



Clearing the Way for Badger Creek Fish

- Katie Songer, Restoration Project Manager

JCWC has just reached an exciting milestone: we've removed our first-passage barrier! Barriers such as culverts and dams block the movement of salmon, trout, lamprey, and other wildlife, and are one of the main challenges threatening stream species in the Pacific Northwest. We plan to remove many more barriers in the coming decade.



The project was located where Badger Creek passes under the Springwater Trail. The barrier "culvert" under the Trail—actually a set of three rusty and clogged culverts—was replaced with a single, large culvert that should not clog easily. Now fish and wildlife can move freely up and downstream at the site, and can access the 1.6 miles of upstream Badger Creek habitat.

This project has been years in the making. After assessing 273 possible fish-passage barriers across the watershed, this culvert emerged as the top priority. Construction occurred in September: First, the Springwater Trail section was temporarily removed and the stream diverted through pipes, a process made challenging by a nearby beaver dam that raised the water level. Then the old, rusty culverts were removed—falling apart as the excavator lifted them out of the ground!—and the new pipe was put in. Finally, the new culvert was partly filled with a special gravel-cobble mix that mimics the natural stream bottom. This winter, we'll revegetate the site with native plants.

Our community science volunteers have documented spawning coho just downstream from Badger Creek. We also found (and salvaged) two exciting critters during construction: an adult Pacific lamprey and an adult giant Pacific salamander. These findings highlight the diverse web of life that lives in Badger Creek and Johnson Creek. We're excited to replace this culvert so that they can move and thrive!

A photo essay of the replacement process is featured on pages 4-5 of this newsletter. Learn more at: jcwc.org/fish-passage.

JCWC Joins The 2016 Give!Guide

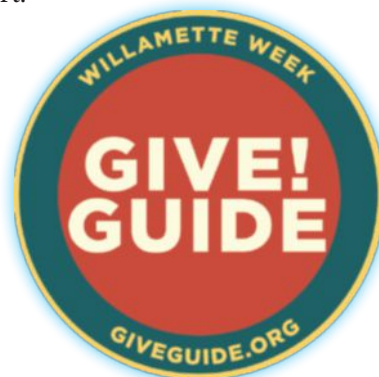
For the first time, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council is among the 140 metro-area non-profits featured in Willamette Week's Give!Guide. Every November and December, Willamette Week promotes charitable giving to its reader base through the special website giveguide.org.

Last year, 11,059 donors gave \$3.5 million to area non-profits. Many local businesses participate by donating prizes throughout November and December. To be eligible for one of these prizes—including Blazers, Timbers, and Thorns tickets—all it takes is a donation of \$10 or more on special give days.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council is especially grateful to MODA Health and Hopworks Urban Brewery for our Give!Guide campaign. MODA will match the first \$2,500 of donations given through the Give!Guide website, and Hopworks will give a \$6 coupon for a beer to the first 30 online donors.

The donations we receive during November and December are indispensable to our ability to complete our work each year. In addition to donating through Give!Guide, you can still donate through our website or by mailing us a check.

Thank you so much for your support.



Finding Solutions For Our Watershed

- Daniel Newberry, Executive Director

In the past eight months, you have probably read more than one article in local newspapers or seen TV coverage of air and water pollution issues in southeast Portland. For our watershed, a lot of ink has been focused on studies detailing toxic releases into the air and water by Precision Castparts Corporation, our watershed's largest business. I have had the opportunity recently to work with neighborhood groups, Portland and state agencies, and representatives from Precision Castparts to facilitate public meetings to allow local residents to share their concerns and work towards solutions.

This past spring and summer, Precision Castparts installed several high-efficiency particulate arrestance (HEPA) filters to treat air emissions. Another new system intercepts stormwater from the city storm drain and removes the suspended solids that are likely responsible for toxic emissions. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has just begun monitoring these new systems and is planning on a full year of testing to evaluate the effectiveness of these new pollution-control systems. Stay tuned.

