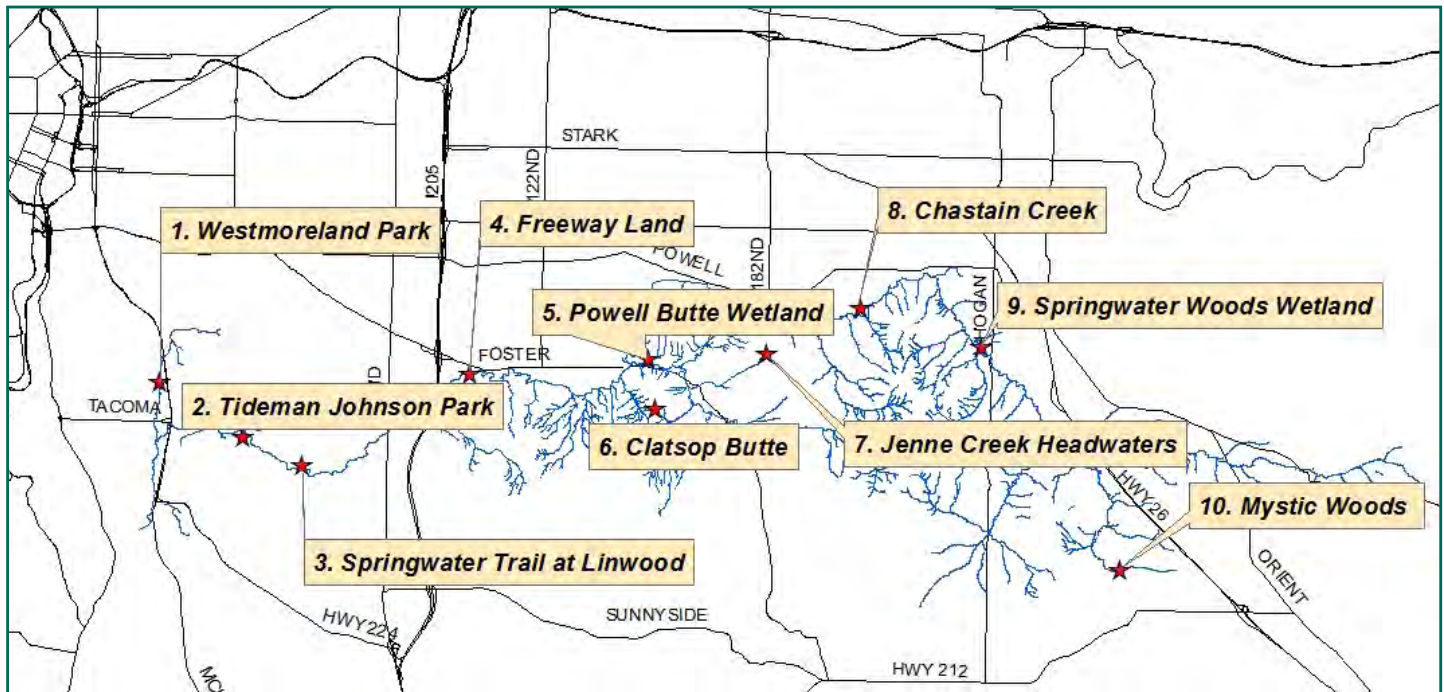




Mark Your Calendars - Watershed Wide 2016

- Danielle Miles, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator



As the days begin to get longer again, the Oregon grapes and Indian plums begin to break their buds—reminding us that spring is coming, and with it, our annual Watershed Wide event. If you haven't participated in this surge of volunteerism that spans the length of the Johnson Creek Watershed, you'll want to mark your calendars. On March 5th, 400 volunteers are needed to tackle ten sites across the entire watershed—all in one day. We will remove invasive plant species, plant thousands of bare-root plants and live stake cuttings, and mulch young seedlings. After a morning of good hard work, we will feast together on hot pizza—compliments of the watershed council and our partners. There is nothing like biting into a slice of piping hot pizza after working outside, surrounded by the cheerful hum of friends and neighbors.

Watershed Wide is truly an event too big for one organization alone to tackle. Our partners at Portland Parks and Recreation, the City of Gresham, Crystal Springs Partnership, Friends of Trees, and Friends of Tideman Johnson all help us pull off this day of community service; sponsors like Clackamas Water Environment Services help us cover some of the costs; and hundreds of volunteers help us get plants in the ground.

