

Johnson Creek Watershed Council 2013 Annual Report



Photo by Gary Wolff

3.5 tons of trash were pulled from the creek at the annual Johnson Creek Clean-Up.



Invest. Restore. Inspire.

Collaborative Projects

Effective, innovative partnerships are essential to achieving a healthier Johnson Creek Watershed and a motivated, engaged society. Every month, JCWC sponsors collaborative projects that are leading to ecological recovery and a more connected community. Our many partners include schools, neighborhood associations, charitable service groups, non-profits, businesses, government entities, and private individuals.

Church Rain Garden Reduces Flooding, Builds Community

In fall 2013, 50 volunteers from Saint Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Depave and Green Lents broke up and removed 2,400 square feet of asphalt from the Church's parking lot near SE 92nd and Flavel. A month later, we installed 500 plants including common rushes, Cascara, and Red-flowering Currant. The project was funded by the City of Portland's Community Watershed Stewardship Program with additional funds raised at a traditional Ethiopian dinner hosted by the project partners.

The rain garden has performed as designed, soaking up stormwater from the parking lot and preventing the church from flooding, formerly a perennial problem. It also reduces the amount of untreated run-off that enters nearby Johnson Creek.

180,000 Watershed Residents

A diversity of races lives in the Johnson Creek Watershed, including people who self-identify as Hispanic (13%), Asian (8%), African American (4%), and Native American (1%). The four most commonly spoken languages, other than English, are Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese. In schools located within the Johnson Creek Watershed, 69% of children qualify for the Federal Free Lunch program.

JCWC and TriMet Partner to Enhance Salmon Habitat at MAX Station

In the summer of 2013, 23 logs and 60 boulders were installed in Johnson Creek next to the Tacoma Street/Johnson Creek MAX station currently under construction. The logs and boulders provide cover, shelter, and habitat complexity for threatened salmonids like Coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead trout in Johnson Creek. In addition to main channel habitat improvements, 2,400 cubic yards were excavated in the south bank to create a side channel refuge for salmon during high winter stream flows.

This summer 2014, an interpretive boardwalk will be constructed at the station site, highlighting Johnson Creek's ecological recovery and its integral place in southeast Metropolitan Portland's history and development. This project has been possible thanks to individual contributions and grants.

2013 Highlights

- 250 people attended four Johnson Creek Science Talks at local pubs.
- 400 people volunteered at the 15th Annual Johnson Creek Watershed Wide Event.
- 68 golfers participated in the Golf Tournament.
- The Marty Urman Gallery was inaugurated to celebrate her seven years of work at the Council.



1,300 volunteers helped restore Johnson Creek in 2013.



NCCC AmeriCorps removed 3,300 lbs. of invasive weeds.



Planting day at the St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

The mission of the Johnson Creek Watershed Council is to promote restoration and stewardship of a healthy Johnson Creek Watershed through sound science and community engagement.

Thanks to our many supporters who embrace and support our mission and programs

January 1-December 31, 2013

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Endowment Circle

Marty Urman



Macroinvertebrate surveys have identified diverse, healthy refugia in tributary headwaters.

Watershed Science

Our Framework for Restoring Johnson Creek

Knowledge of current conditions and challenges to watershed health in Johnson Creek is guiding the development of a 2015-to-2025 Watershed Restoration Action Plan. Field work and analysis by citizen scientists, partners, and the Council in 2013 is now driving project prioritization for the next decade.

250 Culverts and Ponds Assessed for Fish Passage

Throughout the watershed, 380 publicly and privately-owned culverts and ponds were mapped with help from PCC and PSU student interns. With private landowner permission and on-the-ground help from two Saturday Academy Apprentices in Science and Engineering, Kingfisher Ecological Services, and PSU students, we surveyed 250 of these to determine if they were migration barriers to salmon and trout. We found that 70% are indeed fish passage barriers, nearly all on tributaries to Johnson Creek.

Now, we're prioritizing how to direct our limited restoration dollars to those barriers blocking the best or largest stretches of habitat using an innovative optimization model. JCWC plans to help replace two top-priority barriers in 2015, opening up valuable additional habitat for salmon and trout.

Six New Tributary Hydrographs

Understanding tributary streamflows is essential to prioritizing and planning restoration projects. In 2013, citizen scientists measured streamflow weekly at six new gaging stations at the mouths of Johnson Creek tributaries with training and coordination from the U.S. Geological Survey. One surprising finding was that Badger Creek contributes as much streamflow as does Kelley Creek.

