following the Flow

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has proven to be true many times over, whether we look at success measured by the growth of our Watershed Wide Event or by preserving the environmental safeguards of the Pleasant Valley Plan. In this issue, you'll learn how we continue to put staff and



Restoration work at the Eastmoreland Golf Course on Crystal Springs, supported by partnerships among JCWC, Fish America Foundation, NOAA, City of Portland, Northwest Service Academy and PGE.

volunteers on the front lines of land use planning and natural resource conservation efforts. The sum total of investment by partners in protection of Johnson Creek Watershed's assets is difficult to measure. But the investment of your contributions along with the public support results in a 5:1 match; in other words, for every \$1 invested in JCWC, we are able to effectively leverage \$5 in other investments and in-kind contributions. That translates to an annual investment of nearly \$1 million in the preservation and restoration of Johnson Creek Watershed's natural resources! We encourage you to consider this return on your investment when completing your commitment card on page 6 of this issue.

Urban restoration is expensive and time consuming. Though a 5:1 funding ratio is very appealing, it is fair to ask: What has been accomplished with these funds? This edition of *Within Your Reach* gives you an overview of the extent of the restoration, land use and education projects that the JCWC is facilitating and that your funding supports. We are achieving results and investing your contributed funds in activities such as delivering classroom and creekside education experiences to over 500 children this spring, coordinating watershed wide monitoring with six jurisdictional partners, fielding volunteer crews at high priority restoration sites, engaging dozens of individual streamside property owners in good stewardship practices, and working with dozens of local and regional partners on community planning that will effect the integrity of the watershed for decades to come.

Moreover, in the last year, the Council has taken giant strides to develop our board leadership, secure a stellar Advisory Circle, and ensure we are managing our funding according to the highest non-profit standards.

It is this variety of support that makes our work possible. Individual and corporate contributions are essential to supporting

the partnerships and demonstrating to our public funders how far we stretch the dollars. Like a mainstem and its tributaries, on-the-ground restoration initiatives are supported by public funding. One cannot achieve their full potential without the contributions of the others. If you would like to become one of the "tributaries" to our success, there are many channels you can take. Please consider: joining us for our Open House on September 8th (see back cover and announcement below); becoming a Friend of JCWC with a contribution; or donating your time to one of our many volunteer opportunities (see page 6). Of course, you can always find more information about the watershed and the council on our website, www.jcwc.org. You will find a warm welcome and great satisfaction in knowing that your effort helped to preserve and restore the Johnson Creek Watershed.

Please enjoy this issue of *Within Your Reach*!

Michelle J. Bussard



Support Johnson Creek through a donation to our **Open House Silent Auction!!**

September 8, 2005

5pm to 8pm

1900 SE Milport Rd, Milwaukie

Think you don't have anything to contribute?
Think again!

Here's your chance to get creative to
help support your favorite local stream!

- Donate your crafts!
- Donate your services!
- Donate your baked goods!
- Donate your expertise!

All donations are tax-deductible!

Download a donation form at www.jcwc.org or
contact us at 503-652-7477 or
info@jcwc.org for more information.



Stewardship in Action: Le

Crystal Springs

Fish habitat enhancement on Crystal Springs at the Eastmoreland Golf Course is scheduled to take place this summer. Thanks to the support of the FishAmerica Foundation and NOAA Restoration Center, the JCWC is able to continue its long-term commitment to improving in-stream habitat in Crystal Springs. The next steps in this multi-phased project include: removing the invasive Yellow-Flag Iris from the stream channel, strategically placing large wood and boulders in the stream and fostering native plants along the banks. The project is made possible through the partnership among JCWC, Americorps, Portland Parks & Rec., Watershed Revegetation Program and Bureau of Environmental Services, with the guidance and support of the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. For more information on this project, contact Christine Hurst at christine@jcwc.org.

