

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

Council Kicks Off Watershed Action Plan

By David Reid

For the next 5 months, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council will be working with community partners to develop a comprehensive action plan for the watershed. The plan will synthesize results from previous studies and plans and generate a prioritized list of things that must be done for the watershed.

The goal of the plan is to identify, prioritize, and sequence specific projects and actions necessary to address factors limiting watershed health. In other words, based on an assessment of the watershed's health, we will develop a list of specific projects or programs designed to address the watershed's most pressing problems.

The Watershed Council has convened a Technical Advisory Committee to work with consultants from Adolphson and Associates to develop the plan. For each step of the process, the Advisory Committee will provide input and review the results. The TAC reports to the Council each month at the regular council meeting.

Once the plan is complete, the Council will use the plan as a road map to guide our efforts for the coming years. The plan will also be helpful in explaining projects to the potential donors and *story continued on page 2...*

Springwater Festival Draws Crowds



Board Member Maggie Skenderian shows visitors a 3-D watershed map at the fall festival. See page 6 for more photos and information about this stellar event.

Come to the Fifth Annual Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event on March 8!

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is holding its Fifth Annual Watershed Wide Event on March 8 from 9am-12pm. This event will bring together hundreds of volunteers from Portland to Gresham to help restore Johnson Creek's natural functions and to beautify our community.

The Event will take place in six different site locations along the Creek. Activities will include removing invasive species,

planting trees, shrubs and wetland plants, and removing trash.

Once we're done with the restoration work, join us for a celebration with food and drinks! For more information, contact the Johnson Creek Watershed Council at 239-3932 or info@jcw.org.

See page 3 for a map and a list of the meeting places.



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Soil and Water Conservation District Helps Local Landowners Develop Water Quality Plans

By Julie DiLeone

In 1993, the Oregon legislature passed SB1010. This law directs the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to work with farmers and ranchers to help reduce water pollution from agricultural sources and to improve overall conditions in a watershed. Agricultural land includes any land on which agriculture is practiced, whether commercially or as a hobby.

The ODA works with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to establish local advisory committees in subbasins around the state. The local advisory committees are made up of representatives of different crop and livestock enterprises, agricultural organizations in the planning area, as well as other local interests such as watershed councils, environmental groups, and local government. The local advisory committees identify problems in the watershed that need to be addressed on agricultural land and outline strategies for improving water quality. They then develop a set of rules that will describe conditions that must be met on agricultural lands, allowing landowners to decide how to meet the conditions. The intent of both the plans and rules is to give landowners flexibility in meeting water quality standards and encourage water quality improvements through voluntary conservation as much as possible. Enforcement by ODA is used as a last resort when repeated attempts to develop a voluntary solution with the landowner have failed.

The ODA is currently working with a local advisory committee in the Lower Willamette Agricultural Water Quality Management Area to develop an agricultural water quality plan and rules. This area includes agricultural land that drains into the Lower Willamette River in the Portland area, including land draining into Johnson Creek, Columbia Slough, and Tryon Creek, as well as the portion of the east slope of Skyline Ridge that drains toward Multnomah Channel. The

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is helping to coordinate this committee. The local advisory committee hopes to have a draft of the plan and rules by next spring for the public to review and comment.

The water quality issues that must be addressed by all local advisory committees are those items listed on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 303d list. In the Lower Willamette Agricultural Water Quality Management Area, the water bodies are listed for bacteria, temperature, nutrients, and/or toxics. Although none of the water bodies in this management area are listed for sediment, erosion must be addressed because nutrients and toxics can be bound to sediment.

Landowners are encouraged to begin addressing water quality issues on their property. If you own property and use all or part of your property for agriculture (livestock or crops), the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District can assist you in developing a voluntary water quality plan. The plans are a collaborative process between the landowner and District staff to identify resource concerns and alternatives for addressing those concerns. Our staff will visit with you on-site where we can help you develop objectives, priorities, alternatives, and a timeline for implementation. There are some general steps that landowners can take to ensure that they do not negatively impact water quality. The two main objectives should be to prevent soil and manure from being moved by water and to provide adequate plant cover in riparian areas.

Proper pasture and manure management are essential to insure that soil and manure do not move off site leading to contamination of water with nutrients, bacteria, and toxics. This would include not overgrazing, providing livestock with water sources away from streams and creeks, covering manure piles with a tarp or roof, managing roof water runoff, and avoiding excessive manure applications. Landowners should base fertil-

izer and manure applications on soil test results. Minimizing the amount of bare soil through the use of cover crops or permanent plantings helps to reduce erosion. A buffer strip of a perennial grass around a field will help to filter out sediment and nutrients. In riparian areas, a buffer of vegetation helps to reduce bank erosion and shades the water. Shade is important in keeping water temperatures in a range that is healthy for aquatic organisms. The width of the body of water and the steepness of the bank determine the height and density of riparian buffers.

