



# The Green Heron Herald

The Biannual Newsletter of the TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

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## Turning Storm Drains into Art

At first glance, storm drains and their unglamorous job of transporting stormwater runoff do not seem like catalysts for environmental activism. Yet, Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) has embraced storm drains as canvases to raise awareness about local water quality. TRK, in partnership with Centro Cultural de Washington County and Muslim Educational Trust (MET), is one of six recipients for Metro's Community Placemaking Grants.

This grant will fund a pilot mural project in downtown Hillsboro and downtown Tigard where artists will work with the community in each city to install a sidewalk mural that highlights the importance of storm drains and preventing pollution in our waterways. TRK partnered with Centro, MET and the two cities to select artists who will create multicultural sidewalk murals. Local artists Kanaan Kanaan and Linda Sawaya will each create a sidewalk storm drain mural that will raise awareness about stormwater pollution in the Tualatin River watershed while celebrating the artistic and cultural heritage of Latinx and Muslim communities in Washington County.

In Tigard, Mr. Kanaan's sidewalk mural is inspired by the concept of intersectionality and symbolism from Islam. Kanaan says, "In my work, I would bring intersectionality to its fullest to work on beautifying our city and bring attention to the importance of clean water and healthy community."

Ms. Sawaya's storm drain mural will be created in Hillsboro using color, texture and pattern to



**Kanaan Kanaan**  
Tigard Art Walk  
June 1-3, 2018



**Linda Sawaya**  
Hillsboro Tuesday Market  
August 7, 2018

celebrate cultural water symbols from indigenous Latin American communities. "I love the Tualatin River," she says, "especially as a new kayaker in the river. The opportunity of bringing awareness to the importance of keeping our rivers clean through an art mural with Latinx cultural symbolism is an honor and a blessing."

**Meet artist Kanaan Kanaan** and participate in his mural design at the Tigard Art Walk happening June 1-3, 2018, in downtown Tigard. Check out the event website at [exploredowntowntigard.com/art-walk-2](http://exploredowntowntigard.com/art-walk-2).

**Meet artist Linda Sawaya** when she displays her work in downtown Hillsboro as part of Hillsboro's Tuesday Night Market on August 7, 2018. Learn more at [www.tuesdaymarketplace.org](http://www.tuesdaymarketplace.org).

TRK hopes these murals will strengthen the ties between communities living along the Tualatin River and foster a sense of place for immigrant communities in the county. This artwork will serve as a multilingual educational tool to remind the public that storm drains carry stormwater runoff (e.g. oil, lawn chemicals, trash, sediments) directly to the waterways we use in our everyday life for drinking and recreation.

For more information about this collaborative and creative project, connect with Ruby at [ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org). Be sure to check out our social media pages for more updates.

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### Nature Camp Season is Back!

Provide a child the opportunity to get up close and personal with nature. Reserve your spot today at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/camp](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/camp). (See page 3)

## 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.*

*Please join us by completing and mailing the membership application in this newsletter or by contacting us.*

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR



***Greetings to all of Tualatin Riverkeepers friends and supporters!***

I can hardly believe it has been six months since I accepted the Executive Director position with TRK. It has been a whirlwind of activity with so much to learn, so many people to meet and so much fun work to take on. I have come to know TRK in ways that I had not thought possible in such a brief span of time. The more I learn, the more excited I am to lead this wonderful organization into the next phase of protecting, restoring and enjoying the Tualatin River. We have a good solid staff, an engaged and supportive Board and a legion of volunteers who all work in unison to keep this watershed healthy and vibrant.

From our education program to our Green Jobs training, from our clean water advocacy to our thriving public access efforts, TRK is shining brightly. As we start to prepare for our 30th year in the watershed next year, I am thrilled to imagine all that lies in store for us going forward. Here's to a bright future for our work in the Tualatin basin!

***Sincerely,***

Kris Balliet, TRK Executive Director

## Welcome, Kris!

Backed by over two decades of freshwater and marine conservation in the Pacific Northwest, Kris Balliet has enthusiastically stepped into TRK's Executive Director position. Her passion for waterways blossomed during her years spearheading efforts protecting wild salmon in the Columbia River Basin and leading the operations of the Ocean Conservancy's Alaska Regional Office as its director for almost a decade. She attended Lewis and Clark Law School, where she focused her studies on environmental and natural resources law and policy. While in law school, she interned at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Pacific Rivers, experiences which forever shaped the direction she would follow in her work. Kris shares our deep belief that collaboration in diverse, multicultural and inclusive settings is the only way to ensure long-term success in our work to protect and restore the river. We're thrilled she has selected TRK and the Tualatin River to further her work in conservation.

***Welcome aboard, Kris!***

## Thank you, Sandra



It is with sadness that I announce the departure of Sandra Amolo, TRK's Community Organizer, from our staff. Sandra has represented our organization proudly in the communities we seek to serve. She is well

respected throughout the Portland Metro area, both with her work for TRK and in her volunteer participation in social justice activities that speak to her heart. In the short time I have had the honor of working with Sandra, I have witnessed the emergence of a true leader and a woman who, I am certain, is destined for great things in her life and career. I ask that everyone join me in congratulating her as she embarks on this new chapter in her professional development.

***Best of luck as you move in to your bright and promising future, Sandra!***

– Kris Balliet

# YOUTH EDUCATION

## Mushrooms and More



**Found one!** TRK’s field trip adventures like mushroom hunting have led to more kids getting up close...or rather, down and dirty with nature. This year, with generous support from our Volunteer Naturalists and grant funds from Metro and the Gray Family Foundation, the Education Program was able to serve over 1,100 local students.

During field trips at Tigard’s Dirksen Nature Park, students were able to utilize two new park developments: the Oak Savannah Overlook and the Ash Forest Wetland Boardwalk. These new observation decks offer panoramic vantage points of different ecosystems. The Oak Savannah Overlook offers a platform to view the Camas blooms popping up. The Ash Forest Wetland Boardwalk allows access to a portion of the wetland year round so students can touch the cantaloupe bark of the trees. With these new improvements, Dirksen continues to maintain its “hands-on” and adventurous appeal.

The education program offers students not only an opportunity to connect with nature, but to be challenged to critically think about their impacts on the environment and what solutions they can come up with to mitigate them.

According to students who have participated in TRK field trips, we need healthy environments

“...because I like to use clean water for fun and to clean my food.”

“...because wildlife needs someplace nice to live.”

“...so we have fun places to visit now and when we’re older.”



## 2018 Nature Summer Camps

### **Tualatin River Wildlife National Refuge**

**\$130 for TRK members / \$140 for non-members**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

### **Camp for 4 to 6-year-olds**

#### **Refuge Adventures Summer Camp**

**June 25 – 29**

Beginner naturalists will explore the refuge, while learning and experiencing what it’s like to be an animal in the wild.

### **Dirksen Nature Park**

**These camps include one full day of paddling on the river!**

**\$215 for TRK members / \$245 for non-members**

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

### **Camps for 7 to 10-year-olds**

#### **Nature Sleuths**

**July 9 – 13**

Dirksen Nature Park hosts seven unique habitats. With a focus on exploration, kids will get up close and personal with these exciting communities.

#### **Sense of Place**

**July 30 – August 3**

Campers will touch, smell, listen, and look their way to a deeper understanding of what keeps an ecosystem in balance. Discover park wildlife and learn how to protect their urban habitat.

### **Camps for 10 to 13-year-olds**

#### **Adventure Summer Camp**

**July 16 – 20**

Run, swim and paddle your way to a summer adventure! With a map, observation skills and a sense of adventure, campers are challenged to find their way through Dirksen.

#### **Living Water Summer Camp**

**August 13 – 17**

Search for what’s living just below the surface of our rivers and creeks while building an appreciation for all the creatures that call the water home.

Register at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/camp](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org/camp)

## The Call for the Volunteer Naturalists

Do you enjoy helping children explore the outdoors? Utilize your love of nature—become a nature guide for students as they explore local natural areas. Email [charissa@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:charissa@tualatinriverkeepers.org) for more information.

# RESTORATION

## Improving Access to the River

Have you made it to Farmington Paddle Launch yet? Metro's recently opened put-in provides paddlers safe access to the Tualatin River in the upper accessible stretches. Since its grand opening during TRK's 2017 Tualatin River Discovery Day, volunteers and contractors have planted almost 15,000 plants, plus 200 pounds of seed, on this 7-acre site along the Tualatin River. Volunteers from Clean Water Services (CWS), Metro and TRK assisted in mulching these young plants this spring in preparation for what could be another hot summer.



The transformation of the site from a brownfield site at a busy intersection to healthy habitat has been a long time coming. Tree For All's Farmington Paddle Launch Case Study notes that "starting around the middle of the 20th century, development and other activities created conditions that would ultimately qualify a portion of the site for a brownfields cleanup grant. Much of the habitat was also degraded and fragmented due to non-native and invasive plants."

Thanks to years of advocacy from TRK and other key stakeholders and partners, Metro purchased a portion of the property in 2000 securing a brownfield grant for clean up and signing a 20-year ecological enhancement agreement with CWS.

"Farmington Paddle Launch does double duty for watershed health. This relatively small site is part of a 25,000+ acre

landscape-scale effort that improves floodplain functionality, increases habitat connectivity for fish and wildlife, and increases the acreage of high quality wetland habitat. At the same time, this site functions as a literal entry point for human connection with the river."

TRK continues to advocate for public access sites at least every five miles along the river. As the population grows in the Tualatin Valley, finding quiet sites to engage with nature and the river can be challenging at times. Farmington Paddle Launch offers a chance for nature lovers to connect with our natural surroundings close to home.

For information about potential future launch sites, contact Kris Balliet, TRK's Executive Director, at [kris@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:kris@tualatinriverkeepers.org).

## 29th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day

TRK will celebrate our 29th Tualatin River Discovery Day at Farmington Paddle Launch on June 23, 2018. With support from partners Metro and Clean Water Services, the event hosts 250 paddlers and their families, many of whom are exploring this stretch of the river for the first time. Paddlers follow TRK's Tualatin Tales guidebook which highlights natural and historical facts about the river on this self-guided, family friendly paddle.

**Reserve your launch time and/or a canoe or kayak at [tualatinriverkeepers.org/discover-day](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org/discover-day).**

Dozens of volunteers donate their time and efforts to make this annual event enjoyable and safe for everyone. From boat haulers to watermelon slicers, there's a role for everybody. If you'd like to volunteer or would like more information about the event, please contact Margot Fervia-Neamtzu at [margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org).



# PADDLE WITH TRK THIS SUMMER

## 2018 Guided Paddle Trips

TRK trips are open to all members and the general public. Canoes and double kayaks are available for use on our trips for \$50 and single kayaks are \$40. **Members at the \$50 level or higher receive a free boat rental!** Space is limited and reservations are required online at [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org).



## Cook Park Boat Rentals

**Cook Park in Tigard**  
**May 25 – September 3**  
**Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays**  
**9am to 6pm**

- Canoes and double kayaks are \$40 per boat.
- Single kayaks and SUPs are \$30 per boat for up to 4 hours.
- All boats are \$10 per additional hour.
- TRK members receive a **free rental** and \$10 off each additional rental!

The Tualatin River is perfect for beginner paddlers and an excellent river for more advanced paddlers to take long trips without having to worry about shuttling back. In the summer, it is almost as easy to paddle upriver as it is downriver on the slow, meandering Tualatin.

## Rood Bridge Park Boat Launch Grand Opening!

We are thrilled to be part of the City of Hillsboro's grand opening celebration for the enhanced Rood Bridge Park Boat Launch happening later this summer. This significantly improved launch site will make it a snap for paddlers to check out the most upper stretches of the navigable portion of the Tualatin River. The new concrete ramp now extends all the way to the water and a floating dock will be installed seasonally, greatly improving accessibility.