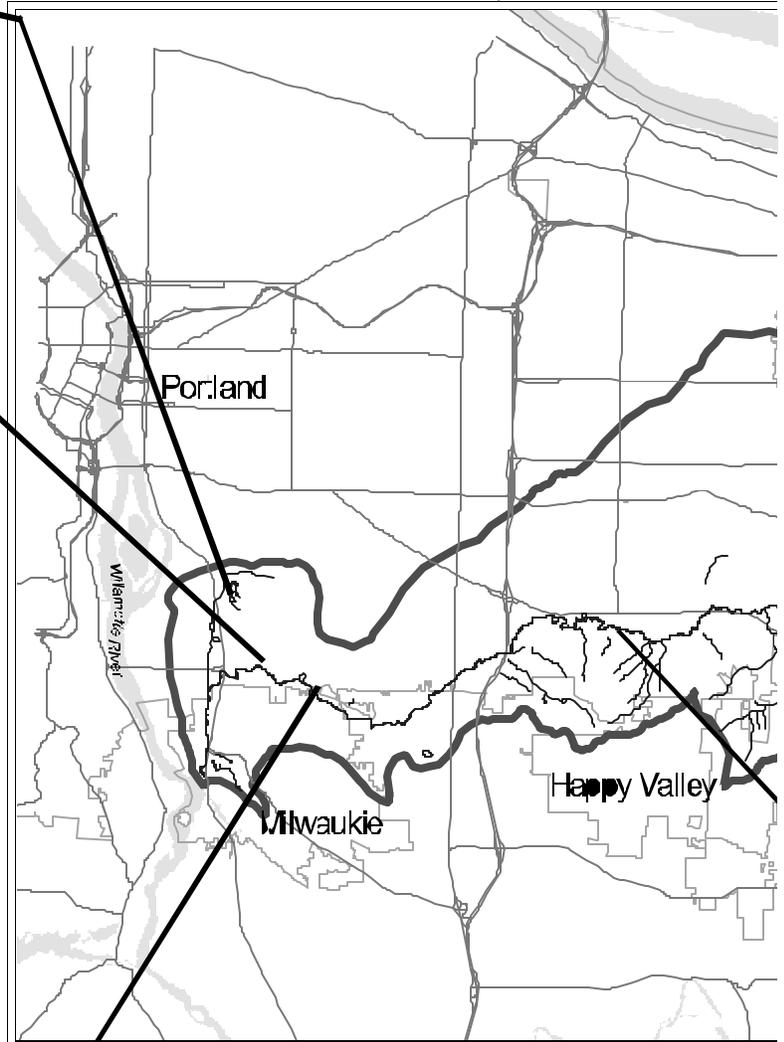
Tideman Johnson
Using engineered logjams and boulders, Johnson Creek flows will be slowed to help protect an exposed 60-inch sewer pipe crossing Johnson Creek at Tideman Johnson Park. The pipe will be reinforced with concrete next summer to prevent risks to public health. Because of major alterations to the creek in the 1930s and increased development over time, the creek has down-cut considerably, exposing the pipe. This project will improve habitat and flow conditions to this fast-running section of the creek while assuring the 80-year-old pipe continues to convey stormwater and sewage safely.

In addition to the pipe repair, the project includes some minor improvements to Tideman Johnson Park to help protect sensitive natural areas and direct traffic to areas more suitable for access. Areas of the Park will be regraded so the creek will have better access to the floodplain. The project designers have made a particularly focused effort to minimize the amount of tree loss. The trees that are taken down will be used as structures in the creek. For more information call Daryl Houtman, Portland Environmental Services (503) 823-5756.

Errol Heights

The City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Portland Parks are partnering on restoration work for Errol Heights. Since March BES has been assessing habitat and water quality conditions at Errol Heights to better inform restoration designs. The assessment includes

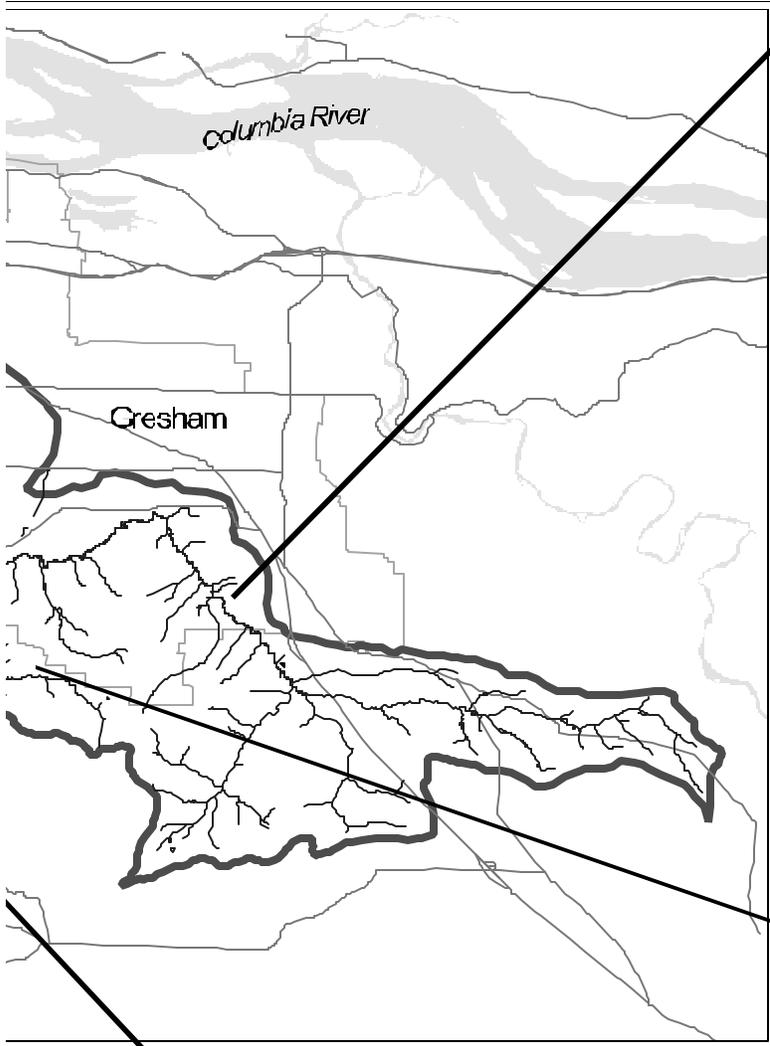
Many restoration projects have recently been funded in the Johnson Creek Watershed. These projects span the watershed and will offer new opportunities for stewardship. Read on to learn more information on how to get involved!



collecting water quality data, monitoring water levels, investigating habitat constraints, testing soils and delineating wetlands. In August BES and Parks, in collaboration with the JCWC, will begin designing a restoration project to remove fill material that disconnects the creek and wetlands. The on-the-ground work is scheduled to begin in July 2006 and will be funded by a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Council. For more information call Ali Young, Portland Environmental Services at (503) 823-

Managing Limited Resources

We've listed a few of the most notable ones here. As you can see, these projects are what you can expect to see from these projects and where you can obtain more information.



122nd Street and Johnson Creek

The 122nd Street project is a collaborative neighborhood effort to improve the banks of Johnson Creek in outer SE Portland. Through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's local Small Grants Program, this demonstration project has been approved for funding. The restoration work will begin this summer by removing invasive blackberries and ivy, followed by planting native plants next winter. The project is made possible through a partnership between residents, the JCWC, Friends of Leach Botanical Garden,

Portland Parks & Rec., and Portland Watershed Revegetation Program. For more information on this project, please contact Christine Hurst at christine@jwc.org.

Springwater Woods

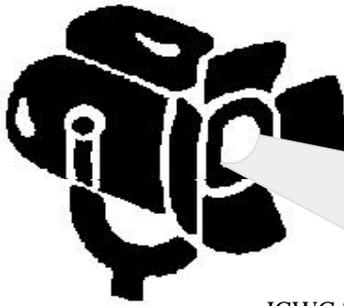
A new restoration project within Reach 16 of Johnson Creek has been initiated by Springwater Trail High School students, the City of Gresham's Natural Resources Program and the Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps program. "Springwater Woods," located near 2123 SE Hogan Rd (just off the Springwater Trail), is a 3.5-acre publicly owned open space comprised primarily of wetland mosaic and riparian habitat areas. Planning for this project began last year as a part of Gresham's Habitat Stewardship program. This initiative partners schools with City staff and volunteers to accomplish restoration of riparian and wetland natural areas.

Students will work with a professional wetland scientist, City staff, and AmeriCorps volunteers to develop a restoration plan that will successfully address invasive control, litter removal, and planting throughout the project area. To date the group has completed vegetation analysis and wetland delineation at the site. On-the-ground activities will begin fall 2005 when students return to school and begin remove invasives. Eventually wider community involvement will be incorporated into the restoration effort with the support of City staff, AmeriCorps, and the JCWC. For more information please contact Kathy Majidi at 503-618-2488 or James Snedeker at 503-618-2793.

Kelley Creek

Kelley Creek fish passageway project funding has been approved. Thanks to the support of the Salmon Habitat Fund sponsored by PGE and Pacific Power, a fish passage project located in middle Kelley Creek will be designed this summer. In 2006, the on-the-ground work will take place to remove a barrier on private property and enhance in-stream habitat for salmon and trout which utilize Kelley Creek. The project addresses the JCWC's goal of reconnecting fish habitat in this gem of a stream on the urban fringe. For more information on this project, please contact Christine Hurst at christine@jwc.org.





JCWC Education Spotlight

JCWC is making some drastic changes to our education programs in 2005. A big part of this change is due to our acceptance as a pilot watershed for Oregon Trout's newest program, the Healthy Waters Institute (HWI).

Johnson Creek Watershed is honored to be one of the first four watersheds in Oregon to partner with the HWI in an effort to improve water education throughout the state. The HWI provides a watershed based approach to learning. The key to the success of the first four pilots lies in local leadership. The JCWC and HWI are working with area teachers, local businesses and other interested community members to design and implement locally inspired, locally created, inquiry-based science programs for our schools.



While working to get the HWI program up and running, we have been continuing to promote stewardship through watershed education in all of our traditional spring activities! Just check out the photos in the spotlights to see a small sampling of what we've been up to!



"I had never been to Johnson Creek before, but now I have. Thank you!"

- Mackenzie, 4th grade
Portland Adventist Elementary School

Support Your 'Shed!

By Volunteering!

JCWC is currently seeking volunteers for all of the following volunteer positions:

- Planners for our annual Open House/Silent Auction
- Watershed Education Assistant
- Volunteer Data Entry
- Watershed Signage Intern

If interested, please contact Jordan at jordan@jwc.org, 503-652-7477 or check out more opportunities at www.jwc.org!

By Donating!

Yes! I am a Friend of Johnson Creek!

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

Enclosed is my contribution of:

- \$500 Chinook
- \$100 Coho
- \$50 Steelhead
- \$25 Cutthroat

I will make my donation

of \$___ on-line
at www.jwc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____



Thank you for your support!



Regional Planning Updates

Urban Expansion in Your Watershed

Springwater Community

Springwater Community, a 1,575 acre area located just southeast of Gresham, is part of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion approved by Metro in 2002. The area spans Reach 17 of Johnson Creek, and includes the confluences of several tributaries. Preserving the natural functions of this area provides economic value to the region, as well as, enhancing high value habitats for salmon and other wildlife. The Springwater Community plan has been created through the participation of the Springwater Community working group (CWG), upon which JCWC Board rep. Jeff Uebel has served. Currently the Concept plan is being reviewed by Gresham staff, policy makers and the community. Public hearings are scheduled on August 8th and 22nd for the Planning Commission and on September 20th and October 4th for the City Council. Public testimony is allowed at all four of these hearings. We encourage you to attend and let your voice be heard. For more information on the Springwater Community Plan, visit the City of Gresham web site: <http://www.ci.gresham.or.us/springwater>

