TUALATIN
RIVERKEEPERS®

Roots Run Deep: 2023 Annual Report

Photo Courtesy of Catherine Poff

As 2023 began, Tualatin Riverkeepers was still working our way back from many of the challenges associated with COVID. Tualatin River Discovery Day had not been held since 2019, and paddling events were still limited compared to the past. Over the course of the year, we reached down to rediscover our roots, holding a successful Discovery Day in the upper watershed, a reinvigorated Green Heron fundraiser, and a growing number of volunteer restoration projects throughout the watershed. Looking ahead, TRK is committed to building on our past successes to secure a sustainable and equitable future for the Tualatin River watershed. By uniting community efforts and emphasizing education, Tualatin Riverkeepers ensures that the Tualatin River watershed remains a vibrant and vital resource for future generations.

We invite you to read the full 2023 Annual Report on our website to learn more about our ongoing efforts and achievements.

Learn More

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Implements New “Beaver Bill”

Last year, Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) collaborated with a coalition to pass HB 3464, which provides significant protections for beavers on private land. On June 13th, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission voted and adopted new rules to reflect these protections, and implement HB 3464, which simplifies the management of beavers by classifying them solely as furbearers.

This change promotes coexistence with beavers, reduces lethal take, and introduces a permitting process for beaver removal when they cause damage. The rules also mandate reporting of all beaver take and provide guidance on non-lethal conflict mitigation. Of note, the Commission also approved funding for 24 conservation and recreation projects, addressing drought, wildlife research, and habitat needs. You can read the full report, including all actions from the Commission, on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website.

Read the Report

Safe Kayaking Around Tualatin Dams

It’s Paddling Season! As paddle enthusiasts and river advocates, many of us are eager to get outside and cool off along the Tualatin River. However, too frequently, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's water rescue team is deployed to help paddlers who become stuck near one of the two Tualatin River dams: the Lake Oswego Corp Diversion Dam at River Mile 3.4 and the Licorice Lane Farm Dam at River Mile 38.6. These structures, known as low head, weir, or roller dams, are hydro-controlled devices designed to mitigate erosion, store water for irrigation, and facilitate river navigation. Because of their design, these dams pose significant dangers to boaters and swimmers due to their low visibility, powerful currents, and lack of warning signs. Before you paddle near these dangerous dams, be sure to review safe practices.

River Safety Guidelines

Welcome Erik to the Tualatin Riverkeepers Team!

We are thrilled to announce the newest addition to our TRK family, Erik Horngren, who joins us as our Volunteer and Restoration Manager. Erik brings a wealth of experience from his decade of work with volunteers and community members across the Portland and Vancouver, WA areas. His efforts have focused on developing projects that provide environmental education, increase access, and promote land stewardship. Erik will be leading the volunteer recruitment and engagement efforts for the organization, as well as our growing habitat restoration work in the watershed.

Erik's passion for restoration is truly inspiring, and we invite you to learn more about him on our website.

Meet Erik

Save the Date! TRK's Annual Green Heron Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for our annual TRK Green Heron Fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, October 5, 2024, as we return to the historic Alpaca Farms & Gardens. Join us for an evening of celebration with up to 150 guests, enjoying food, drinks, and music from talented local residents of the Tualatin Valley. The event will also feature beloved Green Heron traditions, including a wine wall showcasing salmon-safe wineries from our watershed and an exciting live auction. Let's come together to celebrate our community's achievements in equitable river access and advocacy, and to honor YOU, our dedicated TRK community and members. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you are interested in volunteering or, have items to donate for our silent or live auction, please contact Emily at emily@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Contact Emily

Discovery Day 2024 Recap

Photo Courtesy of Catherine Poff

Thank you to our Riverkeeper community of family, friends, volunteers, and guests for joining us for another year of Discovery Day - we truly appreciate your support. No other tradition is as important as Tualatin River Discovery Day, and we were thrilled to paddle from King City Community Park to Tualatin Community Park, a well-loved section of the river. We had more than 100 boats on the water this year, and quite a few of them were first-time paddlers on the Tualatin River. This event included the help of over 40 volunteers, including one of our long-time TRK members, Don Manghelli, who volunteered while celebrating his 85th birthday. We also had five partners/sponsors join us this year and a new crew of enthusiastic seasonal River Rental staff. Thank you to each of you for your support and for bringing your passion for our beautiful watershed to our community. Our success with Discovery Day is a direct result of your commitment to this beautiful watershed.

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE