TUALATIN
RIVERKEEPERS®

HeronNow! Newsletter

MARCH 2025

Celebrate Earth Day on the Tualatin River!

Join us April 12 at the TRK office for an Earth Day Fair as we bring together all three elements - protect, restore, and enjoy - of our work! We'll be hosting a day of hands-on activities - both on and next to the river - and opportunities to give back to the watershed that

Upcoming Events

Click the event to learn more

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

Mar 28, 9am
Stibolt-Brenner Restoration

Mar 29, 9am
2nd Annual Tualatin River Run 5k

April 5, 9am
Put Down Roots in Tualatin
@ Atfalati Park

provides for all of us.

Guided one-hour paddle trips will leave at 10:30 and 12:00 from the launch at 99W, just next to our office. Participants can sign up for seats on bimarans (volunteers will paddle) or to use one of our kayaks, on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 10:00 a.m. Paddlers are also welcome to bring their own boats and join in the fun. If getting your hands in the dirt is your style, jump in for some **restoration work** to improve habitat along the riverbank.

For those who love to build, we'll be assembling **wood duck houses** and **bat boxes** to support local wildlife. Meanwhile, our **boat sale** will be in full swing throughout the day—this is your chance to find a great deal on a canoe or kayak while supporting river conservation. And if you're curious about the health of our watershed, we'll have plenty of **educational opportunities** to learn more about the river, the wildlife that calls it home, and how you can help protect it.

Whether you paddle, plant, build, or just come to learn, there's something for everyone. Bring your friends and family, and let's make this Earth Day one to remember! We are also looking for volunteers to help us make this Earth Day Fair a big success. If you're interested in volunteering, sign up below.

📆 **Join Us: April 12, 2025**
📍 **Location: TRK Offices**
⏰ **Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm**

We hope to see you there!

Sign Up to Volunteer

April 12, 10am
Earth Day Fair @
TRK Office

April 25, 9AM
Hug Our Planet /
Earth Day!
@ Browns Ferry
Park

Jun 21, 8:30am
Discovery Day

Advocating for Trails at the Oregon State Capitol

FUND TRAILS

Last week, Tualatin Riverkeepers' Executive Director, Glenn Fee, joined over 100 passionate trail advocates in Salem for Trails Day at the Oregon State Capitol. This annual event brings together organizations, policymakers, and community members to champion trails, recreation access, and conservation efforts across the state.

As a strong advocate for the Tualatin River National Water Trail and all the trails that connect our communities to nature, Glenn met with key leaders in our watershed, including Senators Aaron Woods and Rob Wagner, and Representative Jules Walters, to discuss important legislation that impacts outdoor access and recreation in Oregon:

SB 179 – Expanding recreational immunity protections to ensure trails remain open and accessible.

HB 3140 – Addressing rising insurance costs that threaten the future of outdoor programs and access to nature.

Trails and waterways are more than just pathways through nature—they are essential for public health, environmental conservation, and community well-being. We also know that visitors who engage with the Tualatin River are likely to become advocates for protecting and restoring our watershed.

Over the balance of this session, TRK will be working closely with partners in our watershed and beyond on bills that lead to better conservation outcomes. Email info@tualatinriverkeepers.org if you'd like to sign up for periodic Action Alerts on how to engage with critical issues.

Join TRK at the 2nd Annual Tualatin River Run 5K

We are thrilled to be the Community Nonprofit Partner for the 2nd Annual Tualatin River Run, coming up at the end of the month! Whether you're looking for a fun way to get moving or a chance to support a great cause, this event is perfect for you.

This year's 5K course uses the best portions of the Tualatin River Greenway Path between the Tualatin Public Library and Browns Ferry Park. **It's flat, fast, and scenic – the perfect setup for beginners and experienced runners alike.** Tired of the same old downtown routes? This fresh course is designed just for you!

📅 **Date:** Saturday, March 29, 2025

⏰ **Time:** 9:00am

📍 **Location:** Tualatin Community Park

Your participation in the Tualatin River Run directly helps TRK continue our important work to protect and restore our watershed. Together, we can make a lasting impact while enjoying a fantastic day outdoors.

Mark your calendars and join us for the 2nd Annual Tualatin River Run. See you at the starting line!

Register Today

River Runner Program Sets Sail!

