A photograph of a river flowing through a forest. The river is surrounded by many large, moss-covered rocks. The water is clear and flows over the rocks, creating small rapids. The forest is lush with green trees and foliage. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the river.

TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS® 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Empowering the community to protect, restore, and enjoy the Tualatin River

Photo by Curtis Heikkinen

EDUCATION



Striving to foster future watershed stewards, Tualatin Riverkeepers' (TRK) education program focuses on three main areas consisting of field trips, nature camps and community programs.

In 2017, staff and our volunteers led over 23 field trips serving 1,520 students and hosted five week-long nature summer camps for children ages 4 through 13.

Being fortunate enough to serve the entire population (650 students) at Hillsboro's South Meadows Middle School was a highlight for the program in 2017. This relationship was established to fill in a gap for field experiences designed for middle school students. For the past 2 years, in partnership with Clean Water Services (CWS) and Friends of Trees, TRK has hosted the 7th graders at CWS' Tualatin River Farm, a 62-acre working farm in Hillsboro, where they experience hands-on watershed learning. In 2017, the 8th graders were able to participate through site-specific activities at South Meadows. We are proud to provide all South Meadows students with the amazing ability to learn about the importance of the Tualatin River watershed's health through field trips and classroom lessons which support their curriculum.

TRK is blessed with dedicated Volunteer Naturalists who bring their knowledge and enthusiasm to every environmental education event, ensuring that students and adults alike have a meaningful outdoor experience. As our programs continue to grow and we reach out to new communities, it cannot be understated how much our volunteers mean to us and how essential they are to the continued success of the program.

TRK's education program focuses on increasing the number of community members who have the ability to learn about and experience the beauty of the Tualatin River watershed, while continuing to improve the quality and diversity of experiential educational opportunities we offer.

RECREATION



Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) Volunteer Paddle Trip Assistants are the heart of TRK's Trips and Tours Program, using their paddling skills and passion for the river to inspire others to enjoy the recreational opportunities that the river provides. This season our dedicated volunteers helped us host 33 guided river trips. Our three boat rental staff served more than 2,000 residents and visitors out of our Cook Park Boat Rentals in Tigard. TRK is working on expanding our boat rental fleet to accommodate the overwhelming popularity of our summer rentals and provide more options to enjoy the Tualatin River.

TRK continued our work with local water agencies and community organizations to develop river access points every 5-10 miles that are safe for public use. This year we partnered with Metro, Clean Water Services, and Centro Cultural to launch a new access point, Metro's Farmington Paddle Launch in Hillsboro. Together we hosted the 28th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day at the site, giving 200 participants and more than 80 volunteers an opportunity to experience sections of the river that were previously difficult to access.

In an effort to expand partnerships in the community, TRK received a grant from the City of Beaverton to host an Interfaith Riverwalk along the Tualatin River through Cook Park.

This walk was part of Welcoming Week, an annual series of events hosted across the nation that bring together immigrants and US-born residents in a spirit of unity. In partnership with P'nai Or Synagogue, the Baha'i Community of Washington County and the Muslim Educational Trust, TRK was proud to celebrate the values that unite us as neighbors and colleagues, and to make the Tualatin River accessible to everyone that calls our watershed neighborhoods home.

RESTORATION



TRK continued our partnerships with Metro, Clean Water Services (CWS), Friends of Trees (FOT), PSU Indigenous Studies staff, and the cities of Tigard and Sherwood to restore our watershed at community volunteer events throughout 2017. Through a Nature in Neighborhoods grant from Metro, TRK engaged community members, non-profits and businesses in restoration of 61 acres of wetland, oak savanna and riparian forest at Tigard's Cook Park, located at a reach of the Tualatin River deemed regionally significant for public and natural resource values. Volunteers installed native plants which will help reduce erosion, slow urban water runoff, and provide habitat and nutrients for wildlife.

To commemorate the opening of Metro's Farmington Paddle Launch, we partnered with Metro, CWS and FOT for a native planting event in Hillsboro.

Over 90 volunteers showed up ready to plant 900 native shrubs and trees, part of what will be a planting of over 10,000 natives on the site.

We also continued our work restoring wet prairie and riparian forest land with partner Ash Creek Forest Management on Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge sites under an OWEB conservation grant.

Our innovative climate change adaptation project in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society culminated with a video highlighting project successes. (View it at tualatinriverkeepers.org/climate-change-and-river-restoration.) This project utilized yearling cattle to graze on privately-owned wet prairie land in Beaverton. The grazing cattle provided a needed disturbance as we worked to improve plant species diversity. These types of restoration projects in partnership with the agricultural community help us succeed in our mission to build an inclusive and successful watershed conservation movement.

WATERSHED WATCH



Watershed Watch, Tualatin Riverkeepers' environmental advocacy program, is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural resources in the Tualatin River watershed. We believe there is power in the people and that together we can protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed. We have come a long way from the days when the Tualatin River was the most polluted river in Oregon, but we still have work to do. In 2017 we reintroduced our Action Alerts program which informs members about threats to water quality, tracks political changes in the watershed, and shares opportunities to get involved with our organization.

For the second year in a row, students passionate about the environment successfully completed the classroom portion of our Urban Forestry Jobs Training Program.

Recruited through our partners Centro Cultural and Muslim Education Trust, the students are new immigrants or first generation residents from Mexico, Iran, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. The assiduous students began their paid internships with Friends of Trees, the City of Tualatin, and Portland Parks and Recreation, and other organizations to gain hands-on experience in urban forestry.

TRK continued to reach new audiences and offered community members opportunities to connect with their watershed. At our Rain Barrel Workshops, participants learned how rain barrels can be a low-impact and cost-effective technique for home owners to reduce environmental degradation in the watershed. TRK also hosted our on-going community River Professor events. Participants were informed about a wide range of issues from utilizing cattle as a restoration tool for native prairies to the small actions home owners can take to reduce stormwater runoff from their property and in their neighborhoods.

TRK continues to be Your Voice for Clean Water.



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

11675 SW Hazelbrook Rd
Tualatin, OR 97062

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUALATIN, OREGON
Permit No. 13

OUR MISSION

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization working to protect and restore Oregon's Tualatin River system. TRK builds watershed stewardship through education, public access to nature, restoration and advocacy.

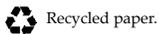
The Tualatin Riverkeepers became a nonprofit in 1992 and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

503-218-2580

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



Designed by Purple Sail Creative.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meryl Redisch,
President

Molly Whitney,
Vice President

Rod Fragiao,
Treasurer

Sharon Selvaggio,
Secretary

Lynn Carver
Ed Casuga
Alfred Dinsdale
Cathy Filgas
Harbans Lal
Carmen Madrid
Molly Whitney

STAFF

Kris Balliet,
Executive Director

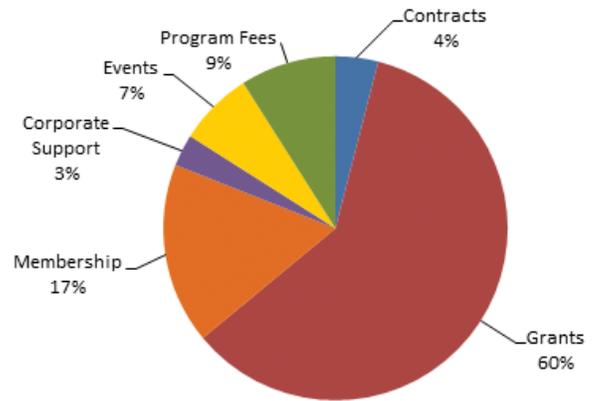
Ruby Buchholtz,
Advocacy Manager & Riverkeeper

Charissa Jones,
Environmental Educator

Sandra Amolo,
Community Organizer

Margot Fervia-Neamtzu,
Office and Membership Manager

Income



Expenses

