

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

Jewels of our Region: Land Acquisitions in the Watershed

By Christine Steele, Community Outreach Coordinator

The Johnson Creek watershed has benefited tremendously from land acquisitions resulting from the passage of Metro's Natural Areas Bond Measure in November of 2006. More than 250 acres have been preserved in the Johnson Creek basin so far! (The watershed overlaps two of Metro's Target Areas for acquisitions: "Johnson Creek" and "East Buttes.") These acquisitions protect important habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as people, and they are all the more important as the Johnson Creek Watershed experiences continued development pressure.

The acreage purchased so far represents densely forested riparian and upland areas that filter and protect water quality, slow erosion and flooding through natural seepage, and provide green places for adults and children to explore. In addition, neighbors to these properties benefit from increased property values, and the intact forest stands help to clean the air and moderate air temperatures, saving homeowners money on energy bills.

Below are the areas that have been acquired so far in the Johnson Creek Watershed:

- **More than 100 contiguous acres** have been preserved on the north side of the Clatsop Buttes, southwest of Powell Butte. Forty nine acres were acquired in July 2007, 53 acres were acquired in November 2007, and 1.5 acres were purchased in January 2008. The steep, densely forested hillsides provide habitat for native trees and plants such as cedar, Douglas fir, huckleberry, and sword fern, as well as wildlife such as deer, fox, coyote, pileated woodpeckers, and other resident and migratory birds. The area is a haven for the neighbors, many of whom actively led the charge to preserve the site.



Photo courtesy of Jim Lobbie

Since the passage of Metro's Natural Areas Bond measure in November 2006, over 90 acres of land have been acquired on the forested slopes of Hogan and Sunshine Buttes.

They became known as the "white tee-shirt group" for presenting themselves as a group at Metro's Open Houses this past year, wearing matching shirts proclaiming "East Buttes & Johnson Creek: Protect our Greenspace".

- **Thirteen acres** were purchased near Southeast Foster and Barbara Welch Road, an area known as Gilbert's Ridge. Located within Portland city limits, the area's densely forested slopes provide wildlife connectivity between Powell Butte Nature Park to the north and Bundy Park to the southeast, as well as to the recent Clatsop Butte acquisitions (above).

- Metro and the City of Gresham negotiated the purchase of a **37-acre parcel**, known locally as Gabbert Hill, which was on the verge of being approved for an 82-lot subdivision known as Darby Ridge. The parcel provides a

key connector between previous acquisitions to form a viable wildlife corridor.

- In a highly regarded move, Persimmon Development Group dropped plans for an 86-lot subdivision in SE Gresham and sold or donated a total of **92 acres** to Metro. Eight of these add to 40 acres previously acquired by Gresham and Metro on the southern slope of Hogan Butte. The remaining 84 acres are on the forested slopes of Sunshine Butte and Hogan Creek headwaters, a key Johnson Creek tributary. The buttes boast tremendous views of the Columbia River Gorge as well as Mount Hood, Mount Adams, and Mount Rainier, prompting Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis to refer to them as "jewels of our region" in a letter to Metro councilors.

Continued on page 2

10th Annual



Watershed Wide Event
Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Saturday, March 1, 2008 9am-12pm

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has been bringing together hundreds of volunteers for ten years throughout the watershed to help restore Johnson Creek and beautify the community. Join us on March 1st for this fun and important event. See the story on page 3 to appreciate our progress!

For more information or to volunteer see pages 6 and 7.

Jewels of our Region

Continued from page 1

Together with the Gabbert Hill purchase and previous acquisitions under the 1995 bond measure, the region has now permanently protected almost 1000 acres throughout the East Butte and Boring Lava Domes of Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. These efforts protect headwater streams feeding Johnson Creek and the Clackamas River, maintain critical wildlife corridors connecting the Cascade foothills to the region's center, secure scenic views and provide a solid foundation for building the long-envisioned "Forest Park East".

- **Twenty acres** of forested land were purchased adjacent to the Springwater Trail near Southeast 252nd Ave. The property includes dense forest canopy straddling Johnson Creek, providing cooling shade for native fish. The site is home to native plants and trees including Western red cedar, black cottonwood and Oregon ash, providing important songbird and wildlife habitat.



Sunshine Creek

- **One acre** off of Southeast Hogan Road and Ambleside Drive was purchased, completing a network of 40 acres that Metro owns along Johnson Creek and the Springwater Trail. The site includes a historic stand of Hogan Cedars.

- **A one acre** parcel fronting Johnson Creek was purchased in December 2006, making it the very first acquisition from the 2006 Bond Measure. This purchase provides opportunities to restore native vegetation, enhance water quality, and protect fish and wildlife habitat in lower Johnson Creek in dense inner southeast Portland. The property can be seen from the pedestrian bridge over Johnson Creek along the Springwater Corridor trail, part of the recently completed Three Bridges project.



Volunteer members of the "white tee-shirt group", along with Metro staff and councilors David Bragdon and Rod Park, celebrate the protection of areas of the Clatsop Buttes through Metro's Natural Areas Bond Measure.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council looks forward to forging new partnerships with local jurisdictions and community members to help steward these sites. We will keep our Friends informed of any opportunities to explore and volunteer at these "jewels of our region".

For more information about Metro's land acquisition program, call 503-797-1741 or send e-mail to metroparks@metro-region.org.

Thanks to Jim Labbe and Heather Kent for their assistance with this article.

Recent land acquisitions in the Johnson Creek Watershed

103 acres	Clatsop Butte
37 acres	Gabbert Hill
92 acres	Hogan and Sunshine Buttes
20 acres	Springwater Trail at 252nd
13 acres	Gilbert's Ridge
1 acre	Hogan Road and Ambleside
1 acre	Springwater Trail at the Three Bridges Project

Healthy Septic Systems Workshop

February 21, 2008

7:00-9:00pm

Mt. Hood Community College
Academic Center

Town and Gown Room
(Rm 2057)

Is your septic system a mystery to you? Attend this free workshop and learn how to care for your septic system, prevent messy sewage backups, and avoid expensive repairs with basic septic tank maintenance. Local septic system professional Alex Goodman and septic inspector Mike Ebeling, Bureau of Development Services will present and answer your questions.

Sponsored by EMSWCD

Register online at www.emswcd.org or come early to register at the event.

Directions: Mt. Hood Community College is located off of SE 257th Dr. (Kane Rd) between Stark St. and 17th St. in Gresham. As you enter the campus from SE 257th Dr., the Academic Center will be the building right in front of you. The Town and Gown room is on the second floor of the Academic Center, in the southeast corner.

 **ESA Adolfsen**

Environmental and Planning Consultants

Portland
Seattle
and other national offices
www.adolfsen.com



Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event – Ten Years Strong

By Matt Clark, Executive Director

On the Tenth Anniversary of the Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event, we thought a brief retrospective would be fun, tracking how the event and its impact have grown over ten years. As we delved into our archives and compared statistics, we saw a truly remarkable trend. For example, between the first WWE and the ninth WWE, there was an eighteen-fold increase in the number of native trees and shrubs planted (180 in 1998; 3,300 in 2007). Likewise, ten times more trash was removed from the creek and its banks at the Ninth WWE than at the First WWE.

What is just as remarkable about the Watershed Wide Event is the number of people and organizations that have participated since the beginning. From jurisdictional partners to community groups, there are many who were at the First WWE on October 3, 1998, and will be with us for the Tenth WWE on March 1, 2008.



Here is a look at some oldies but goodies from our archives:

WWE Year 1 October 3, 1998

Two hundred forty-four volunteers participated at three watershed sites – Tide-man Johnson, Beggar’s Tick, and Gresham Woods. They removed 110 pounds of trash and 14 tires from the creek, planted 180 native shrubs and trees, including Oregon grape, and installed beaver guards. They competed in an invasive plant trophy hunt, removing 7,000 pounds (36 cubic yards) of invasive blackberries, reed canary grass and purple loosestrife. There were workshops on native plant propagation, erosion control and environmentally-friendly household products as well as a student-led presentation on the life cycle of salmon.

WWE Year 3 April 21, 2001

The Third Watershed Wide Event was held in the spring to coincide with Earth Day. Previously, the WWE’s were held in the fall to



coincide with the Council’s Annual Watershed Summit. The Council sponsored three events at the Third WWE. At Brookside Wetlands, there was an opportunity to study insects in the stream, intended to highlight the effectiveness of aquatic restoration. On Crystal Springs at the Eastmoreland Golf Course, David Douglas High School students showed off their water quality monitoring program. There was a tour of watershed restoration sites, led by City of Portland, which emphasized the ability of streamside property owners to positively affect the creek.



WWE Year 5 March 8, 2003

At the Fifth Watershed Wide event, 225 volunteers participated. The number of restoration sites had doubled to six: the original three, plus sites on the Springwater Corridor, in Pleasant Valley and on the ODS campus near the Johnson Creek – Willamette confluence. After the morning restoration events, the volunteers gathered at the ODS campus and in Gresham for a pizza party.

WWE Year 7 March 5, 2005

At the seventh Watershed Wide Event, over 450 volunteers and 30 community partners said “YIMBY!” (Yes in My Backyard!) at 12

restoration sites and two free workshops in the watershed. They planted nearly 4,000 trees and shrubs, removed 11,000 pounds of invasive plants and 2,000 pounds of trash from the creek and its banks. In addition, participants at the workshops learned about landscaping secrets and composting. The volunteer investment was valued at \$22,500 with over \$10,000 in underwriting by government and corporate partners.

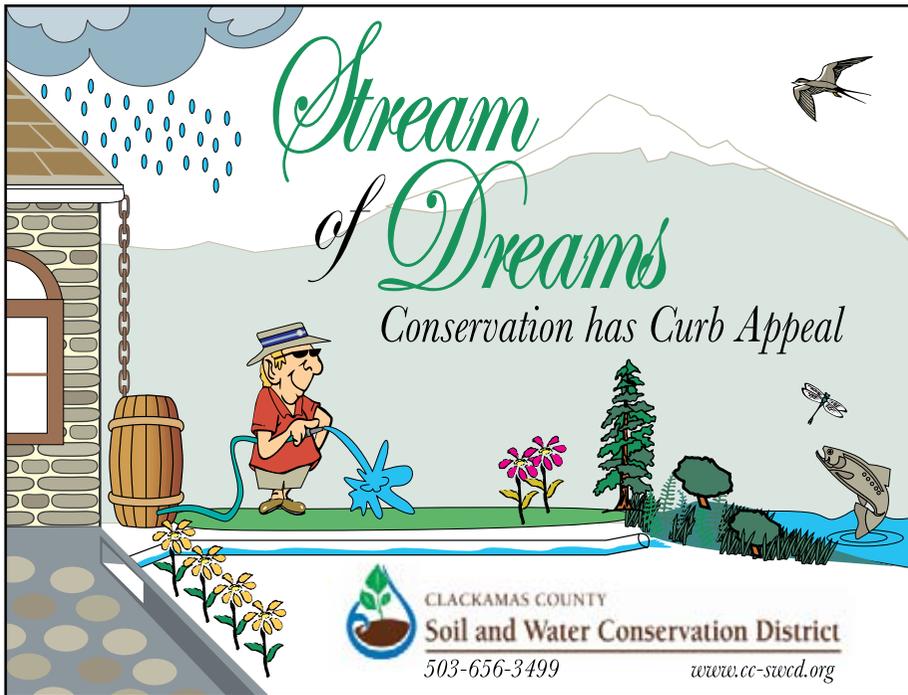


WWE Year 9 March 3, 2007

At the ninth Watershed Wide event in 2007, there were 344 participants at 12 sites. Several of the sites were anchored by groups with long-term relationships with their sites. For example, the Gresham Woods site was, and still is, anchored by the Historic Downtown Gresham Kiwanis who conduct several restoration events each year. The Bundy Preserve has been adopted by the David Douglas High School Natural Resources CAM class. The volunteers at WWE Year 9 removed 30,000 pounds (150 cubic yards) of invasive plants from the banks of the creek, and 1,400 pounds of trash from the creek itself. They planted 3,300 native shrubs and trees.

The Watershed Wide Event has grown by leaps and bounds, and the Tenth promises to be the best of all. We anticipate nearly 450 volunteers at fourteen sites in the watershed. We hope you will be with us on March 1, 2008 as we celebrate the Tenth Watershed Wide Event.

For more information or to volunteer, turn to pages 6 and 7.



Stream of Dreams
Conservation has Curb Appeal

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District
503-656-3499 www.cc-swcd.org



The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has been awarded a Small Projects and Community Events (SPACE) grant from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District for the 2nd year in a row!

Funds from this grant will go to provide plants and supplies needed for our upcoming Watershed Wide Event.

Thank you EMSWCD for your continued support and strong partnership with the Council!



Albina Community Bank

Meet Your Local Branch Manager:



Mary Edmeades
Social Impact Banking
503.445.2155

medmeades@albinabank.com



“Communities aren’t just streets and buildings. Communities are thriving places where cultures, commerce and souls grow stronger together.”

- Mary

At Albina Community Bank the most ordinary financial transaction can have an extraordinary impact on our local community.

You’re going to bank somewhere, why not let your banking make a difference in the places where you live and work?

Steelhead Finds a Home on Reed College Campus

by Noah Jenkins, Education and Research Associate



This juvenile steelhead trout was found in Crystal Springs Creek last fall.

While doing some routine sampling of fish in Reed Lake, a senior thesis student at Reed College recently caught more than she bargained for: a juvenile steelhead showed up in her minnow trap! The find highlights the success and importance of restoration efforts along Crystal Springs Creek, and particularly in Reed Canyon.

Major efforts at rehabilitating the canyon began eight years ago with the removal of an outdated swimming pool and the installation of a fish ladder to allow aquatic life to access the lake, which had been cut off from the rest of Crystal Springs. Meanwhile, Zac Perry — naturalist and head of restoration for Reed Canyon—began working to remove non-native invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canarygrass, and re-introduce native vegetation. The canyon—once so choked with blackberry that much of the lake was not even visible—now provides habitat to several resident beavers, waterfowl and other birds, and is an important salmonid rearing site.

In addition to restoring habitat and biodiversity, rehabilitating the canyon has created many educational opportunities, both for

Reed students and the surrounding community. School groups regularly visit the canyon to learn about healthy ecosystems, science classes at the college incorporate studies of the area, and neighborhood residents enjoy

the rare chance to have habitat that supports salmon spawning and rearing “in their backyard.” The awareness this generates, in turn, helps drive further efforts at restoration.

“Salmon need the whole watershed,” says Perry. Finding the steelhead “shows we’re starting to see the results of our efforts,” both in the canyon and elsewhere on the creek. He stresses the importance of the work done by downstream neighbors and on the East-

moreland golf course. “It takes a lot of effort and cooperation to fix problems on the creek—it’s a reflection of the community.”

In addition to maintaining and enhancing the canyon, Zac Perry’s efforts will soon include rehabilitation of a property recently acquired by the college, located along SE 28th Avenue. Plans are in the works to remove the concrete lining from the present channel, create floodplain habitat, and work with the city to improve a culvert for fish passage.

“It takes a lot of effort and cooperation to fix problems on the creek—it’s a reflection of the community.”



Steelhead benefit from restoration work done at Eastmoreland Golf Course, downstream from Reed Canyon

Students Engaged in Helping the Creek

By Christine Steele, Community Outreach Coordinator

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is happy to announce that the first year of our Youth Engaged program is off to a running start. Youth Engaged pairs six schools to sites along Johnson Creek, which the students steward throughout the school year by pulling invasive plants, and planting or mulching native plants and trees. Through a partnership with the Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP) the groups perform water quality testing at their site, allowing them to monitor the health of the creek, and perhaps even see the results of their hard work in their data!

As part of Youth Engaged, students will anchor their adopted site for the Watershed Wide Event, and assist JCWC staff and volunteers with their hard-earned local knowledge of the site. Schools taking part in the first year of the program include Stacey Barber’s David Douglas School High class at the Bundy Preserve, Serena Talcott’s Cleveland High class at Westmoreland Park, Rose Sandy’s MYC/Reynolds School District group at Ambleside, Kenny Wikler’s Centennial Learning Academy class along the Springwater Trail at 182nd, Michael Lancaster’s Alpha High School group at Gresham Woods, and Kathy Childress with her Gresham High School group at Hogan Creek.

Keep an eye out at the Watershed Wide Event on March 1 -- you may be working alongside a Youth Engaged student! This program is supported by our partners, SWRP and Oregon Trout’s Healthy Waters Institute, and with generous funding from Metro’s Nature in the Neighborhoods program, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the WHH Foundation.



Removing invasive weeds and planting native species is all in a day’s work for students in the Youth Engaged program.

1. Westmoreland Park

SE 22nd Avenue and Lambert St.

Assist local residents and Youth Engaged school groups planting native tree/shrubs along Crystal Springs Creek at Westmoreland Park.

2. JEAN's Farm

3635 SE Johnson Creek Blvd.

Help SOLV and local and sustainable farmers improve their riparian corridor planting natives along the mainstem of Johnson Creek.

3. Tideman Johnson Park

SE 45th Ave. and Johnson Creek Blvd.

Help Friends of Tideman Johnson Park re-establish native plant communities along the mainstem of Johnson Creek at Tideman Johnson Park along the Springwater Trail.

4. Errol Creek Wetland

Harney Drive between SE 45th and 52nd Ave.

Help Friends of Errol Heights and volunteers from PCC Structural remove weeds and plant natives adjacent to Errol Creek wetlands.

This site sponsored by PCC Structural, generous supporters of WWE

5. Lovena Farms

SE Stanley Ave. off Johnson Creek Blvd.

Help local and sustainable farmers and volunteers from HSBC improve the riparian corridor by planting native trees and shrubs along the mainstem of Johnson Creek.

This site sponsored by HSBC, generous supporters of WWE

6. Foster Place

SE Foster Place, off 120th Ave.

Help local residents and REI employees remove English ivy in this wooded riparian forest—you'll forget you're in the city!