For more information about voluntary water quality plans, contact Julie DiLeone at East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, 503-231-2270 x105.

Landowners are encouraged to begin addressing water quality issues on their property.

Council Kicks Off Watershed Action Plan

Continued from page 1

funders needed to complete the projects listed in the plan.

Much of the work to assess conditions and needs in the watersheds is being done through the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment model. This model evaluates each reach of the creek in terms of its ability to provide habitat for salmon and trout. Since salmon are an indicator species, this information also tells us a lot about general watershed conditions. For example, the fact that in many areas, there is too much fine sediment for salmon to spawn tells us that we need to address erosion problems in the watershed. The hard part is to determine what needs to be done to fix those problems, and that's where we need your help.

You may be aware of particular problems in your area in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Based on the assessment of the watershed, we need to develop a list of projects and programs to improve watershed health. Then we need to prioritize and sequence those projects to create a long term strategy for improving the watershed's ecological function.

Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event



Meet us at one of these sites on March 8 at 9am to participate in the Fifth Annual Watershed Wide Event.

1. Confluence

ODS Health Plans and the City of Portland Revegetation Program will lead the planting of trees and shrubs along Johnson Creek near its confluence which will provide shade for passing fish, cover for herons and other birds, and prevent erosion in Johnson Creek. The site is located at SE 17th and Lava Drive.

2. Tideman Johnson Park

Trillium Charter School and the Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Neighborhood Association will lead the planting of wetland species in the park to soak up storm water and provide habitat. Meet at SE 45th and Johnson Creek Blvd.

3. Springwater Corridor in Lents

Join Friends of Trees and Portland Parks for a tree planting along this regional resource to beautify the trail, provide wildlife habitat, and reduce stormwater to Johnson Creek. Meet at SE 92nd and Knapp.

4. Beggar's Tick

Metro's Beggar's Tick property is an island of wildlife refuge near Johnson Creek in the Lents neighborhood. The refuge provides an unparalleled resource for residents. Your help is needed to remove trash and invasive species from this historic and beautiful site. Meet at SE 111th just north of Foster.

5. Kelley Creek

This project will help close the canopy over Kelley Creek, and remove invasive species that threaten healthy undergrowth. Meet at SE 162nd and Flavel Drive.

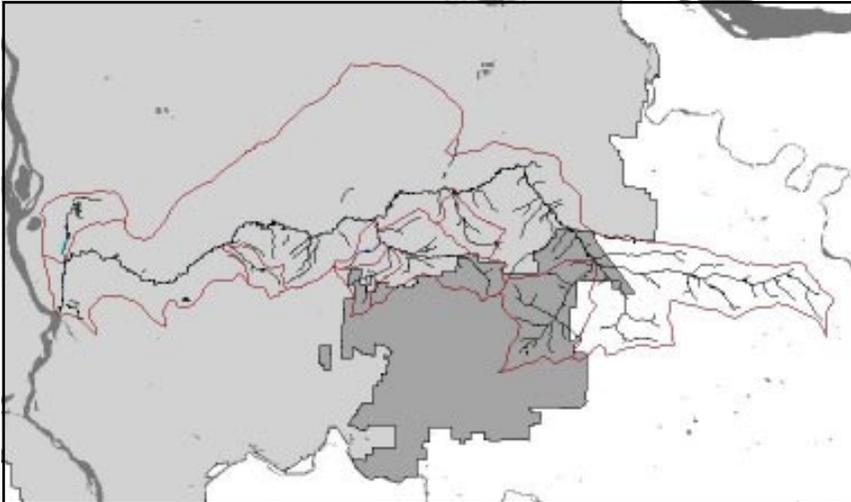
6. Gresham Woods

This restoration site, the watershed's largest, offers beautiful landscapes as well as restoration opportunities. Join neighbors, friends, and a huge coalition of excited partners for the grand finale planting day. Meet at SW 8th and Riverview in Gresham.

*Inspire and facilitate community investment
in the Johnson Creek Watershed for the protection and
enhancement of its natural resources.*

News From Your Reach

Metro Approves Urban Growth



The Metro Council approved final plans for an Urban Growth Boundary expansion on December 12, 2002, wrapping up a two-year process that included input from the Council Community Planning Committee, the Metro Executive Officer, local communities and individual residents.

Pending approval by the state's Land Conservation and Development Commission in the spring, the UGB will soon include an additional 18,638 acres of land, with 2,851 acres set aside for employment uses.

The Metro Council is required by state law to provide a 20-year supply of land in the UGB for housing and development to meet the needs of the grow-

ing area. When making decisions on where to increase the boundary, Metro must weigh the development needs of the community with the needs for open spaces and clean air and water.

Near Johnson Creek, 13,000 acres of land in the Damascus/Gresham area has been added to the UGB. In addition, 377 acres of industrial land has been added just southeast of Gresham.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council expects to participate in a concept planning process similar to the one for the Pleasant Valley area. The Watershed Council's goals include protecting riparian and upland areas for water quality and habitat protection, and minimizing increased stormwater runoff.

