



The Clackamas

CURRENT NEWS

CLACKAMAS RIVER BASIN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015-16

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Thank You Donors!

Our work was supported by the following donors this quarter: J. Frank Schmidt & Sons Nursery, Arbor Crest LLC, and Dave Albrecht. View more at: www.clackamasriver.org/donate/thank-you-donors

A Year in Review

The Clackamas River Basin Council has nearly two decades of proven results transforming the watershed. Building on past successes, our restoration footprint this year has been larger than ever, improving **water quality** and **fish and wildlife habitat** for those who live, work, and recreate here. Whether we're planting natives to shade our creeks, restoring in-stream habitat for juvenile salmon, or involving community members and school-aged students in hands-on stewardship, we're **fostering partnerships** every day to help protect the ecological gem that is the Clackamas watershed!

2015 by the numbers:

- 86,034** native trees and shrubs planted
- 6,000** Stash the Trash bags used
- 2,636** hours by 911 volunteers
- 1,129** pounds of pesticides rounded up
- 400** Christmas trees placed in creeks
- 350** salmon carcasses tossed in creeks
- 117** acres of invasive species treated
- 106** riders at the inaugural Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeride
- 100** recreationists pledged to keep the river clean and safe
- 22** miles of river cleared of trash at the Down the River Clean Up
- 19** schools engaged
- 12** yards of mulch spread
- 5** miles of streamside planted at 34 Shade Our Streams properties
- 3** new CRBC staff
- 2** tons of debris collected from the Clackamas River
- 2** instream fish habitat construction projects

Join us in 2016:

As a streamside landowner, take part in Shade Our Streams. We're nearing the end of the program, so now is the time to take advantage of weed removal and native plants at no cost to you. **As a recreationist**, help keep debris out of the river and from accumulating on its banks by using a Stash the Trash bag and volunteering at the Down the River Clean Up. **As a community member**, join a volunteer restoration work party (one every month through April), attend a tour or workshop, and ride with us along the Cascading River Scenic Bikeway. **As an educator**, find out if your school qualifies for an educational presentation, salmon toss, or stream restoration.

Support the work of the Council by getting involved or with a financial donation that will help benefit people, fish, and wildlife that call the Clackamas watershed home. To learn more or to contact us, go to www.clackamasriver.org or call 503-303-4372 x101.

Trout Unlimited volunteer installs Christmas trees at Rock Creek Confluence.



Where in the Watershed



Salmon Life Cycle

Thanks to 21 students from **Estacada High School** and **Milwaukie High School**, over **350 coho salmon carcasses** have returned to Clear Creek at Metzler Park to act as “**fishy fertilizer**”, boosting nutrient levels for plant, wildlife, and aquatic species. A little slime and stench was no match for these salmon superheroes! They even sliced open plump bellies for a hands-on lesson in anatomy.



Fish Eggs to Fry

In December, students from **Lewis & Clark Montessori Charter School** in Damascus released **482 baby Chinook fry** into the Clackamas River at Barton Park after having raised them since October as part of **ODFW’s Fish Eggs to Fry Program** - which brings the salmon cycle to life for thousands of students across the state each year. Kudos to the Lewis & Clark 4th-6th grade classes, our future fish biologists!



Fred the Fish

Approximately 90 students from **Abernethy Elementary School** led poor Fred the Fish on a **stream pollution** simulation during their visit at **Chrysalis Farms** along the Clackamas River. These 3rd graders joined Fred on his journey downstream, encountering various pollutants (like oil, dirt, trash, and pesticides) along the way. One child’s takeaway: “Fred died, now I know how to take care of him so he won’t.”

Nature Trail Stewardship

Students of all ages from **Summit Learning Charter** continued where the students of Eagle Creek Elementary School left off last spring with stewardship of the nature trail leading to the **Shade Our Streams** planting project along **Goose Creek**. Mulch was spread, invasive blackberry was hacked, and fun was had by all. Planting of oceanspray, red flowering currant, snowberry, and Western red cedar has also begun and will continue into next year.



