TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS

OUR POWER, OUR PLANET

EARTH DAY 2025

HeronNow! Newsletter

APRIL 2025

About **Advocacy** **Events** **Donate**

Earth Day 2025: Our Power, Our Planet — Protect the Tualatin River

And so we need your help.
Come out and join us.

This Earth Day, we're reminded that protecting the

Upcoming Events

Click the event to learn more

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

April 26, 9am
Trail Maintenance @ Jackson Bottom Wetlands

May 4, 9am
Guided Lower Tualatin River Paddle Raft Trip

May 7, 8:30am
River Access

planet starts right here—at home, in our own watershed.

The Tualatin River is more than just a body of water. It’s the quiet calm of a morning paddle. It’s wetlands alive with herons, turtles, and beavers. It’s the clean drinking water that flows into our homes. It’s where kids skip rocks, where salmon return to spawn, and where communities come together to restore what’s been lost.

We love this river because it connects us. It sustains us. And it needs us.

That’s why, in recognition of Earth Day 2025’s global theme—Our Power, Our Planet—we’re asking you to stand with Tualatin Riverkeepers and take action to protect the place we call home.

🌿 **How We're Using Our Power**
Tualatin Riverkeepers is working every day to defend clean water, healthy habitat, and public access to nature. This year, TRK is busy working on a number of bills (see below) in the Oregon legislature - we're supporting beavers as ecosystem engineers, fighting toxic tire pollution, keeping trails and rivers accessible, and safeguarding our waterways against invasive species.

💧 **Why We Need You**
We can’t do this work alone.
- Your donation fuels our advocacy.
- Your membership gives our movement strength.
- Your voice helps protect the river—for fish, for families, and for future generations.

🌎 **This Earth Day, give back to the river that gives**

Planning Training
Workshop

Jun 21, 8:30am
Discovery Day

so much. When you become a member of Tualatin Riverkeepers, you're not just supporting an organization—you're joining a movement to protect the lifeblood of our region. **Membership matters. It fuels the on-the-ground restoration work that brings back native plants and wildlife.** It powers our advocacy at the state capitol to protect clean water and hold polluters accountable. It helps us teach the next generation to love and care for the watershed through outdoor education and river experiences.

But most of all, it sends a message: This watershed is worth protecting. And I'm part of the effort to do it. As a TRK member, you'll be part of a vibrant community of people who care deeply about nature, community, and the future of the place we call home.

Whether you're a paddler, a conservationist, a parent, a student, or a neighbor—there's a place for you in the Riverkeeper community.

🌿 Join us today and make your commitment to clean water, healthy habitat, and access to nature.
Become a Member → Together, we are the voice for the Tualatin. Stand with TRK and show what the power of a committed community can do.

👉 Donate
👉 Volunteer with TRK

Our Planet. Our Power. Our River. Let's protect it—together.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Create a Mural That Connects Art + River Conservation!

