TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS

HeronNow! Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

Your Year-End Gift Protects the Tualatin River

As we reflect on this year, we are deeply grateful for the support of our incredible community—people like you who care about the Tualatin River watershed and its future. Thanks to you, we've made significant strides in protecting, restoring, and connecting people to this vital resource.

With your help, we've created a lasting impact. But the work is far from over. Our watershed faces growing challenges, from habitat loss to climate change, and we need your help to meet these challenges head-on.

As the year ends, will you join us in ensuring a thriving future for the Tualatin River? Your year-end donation directly supports critical efforts to protect this beautiful watershed and its ecosystems.

Every dollar makes an impact—and gifts made by December 31st are tax-deductible.

Make an Impact Today

- Make a One-Time Gift through GiveIGuide
- Become a Monthly Donor (*Most impactful!*)
- Donate Stock or Gifts-in-Kind

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. Together, we will continue to protect, restore, and inspire.

With gratitude,

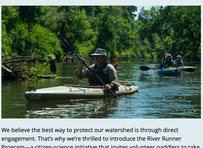
Glenn Fee
Executive Director
Tualatin Riverkeepers

Make a year-end gift or donation today!

Upcoming Events

Feb 8, 10:30am
Annual Member Meeting @ Tualatin Hills Nature Center

Introducing the River Runner Program: A New Way to Protect the Tualatin River



We believe the best way to protect our watershed is through direct engagement. That's why we're thrilled to introduce the River Runner Program—a citizen-science initiative that invites volunteer paddlers to take an active role in monitoring and protecting the river we all love.

Over the last 30 years, the Tualatin River has transformed from one of Oregon's most polluted waterways into a vibrant resource cherished by thousands. But new challenges—including erosion, invasive species, and rising water temperatures—demand innovative solutions. The River Runner Program is our way of meeting these challenges head-on.

What is the River Runner Program?
River Runners are volunteers who adopt a section of the Tualatin River, paddling or walking their area quarterly to document key conditions. With training and tools provided by TRK, River Runners will collect critical data on:

- Log jams and river obstructions
- Bird nests and rookeries
- Native and invasive species
- Illegal dumping and water withdrawals
- Ash tree conditions and riverbank erosion

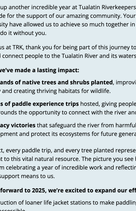
This information will guide restoration efforts, inform advocacy, and provide valuable insights for our partners, including Clean Water Services, Washington County, and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Why Now?
Recreation on the Tualatin River is at an all-time high, with more paddlers exploring its beauty than ever before. By monitoring river conditions and sharing their findings, River Runners ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all while helping to safeguard the river's health.

How to Get Involved
Ready to make a difference? We're actively recruiting 18-20 volunteers to join this transformative program ahead of its official launch on Earth Day 2025. If you're an experienced paddler or someone passionate about protecting the Tualatin River, we'd love to hear from you!

Sign Up Today
Interested in being a River Runner? Email us at info@tualatinriverkeepers.org. We'll send you an invitation to an informational meeting in early February.

Reflecting on a Year of Gratitude and Impact at Tualatin Riverkeepers



As we wrap up another incredible year at Tualatin Riverkeepers, we're filled with gratitude for the support of our amazing community. Our dedication and generosity have allowed us to achieve so much together in 2024, and we couldn't do it without you.

From all of us at TRK, thank you for being part of this journey to protect, restore, and connect people to the Tualatin River and its watershed.

Together, we've made a lasting impact:

- **Thousands of native trees and shrubs planted**, improving water quality and creating thriving habitats for wildlife.
- **Dozens of paddle experience trips** hosted, giving people of all backgrounds the opportunity to connect with the river and nature.
- **Advocacy victories** that safeguard the river from harmful development and protect its ecosystems for future generations.

Every project, every paddle trip, and every tree planted represents your commitment to this vital natural resource. The picture you see here shows our TRK team celebrating a year of incredible work and reflecting on how much your support means to us.

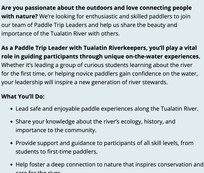
As we look forward to 2025, we're excited to expand our efforts:

- Construction of loaner life jacket stations to make paddling safer and more accessible.
- Development of a water trail map and website to help more people explore the Tualatin River.
- Launch of new tools and opportunities to engage with decision makers and advocate for watershed protection.

