TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

HeronNow! Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

Save the Date!
TRK Earth Day Fair

In celebration of Earth Day and as proud participants in Earth Day Oregon, Tualatin Riverkeepers is hosting a special Earth Day Fair! Bring the whole family and join us for a day of hands-on activities, community

Upcoming Events

ALL FEBRUARY
Free tire collection event at participating Les Schwab

Feb 13, 7:30pm
The Wild & Scenic Film Festival at Hollywood Theatre

Feb 15, 1pm
Dirksen Park Cleanup & Planting

Mar 16, 9am
Fields Bridge Park Restoration

connections, and meaningful contributions to protecting our watershed.

📅 **Date:** Saturday, April 12, 2025

⏰ **Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

📍 **Location:** TRK Office

What's Happening:

- **Annual Boat Sale:** Find a great deal on your next paddlecraft, with dozens expected to be available for sale.
- **Partner Booths**: Connect with our watershed conservations partners.
- **Guided Bimaran Boat Trips:** Enjoy a short paddle on the Tualatin River with our paddle trip leaders.
- **Native Planting:** Help restore our section of watershed by planting native species.
- **Wood Crafting Project:** Build homes for wildlife, including wood duck houses and bat boxes, to support local biodiversity.

We're thrilled to be part of Earth Day Oregon, amplifying the importance of environmental stewardship across our state. Keep your eye out for registration information and additional details on our website and in our March newsletter.

We can't wait to see you and your family there!

Save the Date

Mar 22, 9am
Hug a Wetland and Our River - Trash Cleanup on Hedges Creek and Tualatin River

Mar 29, 9am
2nd Annual Tualatin River Run

April 12, 10am
Earth Day Fair @ TRK Office

Jun 21 8:30am
Discovery Day

Waterkeepers Push for Stronger Water Protections in Oregon

At the end of 2024, we worked with our Waterkeeper colleagues in the region - Willamette Riverkeeper and Columbia Riverkeeper - to urge the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to take a stronger stance in its 2024 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review. The Triennial Review, a requirement under the Clean Water Act, includes a workplan listing priority water quality standards projects that DEQ plans to initiate or complete between January 2025 and December 2027.

Our key recommendations for DEQ's draft plan include:

- Strengthening temperature regulations to prevent industry loopholes.
- Implementing sediment and wetland protection criteria.
- Addressing toxic contaminants like PFAS and 6PPD-quinone, which threaten water quality and public health.
- Ensuring drinking water protections and maintaining strict pollution standards.

Among the planned initiatives are updates to aquatic life criteria for toxic pollutants, stronger antidegradation policies, and potential designations for Outstanding Resource Waters. The final workplan is expected this month, with a formal presentation to the Environmental Quality Commission in March.

With continued federal rollbacks on environmental protections, the Waterkeepers emphasize that Oregon has a critical opportunity to lead in safeguarding its waterways.

Visit DEQ's Website For More Details

Turning Tires Into Change:
A River-Friendly Donation Effort

This February, Tualatin Riverkeepers is partnering with Washington County and Les Schwab Tires to make it easy to dispose of used tires responsibly—while also supporting the health of our waterways!

How It Works:

Throughout the entire month of February, you can bring your used tires to participating Les Schwab locations for proper disposal. If you feel inspired, you can also make a donation to TRK, helping us continue our work to protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed.

Why Does It Matter?

When tires are not disposed of properly, they break down and release harmful chemicals, including emerging contaminants such as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and 6PPD-quinone (6PPDQ), each of which have devastating effects on aquatic life.

🔹 6PPDQ is a toxic chemical found in tire wear particles that washes into rivers and streams, poisoning fish and other wildlife. Even at low levels, 6PPDQ is lethal to species like salmonids, which are vital to our ecosystem.

🔹 PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals," are present in many industrial and consumer products, including tires. These chemicals linger in our waterways, contaminating drinking water and harming the health of both wildlife and humans.

By properly disposing of tires and reducing pollution, we can take a crucial step toward protecting our rivers, wetlands, and natural spaces.

Join Us in Protecting the Tualatin River

This February, let’s keep tires out of landfills and waterways while raising funds to protect the places we love. Bring your used tires to Les Schwab, spread the word, and consider making a gift to TRK to support our ongoing restoration efforts.

TRK Finalizes Our New Strategic Plan

We’re thrilled to announce that Tualatin Riverkeepers’ Strategic Plan has been finalized and officially approved by our Board of Directors! This plan serves as a roadmap for our next five years, outlining our goals and priorities, as well as direct strategies we’ll use to continue protecting, restoring, and celebrating the Tualatin River and its watershed.

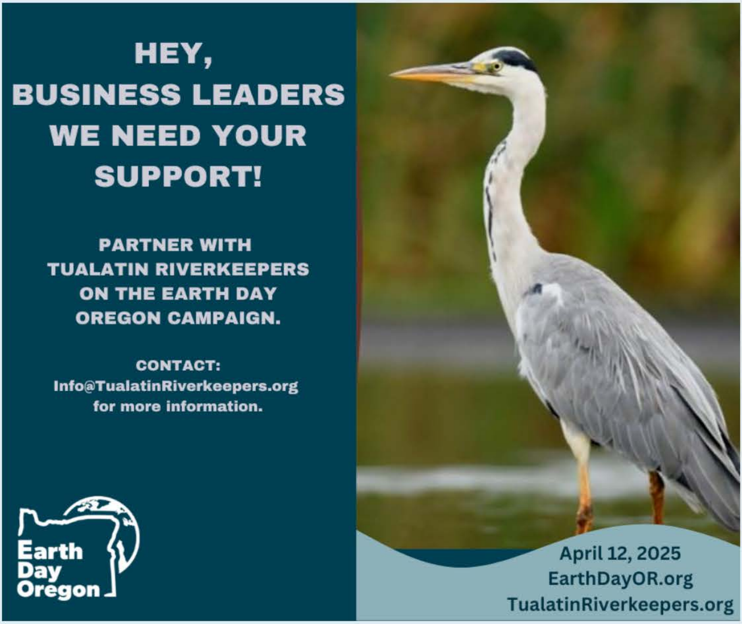
Our Strategic Plan reflects the collaborative input of our staff, board members, community partners, and supporters like you. It highlights our commitment to:

- **Conservation:** Protecting critical habitats and advocating for sustainable land-use practices.
- **Education:** Expanding programs that connect people to the Tualatin River and inspire environmental stewardship.
- **Community Engagement:** Building partnerships with historically marginalized community members who will be most impacted by a changing climate.

The Strategic Plan is available on our website.

Read the Plan

Calling All Local Businesses Looking to Support Earth Day Oregon



HEY,
BUSINESS LEADERS
WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT!

PARTNER WITH
TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS
ON THE EARTH DAY
OREGON CAMPAIGN.

CONTACT:
Info@TualatinRiverkeepers.org
for more information.

Earth
Day
Oregon

April 12, 2025
EarthDayOR.org
TualatinRiverkeepers.org

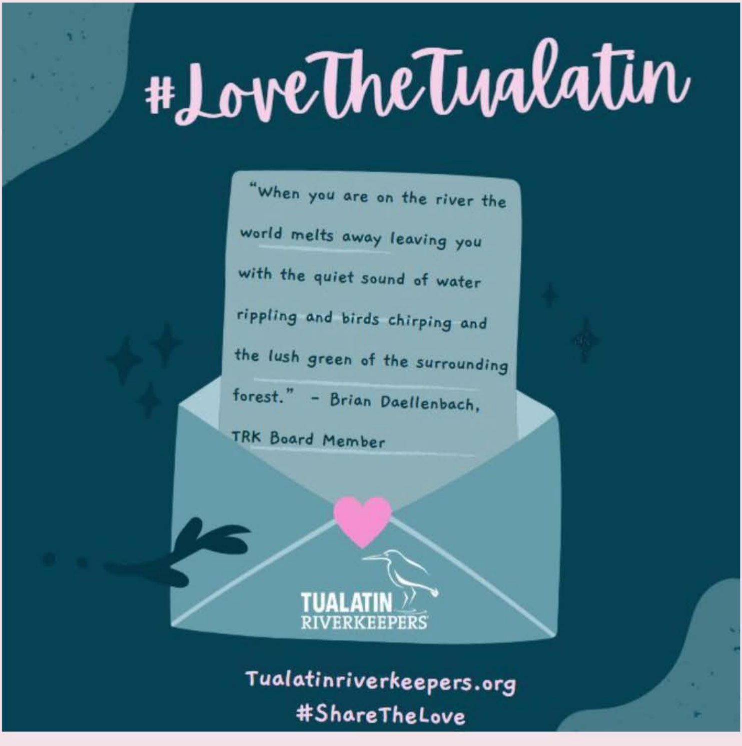
Are you looking for a meaningful way to support the environment and engage your team? Tualatin Riverkeepers is seeking business partners for Earth Day Oregon 2025!

The best part? We handle all the planning and execution—all you have to do is join us! Whether through a donation, engaging your employees in volunteering, or sponsoring an event like our restoration work parties, advocacy workshops, or community boat sale, your business can make a real impact. We invite you and your employees to be part of this important work and experience the difference firsthand!

Partnering with TRK means making a difference for the Tualatin River watershed while strengthening your community ties—and your brand's commitment to sustainability.

Interested? Let's connect! Reach out today and we'll share a menu of opportunities to engage with us around Earth Day. **Contact us at info@tualatinriverkeepers.org.**

Love is in the Water: Why We ❤️ the Tualatin River



"When you are on the river the world melts away leaving you with the quiet sound of water rippling and birds chirping and the lush green of the surrounding forest." - Brian Daellenbach, TRK Board Member

This Valentine’s season, we’re celebrating something near and dear to our hearts—the Tualatin River! From its winding waters to its thriving wetlands, the Tualatin is more than just a river; it’s a source of adventure, connection, and natural beauty that brings our community together.

When we asked our staff, board members, volunteers, and community partners what they love most about the Tualatin River, here’s what they had to say:

“I love how the watershed brings people together, whether their primary focus is watershed protection, habitat restoration, or outdoor adventures on the Tualatin River.” - Glenn F

“I love when you are on the river the world melts away leaving you with the quiet sound of water rippling and birds chirping and the lush green of the surrounding forest.” - Brian D

“I love the Tualatin River for the incredible birds that call it home! From great blue herons to wood ducks, it's a birdwatcher's paradise!” - Mark F

“I love the Tualatin because it’s an easy way to get outdoors with my family—surrounded by nature, doing what we love, making memories, and embracing adventure” – Emily P

“I love the way the Tualatin River brings our community together, from restoration projects to paddle trips and everything in between!” - Erik H

“I love that this calm and relaxing river is so close to home and easily accessible. We can launch our canoe from a number of sites and escape to a natural world hidden away from traffic, emails, and to-do lists!”- Margot F

Every day, the Tualatin River gives us so many reasons to love it—clean water, thriving wildlife, peaceful recreation, and a shared space where our community can come together. This February, we invite you to show your love for the watershed by joining an event, volunteering, or simply taking a moment to appreciate the natural beauty all around us.

Happy Valentine’s Day from all of us at Tualatin Riverkeepers! ❤️

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