The access point at Rood Bridge Park (River Mile 38.4) is the end of the soon to be designated Tualatin River Trail. Located five miles upstream from Metro's Farmington Paddle Launch, this stretch of river is now perfect for a short one-way adventure or a longer round-trip float.

Hillsboro's Parks & Recreation Department partnered with Metro and Oregon State Parks to finance this exciting new improvement project.



## Join the RiverBank Program!

TRK's **RiverBank program** is a convenient monthly donation program that provides a stable source of funding, ensuring an independent voice for the Tualatin River. Donations can be drawn from bank or credit card accounts. Visit [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) to set-up your monthly donations or contact Margot at [margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:margot@tualatinriverkeepers.org) for more information.



# WATERSHED WATCH

## Green Jobs

In 2016, thanks to a Metro Nature in the Neighborhood grant, Tualatin Riverkeepers, Centro Cultural and Muslim Educational Trust launched an exciting new jobs training opportunity. Supported by a generous anonymous donor, TRK's Green Jobs Training Program continued into 2017, and we are getting geared up to launch an expansion of the third year of this program beginning this fall.

The program is focused on urban forestry and natural resources careers. After a multi-week classroom training, 16 Latino and Muslim immigrant/refugee students were connected to internships in and around Washington County. When student intern Martha Alicia was asked if she found the Urban Forestry Program beneficial, she responded, "On a personal level, I know it will affect my gardening and tree planting. I also expect to share all the knowledge with my friends, family and community because the science is near and dear to me."

We are thrilled to see interest from other local organizations that look to emulate our training in the coming year and are

proud to be part of an environmental movement that strives to look for innovative ways to partner with communities of color.

For more information about Tualatin Riverkeepers Green Jobs program, please contact Ruby Buchholtz at [ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org).



*Martha Alicia Bashir (left), shown here with City of Portland Arbor Day partners, completed her internship with the City of Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry department.*

## The Urban Growth Boundary in the Tualatin Valley



It's going to be a big year for Washington County. Not only is it a voting year for county commissioners, but five cities in Washington County are applying to Metro to expand the urban growth boundary in their area. Beaverton, Hillsboro, King City, Sherwood and Wilsonville are planning on submitting concept plans to Metro at the end of May. Under Oregon law, each of the state's cities and metropolitan areas has created an urban growth boundary around its perimeter – a land use planning line to control urban expansion onto farm and forest lands. Every six years, the Metro Council must review and report on the land supply in the Urban Growth Report. Metro prepares a forecast of population and employment growth for the region for the next 20 years and, if necessary, adjusts the boundary to meet the needs of growth forecast for that 20-year period.

TRK believes that the urban growth boundary is one tool for protecting waterways and clean water in the Tualatin River watershed. The urban growth boundary not only protects our rural lands and natural resources from becoming sprawling development, but also provides time for proper planning in an ever-growing region. We continue to learn new strategies and techniques every day for conserving and restoring our drinking and recreational water. For example, Clean Water Services is in phase two of updating their Design and Construction Standards, which impacts development. The standards being put forth will require developers to include stormwater mitigation techniques on-site of their developments.

By the end of 2018, the Metro Council will decide whether there is enough land in greater Portland's urban area for 20 years of growth. If not, the council will decide what areas are best suited to handle future growth. For more information on the urban growth boundary and a timeline that includes public comments, please visit: [www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/2018-growthmanagement-decision](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/2018-growthmanagement-decision).

For information on how you can get involved in the process, contact Ruby Buchholtz at [ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:ruby@tualatinriverkeepers.org).

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following Riverkeepers who generously donated between September 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018. (\* Indicates Monthly RiverBank donor.)

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June 23, 2018*

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- Please charge my CREDIT CARD. Contact Margot at 503-218-2580 or join online.

Join online at [www.tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://www.tualatinriverkeepers.org)