Errol Heights Park

The Errol Heights Park Steering Committee is creating a long-term Master Plan for the undeveloped park located near SE Tenino Ct and SE 52nd Ave. The area features an upper, grassy field area and a lower, natural wetland area that contains several springs that are the headwaters of Errol Creek. JCWC is represented on the committee by Karl Lee and David Prause. You can keep abreast of their work at: http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Planning/errol_heights.asp The final draft of the plan will be presented in a public meeting on Tuesday, June 28th. Check the website for details.

Leach Botanical Gardens

Friends of Leach Botanical Garden, in partnership with the JCWC and City of Portland Parks & Rec Dept., are updating the Garden's Master Plan. JCWC Watershed Stewardship Coordinator Christine Hurst serves on the planning team. The Botanical Garden spans Johnson Creek in outer SE Portland; it has grown from roughly 7 to 16 acres through land acquisition made possible by Metro's 1995 Greenspaces Bond measure and contributions. The plan will incorporate designs for expanding the Garden's plant collection, improving amenities for the outdoor education program, and restoring the banks of Johnson



Creek, among other things. As planning turns to action, volunteers will be needed to remove invasive plants and turn the Garden's vision into reality.

Damascus

In December of 2002 Metro designated approximately 12,000 acres around the unincorporated rural communities of Damascus and Boring for urban development. The planning area encompasses the Sunshine Creek subwatershed, along with headwaters streams of Kelley Creek. Four alternative concept plans have been produced. The project Advisory Committee appears to be leaning towards limiting urban development in the forested

lava domes that are the headwaters for Sunshine and other creeks by requiring tight clusters of relatively low density housing.

On July 14th the Coalition for a Livable Future is sponsoring a forum to discuss the Damascus concept plan options. Contact Jill Fuglister at 503-294-2889, or visit the web site of the Coalition at <http://www.clfuture.org> for more information.

Be sure to check out the July JCWC E-Bulletin for a complete update on this important issue by watershed resident and friend of JCWC, Dean Apostle.

Pleasant Valley

The community of Pleasant Valley, brought into the UGB by Metro in 1998, abuts outer SE Portland and South Gresham, and is approximately 1,500-acres. A concept plan and a subsequent implementation plan have been developed through years of community involvement which included extensive input from area residents, local jurisdictions, developers and other interested groups like the JCWC. The Pleasant Valley Plan District was adopted by the both Portland and Gresham City Councils in December 2004.

Now that the Plan District is in place, implementation has begun on various fronts. Gresham is developing a strategy for funding the wastewater inceptor lines and accepting property annexation petitions. The City of Portland is also accepting annexation requests, as well as, submissions for land use reviews on developing land divisions. For more information please check out the JCWC Land Use web page listed in the center square.

The JCWC is an active member of the critical land use planning initiatives throughout the watershed. We rely on our small staff and exceptional volunteers to help us track and respond to the issues that arise. Please read on for summaries of the most pressing land use issues we've been following. Of course, you can also go to the Land Use page of our website for more information on these topics and others:

<http://www.jcwc.org/resources/landuse.htm>

Save the Date!

for the
Johnson Creek Watershed Council's 2nd Annual
Open House and Silent Auction!



September 8, 2005
5:00 - 8:00pm

For more information please contact Jordan at jordan@jcw.org, 503-652-7477 or visit www.jcw.org.



Johnson Creek
Watershed Council
1900 SE Milport Rd, Ste. B
Milwaukie, OR 97222
ph (503) 652-7477
fx (503) 652-7188
info@jcw.org

In the Next Issue...

Gresham Stormwater Updates
Wal-Mart in the Watershed?