7. Bundy Preserve

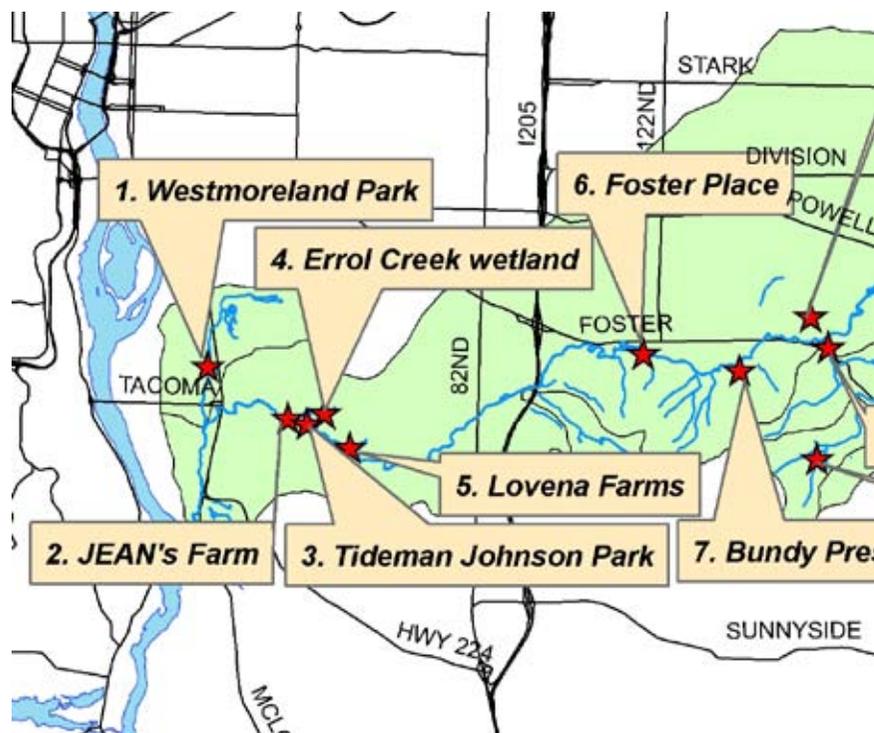
SE 141st and Foster Rd.

Work alongside Youth Engaged school groups removing English ivy to improve the vegetation community in this urban wildlife preserve.

10th Annual Watershed Johnson Creek Wa

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Work parties will be followed by a free lunch.
Pre-registration is appreciated: www.jcwc.org



This event is coordinated by the Johnson Creek Watershed

Albina Community Bank • Alpha High School • Boy Scouts of America • City of Portland • City of Milwaukie • Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District • Cleveland High School • Columbia Sportswear • David • District • ESA Adolfson • Friends of Errol Heights • Friends of Tre • Hawthorne Ridge Homeowners Assn. • HSBC • JEAN's Farm • Le • School District • Oregon Hunters Association • PCC Structural Recreation • Portland Nursery • REI • Sa

Connecting communities

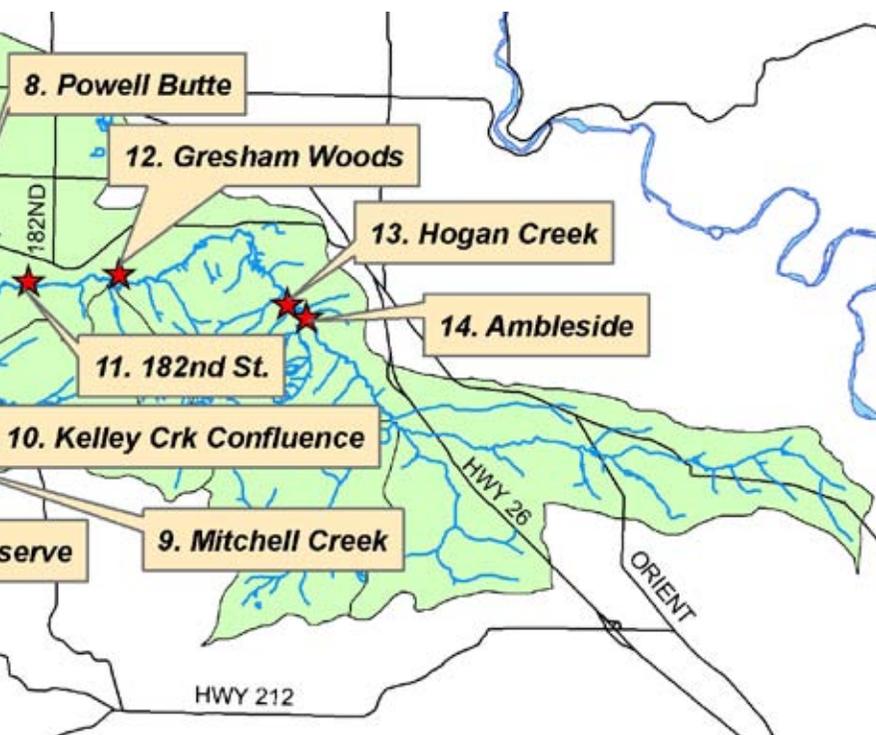


Wide Event Watershed Council

2008 9am-12pm

celebration lunch at two locations

or call 503-652-7477 or email info@jwcw.org



Watershed Council with many thanks to our numerous partners

• America • Centennial Learning Academy • City of Gresham
• Water Conservation District • Clackamas County Water Environment
• Douglas High School • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation
• es • Friends of Tideman Johnson Park • Gresham High School •
• each Botanical Garden • Lovena Farms • Metro • MYC, Reynolds
• Pleasant Valley Neighborhood Association • Portland Parks &
• freeway • SOLV • Starbucks • Trader Joe's

through stewardship

8. Powell Butte Nature Park

162nd and Powell Blvd.

Assist the Oregon Hunters Association in removing invasive European hawthorn trees.

9. Mitchell Creek

SE 162nd and Clatsop Rd.

Help Hawthorne Ridge and Pleasant Valley Homeowner's Association volunteers remove invasive weeds and plant natives at this site included as part of Portland Parks & Recreation's "Protect the Best" initiative. A guided walk through the property will be offered by a Portland Parks & Recreation Ecologist.

10. Kelley Creek Confluence

SE 159th and Foster Rd.

Assist Friends of Trees in re-establishing the native plant community at the convergence of Kelley and Johnson Creeks.

11. 182nd Street

SW Highland Dr. at the Springwater Trail

Help Youth Engaged school groups remove invasive weeds to prepare for planting along the Springwater Trail in Gresham, adjacent to Johnson Creek.

12. Gresham Woods

SW 14th and Binford Ave.

Work with Youth Engaged school groups and Kiwanis members to plant native trees and shrubs along Johnson Creek in this beautiful open space in Gresham.

13. Hogan Creek

Springwater Trail Trailhead @ SE Hogan Ave.

Assist Youth Engaged schools groups planting at the confluence of Hogan and Johnson Creeks.

14. Ambleside

Springwater Trail Trailhead @ SE Hogan Ave.

Come help Youth Engaged school groups and local residents plant native trees and shrubs along Johnson Creek in some of the best remaining habitat in the basin.

Driving instructions will be sent to participants via email upon registration.

Stories from the 'Shed:

Then and now, Steve Johnson still defends his canyon: Johnson Creek Canyon

by Michelle Bussard, reprinted from Fall 2005

In the 1950s, the Golden Eagles, a gangling group of young boys including Steve Johnson, would stand lookout atop what had been a hill, now leveled as the home of Allied Chemicals. At the sight of the opposing gang assembled just east of S.E. 45th Ave., the Golden Eagles would arm their 4' sling shot with creek rocks, claiming the now official Springwater trailhead as theirs for another day. In the 1990s, he was equipped with the Johnson Creek Marching Band, which may have lacked any semblance of musical talent but did not lack the courage to confront rabble-rousing motorcycle gangs tearing up Tideman Johnson Park.

Steve's great grandfather, Tideman Johnson, moved out west with the building of the railroads. In 1880, he purchased eighty acres from the Wills Family of Willsburg Town located near the S.E. 32nd Ave. viaduct, and with his wife, Olava, built their first home. Although Tideman and Olava died before they could live in their second house built in 1912, their children moved in. Eventually, Steve's Uncle Telmer would inherit the home and acreage which included what is now Tideman Johnson Park. The park land was connected to the Johnson property by a footbridge built in the thirties by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It was at about the same time that the WPA embarked on their "channel improvement" project, paving and straightening the creek. Throughout the twenties and thirties, Telmer encouraged use of his land as a park and even sponsored July 4th fireworks. In a 1931 letter to the editor of the Oregon Journal, the park was described as a "certainly beautiful place, with a running stream for fishing and swimming and with lovely beaches and an ice-cold spring of cold water." But, like his nephew, Telmer's feelings soured as vandals began to take advantage of his generosity. The bridge would eventually wash out and in 1942, the Johnson family donated the 6 acres that became Tideman Johnson Park.



With Telmer's death in 1938, Steve's father stepped into the property and ensured that the piece that Steve now calls home would remain in the family. When not hanging with the Golden Eagles, Steve recalls accompanying his father to collect rent from

the Italians who leased part of the acreage for a truck farm. Rent was paid in gold coins and often graced with mason jars filled with homemade wine and spaghetti dinners. (Steve still treasures the spaghetti recipe which can also be found in the Oregon Episcopal Church Cookbook. Should anyone reading this own a copy, share it with us!) Throughout the fifties, Steve saw fox, deer, plenty of fish, muskrat, beaver, snakes and crawfish. But by the 1960s, the creek was rap-

idly losing its allure. It had long been forgotten as a "beautiful place." Steve moved away. When he returned in 1991 after his father's death, he was discouraged by rampant vandalism, muddy, warm waters and an alarming absence of wildlife. At times, he wanted to give up.

Throughout the nineties, Steve and many others quietly amassed a coalition of neighborhood conservationists, bureaucrats and coalition builders. From this unlikely union grew the "marching band" that eddied into Friends of Johnson Creek, eventually plunging into the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Johnson Creek now had the voice it had lacked. And while coho and chinook salmon remain as ESA listings, the indicator species for Steve is the woman jogging the Springwater Trail and kids' voices filling the air as they learn about the creek, invasive species and macroinvertebrates. "When I saw this," he said, "I knew I could die and the creek would be okay. Collectively we weren't going to let what had happened, happen again. It's all worth it to have come from the sixties to the sounds of kids' voices filling Johnson Creek Canyon, again."

A Salamander's Surmise

by Daniel Felder
(Based on a true story)

It was a cold and dreary night
I spent inside my bath
The day had really been too trite
(Not the kind that does excite)
And I still had to finish math

The door was locked, for I despise
Those who just meander
And so imagine my surprise
When I stared into the glowing eyes
Of a red salamander.

The salamander, unabashed
Said, "Sir, I'm your salvation!"
"Your hopes of a peaceful bath,
Have, so suddenly been dashed
But you need education."

"I have been sent here to be
Your wise and aged tutor
I think we'll get on splendidly
(I've been told that you agree
With most anti-polluters)"

"The Watershed named Johnson Creek
Is not at all devoid
For though it can be cold and bleak
It is a home to meadow leeks
And many Salmanoids"

"150 years have past
Since the fish were thousands strong
Because our numbers dwindled fast
Now the empty creek seems vast
Can a few hundred fish be wrong?"

"So sir, grow up with this in mind
Oh, and incidentally
The next time you feel inclined
To leave behind a lemon rind
Please think environmentally!"

Volunteers Restore Native Vegetation on Kelley Creek

by JCWC Staff

On Saturday, January 5, eleven volunteers from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Tetra Tech Inc., and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council planted over 260 shrubs and trees as well as 280 willow and dogwood stakes along the banks of Kelley Creek on the Bradshaw property in Gresham. The planting event is the culmination of a five-year effort by the Council and its partners to restore this reach of Kelley Creek. As reported in the Fall 2007 issue of *Within Your Reach* ("Habitat Improvement: Kelley Creek Gets a Makeover"), Kelley has the most abundant native fish populations of any tributary in the Johnson Creek Basin. The channel reconstruction project on the Bradshaw property, completed this summer, removed a major fish passage barrier, created additional fish habitat, and will improve water quality. The revegetation effort will create a riparian canopy to provide shade, bank stability, and reduce erosion.

Thank you to the volunteer planting crew for your gracious donation of time and energy. Thank you again to landowners Terry and Shari Bradshaw and to our other project partners and funders: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, East Multnomah Soil



Photo courtesy of Aaron Guffey

JCWC Executive Director, Matt Clark, joins other volunteers in restoration efforts at Kelley Creek

& Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, and the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services. We will enjoy watching as the site changes and the trees and shrubs mature.

Springwater Corridor Trail Bike Tour

Saturday March 29
9:00am to 12:30pm

Join Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist with the Audubon Society of Portland, and Teresa Huntsinger, Johnson Creek Watershed Council Board Chair, for a 21-mile bike ride out to Gresham's Linneman Station and back via the Springwater Corridor Trail. We'll peddle our way through the lower Johnson Creek Watershed, stop at several urban natural areas along the way, and learn about future opportunities to protect and enhance the Johnson Creek Watershed. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle; pumps and patch kits are recommended. Helmets are absolutely required.

Pre-registration is required. Trip size is limited, please register early. Register by going to Audubon Society of Portland's website (www.audubonportland.org). Those who do not have access to the web can register by calling 503-292-6855, extension 116. Directions and other details will be sent to registrants.

Fresh Faces Restore Natural Places

The City of Gresham is pleased to welcome a new full-time, dedicated crew of five Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps members that will serve as a restoration field team for the Watershed Management's Natural Resources Program through December 2008. Over the last six years, the City has sponsored AmeriCorps volunteers to help restore natural areas, monitor wildlife and engage the public in education and outreach. The addition of the dedicated team will provide invaluable assistance to keeping up existing programs as well as providing the opportunity to start up new programs like a Gresham Stream Clean.



AmeriCorps volunteer helps a student plant trees

Upcoming Dedicated Team Projects in Gresham:

- **Restoration:** Restore over 10 acres of public open spaces and private streamside properties
- **Stream health:** Clear 2 miles of Gresham streams of trash and unwanted woody debris
- **Habitat improvements:** Improve habitat for Gresham wildlife by constructing 50 bat boxes, 50 bird houses, 10 large brush piles for small mammals and perching birds, 10 turtle basking structures and over 600 ft² of turtle nesting habitat
- **Education & Outreach:** Write annual publication, "Notes from the Field: Volunteer Observations on the State of Gresham Waterways"

JCWC Expertise Welcome!!!

Even volunteers rely on the unwavering support of volunteers. Could you donate your time or expertise to help the dedicated field team? Do you have skills in photography, light carpentry, heavy equipment operation or other skills that you could share with this energetic group of volunteers? If so, please call Laura Guderyahn, Watershed Restoration Coordinator at (503) 618-2793.