Pleasant Valley Plan Complete

By David Reid

Even as Metro Council approved the largest expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary in history (see related story), JCWC continues to work with Portland and Gresham to plan how the last expansion will be developed. The Pleasant Valley Concept Plan covers most of the Kelley Creek Subwatershed and is designed to fit approximately 12000 people into the 1500 acre valley over the next ten to twenty years.

The plan adds 5000 new homes in 484 acres of new residential land, plans for approximately 5000 new jobs, and protects approximately 500 acres in Environmentally Sensitive and Restoration Areas (ESRAs). The ESRAs identify approximately 200 feet on each bank of perennial streams for protection and restoration, and add a 100-foot transition zone which will require incorporation of creek-friendly design elements.

The Council continues to work with the cities to develop the district plan map and land use codes for adoption by the Portland and Gresham City Councils. These codes will create a land use district with special requirements for density, landscaping, setbacks, and other elements of urban development.

Project at 162nd Provides Passage for People and Fish



The Foster Road Culvert before construction began.



The old, non-fish friendly box culvert exposed during construction.



This massive, natural-bottom culvert is now underneath Foster Road.

News From Your Reach

New Section Extends Springwater Trail

By Becky Tate

The Springwater Corridor, a rail line converted into a paved path, runs from just east of SE McLoughlin Blvd through Gresham, for a total of 14 miles. Now a much-anticipated extension is complete, connecting Sellwood's Umatilla Street to OMSI via a 3.1-mile paved pathway running between an active rail line and the Willamette River. Dubbed "Springwater on the Willamette", the trail



The Springwater trail passes under the Sellwood Bridge

has been open for several months, though the official ribbon cutting was held November 26, 2002 near the Spokane Street entrance to the trail.

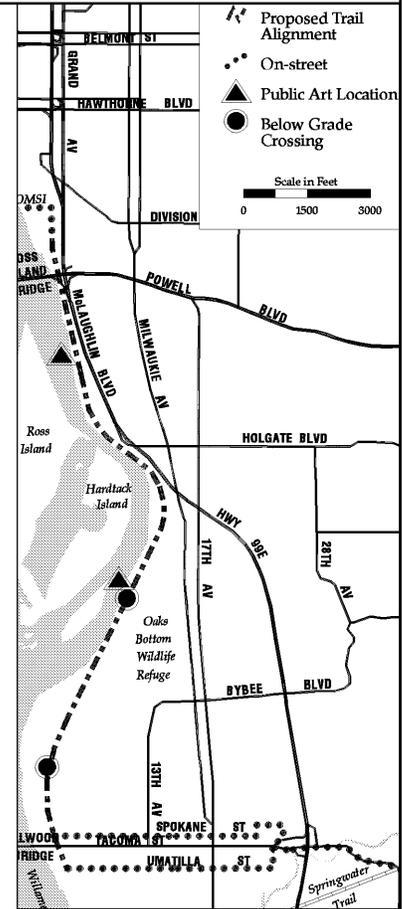
A community Grand Opening Celebration is scheduled for

June 28, 2003, once the paved connection from the trail to the Oaks Bottom parking lot on Milwaukie is complete. The "Springwater on the Willamette"

trail currently ends at Umatilla Street in Sellwood, where bikers and walkers must travel through Sellwood neighborhoods and cross McLoughlin at Tacoma Street in order to connect to the Springwater Trail. Part of the Tacoma Main Street Project in Sellwood will include the enhancement of Umatilla Street for use by bikers and hikers from the trail.

The final stage of construction, the Three Bridges project, will connect Umatilla Street to the beginning of the Springwater Trail via bridges crossing Johnson Creek, McLaughlin Blvd, and the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Portland Parks and Recreation anticipates the Three Bridges will be completed in 2006.

For now, commuters, joggers, hikers and bikers have a new way to reach downtown Portland, and so far it has been put to good use. Come out to the trail on a clear weekend and walk along the Willamette and through Oaks Bottom. For more information, visit www.portlandparks.org



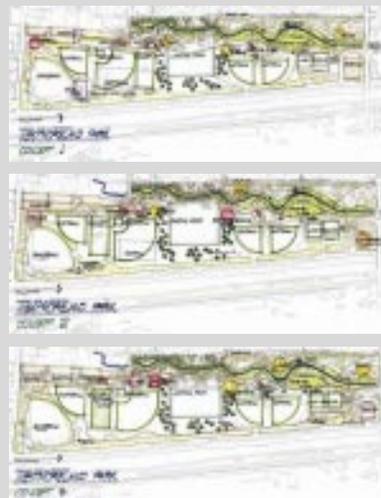
Metro Considers Bus/Rail Options

The South Corridor Project studies transit options to serve the southeastern portion of the metropolitan region. Options include bus rapid transit, and busway, and light rail options between Oregon City, Milwaukie, Portland, Gateway, and Clackamas.

The Busway and Milwaukie Light Rail Alternatives would require a new bridge over Johnson Creek adjacent to Southeast McLoughlin Boulevard. The I-205 light rail alignment would require a new bridge over Johnson Creek directly west of I-205 and perpendicular to Southeast Flavel.

The South Corridor Policy Committee will compare the alternatives and make a decision by the end of February 2003. For more information about the project, visit Metro's web site at www.metro-region.org or call Kristin Hull at (503) 797-1864.

Westmoreland Park Planning Proceeds



The three conceptual designs for Westmoreland park eliminate the Duck Pond responsible for warming the creek.

Portland Parks and Recreation is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to design and build improvements to Westmoreland Park.

Crystal Springs Creek, which flows through the park, has suffered increased temperature, nutrients and bacteria due to the large duck pond. The new design options (shown at left) include creek restoration to restore historic meanders and natural vegetation. Crystal Springs Creek is identified as habitat for endangered salmon species.

Other elements of the park may include tennis courts, a skateboarding park, and other amenities. The design will be decided by summer 2003.

First Springwater Festival Attracts Crowd in Gresham



Clockwise, from above: Storyteller Anne Rutherford enthalls children inside the US Forest Service's inflated fish tent; Samba band Lions of Batucada marches into the festival after the Teddy Bear Parade; JCWC Chair Jeff Uebel and Milwaukie City Councilor Mary King present a lifetime achievement award to Ernie Francisco; Volunteers Nicole D'Onofrio and Bob Marshall help children with fish printing; US Congressman Earl Blumenauer welcomes the crowd; US Fish and Wildlife's Jennifer Thompson teaches a couple of aspiring anglers about endangered species.



These donors made the day a success! Thank You!

- City of Gresham
- City of Milwaukie
- City of Portland
- Clackamas County
- Kah-Nee-Ta Resort
- Multnomah County
- NW Flyfishing Outfitters
- Patagonia
- REI
- Ritz Camera Center
- Timberline Ski Resort
- Sternwheeler Rose

And the Winners Are...

- Jon Bowers**
Leadership Award
for Initiative on Behalf of the Johnson Creek Watershed
- Gresham Butte Neighborhood Association**
Land Use Advocacy Award
for Exceptional Dedication to the Protection of the Johnson Creek Watershed
- Troy Doss**
Volunteer of the Year
for Outstanding Service to the Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Maggie Skendarian**
Above and Beyond Award
for Service to the Johnson Creek Watershed Above and Beyond the Call of Duty
- John Richter**
Education Award
for Outstanding Effort in Educating the Next Stewards of Johnson Creek
- Jeff Uebel and Walt Mintkeski**
The Ernie Francisco Award
for Dedication, Enthusiasm and Service

*Congratulations to all our 2003 award winners!
Keep up the great work!*

Volunteers Plant at Gresham Woods

By Jenna Ringelheim

On January 11th, over 60 volunteers came out to Gresham Woods to plant, tube, and mulch over 300 trees. This planting, organized by Friends of Trees, was the first of a series of plantings to occur at the site. At over 50 acres, Gresham Woods is the single largest restoration opportunity along Johnson Creek. Nestled among Gresham neighborhoods, Gresham Butte, and Powell Butte Nature Park, the site has potential to become a critical wildlife habitat, and a place for people to enjoy as well.

The City of Gresham began restora-

tion activities at this site in partnership with the City of Portland. Since the summer of 2001, professional crews and volunteers have removed invasive species and planted over 40,000 trees and shrubs. This coalition has attracted the participation of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Trees, Alpha High School, Hands on Portland, and other volunteers.

Upcoming planting days at Gresham Woods are February 15th, and March 8th. Please come out and join us at this amazing site. For more information or directions, please call JCWC at 503-239-3932.



Volunteer Reflects on Restoration Efforts

By Jeffrey Gray

Easterly gusts briskly rush in among the quivering flags along this strip of riparian woodland. These flags, each assigned a color representing a type of native tree, are attached to stakes stuck into cold January earth. The trees themselves are enclosed in plastic bags to prevent the occasionally fierce gusts from desiccating their roots before we get a chance to plant them.

The ground the stakes are stuck into is covered with the uprooted remains of previous engagements with the highly invasive species, Himalayan blackberry. The berry canes now form a carpet of dead, broken vines along this entire strip. In some places, these have been mounded

story continues on page 11...

Community Stewards Develop Plans for the Future

By Jenna Ringelheim

By partnering with schools, civic groups, and other agencies, JCWC's new AmeriCorps member, Jenna Ringelheim, hopes to engage local residents and promote long-term stewardship within the watershed. While focusing her efforts on two sites within the watershed, Jenna has organized educational outings for schools, given talks at neighborhood association meetings, and planned for a variety of community events happening this winter and spring.