Your support makes all this possible, and we couldn't be more thankful. Here's to another year of protecting and celebrating the Tualatin River!

💙 **With heartfelt gratitude,**
Your Tualatin Riverkeepers Team

Join Us on the Water: Become a Paddle Trip Leader!



Are you passionate about the outdoors and love connecting people with nature? We're looking for enthusiastic and skilled paddlers to join our team of Paddle Trip Leaders and help us share the beauty and importance of the Tualatin River with others.

As a Paddle Trip Leader with Tualatin Riverkeepers, you'll play a vital role in guiding participants through unique on-the-water experiences. Whether it's leading a group of curious students learning about the river for the first time, or helping novice paddlers gain confidence on the water, your leadership will inspire a new generation of river stewards.

What You'll Do:

- Lead safe and enjoyable paddle experiences along the Tualatin River.
- Share your knowledge about the river's ecology, history, and importance to the community.
- Provide support and guidance to participants of all skill levels, from students to first-time paddlers.
- Help foster a deep connection to nature that inspires conservation and care for the river.

Why Become a Paddle Trip Leader?

- Be part of a passionate team dedicated to protecting and restoring the Tualatin River.
- Make a meaningful impact by connecting people to this vital natural resource.
- Gain leadership experience and meet others who share your love of paddling and the outdoors.
- Lead paddle trips that leave lasting memories for participants, from school groups to community members eager to explore the river.

If you're experienced in paddling and ready to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you!

How to Get Involved:
Email Mark, our Paddle Experience Manager to learn more and sign up to become a Paddle Trip Leader at Mark@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Thank you for helping us make every paddle trip an unforgettable experience!

Save the Date: TRK Annual Member Meeting!

Mark your calendars for the Tualatin Riverkeepers Annual Member Meeting on February 8, 2025! This special gathering is an opportunity to come together as a community, reflect on our collective impact, and chart a path forward.

We'll be diving into the 2025 strategic plan, setting ambitious goals for the year ahead, and connecting with fellow members who share a passion for protecting the Tualatin River watershed.

Join us at Tualatin Hills Nature Center from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM for this inspiring event. Don't miss this chance to help shape the future of our work and strengthen our vibrant TRK community. Please register early. See you there!

Register to Attend

Help Us Protect Forest Park!

Portland General Electric (PGE) has proposed the Harborton Reliability Project, which would clear 4.7 acres of Forest Park's northernmost section to expand its power grid infrastructure. This area includes old-growth trees, seasonal streams, and habitat for sensitive species like red-legged frogs.

PGE's own analysis revealed alternative routes outside Forest Park, but the current plan still targets this critical natural area. While PGE has offered an environmental mitigation plan, it falls short of replacing the ecological value of the mature forest and habitats that would be lost.

This fight is far from over. We'll continue advocating to protect Forest Park and its vital ecosystems. Stay tuned for updates on the next steps and ways you can help.

Learn More

Fall Habitat Restoration Success—Thanks to You!

We're incredibly grateful to the many volunteers and community partners who made our fall habitat restoration season such a success! **Together, we hosted 14 events, engaged 377 volunteers, planted 4,670 native plants, and cared for over 4 acres of parks and natural areas throughout Hillsboro, Tigard, Tualatin, SW Portland, and West Linn.**

This work wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteers and volunteer restoration crew leaders, as well as the invaluable support of our community partners, including: Brew Dr. Kombucha, Cascade Education Corps, City of Hillsboro, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, City of West Linn, Clean Water Services, Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Confluence Environmental Center, Enterprise Community Partners, Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters, Friends of Trees, Heritage Bank, Housing Development Center, Lewis & Clark College, REI, Rise Church, Sawstop, Sparrowhawk Native Plants, and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Thank you all for helping us protect and restore natural spaces throughout the Tualatin River Watershed!

We're excited to kick off volunteer activities again in January, so stay tuned to this newsletter for opportunities to help care for our community's natural spaces.

Additionally, we'll be hosting our Volunteer Restoration Crew Leader Training in late January and early February. This is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your knowledge of habitat restoration, gain valuable skills, and take on a leadership role guiding volunteer groups.

Interested? Learn more and sign up by clicking the button below.

Thank you for your continued support—together, we're making a lasting impact!

Register to Volunteer

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE