



Melanie's Cleaning Up
by Bruce MacGregor

The Clean-Up: My Story

Melanie Klym

As long as there's a need to clean up Johnson Creek, I will commit to leading the in-water work. My first cleanup was at 92nd & Flavel through SOLVE for my AmeriCorps service project in 2009 and it's expanded to cover the lower six miles of the creek (from the confluence at the Willamette all the way to I-205) and further-upstream teams at Cedar Crossing and in Gresham.

As we covered more miles in the creek we discovered 'legacy trash' that had been present for decades. Our cleanup focuses on the removal of trash that is potentially harmful to wildlife and water quality, metals especially chrome-plated, tires, plastics, treated lumber, batteries, and anything small enough to be ingested by wildlife. We do not remove anything big enough that the removal will create more harm than benefit, like shopping carts and tires totally embedded in the creek bank or bottom with plants growing through them.

In general we only pick up trash that is within the water or can be reached while standing in the creek and we take care not to pick up items that may be personal belongings. We did a modified cleanup with social distancing and extra safety protocols in 2020 and removed over two tons of trash!

Aside from making a direct, visible improvement to water quality and watershed health the cleanup is one of the few opportunities people have to directly connect with the creek. Walking through the creek is a very different experience than working on the banks. My very favorite part of the cleanup is what I call the

—(Continued on page 3)

Year	Volunteers	Tons of Trash
2007	30	1
2008	30	1.2
2009	50	3
2010	150	5
2011	178	8
2012	130	6.5
2013	140	4
2014	135	4
2015	160	3.5
2016	121	5.1
2017	238	5.3
2018	249	5.3
2019	220	4.5
2020	77	2.2
Total	1908	58.6

Thank You, Watershed Wide Volunteers 2021

Courtney Beckel, JCWC Volunteer
Program Manager

Well, COVID sure made things different this year! Masks, distancing, on-line registration, smaller group sizes, and grab and go burritos made the 23rd annual Watershed Wide Event memorable.

Here are the outcomes of this annual March event:

158 volunteers gathered in 11 locations

Planted about 4500 trees and shrubs

Mulched about 1000 plants

Removed 1 acre of invasive species

Hosted one bilingual
Spanish/English site in Gresham

—(Continued on page 6)



A plant baby is about to go in
the ground at Centennial Pond.
Photo: Melanie Klym.

Responding To Climate Change

Daniel Newberry, JCWC Executive Director

The recent mega-drought and mega-heat waves throughout the western United States bring climate change into unmistakable focus and our unavoidable duty to reverse it.

What does this mean for Johnson Creek and our restoration efforts? The Council has a strategy. First, we are focusing on streams where the water is naturally colder—relatively speaking. Many of these stream reaches have been blocked by culverts and dams. We're focusing our fish passage program on opening up habitat across entire cold water tributaries as a thermal refuge for fish. Replacing, removing and retrofitting culverts is key to this strategy.

This summer we're excited to announce that we're retrofitting the final culvert of seven on North Fork Johnson Creek that we and our partners first targeted back in 2015. We'll be adding baffles to the culvert under SE 267th Avenue. This is the fourth culvert we've replaced or retrofitted on the North Fork. The other three were addressed by East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District at their Headwaters Farm.

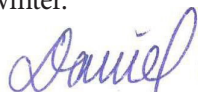
The good news is that we've recently documented steelhead/rainbow trout above the first few culverts on North Fork. In late April, the Council conducted our third round of environmental DNA (eDNA) tests on North Fork and at the locations of our other fish passage projects completed since 2016. Our earlier testing did not find evidence of rainbow/steelhead trout!

We also documented coho and Pacific lamprey DNA above the dam on Kelley Creek we removed last summer. The Kelley-Mitchell stream system is another cold water focus area where three barriers were removed in 2019 and 2020, and we will be removing a fourth this year. That will leave just two more barriers in this system to address over the next few years.

Some barriers back up water, creating "in-line" ponds. The greater surface area and shallow depth in these ponds allow more direct sunlight to reach the stream, raising the temperature even more. Several of the fish passage barriers we've removed were former inline ponds.

We plant 20,000-25,000 native trees and shrubs each year, mostly along stream-banks, to create more shade. In 2012 we ran a computer model to determine the locations for planting that would maximize the shade and resulting heat reduction. We have focused our planting effort on those areas ever since.

Together these approaches comprise our efforts to mitigate climate change on Johnson Creek. We monitor temperature at several project locations to assess the effectiveness of our restoration. We hope to have more results to share this fall and winter.



Daniel Newberry, Executive Director

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Welcome Jacob



Jacob Neal joined the Johnson Creek Watershed Council Board in January, 2021. He works in the Environmental Department at Portland General Electric and is in his 20th year working as an environmental scientist and project manager in the Pacific Northwest.

He is a lifelong fisherman and enjoys all things active and outdoors. Jacob is an avid supporter of watershed health and maintaining urban greenways; recognizing the importance of access to healthy natural surroundings for every person.

Welcome, Jacob!

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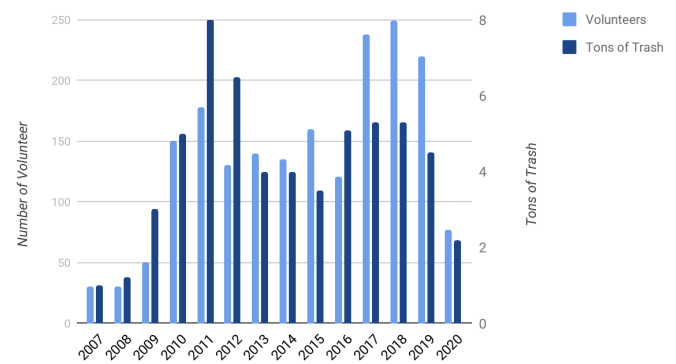
—(Continued from page 1)

“duckling moment” where the volunteers are standing on the banks and looking dubious about getting in the water and then when the captain and a couple of team members go in the rest follow and all is well. I look forward to my pre-cleanup walkthroughs with the team captain as my chance to get my feet wet and check out how conditions have changed over the years.

In addition to volunteering at the watershed-wide and other restoration events and serving on the Board of Directors, the cleanup has been my most direct connection with the creek and the surrounding community. At first, I only wanted to remove trash (especially tires) from the creek and was wary of the houseless people living along the creek because I didn't know them. Several of those very creekside neighbors helped in that first cleanup and have continued to participate throughout the years. I bring extra event flyers with me during the pre-cleanup walkthroughs to spread the word about the event and reiterate that we are picking up trash within the water only. Oftentimes the people I meet along the way have great insights into the wildlife along the creek as well as locations of larger dumped items that might need extra effort.

With the help of the Overland Park Coalition we made the annual creek cleanup a reason to celebrate the great things about Johnson Creek and the role we have in caring for it together. Norbert and Lisa Loske hosted the after-cleanup lunch and awards including the Golden Garbage Can for the weirdest, coolest, or most unusual thing found in the creek each year. Each team gets a chance to tell the story of their experience in the creek and present their item for consideration. I encourage captains to make scenes incorporating multiple elements - my

Approximate Volunteers & Tons of Trash



favorite was “picnic in the creek” which featured a picnic basket, lawn chair, parasol and wine bottle. Though I can hope that someday we won't need to pull trash out of the creek I continue to look forward to seeing my friends and getting directly in the creek each year. I hope you join us in this 14-year tradition on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 8:30 AM to 1 PM.

Check out the event post at jcw.org to sign up!

Thanks to our funders and partners: Clackamas Water Environment Services, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation, Portland Parks and Recreation, SOLVE, Central City Concern, Ground Score, Sunset Garbage Collection, Hoodview Disposal and Recycling, Rose CDC, and the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services for their partnership and support. Also a big thanks to the Mintkeski Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation. Thanks for working with us to create a brighter future for Johnson Creek!

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Otak is proud to renew our support for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

Our team of water and natural resources engineers has enjoyed years of volunteer and design opportunities alongside the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. We look forward to our continued partnership in community restoration.



Otak staff at the Watershed-Wide Event



Foster Floodplain Project



Centennial Pond Project

What Will The Bugs Say?

Noah Jenkins, JCWC Riparian Program Manager

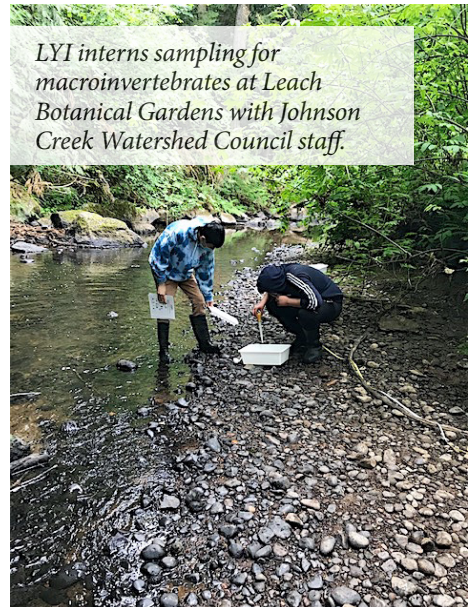
When restoration projects happen, there are many ways to judge whether or not they've been successful: did what was built match the design? Is a fish passage barrier resolved? Are new plantings growing well? Ultimately, though, what matters is the response of the biological community to the work; tracking that response over time can help us learn what makes a "good" restoration project, and what things we can do better on future efforts.

In 2019, the Clackamas Partnership—a consortium of local watershed councils and government and tribal agencies—was awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), intended to fund a suite of restoration projects for the benefit of the Clackamas populations of salmon species in the lower Columbia River Evolutionarily Significant Unit. Over the next six years, projects in the Johnson Creek, Clackamas River, and Abernethy Creek watersheds, as well as on the mainstem Willamette, will add large wood to streams, remove passage barriers, open up side-channel habitat, and otherwise improve conditions for these fish populations.

In order to assess these projects, OWEB is also providing funding for monitoring pre- and post-project efforts. JCWC is sampling benthic macroinvertebrates as part of this monitoring program. The assemblage of these insects living on and under rocks in a streambed—who's there and who's not—can provide valuable information about water quality and stream habitat. Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) is playing the lead role in collecting this information, which began last summer with pre-project sampling at 12 project sites (and associated reference sites).

Analysis of these data by CASM Environmental showed a range of habitat quality at the sites; the vast majority of sites skewed toward sediment-tolerant species, with low numbers of sensitive species like stoneflies. Several of these projects were completed last year, including two in the Johnson Creek watershed; we will sample these again this summer, and annually through 2025, to see what impact this work has on these insect communities.

This summer, we will also be sampling at over a dozen future project sites, including a potential large wood installation at Leach Botanical Garden on Johnson Creek. Here, in addition to sampling by JCWC staff, student interns from Lents Youth Initiative (LYI) have gotten in on the bug-hunting fun, building science skills and knowledge while contributing to our understanding of macroinvertebrates in this reach of the creek.



LYI interns sampling for macroinvertebrates at Leach Botanical Gardens with Johnson Creek Watershed Council staff.



LYI interns sort their findings into ice cube trays to separate species while sampling for macroinvertebrates.

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Thank you sponsors!

Photo: Rachel Ames/NPS





Photo: USFWS



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2021 Virtual Annual Celebration

Daniel Newberry, JCWC Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (virtual) Annual Celebration last Month.

We are especially grateful for the Keynote Speech on intersectional environmentalism by Dr. Derron Coles, Executive Director of the Blueprint Foundation, and our Riffle Award winners: City of Milwaukie in the Jurisdictional Partner category, The Blueprint Foundation in the Community Partner category and Gary Klein won the Ernie Francisco Award for the individual volunteer category.

The Riffle Awards are given annually to individuals and organizations who have contributed to the Council's success in the past year in a significant way.

Thank you also to the generosity of business sponsors, individual supporters, and silent auction bidders, we raised more than \$21,000 through this event.

We are looking forward to an in-person event next May!



(Continued from page 1)

Thank you also to our funders and partners for helping to make this community event a reality:

The Mintkeski Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, Clackamas County's Water Environment Services, Portland General Electric, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Portland Parks & Recreation, City of Gresham, Friends of Tideman Johnson, Leach Garden Friends, Friends of Trees, Americold, Fernando's Alegria, Tortilleria y Tienda de León, and the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services.



A volunteer carries wetland plants at Main City Park. Photo: Caz Zyvatkauskas

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Community Science During COVID-19

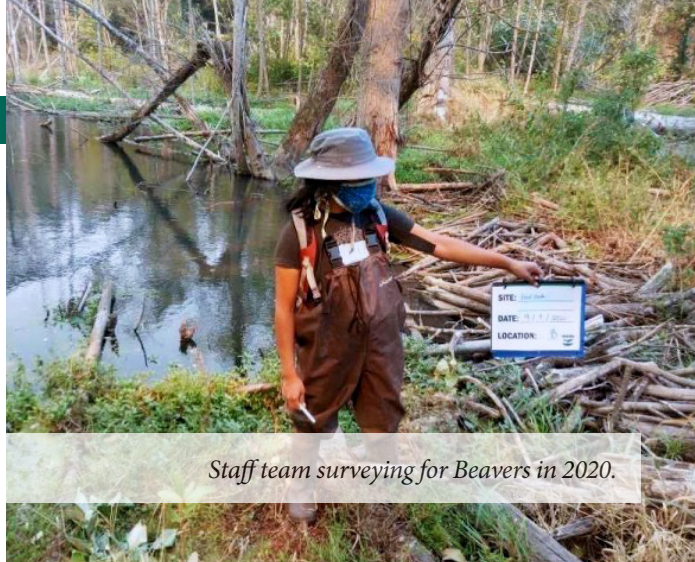
Tiffany Mancillas, JCWC Community Outreach Coordinator

COVID-19 has changed the way that we have been able to do some large group gatherings but we are still getting together in safe ways (virtually and limited in person masked) to continue community science surveys.

In 2020 we had to cancel Beaver and Dragonfly surveys for volunteers and complete them with staff in the beginning of COVID to figure out the best practices for our surveys. We had Salmon Surveys in 2020 with virtual training (surveys were within peoples pods and friend groups) and Dragonfly surveys 2021 are currently in process with a hybrid virtual and in person training. The community science surveyors sign up for small teams (2-4 people) and we have a mask requirement in public spaces and/or when you are close to others.

More people than ever have reached out to us wanting to survey and get out there! This year we doubled the number of surveyors in both Salmon and Dragonfly orientation. We had so much interest that we have had to turn folks away for lack of gear and survey slots.

Want to join in? Check out our event calendar a few weeks before the survey month to sign up for an orientation at jwc.org. Spots fill fast but we will announce the opening of orientations in our monthly newsletter so you get the updates.



Staff team surveying for Beavers in 2020.

Dragonfly Surveys — Surveys full currently in process

Beaver Surveys — Survey Orientation in August

Salmon Surveys — Survey Orientation in October

Thank you to everyone who is surveying with us and for rolling with the changes to keep everyone safe!

Thank you funders East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and Bureau of Environmental Services for making this program possible. We appreciate the partnerships with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wetlands Conservancy, and CASM Environmental, LLC, to help inform our survey protocols and practices.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Photo: Carol "Caz" Zyvatkauskas

AmeriCorps In The Time Of Covid

Katherine Charney, JCWC AmeriCorps Outreach Specialist

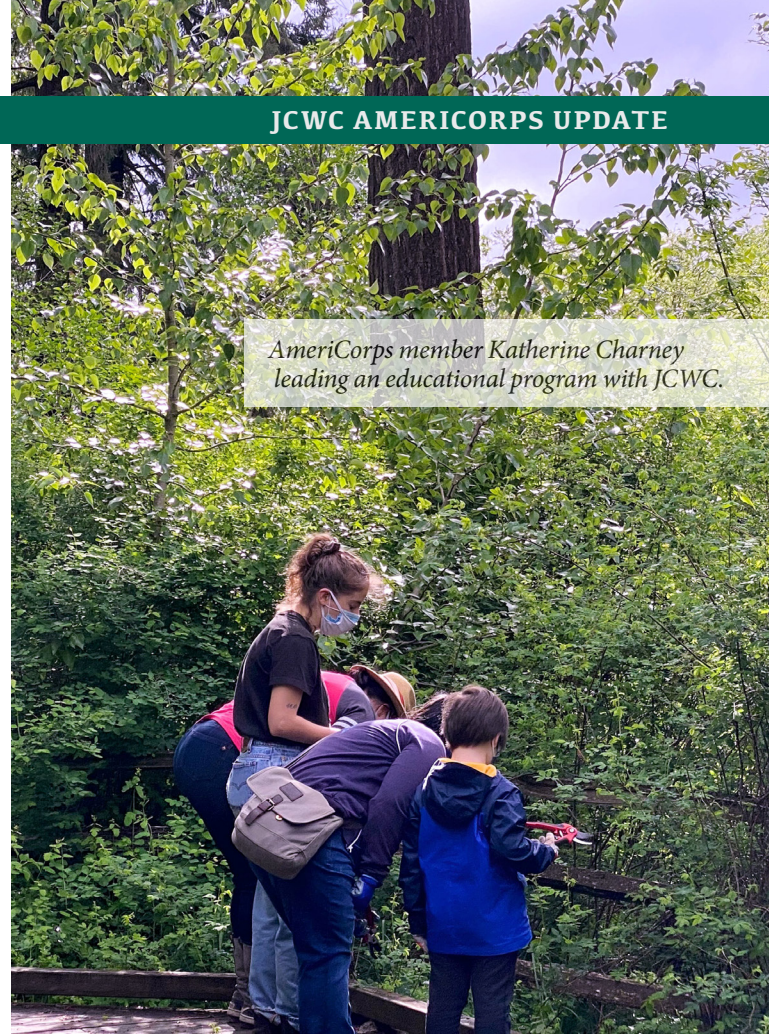


I had big shoes to fill stepping into my role as AmeriCorps Outreach Specialist. Prior to the initial shutdown in March 2020, my predecessor worked with multiple schools each week, sometimes one a day! Despite major challenges posed to the Council's education program by Covid-19, I was still able to get outside and learn alongside a few groups of middle and high school students.

There were certainly challenges. Reduced group sizes often required more chaperones. Confluence Environmental Center expects AmeriCorps members to pursue environmental justice by engaging underserved schools, but Portland Public Schools' Covid-19 policy made this quite difficult. I was, however, able to work with David Douglas High School, both virtually (in the fall) and in-person (in May).

In partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation and Friends of Trees, I planned and executed service learning field trips with non-traditional schools like Portland Waldorf and Sabin Schellenberg. I helped lead eight outdoor events and engaged two school groups virtually, one on three separate occasions. I hope the relationships I've developed with schools and teachers will continue to grow after my term ends.

I'm so grateful to the Council for everything I've learned and I hope next year's AmeriCorps member is able to continue adapting this hybrid education model with greater success.



AmeriCorps member Katherine Charney leading an educational program with JCWC.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Welcome Bilingual Nature Interns

We are excited to be working with Helen Chen and Khan Tung! Read on to find out more about them, their roles, and what inspired them to work with us.



*Helen Chen, She/They,
Focus Language for
Internship: Mandarin,
speakcreek@jcwc.org*

Helen Chen is a Bilingual Intern at Johnson Creek Watershed Council. They are currently a junior attending Westview High School. They like to listen to music, watch anime, and go on walks in their free time. Living in Oregon for 7 years, a place filled with amazing sceneries and an appreciation for nature, they grew to find interest in environmental restoration.

They are so excited to work with Johnson Creek Watershed Council to increase accessibility for the Chinese community in terms of environmental justice.

陈欣悦 (Helen Chen) 是 Johnson Creek Watershed Council 的双语实习生。她在 Westview 高中上十一年级。在她休闲的时候, 她喜欢听音乐, 看动漫, 或在外面散步。住在俄勒冈州七年之后, 她逐渐的对环境保护产生了兴趣。俄勒冈充满了了不起的风景, 她理所当然开始更欣赏大自然了。她非常兴奋能当上 Johnson Creek Watershed Council 的实习生, 而很希望可以增加华人社区在环境保护的及性。

Khan Tung is a bilingual intern with Johnson Creek Watershed Council. He came to the U.S in 2015 with his mom and his younger sister. He worked at the City of Gresham from 2017-2019 as a summer intern, in the Department of Environmental Services department, doing natural resources and storm drains, as well as other tasks through the City that helped him grow academically and socially. He interned in 2020-2021 with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council through PGE Project Zero position as Stewardship Director and Community Engagement & Volunteer Director. He just finished his second year of college and is working on a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. He is also very interested in acting. He wrote a script for Zomi Catholic Community of Portland which was acted by himself and other youth on a Parents' Day. The play was about how the living standard is very different in the United States than back in Myanmar. He is excited to work for the Johnson Creek Watershed and very keen to learn everything he can from every direction that he moves into.



*Khan Tung, He/His,
Focus Language for
Internship: Zomi,
speakcreek@jcwc.org*

Khan Tung pen Johnson Creek Watershed Council ah pau-nam nih cih bulphuh in na a sep laitak a hihi. A mah pen a nu leh a sanggam nu tawh 2015 kum in US tung hi. 2017 pan 2019 ciang khuakhal hunsung in City of Gresham ah, DES department sung ah, natural resources leh storm drains pan mun ah nasem in, a dang a tuamtuum a ma mimal i phattuum na ding natam pi zong sep beh lai hi. Tua bek thamlo in, 2020 pan 2021 sung PGE tungtawn in Columbia Slough Watershed ah, Stewardship Director leh Community Engagement & Volunteer Director pan mun len in nasem leuleu hi. A mah pen college kum nih na man lian in, Environmental Science tawh kum li na buaih la ding in a hanciam mahmah laii tak a hihi. A mah pen, kineih lam zong lunglut mahmah a, a beisa nu leh pa paw khat in Zomi Catholic Community of Portland khangno te tawh a ma i gelh ngiat limlak khawm uh hi. Tua a limlak i thu a hi leh, US leh kawlgam nuntak khuasak kilam dan zia a hihi. A mah pen Johnson Creek Watershed ah nasep ding a lawpbek thamlo in, kim leh paam pan a sintheih bangbang zong sinnuam in a lunggulh mahmah a hihi.

Thank you funders and partners for making this internship program possible. Funders include East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and Meyer Memorial Trust, as well as private donors.

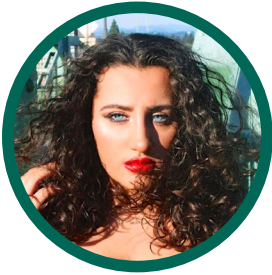
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CITY OF
GRESHAM



Welcome Lents Youth Initiative Interns

We are excited to be working with Liana Kucher and Dima Betros from the Lents Youth Initiative Program through Rose CDC! Read on to find out more about them, their roles, and what inspired them to work with us.



My name is **Dima Betros**. I am 18 years old. I love the sunshine and going on picnics and dancing with my friends. I just graduated from Lake Oswego High School and will be attending PCC in the fall.

Ever since I was a little girl I have wanted to be a doctor and I still do. Hopefully I will get to finish school in San Diego and become a doctor there. Being a doctor and working with LYI requires some of the same skills which is why I am grateful to be part of this team.



My name is **Liana Kucher**. I am 16 years old and a Junior at David Douglas High School. I spend most of my time watching anime, reading manga, listening to music, or doing some sort of physical activity. I love to get my heart rate running!

I don't have any careers set in the future. I just hope whatever I end up doing, I am proud of what I do and I can use my skills to help others. One of my long time dreams/goals is to be able to travel around the world and meet people from different backgrounds. I don't know how realistic that is but my hope is that I am able to fulfill my dream in the future. I also really love nature and the environment that I live in. I love to educate others about it too. I hope with this internship I am able to learn a bit more about environmental justice, and use that to teach others.

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Upcoming Events

See our website at JCWC.org/events-calendar or Facebook for links to the following events!

Volunteer Dragonfly Surveys

June through October
Various locations



Mini Clean-Up

Mon, July 19, 9 AM - 11 AM
Linwood-Bell



Volunteer Beaver Surveys

August through September
Various locations - Register online



Habitat Enhancement

Fri, Aug 13, 9 AM - 11 AM
Leach Botanical Garden



14th Annual Johnson Creek Clean-Up

Sat, Aug 21, 8:30 AM - 1 PM
Various locations - Register online



Science in the Park

Sat, September 18
Mill Park in Milwaukie - Register online



Science Symposium

SAVE THE DATE: Tue, Oct 19
Hybrid virtual and in-person



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Johnson Creek
Watershed Council

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Courtney Beckel
Volunteer Program Manager

Katherine Charney
Confluence AmeriCorps Member

Cathy Geiger
Operations & Finance Coordinator

Noah Jenkins
Riparian Program Manager

Chuck Lobdell
Restoration Project Manager

Tiffany Mancillas
Community Outreach Coordinator

Daniel Newberry
Executive Director