Our River Runner program has officially launched, and training is now underway! These dedicated volunteers are taking to the water, ready to monitor and care for 16 segments of the Tualatin River. Their mission? To keep a close eye on the river's health and report on key environmental factors that impact its ecosystem.

As they paddle through their designated sections, River Runners will be tracking turbidity levels, identifying invasive plant species, and monitoring beaver activity. They'll also assess signs of erosion, forest conditions, and human impact—such as outfalls, withdrawals, and river modifications. Equipped with insect traps and trail cams, they'll help document wildlife activity while keeping an eye out for log jams and snags that could impact navigation.

This hands-on effort is possible through the support of a host of community partners, including local cities and parks jurisdictions, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Water Services, the Washington County Sheriff, and Oregon State Marine Board. We're grateful for their partnership and for their dedication to making the Tualatin River a healthy, safe, and accessible waterway.

Email Us To Help

Paddle It Forward: Donate Your Old Boat Today!

We are currently accepting boat donations and need your help! If you have a gently used kayak, canoe, or paddleboard, consider donating it to Tualatin Riverkeepers. We offer both pickup and drop-off options to make donating easy.

Your donation directly supports our conservation work and will be used in one of the following ways:

1. Added to our TRK fleet for community programs, providing more people access to the river.
2. Included in our Annual Boat Sale, where proceeds help our mission to protect and restore the watershed.

Join Us for the Boat Sale at the Earth Day Fair!
Mark your calendars for April 12th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and visit the Tualatin Riverkeepers Earth Day Fair to shop for a quality used kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or gear at an affordable price—all while supporting local conservation efforts.

How You Can Help:

- **Donate your boat today** – We offer pickup and drop-off options for your convenience.
- **Shop for a boat at the Earth Day Fair** – All proceeds support river

conservation.

- **Celebrate Earth Day with us** – Enjoy a day of community engagement and environmental action.

Every donation and every purchase helps make a difference!

Email Us to Donate Your Boat or Learn More

Oregon’s Beaver Bill: New Protections for Nature’s Engineers

Oregon’s North American beaver now has greater protections under House Bill 3464, which reclassified the species from a “predator” to a “furbearer” as of July 1, 2024. **This change ends the long-standing practice of private landowners killing beavers without oversight.** Landowners must now apply for a permit before killing a beaver and first try non-lethal solutions like fencing and repellents. Exceptions exist for immediate threats to infrastructure, crops, or small timber holdings. Additionally, all beaver removals must now be reported, giving researchers the first comprehensive data on beaver populations and conflicts.

While this bill marks a major step forward in beaver conservation, further efforts are underway. The proposed House Bill 4014 would establish a Landowners Living with Beavers Grant Program, offering financial assistance for non-lethal management strategies. Meanwhile, Senate Bill 354, introduced in early 2025, seeks to create a program for voluntarily relocating beavers from western Oregon to central and eastern parts of the state. These legislative changes reflect growing recognition of beavers' vital role as ecosystem engineers—creating wetlands, improving water quality, and helping manage drought.

At this time, public comments on these bills are not being accepted, but community members are encouraged to stay informed as new developments unfold.

How You Can Help:

Tualatin Riverkeepers is meeting later this week with a statewide coalition to discuss next steps in our advocacy for HB 4014 and SB 354. Keep your eye on our social media channels for updates, and email us at info@tualatinriverkeepers.org if you'd like to be subscribed to our Action Alerts!

Welcome to the TRK Board, Bridget Brooks!

We are excited to welcome Bridget Brooks as the newest member of the Tualatin Riverkeepers Board! Bridget brings a deep passion for environmental advocacy, social action, and community leadership, making her a fantastic addition to our team.

As a Tualatin City Council member and founder of the Tualatin Sustainability Network, Bridget is dedicated to empowering communities to take action on environmental challenges. Her journey with river conservation began in the 1980s aboard the EPA's Simon Research vessel and continued through her work with the Milwaukee Riverkeepers.

With nearly 30 years of experience in nonprofit governance, civic leadership, and fostering healthy communities, Bridget's expertise and dedication will be a tremendous asset to TRK's mission of protecting and restoring the Tualatin River.

Please join us in giving Bridget a warm welcome to TRK.

Learn More about Bridget

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