City of Gresham

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Johnson Creek Watershed Management Program

Working to improve Johnson Creek through actions that:

Reduce or eliminate nuisance flooding • Improve water quality • Increase fish and wildlife habitat



The Springwater Corridor Trail passes by the Brownwood restoration area



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
www.cleanrivers-pdx.org

Completed Projects

- 1997 Brookside Wetlands, Lents – 14 acres, features flood storage, restored habitat and a park
- 2004 Kelley Creek, Pleasant Valley – 6 acres, features flood storage and cold-water spawning habitat
- 2006 Tideman Johnson Park, Southeast Portland – added nearly 800 ft of new floodplain channel, restored and enhanced habitat, added new trail and viewing areas
- 2007 Errol Wetlands, Brentwood-Darlington – removed fill and fish barrier, increased wetland habitat
- 2007 Brownwood, Pleasant Valley – added about 74 acre feet of flood storage, created high-flow backwater refuge, increased stream complexity and restored creek channel, and aquatic and terrestrial habitat

Future Projects

Errol Creek Confluence, East Lents Floodplain, Springwater Wetlands

BES purchases floodprone properties for restoration projects through its Willing Seller Acquisition Program. If you own a home adjacent to Johnson Creek and are interested in selling it through the Willing Seller Program please contact Eli Callison @ 503-823-5756.

Leach Botanical Garden is a public garden dedicated to the study of botany and horticulture with an emphasis on plants of the Pacific Northwest and an ecologically sensitive approach to gardening. We are located on the banks of Johnson Creek.

Originally developed by renowned botanist Lilla Leach and her husband John, Leach Botanical Garden boasts a diverse collection of specimens found throughout temperate area of the Americas & Asia as well as numerous specimens of tropical origin. Come see what we have to offer!

✿ *Tours & Classes*

✿ *Plant Sales*

✿ *Horticultural Library*

✿ *Wedding & Business Rentals*

✿ *Gift Shop*

✿ *Nature Fair*

✿ *English Teas*

✿ *Holiday Bazaar*



The garden is open Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.
We are located at 6704 SE 122nd Avenue (south of Foster Road). Tours are offered Saturdays at 10:00 am.

503-823-9503 ✿ www.leachgarden.org

Rain Gardens: A Stormwater Solution in Every Yard

by Candace Stoughton, Low Impact Development Specialist with East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Rain gardens are a beautiful way to manage stormwater runoff because they allow rain to soak into the ground naturally. This prevents pollution from entering our local streams and wetlands, recharges groundwater and ensures there is still water in our streams during our dry summers.

Have you considered building a rain garden in your yard? Many of us have seen the swales being built all around Portland to manage stormwater runoff and protect our rivers.

Did you know you can do the same thing in your yard to capture the runoff from your roof, driveway, etc.? When we build swales in our yards, we call them rain gardens.

What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a “sunken garden bed” in your yard where you can direct runoff from your roof, driveway and other impervious surfaces on your property. The rain can then soak into the ground naturally rather than running off into storm drains.

Why build one?

When a landscape is covered in natural vegetation, most rainfall soaks into the ground. As we start creating impervious surfaces: roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and streets, much of the rainfall can't soak into the ground anymore. This excess stormwater can create problems, not just for people, but also for streams.

Urban stormwater runoff causes

- unnaturally high flooding downstream;
- instream erosion which degrades water quality and instream habitat for wildlife. Erosion in streams also imperils the “built environment” by undercutting bridge supports, exposing sewer lines and washing out roads.
- non-point source pollution (by carrying metals, oils, bacteria, fertilizers, etc. straight to streams).

Rain gardens are becoming very popular because they

- are planted with beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance and drought-tolerant plants;
- provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and beneficial insects;
- are an easy way for all of us to do our part to protect our streams and rivers.

To learn more about rain gardens, go to: <http://welcometherain.org> or join us at our upcoming workshop!



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Raingarden Workshop

Saturday, April 5, 2008

9am-12pm

Leach Botanical Garden

6704 SE 122nd Avenue

Join us to learn how you can build a beautiful rain garden. Email christine@jcw.org with questions or to confirm attendance

*Co-sponsored by
East Multnomah Soil &
Water Conservation District,
Johnson Creek Watershed Council
and Leach Botanical Garden*

Workshop will be followed by
**Leach Botanical
Neighborhood
Open House**
1pm-4pm

*A passion for plants.
A nursery for
plant people.*



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Upcoming Events

February 21

Healthy Septic Systems Workshop

March 1

Winter Watershed Wide Event

March 29

Springwater Corridor Trail Bike Tour

April 5

Rain Garden Workshop &
Leach Botanical Garden
Neighborhood Open House

May 22

Annual Meeting & State of
the Watershed Report

August

Summer Watershed Wide Event

October

Silent Auction Fundraiser

November

Friends of Johnson Creek Campaign

Help restore the watershed!
Join in the fun!

10th Annual



Watershed Wide Event

Johnson Creek Watershed Council

Saturday, March 1, 2008 9am-12pm

Free celebration lunch to follow

Volunteer at one of 14 sites within the watershed

Pre-registration is appreciated at
www.jcwc.org or call 503-652-7477

See page 6 and 7 for details

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