78 Private Landowners Engaged in Streamside Reforestation

Summertime stream temperatures are often too warm for healthy salmon and trout in Johnson Creek and tributaries. The potential of streamside reforestation to reduce solar input to the streams was calculated in 2013 by Brittany Sahatjian, a PSU Masters student. Using LiDAR tree canopy maps and a Heat Source model, she found that within a 50-foot stream buffer on either side, a total of 545 acres lacked high quality forest cover in the Johnson Creek Watershed. However, by restoring only 38% of all 3,722 streamside taxlots or 55% of all restorable acres, new trees could shade out 90% of the solar radiation currently reaching the streams.

Seventy-eight private landowners are already working with the JCWC, Clackamas and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Districts to replant forests along the creek and tributaries.

More 2013 Highlights

- 50 volunteer coho spawning surveyors were trained by ODFW and JCWC.
- The Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee coordinated stream temperature, macroinvertebrate, and bacteria source tracking studies in 2013.



Together, we planted 26,000 native trees and shrubs.



Winter USGS streamflow measurement training.

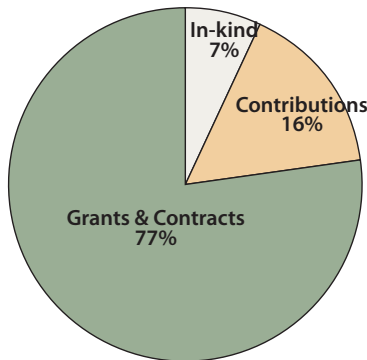


Five coho were found by volunteer surveyors in upper Johnson Creek.

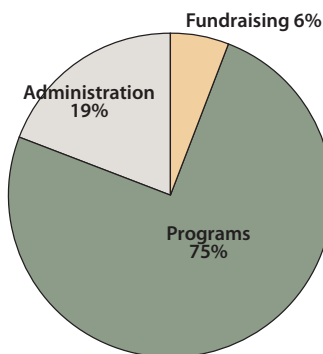
Financial Position

July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013

Revenues
\$486,285



Expenses
\$459,895



Statement of Financial Position

	2013	2012
Assets		
Cash	102,630	54,179
Prepaid expenses	2,975	2,503
Grants and contract receivable	48,729	49,934
Furniture and equipment	151	379
Total assets	\$154,485	\$106,995
Liabilities and net assets		
Accounts payable	7,863	5,161
Accrued payroll and related taxes	--	6,854
Accrued vacation	6,416	4,915
Deferred revenue	36,004	12,253
Total liabilities	\$50,283	\$29,183
Net asset		
Unrestricted	75,863	42,468
Temporarily restricted	17,639	25,644
Permanently restricted	10,700	9,700
Total net assets	\$ 104,202	\$ 77,812
Total liabilities and net assets	\$154,485	\$106,995

Statement of Activities

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total 2013	Total 2012
Revenues and other support					
Grants and contracts	321,987	54,462	--	376,449	498,362
Contributions	66,077	5,050	1,000	72,127	61,487
In-kind contributions	36,000	--	--	36,000	36,000
Interest income	--	--	--	--	11
Miscellaneous	1,709	--	--	1,709	150
	425,773	59,512	1,000	486,285	596,010
Net assets released from restriction	67,517	(67,517)	--	--	--
Total revenues/other support	\$493,290	\$ (8,005)	\$ 1,000	\$486,285	\$596,010
Expenses					
Program services					
Restoration/Riparian	198,170	--	--	198,170	345,509
Outreach	93,078	--	--	93,078	128,284
Monitoring	49,081	--	--	49,081	15,939
Total Program services	340,329	--	--	340,329	489,732
Supporting services					
Administration	89,410	--	--	89,410	93,334
Fundraising	30,156	--	--	30,156	8,987
Total expenses	\$459,895	--	--	\$459,895	\$592,053
Change in net assets	33,395	(8,005)	1,000	26,390	3,957
Net assets July 1, 2012	42,468	25,644	9,700	77,812	73,855
Net assets June 30, 2013	\$ 75,863	\$ 17,639	\$ 10,700	\$ 104,202	\$ 77,812



**Johnson Creek
Watershed Council**

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