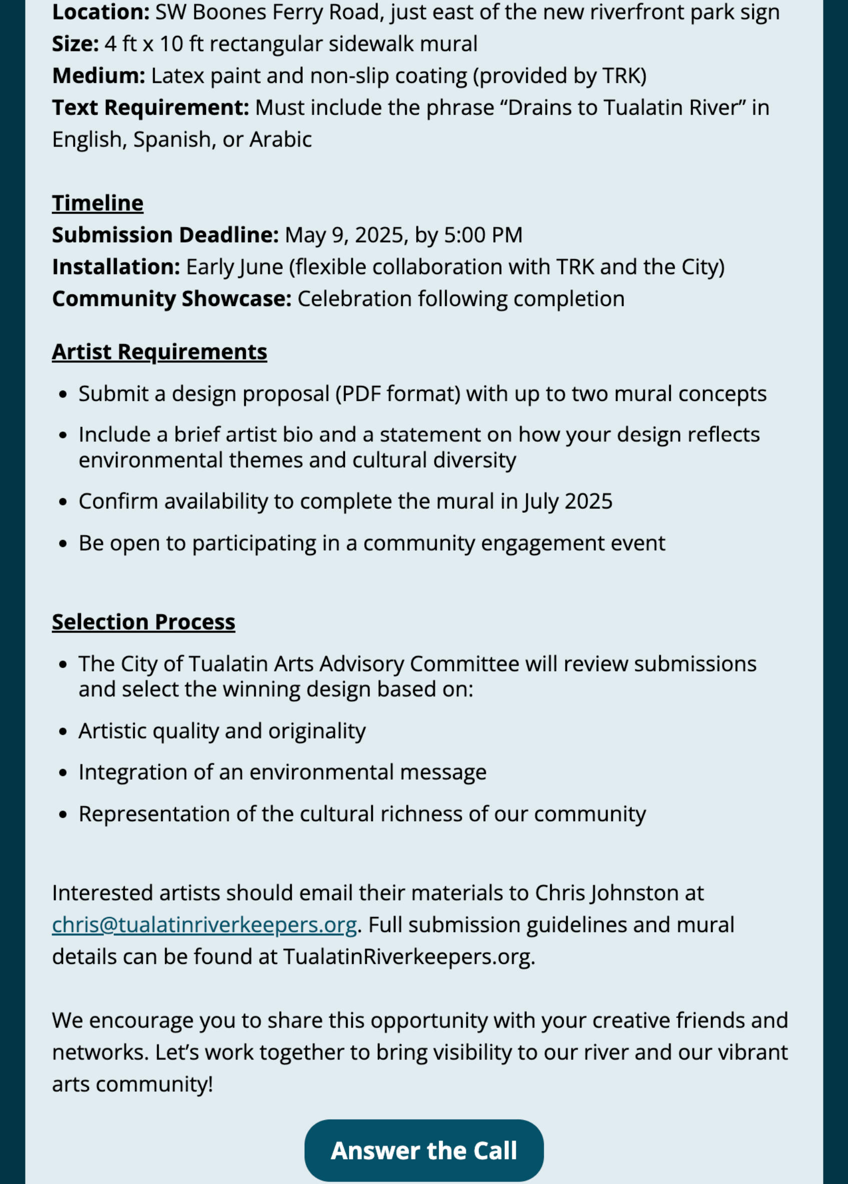
TUALATIN
DRAINS TO TUALATIN

Tualatin Riverkeepers, in partnership with the City of Tualatin, is excited to invite local artists to apply for a unique public art opportunity that blends creativity with conservation.

We're commissioning a sidewalk mural to highlight an important message: what goes into our storm drains flows directly to the Tualatin River. This mural will help spark community conversations around water pollution and inspire everyday action to protect our local watershed.

The selected artist will receive a $1,500 commission, mentorship opportunities, and the chance to create a powerful public artwork that celebrates both environmental stewardship and the cultural diversity of Washington County.

Project Details



Location: SW Boones Ferry Road, just east of the new riverfront park sign
Size: 4 ft x 10 ft rectangular sidewalk mural
Medium: Latex paint and non-slip coating (provided by TRK)
Text Requirement: Must include the phrase “Drains to Tualatin River” in English, Spanish, or Arabic

Timeline

Submission Deadline: May 9, 2025, by 5:00 PM
Installation: Early June (flexible collaboration with TRK and the City)
Community Showcase: Celebration following completion

Artist Requirements

- Submit a design proposal (PDF format) with up to two mural concepts
- Include a brief artist bio and a statement on how your design reflects environmental themes and cultural diversity
- Confirm availability to complete the mural in July 2025
- Be open to participating in a community engagement event

Selection Process

- The City of Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee will review submissions and select the winning design based on:
- Artistic quality and originality
- Integration of an environmental message
- Representation of the cultural richness of our community

Interested artists should email their materials to Chris Johnston at chris@tualatinriverkeepers.org. Full submission guidelines and mural details can be found at TualatinRiverkeepers.org.

We encourage you to share this opportunity with your creative friends and networks. Let’s work together to bring visibility to our river and our vibrant arts community!

Clean Water Act Under Threat: What This Means for the Tualatin River

Federal Protections Weakened—But Oregon Can Still Lead

As the EPA signals it may scale back protections under the Clean Water Act, wetlands and rivers are once again in the crosshairs. This rollback could open the door for developers and polluters to impact wetlands, headwater streams, and floodplains—critical parts of our watershed that filter water, reduce flood risk, and support wildlife.

For decades, the Clean Water Act has been a cornerstone of watershed protection, giving groups like Tualatin Riverkeepers a legal foundation to push back against unchecked pollution and habitat destruction. Weakening these protections threatens to undo years of progress and puts vulnerable parts of our ecosystem at even greater risk—especially in the face of climate change and urban expansion.

But there is hope—and it's closer to home.

Oregon's Legislature Can Hold the Line

While federal rollbacks make headlines, what happens in Salem this session could shape the future of water protection in Oregon. That's why TRK is working alongside our partners to advance and defend legislation that protects clean water, public health, and fish and wildlife.

Here are a few bills we're watching closely:

SB 427 – Water Rights Transfer Reform

Description: This bill would close dangerous loopholes in how Oregon reviews water rights transfers. It would finally require the state to consider the public interest—including water quality, wildlife impacts, and downstream communities—before approving changes that could alter how water moves through our ecosystems.

