The 712 square mile Tualatin River Watershed has a population of over 500,000 people and continues to grow with a projected population of over one million people living in the watershed by 2040. The land uses in this watershed are 50% in forestry, 30% in agriculture and 20% in urban uses.

The Tualatin River Watershed Council is a locally organized voluntary group, established in 1996 by Washington County Commissioners, and composed of a diverse group of stakeholders. The Council promotes and improves watershed conditions by connecting volunteers, groups and landowners with resources to restore and protect the land; providing watershed stewardship education; sharing information on watershed conditions; and improving watershed health. For more information on the Council and the watershed, including the Council’s 10-Point Action Plan, visit www.trwc.org.
Education & Outreach

Council Offers Fun Educational Opportunities To Kids & Adults!

Is your class, club or neighborhood group looking for a fun, educational way to help the Watershed and environment? The Council offers many opportunities to work with individual students as well as adult volunteers.

**Student Watershed Research Project (SWRP)** – Provides Forest Grove High School students with opportunities for hands-on learning of the water quality parameters of Gales Creek such as measuring pH, stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, observing riparian health and providing data for trend monitoring for the Council. Student activities culminate in an SWRP Summit with power-point presentations and poster sessions with other students throughout the regional Portland area.

**World Wide Monitoring Activities with Gales Creek Elementary School** - Jena Lemke, TRWC member, worked with two classes at Gales Creek Elementary School obtaining water samples from Ihler Creek, a Gales Creek tributary located across from the school. Students tested the water for temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen and learned about what those indicated about water quality.

**Student Monitoring on a McKay Creek Tributary** - Anisha Datta, a fifth grade student at XXX, monitored her neighborhood stream by taking readings through the winter and spring for temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen and provided the Council with her conclusions about what was occurring in her neighborhood stream.

**Spawning Survey Training** - ODFW personnel and the Council sponsored trainings for community volunteers and landowners to perform spawning surveys in several reaches of upper Gales Creek to observe and identify Coho salmon, winter steelhead trout and Pacific lamprey redds. Information gathered helps provide a baseline of information on these species and the “surveyors” share information with ODFW, the Council and each other.
In December 2007, high waters on Gales Creek deposited between two to eight inches of sediment on the site that brought both native plant seeds such as blue elderberry and stinging nettles and other non-native and invasive seeds such as canary reed grass, Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard. Volunteers planted native stakes, plants and shrubs in approximately 5-8 acres of the site, mulched plants and continued invasive species removal on English ivy.

In 2004, invasive and aggressive Japanese knotweed was identified on the site and was spreading. In 2005 & 2006, Clean Water Services contracted crews treated the knotweed onsite as a pilot project. In the summer 2006, invasive and aggressive garlic mustard was identified and treatment began in spring 2007 and continues.

During planting seasons 2006-07 and 2007-08, community volunteers planted native plants (1100 in 2006-07; 860 stakes, shrubs, and trees) in areas where the invasive English ivy was removed, and the Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard were treated.


Thanks to Ryan Kilgren for pictures on this page
**Fish Passage & In-Stream Projects**

**Lower Gales Creek Habitat Enhancement Plan:** A plan developed on a five mile reach of Lower Gales Creek that is implemented by landowners and Council partners focusing on fish habitat enhancement, riparian enhancement and floodplain connections to benefit native fish and wildlife.

**West Fork Dairy Creek Project:** Removal of two fish passage barrier culverts and road fills on main stem WF Dairy Creek and tributary stream. Placement of large wood in a 1.1 mile stream reach to increase pool habitat and scour for native fish. Planting of riparian areas and fill sites with native plants.

**Murtaugh Creek Fish Passage Project:** Design and implement five boulder weirs designed to aggrade the stream channel and mimic a series of natural step pools in order to provide fish passage over a flash board dam structure (fish ladder structure destroyed by 1996 high waters) and provide native fish with an additional 1 ½ - 2 miles of additional excellent spawning and rearing habitat located upstream.

**Gales Creek Private Landowner Project:** Partner with private landowner to place habitat structures in floodplain, create off-channel habitat for amphibians with a 2.5 acre riparian planting project to be implemented by Tualatin SWCD.

**Activities:**
- Project designed in 2007;
- Funding received and permits submitted for project in 2008.
- Implement project 2009-10.