The Governor's office periodically creates a task force to deal with issues that are beyond the scope of a single agency and require many stakeholders to address. The most recent of these "Oregon Solutions" projects was created to address flooding, economics, and industrial employment in an area centered on the Lents neighborhood. This area is the most ethnically diverse and economically disadvantaged in our watershed. These residents also pay the highest flood-insurance premiums.

Over the next two years, we hope to develop a plan to reduce flooding through creating new floodplain storage, help industrial landowners develop their land to provide family-wage jobs, and provide relief from insurance premiums. It's quite a task, but we're all excited about finding solutions.

Happy Holidays!

NEW GRANTS

Metro (Nature in Neighborhoods)

"Riparian Shading for the Johnson Creek Watershed" provides match funding for the Council's Riparian Restoration Program. As part of our commitment to equity in our watershed, we will be training crews and contracting with the African Youth and Community Organization (AYCO) and Wisdom of the Elders. (\$30,000)

Oregon Community Foundation – Mintkeski Family Fund

This generous donation from the Mintkeski Family specifically funds a significant piece of our volunteer stewardship program. (\$30,000)

City of Gresham

This general funding supports our volunteer stewardship and education/outreach work in Gresham. (\$5,000)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (Small Grant Program)

"Upper Watershed Plantings and Protection" will fund riparian planting and fence construction to prevent livestock from accessing Sunshine Creek. (\$10,000)

On the Cutting Edge of Science: Powell Butte Eco-Blitz 2016 - Emily Lytle – PP&R and Janel Hull - JCWC

At 7 am on Saturday, May 21st, a group of avid birders huddled under the cover of the Powell Butte Nature Center building roof. As the small crowd of birders draped their binoculars over their shoulders and slipped on another warm layer, the crowd suddenly fell still. An electric-blue barn swallow swooped just inches over the heads of the crowd and landed near its mud nest, which hung from the roof's edge. The crowd fluttered with excitement. This magical wildlife sighting of the day foreshadowed many more discoveries to come, and marked the beginning of the first-ever Powell Butte Eco-Blitz.



Raccoon tracks. Photo by Melanie Moon.

The Powell Butte Eco-Blitz was part of a region-wide, ongoing Eco-Blitz Series to find and collect data on the Portland-Vancouver metro area's wildlife. The Johnson Creek Watershed Council, in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation, the Intertwine Alliance, and the National Park Service, hosted the first ever Portland-based eco-blitz on Powell Butte. Scientists and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds worked together to compile a "snapshot" of eco-diversity in a one-day event. The event drew 30 wildlife expert crew leaders and



Satyr anglewing. Photo by Wayne Siebenaler.

130 volunteers. Volunteers ranged from local 6-year-olds to lifetime bird enthusiasts. These volunteers deepened their relationship with Powell Butte, a 611 acre Nature Park in southeast Portland.

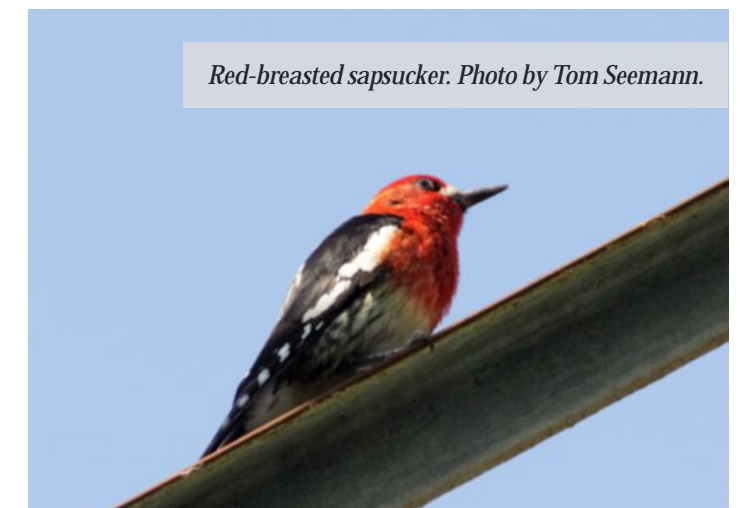
In this one-day event, volunteers and experts conducted surveys on 4 different types of wildlife: amphibians, birds, butterflies, and mammals. Amphibian surveyors sifted through ponds in search of salamanders and frogs. Bird surveyors walked to different survey points and listened for species of interest. Butterfly surveyors used nets to capture flying butterflies and searched under leaves for caterpillars. Mammal surveyors identified tracks left by traveling species. Throughout this process, groups found 5 species of amphibians, 69 species of birds, 3 species of butterflies, and 17 signs of mammals. What incredible diversity!