Status: Passed out of committee; scheduled for a work session
TRK's Position: Support

HB 3362 – Tire Pollution Mitigation Fee
Description: 6PPD-Quinone, a chemical created when tires break down, is lethal to salmon and other aquatic life. This bill would create a small fee on new tires to fund stormwater pollution solutions—helping protect the Tualatin River from toxic runoff.
Status: Included in the Transportation Framework; faces industry opposition
TRK's Position: Support

HB 3143 – Living with Beavers Grant Program
Description: Beavers are natural engineers that slow water, trap sediment, and create habitat. This bill would help landowners implement non-lethal, water-smart beaver management strategies—building resilience into our watersheds as climate change worsens.
Status: In Ways and Means Committee
TRK's Position: Support

HB 3501 – Silencing Environmental Review
Description: This alarming bill would prohibit Oregon from considering the impact on fish, wildlife, or water quality when evaluating changes to water rights—handing power to polluters and sidelining science and public health.
Status: Opposed by environmental advocates statewide
TRK's Position: Oppose

Local Action, Lasting Impact

As federal protections waver, Oregon must rise to the challenge. The stakes are high—but so is the potential for progress. Whether it's pushing for smarter water law, stopping toxic runoff, or defending the role of beavers in watershed health, TRK is committed to protecting the Tualatin River at every level.

We'll continue to keep you informed as these bills evolve. Be sure to Leave your comment today in support of fully protecting American waterways –

and sign up for TRK's Action alerts to stay engaged and informed.

Sign up for Action Alerts

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars — Tualatin River Discovery Day is Saturday, June 21, 2025!

We’re excited to celebrate our most beloved tradition once again! Discovery Day is a fun-filled celebration of paddling, nature, and community on the Tualatin River, inviting people of all ages to explore one of our region’s most beautiful natural spaces.

Join us for the event most closely tied to the long history of Tualatin Riverkeepers as we paddle from King City Community Park to Tualatin Community Park. Up to 150 paddlers will take part in this annual tradition—exploring a scenic stretch of river, learning about its unique features, and renewing their commitment to protecting this incredible watershed.

Volunteers are the heart of Discovery Day! From check-in and water support to creating a warm, welcoming experience, we couldn’t do it without you. Please consider signing up to donate your time and be part of this community favorite.

📣 Registration and full event details coming soon!

💙 Whether you're a longtime volunteer or new to TRK, we’d love to have you on board.

Learn More

Welcome to Kelsey Shaw Nakama, TRK's New Policy and Advocacy Director!

We're thrilled to welcome Kelsey Shaw Nakama to the Tualatin Riverkeepers team as our new Advocacy and Policy Manager!

Originally from Seattle, Kelsey grew up exploring the beaches and parks along Puget Sound. She moved to Oregon in 2010 to attend Pacific University and has called the Willamette Valley home ever since. Her path to environmental advocacy began in the wetlands of Jackson Bottom, where she studied conservation biology and gained hands-on experience in community-based stewardship and riparian restoration.

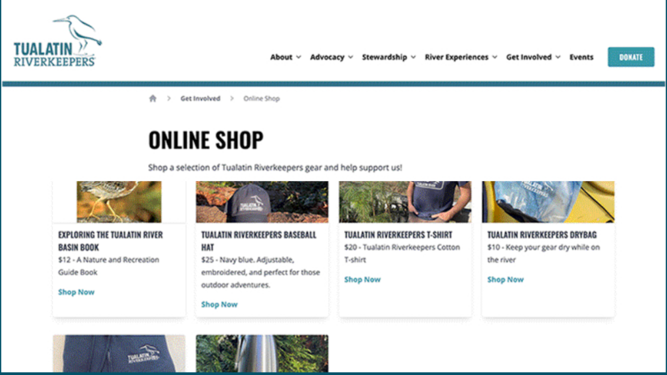
In her 20s, Kelsey focused on connecting people to nature through outdoor recreation—herself included. Whether working at REI, leading with the Mazamas, or hiking deep into the forests and mountains of the Pacific Northwest, she found that adventure fostered a deep sense of responsibility for the places she loved. This inspired her to pursue a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School, where she earned a certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law.

Kelsey believes that everyone is an environmental advocate at heart—and that it often starts with simply spending time outside. When she's not diving into policy work, you'll likely find her on the trail with her husband and their dog, Olive—pausing to admire mushrooms, mountain views, or the texture of tree bark.

Please join us in giving Kelsey a warm Riverkeeper welcome!

Get to know Kelsey

TRK Gear Makes a Splash!



ONLINE SHOP

Shop a selection of Tualatin Riverkeepers gear and help support us!

EXPLORING THE TUALATIN RIVER BASIN BOOK
$12 - A Nature and Recreation Guide Book

TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS BASEBALL HAT
$25 - Navy blue. Adjustable, embroidered, and perfect for those outdoor adventures.

TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS T-SHIRT
$20 - Tualatin Riverkeepers Cotton T-shirt

TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS DRYBAG
$10 - Keep your gear dry while on the river

Show your love for the Tualatin River and support our mission with our brand-new TRK-branded gear! We're excited to offer zip-up sweatshirts for $45 and classic embroidered hats for $25—the perfect way to represent TRK while staying cozy and stylish.

All proceeds from these sales go directly back to Tualatin Riverkeepers, helping us continue our vital work protecting and advocating for the river. Whether you're out paddling, volunteering, or just want to show your support, these items are a great way to do it! Swing by the office and get yours today!

Thank you for supporting TRK and keeping our river community strong!

Shop TRK Gear

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE