HeronNow! Newsletter

OCTOBER 2024

Welcome Aboard Chris!

"I am excited to do much needed restoration work in the Tualatin River Watershed alongside a great group of volunteers!"

We are excited to welcome Chris Johnston as our new Confluence AmeriCorps member. Chris will be serving an 11-month term as TRK's Community Stewardship Coordinator, where he'll collaborate with volunteers on restoration projects across the Tualatin River Watershed. His passion for environmental justice and climate action, inspired by the pressing challenges facing his generation, led him to pursue a degree in environmental studies at Linfield University. With a strong background in environmental advocacy gained through multiple internships, and through is work on a campus restoration project, Chris brings valuable experience to our team. Outside of work, Chris enjoys reading and engaging in community activism. We are thrilled to have him on board and look forward to the positive contributions he will make to our team and the watershed.

Learn More About Chris

Upcoming Events

- **Oct 19, 10am** Autumn Colors Paddle
- **Oct 24-26** Sprinkwater Native Plant Sale
- **Nov 2, 9am** Jackson Bottom Wetland Planting
- **Nov 7, 6pm** Watershed Science Series
- **Nov 17, 9am** Fields Bridge Park Restoration Event

Tualatin Riverkeepers Attends Annual Waterkeeper Alliance Conference

Glenn & Eve at the Waterkeepers Alliance Conference in Milwaukee

Earlier this month, our Executive Director, Glenn Fee, and Staff Attorney and Riverkeeper, Eve Goldman, attended the international Waterkeeper Alliance Conference in Milwaukee, WI. Not only was it an opportunity to learn from Waterkeepers who for decades have been actively engaged in advocating for protection of their watersheds, Eve and Glenn were able to connect and collaborate with those facing similar challenges. The team attended sessions that discussed strategies to enforce local and state water quality standards, litigation and legislation tools for policy impact, and dam removals. It was an insightful week and they left feeling inspired and encouraged at the work people are doing all over the world to protect our vital waterseds and ecosystems.

Learn About the Work of the Waterkeeper Alliance

Thank You for Supporting the Green Heron Auction!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, sponsored, bid on, and donated to the Tualatin Riverkeepers Green Heron Auction. Your incredible generosity and support made this event a huge success, helping us raise $45,000 toward in support of our mission to protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed.

Whether you were in the audience, a sponsor, partner, donor, or bidder, your participation plays a crucial role in sustaining our conservation and education programs. Thanks to you, we can continue to make a positive impact on our community and environment.

We couldn't do this important work without the support of our amazing community. Thank you for standing with us and for being champions of the Tualatin River!

With sincere gratitude,
The Tualatin Riverkeepers Team

Offer Support

If you were not able to join us, please consider supporting our work.

Calling all Volunteers!

Photo Credit: Hadlick Photography

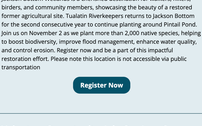
We are incredibly grateful to be partnering with Sparrohawk for their annual Native Plant Sale October 24 - 26 at Rise Church in Tigard, and we need your help! We're looking for a few additional volunteers to help distribute thousands of native plants to our community, promoting local habitat restoration and biodiversity. Whether you're passionate about native plants or just want to lend a hand, your support will make a big impact. Sign up today and be part of this incredible event that helps native species thrive!

If you forgot to place your native plant order, it's not too late! Swing by for the **FLASH SALE** and take advantage of deep discounts on a wide selection of native plants just in time for fall planting. **Join us Saturday, 10/26, at 2 p.m. in the Rise Church parking lot.** There will be about 1- 8 pots of almost every species at near wholesale prices!

Plant lovers will start lining up 10-15 minutes in advance. Most plants are usually gone within 15 minutes. Garden carts and plastic plant trays will be available—feel free to take the trays home! Payment is by credit card, Venmo, or exact change. See you there!

Sign Up to Volunteer

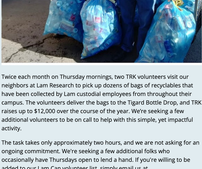
Volunteer Event: Jackson Bottom Wetland Planting



Jackson Bottom Wetlands is a cherished destination for walkers, hikers, birders, and community members, showcasing the beauty of a restored former agricultural site. Tualatin Riverkeepers returns to Jackson Bottom for the second consecutive year to continue planting around Pintail Pond. Join us on November 2 as we plant more than 2,000 native species, helping to boost biodiversity, improve flood management, enhance water quality, and control erosion. Register now and be a part of this impactful restoration effort. Please note this location is not accessible via public transportation

Register Now

Volunteer Opportunity: Join Our Lam Can Recycling Crew!



Twice each month on Thursday mornings, two TRK volunteers visit our neighbors at Lam Research to pick up dozens of bags of recyclables that have been collected by Lam custodial employees from throughout their campus. The volunteers deliver the bags to the Tigard Bottle Drop, and TRK raises up to $12,000 over the course of the year. We're seeking a few additional volunteers to be on call to help with this simple, yet impactful activity.

The task takes only approximately two hours, and we are not asking for an ongoing commitment. We're seeking a few additional folks who occasionally have Thursdays open to lend a hand. If you're willing to be added to our Lam Can volunteer list, simply email us at info@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Email us for more information

Making an Impact

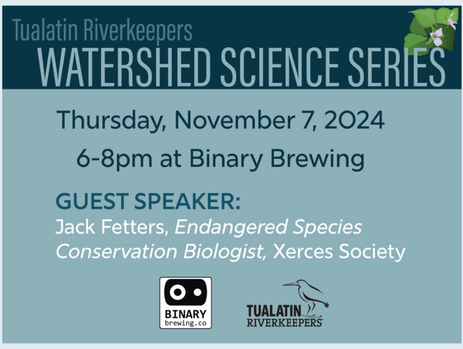
It's been a busy month for volunteers at TRK with over **140 volunteers contributing 340 hours of service** to care for parks, natural areas and rivers throughout the watershed! We're grateful to volunteers from Heritage Bank, Housing Development Center, SawStop, and river loving community members for their recent support. Collectively, these volunteers cared for more than two acres of community space by removing invasive weeds and making trail safety improvements, as well as removing many pounds of trash directly from the Tualatin River! A big thanks also goes out to our partners from City of Tigard and City of Tualatin who supported these activities.

Interested in getting involved? We have a couple fun opportunities coming up including a native planting work party at Jackson Bottom Wetlands on November 2, and a variety of volunteer options at our native plant sale on October 24, 25 and 26! If you have questions about these events, or are interested in learning more about volunteering, we would love to hear from you.

If you have questions about these events, or are interested in learning more about volunteering, contact erik@tualatinriverkeepers.org.

Volunteer Sign Up

Watershed Science with Jack Fetters



Join us for our November Watershed Science Series, with a presentation featuring Jack Fetters, an Endangered Species Conservation Biologist and specialist in western freshwater mussel conservation with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, an organization dedicated to protecting invertebrates vital to biological diversity and ecosystem health. **Jack will share his research on Western Ridge Mussels and their role in the Tualatin River Watershed.** Don't miss it on Thursday, 11/7, from 6-8pm at Binary Brewing, with the presentation starting at 6:30 p.m. Register today to save your seat!

Thank you to our friends at Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District for sponsoring this series.

Join Us

Your Voice Matters: Survey Results on Improving River Access

In partnership with the National Park Service, Tualatin Riverkeepers has been conducting a wayfaring survey to better understand how we can enhance river access for visitors. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took the time to share their input and help us in this improvement process!

Here's what the survey revealed:

Survey Participation: A total of 104 surveys were submitted from Cook Park, Tualatin Community Park, and Rood Bridge Park, with the majority of responses coming from Tualatin Community Park. Nearly 40 respondents were there to enjoy the river, and another 40 were out for a walk or jog. Over 35 respondents visit the Tualatin River more than 10 times a year.

Boat Launches & Popular Features: Tualatin Community Park and Cook Park were the most popular spots for boat launches, with early data suggesting Cook Park as the favorite. Visitors highlighted proximity to home (25%), easy river access (22%), and parking (20%) as the top features they look for. Other appreciated features included trails and paths (23%), paddle craft access (10%), and off- or on-leash dog areas (10%).

Tualatin River Map: Many respondents rely on the Tualatin River Map to locate river access points, estimate travel times, and discover site amenities. The map received strong feedback, with 27% rating it 5 stars, 29% giving it 4 stars, and 23% offering a 3-star rating.

Educational Interests: A straw poll indicated that the top topics people are eager to learn more about include local wildlife, followed by historical and vegetation information.

Thank you for lending your voice. We hear you, and we're listening! Stay tuned for updates and plans as we work with the National Park Service to implement improvements that will benefit all visitors.

Get Involved!