Registration opens on February 1st, 2016. To sign up, visit the "Events Calendar" on our website (www.jcwc.org) and click on the Watershed Wide Event on March 5th. Here is our lineup for 2016:

Inner Southeast Portland/Milwaukie:

Westmoreland Park a Tideman Johnson Natural Area a Springwater Trail between Linwood and Bell Ave

Outer Southeast Portland:

Freeway Lands II a Powell Butte Nature Park a Clatsop Butte a Chastain Creek

Gresham/Boring:

Jenne Creek Headwaters a Springwater Woods a Mystic Woods (Boring)

Winter Fundraising Drive Surpasses Goal!

- Daniel Newberry, Executive Director

We received 141 donations during our winter fundraising appeal. Thank you to all the generous donors, some of who gave twice! We raised \$23,121, including the \$10,000 in challenge match funds from the Mintkeski Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, and Freeway Lands II. This exceeds the amount we raised last year by \$1,223. We are blessed to have so many supporters.

Freeing The North Fork

- Daniel Newberry, Executive Director

Upstream of Gresham in our watershed are dozens of culverts that are barriers to fish passage. There are several tributaries in the upper watershed with cool water



Photo: wdfw.wa.gov

where the fish can live in summer. Unfortunately, culverts block many fish from accessing this habitat. As we saw last summer, the stream temperature in much of Johnson Creek is too hot for salmon and other fish. A 2011 fish census taken by Multnomah County found juvenile salmon and trout in headwater streams, so we know the conditions exist for

increasing our salmon and trout populations. We just need to provide access to the cooler headwater streams.

In the past six months we've been developing a partnership with four agencies to provide fish passage for the entire North Fork Johnson Creek. This small sub-watershed is in Multnomah County just north of the Clackamas County line. Our new partnership is planning on removing, replacing or repairing seven culverts in the next two summers that are partial or complete fish passage barriers to two miles of habitat.

This summer, the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District will be removing three culverts on its Headwaters Farm on Orient Drive. The Council has received funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation to repair the culvert under Highway 26. Last month we received a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation for the engineering design to replace the culvert under the Springwater Trail on the North Fork. This culvert is managed by Portland Parks & Recreation and is the first culvert that fish encounter on their journey up the North Fork. In 2017, Multnomah County is planning to replace one culvert and retrofit another. Over the next year, we'll all be securing the remaining funding to complete these projects.

The Council and our four partner agencies are focusing on addressing fish passage over an entire tributary. This is a true watershed approach to restoration.

New Grants

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District

"CreekCare" program promotes riparian revegetation efforts in the Clackamas County portion of the upper Johnson Creek watershed by engaging private landowners to undertake restoration on their own property. (\$10,000)

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

"North Fork Johnson Creek Open Migration" – This grant is for engineering design of a culvert replacement that is part of a larger, multi-partner project that will significantly improve fish passage by replacing or retrofitting seven fish passage barriers on North Fork Johnson Creek. (\$29,392)

The Nature Conservancy

"Badger Creek Culvert Fish Passage Restoration" – Restores access for salmon to 1.6 miles of lower Badger Creek. This barrier is ranked within the top ten for restoration out of 275 barriers in the watershed. (\$25,000)

City of Portland

Bureau of Environmental Services

"Citizen Science" program – Expanding the scope of our aquatic monitoring programs in which citizen scientists and volunteers collect data that will inform future watershed management restoration efforts. (\$5,000)

Spirit Mountain Community Fund

Supports the lamprey & steelhead surveys in our Citizen Science program. We will be working with both Wisdom of the Elders and the Indigenous Nations Studies program at Portland State University. (\$10,000)

Free Geek

Awarded a Dell Precision server to replace our old and lower-capacity server.



Creekside Hero IV: Gary and Sherry Klein - Janel Hull, Riparian & Outreach Specialist/AmeriCorps



"[Johnson Creek] was a place of change, but not always for the good. In the last 20 years, it is getting a new life and it is nice to be a part of the creek's transformation." —Gary and Sherry Klein, Johnson Creek Heroes.

Photo: brucemacgregorphotography.com

Gary Klein has seen Johnson Creek change rapidly since he grew up by the creek in the 1940s. He and his wife, Sherry, are committed to transforming Johnson Creek into a healthy creek for the next generation. They have donated creekside property to the city of Milwaukie, hosted volunteer events on their property, and managed the Council's tool room.

What do you value about living in the Johnson Creek Watershed?

To me, the creek has been my home ground as I was growing up in the late 40s, 50s & 60s. Then in the 70s, 80s, & early 90s it was a place of change, but not always for the good.

In the last 20 years, it has been revived and it is nice to be a part of the creek's transformation. Sherry and I feel lucky to live next to Johnson Creek and for it to be

a part of our lives. We love, nurture, and enjoy the creek and its surroundings.

What role do you think homeowners should have in Johnson Creek management?

I think homeowners need to be as active as we can to make sure the work being done, and the decisions being made for the creek, will ensure the creek's health.

What is the best ideal future for your Johnson Creek and how do you hope to be a part of it as a creekside homeowner?

We want the creek to continue to get the good attention it is getting now. We need to educate our youth and others to appreciate it. We will continue helping out as we can in the future.

What are some of the challenges you have faced as a creekside homeowner?

Nature does what it wants with little regards with what we do. But, with resolve and care, we can work with the creek.

Tell us about your relationship to the Council.

I enjoy working with the Council and helping in a small way with work parties, managing the tools and gloves, and more.

With support from photographer Bruce MacGregor, Within Your Reach continues "Creek Heroes" – a storytelling portrait series that focuses on homeowners with creekside property.

Restoring Community Green Spaces On MLK Day

- Danielle Miles and Janel Hull



Meredith Stewart, Susan Hawes, and Yesenia Cardenas planting a native snowberry together at Errol Heights.

To honor Martin Luther King, Jr. for his commitment to community service and health, Johnson Creek Watershed Council and our partners hosted three MLK Day events in public green spaces. Countless studies suggest that public green spaces promote community health and well-being. On MLK Day, volunteers worked to restore these areas not only for their ecological value, but also for their value to our community.

On Saturday, January 16th, volunteers worked together to plant 345 native trees and shrubs at Errol Heights. On Monday, January 18th, nearly 150 volunteers removed invasive species and planted native wetland plants at Westmoreland Park. Another 45 volunteers served at Butler Creek Park in Gresham, removing ivy and blackberry and planting dozens of native trees and shrubs.

Thank you to our volunteers for dedicating your time to serve our community. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve." We appreciate your service.

A special thank you to our partners for making these events possible: Friends of Errol Heights, Portland Parks and Recreation, The Nature Conservancy, Hands on Greater Portland, City of Gresham, Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, and The Crystal Springs Partnership.

Thank you to Portland Waldorf School for bringing nearly 120 students to Westmoreland Park!

Johnson Creek Rising - The

- Katie Songer, Restoration Project Manager

The floods of December 2015 are helping us understand what's working and what still needs to be done to mitigate the effects of future flooding in Johnson Creek. Here are some common flood questions and their answers.

Why does Johnson Creek flood so much? (Or, "Why is the creek in a floodplain?")

Most rivers and streams have floodplains. These are areas along the banks that flood during high flows, and are important parts of stream ecosystems. Typically flat and often composed of wetlands, floodplains are rich in biodiversity, providing valuable, often-overlooked habitat for fish, amphibians, invertebrates, birds, and other wildlife. In other words, a floodplain is a natural part of a healthy Pacific Northwest stream.

Unfortunately, humans often build structures, roads, and farms in floodplains, which are conveniently flat, close to water, and often have rich, silty soil. This means that in urbanized or settled areas, flood impacts to humans can be severe and costly. Johnson Creek is no exception.

Johnson Creek's frequent flooding stems especially from its legacy of misguided engineering. In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) walled 15 miles of streambank in an effort to stabilize the creek and reduce flooding. Although bank stabilization can in some cases mitigate flooding, it can also send a lot of water shooting downstream. Smooth, flat, and straight channels like those in Johnson Creek allow for faster streamflow velocities. This tends to concentrate flows, actually producing higher downstream peaks instead of spreading out the



Foster Floodplain Natural Area, where Johnson Creek has been reconnected to its natural floodplain.

December 2015 Floods



Aerial photos from December 2015 show the extent of the floods.

same volume of water over a longer period of time. And higher peaks can mean more flooding.

What's being done to reduce the Johnson Creek flooding?

We've come a long way since the WPA. Agencies like City of Portland and Metro now try to work with Johnson Creek rather than against it. Instead of attempting to install rigid infrastructure and prevent floods altogether, the strategy is to restore Johnson Creek's natural floodplain in key places that will not harm people or property.

In projects such as Foster Floodplain, Luther Road, and Tideman Johnson, these agencies purchase property, remove structures and impermeable surfaces (including the WPA walls), and plant native species. This method reconnects the creek with its floodplain in the restored areas. It gives the creek room to flood in heavy rain, slowing the water movement so that downstream flood levels are reduced. And it enriches biodiversity.

Is it working?

Floods such as the one in December 2015 are an opportunity to answer this question. Scientists are analyzing this flood and comparing it to past ones, which is a tricky process.

Within Johnson Creek, the water level was quite high during the December floods—at one USGS gaging station,

the creek reached the highest depth ever measured in the 75 years since data collection began! The flood itself, however, did not reach its greatest-ever extent. North of Foster and west of 110th Ave., for instance, aerial photos from the flood of November 1996 and the flood of December 2015 show that the flooding covered a greater area in 1996. This may be evidence that mitigation projects such as Foster Floodplain are indeed working.

Perfect comparison between the two storms is confounded, though, by the fact that the 1996 and 2015 storm events weren't identical. No two storms are exactly alike. In November 1996, 4.36 inches of rain fell over 33 hours; in December 2015, 3.22 inches of rain fell over 24 hours. This means that the total volume of precipitation was larger in 1996, making comparison more difficult.

Despite such challenges, we can say with reasonable confidence, based on the data, that the restoration projects' upstream water storage did help reduce the flood levels in 2015. And it is hopeful that, where once our predecessors channeled and walled Johnson Creek, we are now restoring its natural floodplain where possible. As December reminded us, restoring Johnson Creek is not only good for wildlife, but is essential for people and property as well.

Thanks to Adam Stonewall, United States Geological Survey, and Jen Antak, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, for their input on this article.

Photo credits: Adam Simmons (www.twelvizm.com).

Join The Community Science Movement! Stand Up & Count! (Our Region's Species)

- By Emily Lytle, Portland Parks & Recreation, Con uence
AmeriCorps service member



Red Legged Frog. Photo: Carol Zyvatkauskas, 2014

The Powell Butte Eco-Blitz is part of a region wide, on-going Eco-Blitz Series to find and collect data about wildlife in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. Portland Parks and Rec, in partnership with Johnson Creek Watershed Council and the National Park Service, is hosting a Portland area Eco-Blitz on Powell Butte on Saturday, May 21st. Scientists and volunteers of all ages and backgrounds work together to compile a "snapshot" of ecodiversity in a one day event.

In this Eco-Blitz event, we will be conducting 3 different species surveys: Amphibians, Butterflies and Birds. Volunteers choose a time slot where they will go out in a group with an expert to conduct a survey to monitor their designated species.

No experience is necessary and instruction will be facilitated day of event. This event is free and open to all ages. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your survey timeslot.

Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Powell Butte Nature Park - 16160 SE Powell Blvd. Portland

Have questions about Powell Butte EcoBlitz?
Contact Emily Lytle, Portland Parks & Recreation, at
emily.lytle@portlandoregon.gov or call 971-352-2044.

Thank you Moda!

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



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Recap - Danielle Miles, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



Carol Zyvatkauskas and Brian Art receiving their awards at the 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

On December 3rd, 2015, many of our dedicated volunteers gathered at Gresham's Cedarville Lodge to celebrate another amazing year of volunteer service. We were welcomed with the music of Noah Jenkins' string quartet Con Cibo (Italian for "With Food") as we filled our plates with delicious potluck dishes.

Our Restoration Project Manager Katie Songer gave a fascinating presentation on our five-year citizen scientist-led salmon surveys of Johnson Creek. Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator Danielle Miles recognized volunteers and presented Excellence in Restoration pins to volunteers who devoted over 20 hours of their time in 2015 to the Council, including Norbert and Lisa Loske, Mary Ann Schmidt, and Russ Stoll. Other volunteers who earned this achievement but were not present included Garth Massey, Michael Babbitt, Carl Richter, Alan Lumpkin, Gary Klein, and Paul Rayburn. Two volunteers were recognized for contributing over 100 hours of their time to the Council: Brian Art and Carol Zyvatkauskas.

New in 2016

As we begin a new year, it is a good time to set goals for volunteering in 2016. Here at JCWC, we have plenty of projects that are just waiting for motivated volunteers. This year, we are beginning a Garlic Mustard Task Force—a group of volunteers who will help us reduce our herbicide use by hand-pulling this problematic biennial weed.

We are so grateful to our volunteers for another great year of hard work, and we look forward to many more adventures in 2016!