At Gresham Woods, Jenna is working with the City of Gresham, the Watershed Revegetation Program, Friends of Trees and Alpha High School's Conservations Corps to ignite the idea of community stewardship of the site. Alpha Conservation Crew will dedicate their semester to the stewardship of a 3 acre parcel of the site, where they will be involved in multiple phases of environmental restoration and the larger outreach effort.

Friends of Trees has also committed to a portion of the area, where a number of plantings and maintenance days will occur this year. This spring, Jenna has plans of organizing informational nature walks, and an open house to inform more people about the site and celebrate all the wonderful work that is being accomplished.

At Tideman Johnson Park, Jenna is working with the Ardenwald-Johnson Neighborhood Association, the Trillium School, and Portland

Park and Recreation to plan for the Watershed Wide Event planting on March 8th. This year, the Trillium School is focusing much of their curriculum on the park. The children have been out to the park to map its natural features, and learn about native plants. The school also has plans of organizing a community event in the spring. Tideman Johnson Park has received a lot of attention over the years, but it is Jenna's hope to find a common vision for the future of the park, while promoting long-term stewardship.

To find out more about the exciting projects Jenna is working on please feel to contact her at jenna@jwc.org.



AmeriCorps Member Jenna Ringelheim instructs volunteers at the first of three volunteer tree plantings at Gresham Woods.

Goal 5 Works to Preserve Urban Natural Resources

Metro works to meet the statewide land use planning goal to protect fish and wildlife.

By David Crouse

Five years ago a process to enact programs for protection and preservation of our urban natural resources, such as Johnson Creek, was put into motion. Metro began working on the development of a plan to meet the requirements presented in the state land use planning Goal 5. City and local governments are mandated by Goal 5 to identify the natural resources that lie within the urban growth boundary and develop programs to protect these resources from further degradation. Waterways, wildlife habitat, scenic and historic areas, and open spaces, are all listed under Goal 5 as resources that are to be inventoried and protected.

To begin the processes of identifying these resources and make regulatory recommendations, Metro put together a committee made up of representatives from several agencies such as the DEQ Water Quality Division, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Audubon Society, and city and county planners.

Their mandate is to develop a program of protection that will meet the Goal 5 requirements.

The Goal 5 Technical Advisory Committee (G5TAC) recently complete its inventory of the natural resources in the metro area and is beginning the next step in the process, the Economic Social Environmental and Energy (ESEE) analysis to identify the positive and negative impacts that may occur from protecting limiting or allowing conflicting uses within the impact area of a resource. G5TAC has defined an impact area as being 150 feet from the edge of a resource and up to 300 feet if grasslands surround the resources.

A separate committee was created to look specifically at the economic portion of the ESEE analysis. The Economic Technical Advisory Committee (ETAC), comprised of economic experts from local agencies and businesses, has begun the process of identifying the positive and negative eco-

omic impacts of protecting the land as defined in Goal 5. The G5TAC will go through similar processes to identify impacts to social, environmental, and energy needs. So far Metro is working hard to meet and exceed the requirements of Goal 5 by adopting considerably larger impact areas then required and including wildlife restoration programs into their recommendations that are also not required by Goal 5.

The decisions made by Metro will directly affect the future of Johnson Creek...

On the current schedule the planning process will be

completed in December of 2003 and recommendations for programs of regulation, land accusation, and restoration will be presented to Metro Council for implementation. Before any decisions can be made the program, by state mandate, must be presented for public review. The review process will begin in August of 2003 after the ESEE analysis has been completed. The decisions made by Metro will directly affect the future of Johnson Creek and the landowners along the creek by means of protection and restoration programs and will limit the growth and development along the creek.

EPA Asks for Public Feedback on Watershed Issue

By Becky Tate

The Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers announced on January 10 that they will be seeking public feedback on issues relating to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, which grants protection to the waters of the United States.

In 2001 the Supreme Court ruled in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County vs. US Army Corps of Engineers* (known as SWANCC) that the federal authority under the Clean Water Act is limited in regards to certain isolated wetlands. The EPA has released a new guidance to clarify the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act in light of the SWANCC ruling. In this new guidance, the Clean Water Act does not grant federal regulatory authority over "waters that are both intrastate and non-navigable, where the sole basis available for asserting Clean Water Act jurisdiction rests on any of the factors listed in the 'Migratory Bird Rule'". This means that many of the nation's wetlands will no longer be protected under the Clean Water Act, even if they are tributaries to waters protected by the Act.

The EPA released an Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Mak-

ing (ANPRM) to ask for public feedback on the question of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. Please send in your comments to the EPA, asking that the Clean Water Act jurisdiction not be scaled back. Ask that the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act include all the waters of the United States. Send comments to:

You can also go to www.epa.gov/edocket to submit comments online, or email comments to CWAwaters@epa.gov. For more information go to www.epa.gov or www.americanrivers.org. It is essential that we as stewards of our local waters express our alarm at the stripping of the Clean Water Act!