Wild ensatina. Photo provided by Portland Parks and Recreation.

In addition to documenting a great diversity of species, Eco-Blitz volunteers also made profound scientific discoveries. During the Eco-Blitz, 7 species that had never been documented there before were found on Powell Butte. These newly documented species include: merlin, gray flycatcher, Eurasian collared dove, white-crowned sparrow, rock dove, osprey, and yellow warbler. Thanks to volunteers, Powell Butte will now have a more comprehensive and scientifically rigorous bird species list.

Volunteers also made a ground-breaking discovery of a rare amphibian species. Prior to the Powell Butte Eco-Blitz, the Oregon slender salamander had never been documented in the city of Portland. Scientists believed this vulnerable amphibian to inhabit the Cascades and a few eastern buttes in the Willamette Valley. To our surprise, the Eco-Blitz revealed the presence of an Oregon slender salamander on Powell Butte. This discovery will change scientists' understanding of this species'



Red-breasted sapsucker. Photo by Tom Seemann.

range and preferred habitat. It will also allow the Parks Department to expand restoration of habitat for this valuable species.

The Powell Butte Eco-Blitz engaged hundreds of east Portland residents in gathering relevant scientific data. Not only did this community science event deepen residents' connection to Powell Butte, but it also gave organizations such as Portland Parks & Recreation and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council the scientific tools to do more-effective restoration in our natural areas. Keep your eyes peeled for future Johnson Creek Watershed Council community science events that will continue to expand our scientific understanding and connection to place.



BEFORE: Three small, clogged, rusty culverts.

The Council's new focus on improving fish passage is the next step in a multi-year process. Narrow culverts can hinder salmon and steelhead's long journey as they travel to their natal stream from the ocean. Once a salmon reaches fresh



Pacific lamprey salvaged during construction.

water, it stops eating, so any extra energy expended lowers the chances of reaching its intended spawning ground. Each time it has difficulty negotiating a culvert or other obstacle—whether or not it is successful—the effort is exhausting.

- Daniel Newberry



AFTER: A single, large culvert with natural substrate.



Springwater Trail detour around the site.



Excavation of the old culverts.



Arrival of the new culvert.



Attaching two pieces together.



Regrading the Springwater Trail.



The stream was temporarily diverted through pipes.



When removed, the old culverts broke in half!



Ten feet in diameter!