Internship Update

At JCWC we have a lively internship program. Last year we had 15 interns complete 60 hours each—that's 900 hours total, covering areas like outreach, communications, land use advocacy, event planning and social marketing. Since we have a very small staff, we count on having interns to help us get things accomplished. In return for those hours, our interns gain hands-on experience of how a small nonprofit runs. They gain valuable job experience and networking connections and leave knowing they have helped us with our mission of promoting restoration and stewardship of a healthy Johnson Creek Watershed!

Just completed 60 hour internship:

Erin Andrada – a junior at PSU (and mother of two) who is working on her BS in Community Development.

Dani Hart – a full time hairdresser whose real passion is all things related to Mother Nature (she continues to help out at the office when she can).

Currently working towards 60 hours:

Mike Artes – supports conservation in all its forms, especially protecting urban waterways; currently applying to grad school.

Alexis Barton – at PSU working on her BS in Environmental Studies.

Sam Cohen – recently graduated from high school in New York but is in Portland as part of a Jewish gap year program called Tivnu.

Emma Eichhorn – at PSU working on a BS in Biology. Emma is our Science Symposium Coordinator and is doing a special (and demanding!) 120-hour internship. Go Emma!

Christopher Priano – at PSU working on an Environmental Engineering degree.

Jack Sutherland – studied Environmental Studies and Geography at PSU.

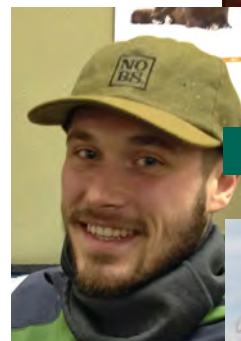
Yael Warshai – at PSU working on a graduate degree in Leadership for Sustainability Education.



Alexis Barton



Emma Eichhorn



Jack Sutherland



Yael Warshai

Are you familiar with WordPress, html, and CSS? Also have some experience in graphic design? Then we need you for our Website and IT Support Intern.

The jwc.org website is one of the faces of our organization, but it badly needs improvement. We are aiming for various changes that will result in a beautiful, modern, dynamic website; we seek a skilled Website and IT Support Intern who can help make these changes happen.

For more information about this and other upcoming internships, check our website at jwc.org/volunteer page. You'll find the full description and a link to the volunteer application.

Become A Friend Of Johnson Creek Today!

Tell us about you:

Name* _____
Phone _____
Email _____

- ☐ My employer will match my gift.
☐ I have included JCWC in my estate planning.
☐ I am enclosing an additional gift for the Johnson Creek Endowment.

Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution
☐ \$35 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500
☐ \$1000 ☐ \$ _____
☐ Monthly recurring donation \$ _____

Payment Methods:

- ☐ My check is enclosed
☐ Charge my credit card
Card # _____
Expiration date _____
3-digit CWS code _____
Billing zip code _____

Please sign me up to receive your:

- ☐ monthly e-Bulletin ☐ quarterly newsletter

Please remit payment to: Johnson Creek Watershed Council
1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B, Milwaukie, OR 97222
503-652-7477 www.jwc.org



1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B
Milwaukie, OR 97222

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Calendar of Events

For more info, email or RSVP to Danielle at danielle@jcw.org or call 503-652-7477

Watershed Wide Event @ multiple locations

Saturday, March 5th, 9 am – 12 pm
Pizza party to follow (2 locations)

Volunteer Restoration Event - Eastside Plating

Saturday, March 19th, 9 am – 12 pm
8400 SE 26th Place, Portland

Tree Care with Friends of Trees - Powell Butte

Saturday, April 9th, 9 am – 1 pm
Springwater Trail at SE 145th Ave, Portland

SOLVE IT Earth Day Event - Milwaukie

Saturday, April 23rd, 9 am – 12 pm
Milwaukie Riverfront Park

Tree Care with Friends of Trees - Clatsop Butte

Saturday, May 14th, 9 am – 1 pm
6430 SE 152nd Ave, Portland

Eco Blitz @ Powell Butte

Saturday, May 21st, 7 am – 6 pm

Annual Meeting & Science Symposium

Thursday, May 26th



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



JohnsonCreekWC

Cathy Geiger

Operations & Finance Coordinator

Janel Hull

AmeriCorps Outreach & Riparian Technician

Noah Jenkins

Riparian Program Manager

Danielle Miles

Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Daniel Newberry

Executive Director

Katie Songer

Restoration Project Manager