Stream Restoration

Like true weed warriors, the **Sandy High School Green Club** jumped right in, literally, into **Zeldon Pond - the headwaters of Tickle Creek**. They tackled huge clumps of invasive yellow flag iris, digging and pulling like pros. Over 20 native plants, each of a different species, have already been added around the pond with more to come in 2016.



Thank You Partners!

Funding and support was provided by Clackamas County Water Environment Services, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clackamas County Water Education Team, Association of Northwest Steelheaders Sandy Chapter, the Shade Our Streams program, and Chrysalis Farms.

Shade Our Streams

Congrats to Graduating Stream Stewards!

On October 4th, the Clackamas River Basin Council honored its first graduation of landowners from the Shade Our Streams program. Out of 113 enrolled, **13 landowners** have completed the **4 year program** which encompassed site prep, planting, maintenance, stewardship education, monitoring and more! Their native trees and shrubs planted in 2012 and 2013, are growing tall and strong and have reached the **'free to grow' stage**, ready to out-compete any invasive weeds that may try to sneak in.



Shade Our Streams graduates.

Native plant ID activity.



Landowners representing 6 properties attended the **Shade our Streams Celebration** at Barton Park and were recognized in front of 40 community members, volunteers, and partners for their commitment to stream health. Shade Our Streams has planted over a **quarter million trees and shrubs** along streams and rivers in the Clackamas watershed since 2012! We couldn't do any of this without these amazing landowners.

If you, too, live on a stream that is lacking in shade or overrun with invasive weeds, contact us to see if Shade Our Streams is a good fit for your property. Call Suzi Cloutier at 503-303-4372 x105 or email suzi@clackamasriver.org. **We're nearing the end of the program so take advantage of this great opportunity before time runs out!**

Don't live on a stream but want to help? Join us for a community tree planting along Currin Creek in Eagle Creek/Estacada on January 23rd, 2016.

Support Our Work

[Make A Donation](#)

All donations are greatly appreciated, and are tax-deductible. Donate online via PayPal — just head to our website and click the **"donate"** button. Our tax identification number is 91-1838169. Thank you for your contribution!

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Online shoppers can go to smile.amazon.com, then click on your account and select CRBC as your charity of choice in order for us to receive donations from a portion of your purchase price, at no cost to you.

Learn More

[Discover Rock Creek](#)

Did you miss the Discover Rock Creek event? Not to worry! Discover it on your own with this **VIDEO** highlighting the community exploring the **Rock Creek Confluence** through education and work party stations: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReTPS0Y1-80&feature=youtu.be>

[CRISP](#)

Led by CRBC and the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, the **Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP)** has just released a comprehensive weed management plan for the Clackamas watershed to control and prevent the spread of invasive species.

Download the **CRISP Plan** here:

<http://weedwise.conservationdistrict.org/crisp>



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Find us on **Twitter** at [ClackamasRiver](#).
 Search for our **Facebook** page at "[Clackamas River Basin Council](#)."

Get Involved

If you're looking for a reason to get out and about in the Clackamas watershed this winter, look no further! Contact Morgan Parks at morgan@clackamasriver.org about how to get involved. Volunteer opportunities are also listed on our website at www.clackamasriver.org.

Council Meetings

CRBC meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6-8:30 pm at the Mt. Scott Fire Station in Happy Valley. These meetings are open to the public. Check our website for information about that month's featured presentation.
 Upcoming dates: **January 21 ~ February 18 ~ March 17**

Volunteer Work Parties

Enjoy the great outdoors, work those muscles, and meet new people, all while helping our waterways! Tools, gloves, and refreshments are provided. All events start at 9 am and end at noon.

- ~ **January 23:** Currin Creek Tree Planting in Eagle Creek/Estacada
- ~ **February 27:** Rock Creek Mulching Work Party in Damascus
- ~ **March 12:** Rock Creek Watershed Wide Event in Happy Valley

Also check out future events in [Watershed Works](#), a partner newsletter of Watershed Councils and Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the region, available on our website.



Welcome Suzi Cloutier, CRBC's new Outreach Specialist!



CRBC Staff at Madrone Wall, L-R: Evan Gammon, Suzi Cloutier, Zach Bergen, Cheryl McGinnis, Jenny Dezso, Katherine Cory, Morgan Parks.