Write To:

Water Docket
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Mailcode 4101T
 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20460
 Attn. Docket ID No. OW-2002-0050





Within Your Reach

New Creek Analyses Show Opportunities

By David Reid

The City of Portland's Endangered Species Act Program has been working with a consultant to analyze creek information collected by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The data have been compiled into a computer model called Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT).

The EDT model rates 45 different habitat attributes based on how they support a certain species. The model is used to identify how creek conditions are affecting species. So far, the City of Portland has run the model completely for Coho salmon, and Steelhead are in process. Johnson Creek, because of its relatively slow moving water, was historically a good stream for coho. Many of the faster moving tributaries were good steelhead streams.

The analysis of the stream for coho reveals that certain reaches, especially in the Gresham area, still have high value for protection. Especially between Gresham main city park and Palmsblad Road, conditions exist that can still support salmon. These

areas are high on the list for protection.

Other areas, such as Tideman Johnson Park in Portland, have degraded conditions that can't support salmon, but are ripe opportunities for restoration.

This information will help in developing the Comprehensive Watershed Action Plan (see article, page 1). Look for a summary of the Creek assessment in the next edition of *Within Your Reach*.

DEQ Proposes New Contaminants For Johnson Creek Listing

By Becky Tate

By requirement of the federal Clean Water Act, Section 303(d), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality released its semiannual list of "water quality limited" bodies of water. Johnson Creek, which has been on the list since 1998, is proposed for listing for three additional contaminants: chlordane, PCB, and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (see box below).

For each body of water on the list, DEQ is required to develop a plan for watershed recovery, called a Total Maximum Daily

Load (TMDL), to identify allowable pollutant loads. DEQ is working cooperatively with the Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee to create the TMDL for Johnson Creek.

So far, the necessary data has been collected and the TMDL is now in the analytical stage, with the exception of the temperature parameter, which is already in the modeling stage. The Johnson Creek Watershed Council will closely follow the work on the TMDL. The information will also be useful for the Watershed Action Plan

Chlordane: This chemical is a residue of a banned termiticide. It can cause liver or nervous system problems and increase the risk of cancer. Johnson Creek contains an average of nearly four times the maximum standard level.

Temperature: In the summer, the seven-day average temperature exceeds the standard of 64°F.

Dieldrin: This, toxin found in banned insecticides, can affect the nervous system, as well as the liver, the immune system, and the reproductive system in animals. In the 2002 listing, the concentration of Dieldrin in Johnson Creek is over 12 times the maximum standard.

Fecal Coliform: This is a bacteria found in human waste, and can increase the risk of water-related disease transmission. 61%-63% of the values recorded for Johnson Creek exceeded the maximum standard.



Derek Shugart tests Johnson Creek's water quality.

DDT: This is a toxin used in banned insecticides. As much as 10 times the maximum standard levels of DDT has been recorded in Johnson Creek.

Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB): This organic chemical can come from runoff from landfills and the discharge of waste chemicals. It can cause skin changes, thymus gland problems, immune deficiencies, reproductive or nervous system difficulties, and increased risk of cancer. Over 250 times the maximum standard of concentration has been recorded in Johnson Creek.

Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons: These are a group of airborne chemicals that are typically caused by vehicle exhaust. They can cause an increased risk of cancer. Johnson Creek has over 15 times the maximum standard of this pollutant.

Your Watershed Council in Action

Thank you Kim!

Watershed Council Committees in Action

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has three very active committees getting the work of the council done. Like the Council meetings, the committee meetings are open to the public. We need more hands to help make the work light! Please call for more information.

Outreach Committee: This committee involves the community in the work of the JCWC. It plans special events, like the Springwater Festival in the fall and the Watershed Wide Event in March. It also facilitates public input for other projects, such as the Comprehensive Watershed Action Plan. The Outreach Committee meets on the third Wednes-

day of each month from 4-6pm at the JCWC office (next meeting is on 2/12).

Restoration Committee: This committee plans restoration projects that restores fish and wildlife habitat in the watershed. The Restoration Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 5-7pm at the JCWC office.

Land Use Committee: This committee oversees the land use issues related to the creek. They monitor developing areas and support growth that will cause the least negative impact to the creek. The Land Use Committee meets the second Monday of each month from 6-7:30 at Gresham City Hall.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council bids a fond farewell to Kim Hatfield.

Kim served the Council as Coordinator for more than two years, overseeing many important steps in the organization's development, including non-profit status, board reformation, and policy development.

Kim was also responsible for getting funding for the Council's Watershed Action Plan and Strategic Planning.

Kim has taken a project management position at a local environmental consulting firm.

Best of luck to you, Kim, and thank you for your dedication and hard work! The Council will miss you.

Thank you, Derek!

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council owes a debt of gratitude to Derek Shugart, whose outstanding service as an AmeriCorps member in 2001-2002 helped create a model for the Council's continued work with the watershed community.

Derek worked with the residents of Pleasant Valley to increase community stewardship of the Kelley Creek subwatershed. Through a series of community meetings, Derek helped the community members create a vision of natural resources in Pleasant Valley, and a plan to realize that vision. Derek also facilitated community restoration projects to plant trees and remove trash at several highly visible locations. The watershed council continues to work with the residents of the valley to improve the Kelley Creek subwatershed.

Derek's work in Pleasant Valley has made a dramatic difference for the watershed and for the Watershed Council. Derek continues to work with the Watershed Council's Restoration Committee on restoration planning and working with private landowners. Thank you Derek!

Welcome New Staff and Volunteers!



AmeriCorps Member Jenna Ringelheim

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council welcomes AmeriCorps volunteer Jenna Ringelheim as the new community stewardship coordinator.

Jenna is working with some of the Council's partners on two restoration sites. Jenna is making a big difference in work at Gresham Woods and Tideman Johnson Park. Jenna graduated from Skidmore College in New York with a BA in Environmental Studies and Anthropology.



Assistant Becky Tate

Rebecca Tate has also recently joined the JCWC team as the Program and Administrative Assistant. Known affectionately as Becky, she has already contributed to dramatic improvements in office efficiency, while her creative input has helped reshape the upcoming events.

Becky graduated from Wake Forest University with a BA in Physics, and has worked at Alliance to Save Energy among other qualifications.

Volunteers Make it All Happen in Johnson Creek

Month after month, volunteers make the work of the Johnson Creek Watershed possible. From planting trees to reviewing land use applications, attending meetings to advising on restoration projects, volunteers are the heart of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Other people make financial contributions to the council, making it possible for us to continue organizing events and improving Johnson Creek. Thank you to all these important individuals!

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alecia Hansen | Dory Hellyer |
| Andrew and Rebecca Toland | Doug Long |
| Arshaun Momeni | Ed & Shirley Labinowicz |
| Arthur Ball | Edward & Stephanie Crowe |
| Ashleigh Martin | Eoin Bastable |
| Ben Stevenson | Ernie Francisco |
| Bill Cannon | Gary Klein |
| Bob Marshall | Gary Rydout |
| Bob Sharp | George Heath |
| Bob Williams | Gregg Frank |
| Brad Hanke | Hal Hingst |
| Brian Griffey | Harold Cade |
| Brian Loughran | Heather McHaig |
| Bruce Barnett | Heidi Abel |
| Bunny Hirtzel | Helen Cotton Leiser |
| Camron and Wanda Moore | Hog Truong |
| Casey Huckaby | Holly Carpenter |
| Chad Townsend | Jack Hallin |
| Charles Bird | Jack Perry |
| Chris Cullmer | Jake Hopkins |
| Chris Hood | Jake Traver |
| Chris McMillan | James Allison |
| Chris Sieler | James Chasteen |
| Christyl Lind | James Hansen |
| Chuck Bates | James Montgomery |
| Chuck Beasley | Jane Pellicciotto |
| Cynthia Schwenk | Janet Johnson |
| D. Schwenk | Jason Lind |
| Dan Rose | Jay Sugnet |
| Dan Schorbach | Jean Michel |
| Dana Gates | Jeff Cole |
| Daniel Callahan | Jeff Merrick |
| Daniela Brod | Jeff Miller |
| Daryl Houtman | Jeff Uebel |
| Dave Stratton | Jeff White |
| David Aschenbrenner | Jeffrey Gray |
| David Crouse | Jenna Ringelheim |
| David Hill | Jennifer Krahl |
| David Reid | Jessika Hylla |
| David Stark | Jill Betts |
| David Stevens | Jim Barrett |
| Dean Riechman | Joanne Davis |
| Deanna Baton | Joan Dritz |
| Debbie Zava | John Bliss |
| Deborah Hofmann | John Howard |
| Deborah LaSorella | John Jenkins |
| Dennis Bachman | John Nagy |
| Derek Shugart | Jon Bowers |
| Diana Cady | Jonathan Harker |
| Diane Harris | Julie DiLeone |

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| Julie Morris | Linda Hastrys |
| Julie Sabin | Linda Tran |
| June Oakley | Logan Lauvray |
| Karl Lee | Lynn Ketch |
| Kathleen Blake | Lynne Kennedy |
| Kathy Majidi | Maddison Bond |
| Kathy Pederson | Maggie Skenderian |
| Kathy Williams | Marcia & Gene Covey |
| Katie Matthews | Marilyn D'Avanzo |
| Katie-Jay Scott | Marilyn Pitts |
| Kazue Hata | Marske McEntyre |
| Ken Catchpole | Marty Johnson |
| Kendra Morgan | Mary Daniels |
| Kenneth Allen | Mary King |
| Keri Handaly | Meghan MacKenzie |
| Kevin Gifford | Merle Matson |
| Kim Hatfield | Michael Bertholf |
| Kris Luxton | Michael Dule |
| Kristin Lawrence | Michael Matulewicz |
| Kyle Carl | Michael Thompson |
| Larry Townley | Michele Spangle |
| Laura Gramann | Mike Andrews |
| Laura Porter | Mike Couch |
| Laura Steffen | Mike Gordon |
| Laurie Ernstrom | Mike Gundlach |
| Leslie Cossmell | Nick Temple |
| Libby Smith | Nicole Bowmer |

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|--------------------|---------------------|
| Nicole D'onofrio | Steve Bennett |
| Owen Kellis | Steve Cameron |
| Pam Meyer | Stuart Dritz |
| Patrick Pham | Susan Holtz |
| Paul Manda | Ted Gresh |
| Paul Middendorp | Teresa Schleinig |
| Randy Hite | Teresa Young |
| Randy Thames | Terry Sherwood |
| Ray Bryan | Thom Kirkpatrick |
| Rebecca Stavenjord | Thomas Baughette |
| Rich Cochran | Thomas Christian |
| Roberto Rodriguez | Thomas Mosier |
| Roger Woodell | Thomas Nockles |
| Ron Weiranga | Tina Wolf |
| Ross Baker | Tio Mathews |
| Ross Edginton | Tom Christ |
| Ross Jonak | Tom Petrie |
| Russ Plaeger | Toni Turcol |
| Russ Withers | Truman Fergin |
| Samantha Cronin | Veronica Ehrlich |
| Sandra Shotwell | Vicki Mintkeski |
| Sarah Rosengrant | Vince Patton |
| Scott Moulton | Walker Leiser |
| Shannon Pumpelly | Walt Mintkeski |
| Shawn DeCarlo | Wayne Lei |
| Stephanie Nystrom | Weiss David & Debra |
| Stephanie Richly | Zac Perry |

Volunteer Reflects on Restoration Efforts

...continued from page 1
into piles over ten feet high.

It is not uncommon for urban areas to be found adjacent to rivers and creeks. Urban areas greatly affect the ecology of these water ways and their tributaries and are marked by some typical patterns. They tend to be greatly modified regions that nevertheless manage to support a diverse and complex community of species. They are regions that are constantly changing from a natural state to an urban state, and also from one urban state to another.

This results in a patchwork of different land use with many distinct edges and histories, as well as greater levels of pollutants, reduced fish populations, increased water temperatures, and large, non-native, invasive plant populations. These unique areas deserve special consideration for their maintenance.

The drive back through the Johnson Creek watershed to my neighborhood in inner southeast Portland reminds me vividly what these external influences look like. The main features of the landscape are pavement and cars. I drive past billboards, fast food restaurants, and gas stations. Ironically, this drive will finish much

like it began as I park in a residential neighborhood within walking distance of the Johnson Creek Springwater corridor.

A number of times I have made that short walk, from the dead end of a residential street, down a steep embankment, through masses of thick blackberry vines, with the occasional Bittersweet nightshade draping its red berries over the top. Below this dense thicket is the multi-use pathway carrying joggers, walkers, bikers, and dogs east and west through the corridor.

From here, the interior of Tideman Johnson Park can be easily surveyed. Douglas fir, Big leaf maple and Oregon ash dominate the canopy. Underneath are the signs of the same sort of engagement I had been involved in on that early January morning. There are young native shrubs and trees still with plastic or metal tubes around them and masses of blackberry and English ivy in small, contained clumps. In the future, another group of volunteers will set up their pastries, coffee, and tools and once again, beat them back. After that, they may monitor the progress of the recently planted natives endeavoring to gain a foothold in this urban ecosystem.

Calendar of Events

Restoration Committee

1st Tuesday, 5-7pm JCWC Office

Land Use Committee

2nd Monday, 6-7:30 pm Gresham City Hall

General Council

3rd Tuesday, 6 to 8:30 pm Reed College

Outreach Committee

3rd Wednesday, 4to 6 pm, JCWC Office

March

8 Watershed Wide Event, various locations,
9am-noon (see page 3)

April

12 Gresham Woods Nature Walk, 10am
26 Gresham Woods Nature Walk, 10am

May

10 Gresham Woods Open House, 11am

Volunteer Opportunities

Committee positions are now available. Help improve conditions in Johnson Creek and learn valuable skills:

Restoration: Work with others to identify, plan, and implement projects to improve Johnson Creek.

Outreach: Plan fun events and education programs to increase public awareness of watershed issues and JCWC.

Land Use/Advocacy: Review land use permit applications, and participate in planning efforts to secure long-term success of restoration and education efforts.

Call for other office and field opportunities!

Call (503)239-3932 or e-mail info@jcw.org



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