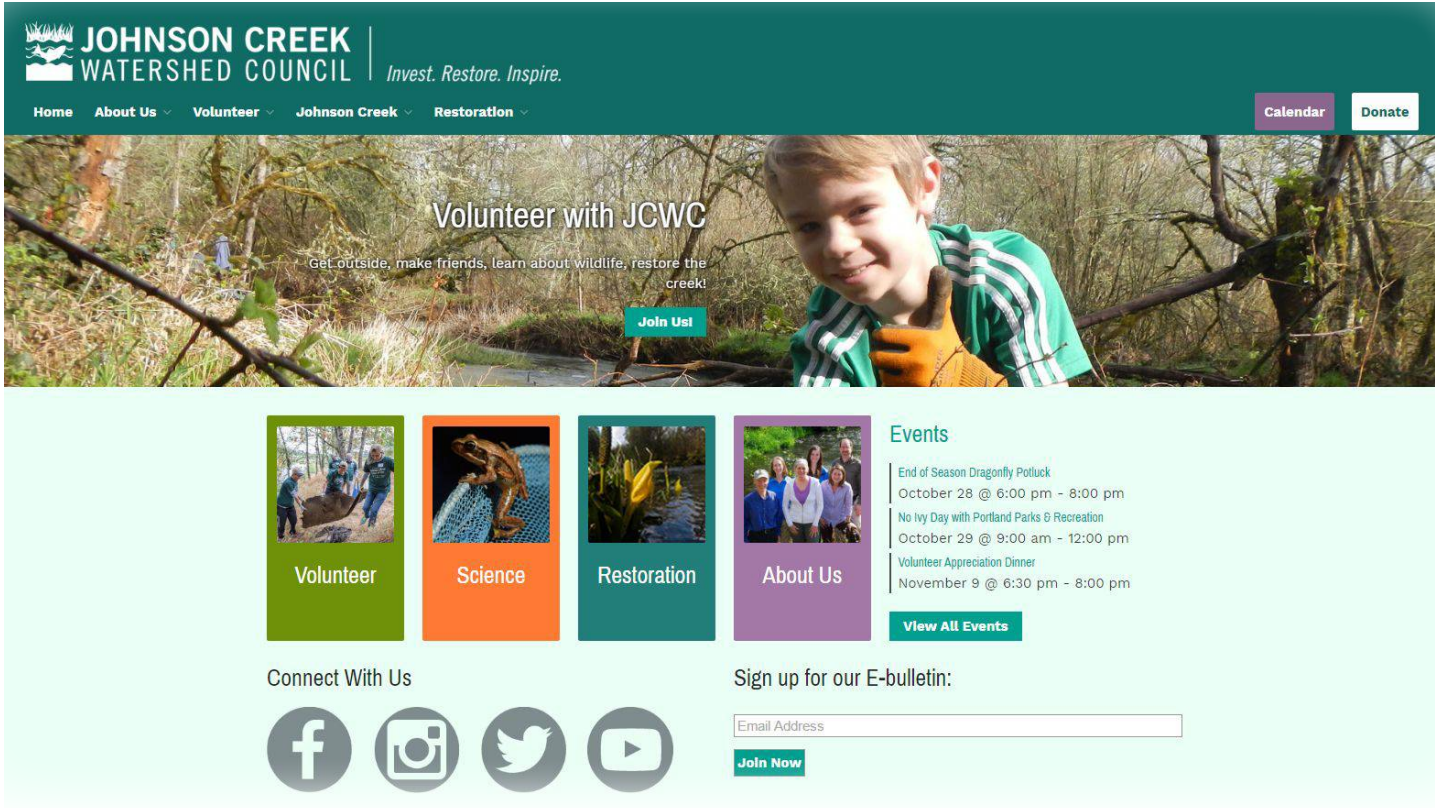
New culvert placement.

Check Out Our New Website!

- Katie Songer, Restoration Project Manager

For months, we’ve been overhauling *JCWC.org*—it was old and clunky and needed some love. This spring, we advertised for a Web Design Intern, and fortunately, Bart White heeded the call. Bart holds a degree in Web Development and Design from Portland Community College (check out his work at *bartonwhitedesign.com*). He met several times with Katie Songer, Danielle Miles, and Caz Zyvatkaukas, presenting ideas for improving the site’s look and user-friendliness. At long last, in late October, we switched to a brand new site.

Our new site is still at *JCWC.org*, but is much more dynamic and user-friendly. It’s faster, easy to access on a mobile device, and has more-relevant pages, up-to-date text, and brighter colors. We’re not stopping there—we have many more ideas for future improvements. So be sure to check it out, now and in the months to come!



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT WATERSHED WIDE EVENT - March 4, 2017!

Our annual Watershed Wide event is happening on Saturday, March 4th, 2017!

Ten work parties will run from 9 am to 12 pm, with a hearty soup lunch to follow in 2 locations: Gresham and Milwaukie.

Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you Moda!

We would like to express our gratitude to Moda for printing our newsletters.



Welcome Courtney!



We are happy to welcome Courtney Beckel on board as our new Volunteer Coordinator! Courtney began her work with the Council as a Fundraising and Outreach Committee member in 2014. In her current position, Courtney manages the volunteer program, communications, and events.

Courtney received her Natural Resources/Botany degree from Oregon State University. Before joining the Council, she worked for the ODA in the Native Plant Conservation Program, the NRCS with the Wetlands Reserve Program, and most recently worked as the Volunteer Coordinator at The Wetlands Conservancy. She is excited to continue her work connect-

ing people with plants, animals, and place. In her free time, you’ll find Courtney fermenting something in the kitchen, in a yoga class, or searching for birds, mushrooms, or bugs.

A New Role For Alexis

Alexis began as a communications and event support intern with JCWC in late 2015. She is currently serving as the Confluence AmeriCorps member for the Council. In this role, Alexis will plan and implement restoration projects, community science programs, volunteer events, and environmental education for watershed residents from under-served communities.

Alexis received her Environmental Studies degree from Portland State University. She has been a summer camp instructor for several years at Tryon Creek State Park in Portland and at Explorit Science Center. Alexis is passionate about environmental justice and fostering people’s connections to the natural world around them. She enjoys spending her free time with her pets, experimenting in the kitchen, reading, and trying out new crafts.



New Interns

Dianna Choi

Landscape Maintenance Intern



Dianna is transforming the native plant garden and riparian area at the JCWC office. She is excited to learn more about native and invasive plant species.



Mika Barrett

Community Outreach Intern

Mika is recruiting volunteers for our upcoming events and managing our database. She is excited to use her organizational skills to improve our systems.

Myranda Kali

Community Outreach Intern

Myranda is engaging volunteers in our events. She is looking forward to using her Environmental Studies degree to inspire volunteers to connect to place.



Juan Lacayo

Website Science Archivist Intern

Juan is working to launch the Science Hub on the JCWC website. He is developing skills in website design and archiving.



Kayla Tomlin

Community Science Data Intern

Kayla is processing and analyzing community science data from our beaver surveys. She is looking forward to creating GIS maps that display wildlife distribution.





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Milwaukie, OR 97222

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Calendar of Events

For more information, contact us at info@jcwc.org or call 503-652-7477 ext 101



JCWC Board Meeting

Nov. 15, 5:30 pm – 7 pm
JCWC Office: 1900 SE Milport Rd, Milwaukie



Planting at Errol Heights

Nov. 19, 8:45 am - 1 pm
Errol Heights Park: 4543 SE Harney Dr, Portl.

Plant native trees and shrubs with Friends of Trees and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.



Planting at Veterans Creek

Dec. 3, 8:45 am - 1 pm
Meet at: 9795 SE Mt Scott Blvd, Portland

Plant native trees and shrubs with Friends of Trees and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.



Planting & mulching at Kelley Butte

Dec. 10, 8:45 am - 1 pm
Meet at: 2850 SE 103rd Ave, Portland

Plant native trees and shrubs with Friends of Trees and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Xmas Giftwrap Fundraiser with the Clackamas Barnes & Noble

Dec. 23, 9:00 am - 6 pm
Clackamas Town Center, 12000 SE 82nd Ave,
Portland, OR 97086

Eight people are needed for 3-hour shifts wrapping gifts and talking up JCWC. Training provided. All funds raised will go towards building the volunteer program. Email courtney@jcwc.org to sign up!



Johnson Creek Crew Leader Training

Coming in January!
JCWC Office, 1900 SE Milport Rd, Milwaukie

Become a member of our Creek Crew and learn to lead restoration events with us! Commit to lead (or co-lead) 3 events during the year and come away with a deeper understanding of restoration along Johnson Creek, and experience managing a team. Email courtney@jcwc.org to sign up!



Johnson Creek
Watershed Council

1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B
Milwaukie, OR 97222
503-652-7477



[JohnsonCreekWC](https://www.facebook.com/JohnsonCreekWC)



Alexis Barton
AmeriCorps Outreach & Riparian Specialist

Courtney Beckel
Volunteer Coordinator

Cathy Geiger
Operations & Finance Coordinator

Janel Hull
Community Outreach Coordinator

Noah Jenkins
Riparian Program Manager

Daniel Newberry
Executive Director

Katie Songer
Restoration Project Manager