**Providing Resources For A Healthier Watershed**

The Council serves as a connector, connecting landowners with resources for projects, such as plants, grant funds, community volunteers, expertise and also connects community volunteers and organizations with projects. Do you have an idea for a project the Council might be interested in helping with? Visit www.trwc.org.
Engaging The Community

Council Roles: Tualatin Basin Water Supply input provider and information dissemination group since 2000. Council members (stakeholder groups) exchange information and network, learn from various presentations. This year, the Council reviewed the implementation of the Action Plan; updated its Strategic Plan and worked on timelines and outcomes.

TRWC Council Meetings July 2007 - June 2008

**July:** Reviewing the Update of the Council Action Plan Implementation – Identifying “the gaps”

**August:** Update and participation on Washington County “pharmaceutical take-backs” program; Review from July meeting of identified “gaps”; Identifying “the gaps” and possible groups to fill gaps

**September:** Update and support of statewide “pharmaceutical take-back” program; Update on Water Supply Project - Title Transfer and governance model discussions

**October:** TRWC officer nominations (elections at November meeting); TRWC recognition of Ric Balfour, Lower Gales Creek Project Manager; Council Discussion: Discussion of Gaps and Actions from Assessment of TRWC Action Plan Implementation; Update on Priority Actions from TRWC Sept 2006 Council Self-Evaluation

**November:** TRWC officer elections; ODFW Conservation Strategy and its implementation in the Tualatin Basin; Council Strategic Planning Update

**December:** West Fork Dairy Creek Restoration Project Update; TRWC Recognitions; Network of Oregon Watershed Council’s Gathering Update; 2006-2007 Review; 2006-07 Financial Review

**January:** Prepare for Strategic Planning process; Jan 12: Strategic Planning;

**February:** Update on Strategic Planning process; TRWC Recognitions; Verde Presentation; ECREP-VEGBACC Update

**March:** Update on Citizen At Large position and other Council stakeholder member representative; Updates on Water Feasibility Partners meeting with Senator Gordon Smith; TRWC Strategic Planning; Completion of Logic Models for a) Restoration and Enhancement priority; b) Issues Forum priority; c) Education and Outreach priority.

**April:** Water Conservation Methods/Techniques

**May:** TRWC Strategic Planning --- Discussion and Implementation of the Plan; Next Steps

**June:** Presentation on McKay tributary monitoring; Washington County urban and rural reserves planning – process; TRWC Strategic Planning --- Discussion and Implementation of the Plan; Next Steps

Keeping Up With Mother Nature

The Council can provide different groups with input on various projects and topics. Citizens can express their concerns at a Council meeting and receive feedback on resources to help with a project.
Behind The Scenes

Council Capacity

Expenses

Council Operating Expenses: $82,378
Cash 64%  In-Kind 36%

Council Project Expenses: $154,722
Cash 55%  In-Kind 45%

Volunteer Hours
Project Partners

Tualatin Valley Water District
Council Officers
Council Members
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OWEB Small Grant Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon Department of Forestry
Landowner Incentive Program – ODFW
Salmon Habitat Fund
Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District
Clean Water Services
Pacific University
Oregon State University Extension Service
ABR, Inc.
City of Forest Grove
Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce
Washington County Fire Defense Board
Cedar Canyon Water
Stuntzner Engineering & Forestry LCC
Merix Corp.
Stimson Lumber Co.
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Raindrops to Refuge
Fisher Farms LLC
Swanson Hydrology+Geomorphology
Waste Management
Washington County
SOLV
NW Invasive Weed Partnership
Ric Balfour
Doneen, Inc.
Dave Johnson
Victoria Lowe
Joyce and Bill Sauber
Kyle Spinks
Paul Johnson
Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Bateman Creek Tree Farm
Deanna Olson
Native Plant Coop Nursery
Moonshadow Park Neighbors
Beaverton HS Eco-Club
Forest Grove HS Earth & Key Club
Cherie Kinnersley
Student Watershed Research Project
Michael McMahan
Ryan Kilgren
Jena Lemke
Ron Garst
John Driscoll
Patricia O’Brien
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
Corrine Oishi and Morton Lindley
CPC BSA Guy Miller Tree Plant program

Special Thanks To All Our Volunteers

OWEB Staff
Ariane Cease
Jan Miller
Arianne Cease

ODFW Staff
April Olbrich
Nancy Wilmes
Tom Nygren
Rich Van Buskirk

OPRD Staff
Betsy Parry

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Washington County Transportation Division

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