



Fiscal Year 2009-10 Report

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1. Introduction

The Southwest Watershed Resource Center (WRC) mission is to inspire awareness and action on behalf of watershed health in SW Portland neighborhoods. This is accomplished through outreach and education both at the WRC and out in the community, technical assistance and referrals for landowners planning restoration, and support for volunteer watershed stewardship groups.



Southwest Watershed Resource Center

The WRC provides these services to the community with \$52,000 in funding out of a \$73,000 contract to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services. Funds support a 0.9 FTE staff position, taxes and liabilities, benefits, contract administration, program supplies, equipment and mileage. This report serves as the summary of outcomes generated by this investment in the WRC.

In FY 2009-10, the WRC contract was leveraged to bring in over \$16,000 in outside funding to support a 0.3 FTE AmeriCorps member, two on-the-ground restoration and habitat enhancement projects managed by the WRC coordinator, and outreach materials including a watershed video scheduled for completion in August 2010. Details on grants are in section 6 below.

2. WRC Outreach Strategy and Report Summary

Toward the goal of increasing awareness of watershed issues and public participation, the WRC utilizes a multi-method outreach approach.

Where	What	Who (target audience)	FY 2009-10 Outcomes
WRC room	Exhibits, bulletin board displays, information file, kid's activities	SWCC visitors, recreationalists, families w/young children	1108.25 hours 709 visitors
Watershed restoration events	Assist watershed stewardship groups with implementing high quality, meaningful volunteer events	Watershed volunteers, students, technical audiences	53 meetings 19 events 667 participants
Youth education	Scheduled programs; activity kits for checkout and use on-site	Youth (pre-K through 12)	34 programs 830 participants
Outreach events	Tabling at neighborhood events (National Night Out, Willamette Park concerts and movies, Multnomah Days); Watershed tours, presentations to neighborhood associations, communities of faith and other interested groups	Neighbors unfamiliar with the WRC & watershed resources; families with kids; general audiences	25 events 1601 visitors
SWNI News	Watershed Stewards events and opportunities	Non-internet users	12 listings to 10,000+ households
Website	WRC information; technical resources including referral information, volunteer group how-to guide, event planning	Internet users Volunteers Landowners seeking assistance	29 web pages, periodic updates
Constant Contact	SW Watershed "Riffles" e-newsletter Group e-newsletters for FOVC, Stephens Creek Stewards	Watershed stewards (incl. volunteers, landowners, members of faith communities)	17 emails sent to 100+ list members
Facebook	Primarily events and notices	Facebook users	117 friends (Fall 2010)
CNRG, Hands On Portland	Volunteer opportunities Events	Portlanders who want to volunteer/participate	6 posts for volunteer opportunities

3. Watershed Resource Center Room



Inside the Watershed Resource Center

- Open **1108.25 hours**
- Served by **1.2 FTE** staff
- **709** total visitors
- **386** adults, **323** youth

The WRC hosts meetings for watershed coordination and stewardship groups (Bridlemile Creek Stewards, and as of late spring 2010, West Willamette Restoration Partnership).

Inside the WRC, visitors can find displays and information about:

- Watershed ecology, salmon life cycle, and local natural history;
- BES watershed planning and project information;
- Landscaping with native plants, including sample landscaping plans;
- Invasive plant information including BES treatment programs, a list of local contractors, and identification information;
- Stormwater management techniques, incentive programs, and contractor list;
- Natural gardening, chemical reduction, composting, pest control and lawn care;
- Living with urban wildlife, including bird boxes and Audubon brochure series;
- Backyard Habitat Certification Program;
- Activity kits for checkout and use in Gabriel Park.

From summer 2009 to summer 2010 Portland Parks & Recreation also requested that a part-time (0.8 FTE) staff share the Watershed Center desk space. This reduced available WRC space, but increased collaborations between WRC and SWCC teen programs.

4. Stewardship Groups

At the beginning of 2010, sixteen watershed stewardship groups were active in SW Portland. One new leader began supporting restoration efforts in the North Ash Creek watershed. Two groups ceased activity in 2009-10. Hillsdale Neighborhood completed immediate restoration goals in George Himes Park in Fall 2009. Also, due to the merger of Three Rivers Land Conservancy with Columbia Land Trust in June 2010, Keller Woodlands work parties are on hold pending strategic planning.



Bridlemile Creek Stewards – New Year's Planting

In the Watershed Stewards Connection section of the SWNI News (distributed to over 9,000 households and available at numerous community outlets throughout SW Portland), the following groups' activities are listed each month:

- *Bridlemile Creek Stewards*
- *Friends of April Hill Park*
- *Friends of Marshall & Maricara Parks*
- *Friends of Vermont Creek*
- *Friends of Woods Park*
- *North Ash Creek Neighbors*
- *South Portland Riverbank Partners*
- *Stephens Creek Stewards*
- *Dickinson Park Stewards*
- *Friends of Marquam Nature Park*
- *Friends of Terwilliger*
- *Friends of Tryon Creek State Park*
- *Multnomah Village Park*
- *PCC Sylvania Habitat Team*
- *Shomrei Teva of Neveh Shalom*
- *Tryon Creek Watershed Council*

For FY 2009-10, WRC staff provided support to watershed stewardship groups via the following:

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	All	Total
Meetings	17	17	13	7	53
Work Parties & Outdoor Events	13	5	1	0	19
Total participants	281	235	94	57	667

5. Education Programs



Julia DeGagne working with Sprout Academy

Education programs in FY 2009-10 were largely provided by WRC Education Intern Julia DeGagné (AmeriCorps). Education programs are offered by arrangement to small groups of up to 12 youth accompanied by adults.

SWCC began a new environmental preschool program, Sprout Academy, in 2009-10. In addition to delivering programs for this group, WRC staff also provided pedagogical guidance, curriculum development & review, and grant development assistance to staff.

SWCC Teen Coordinator staff also utilized the WRC for desk space from summer 2009 to summer 2010, which resulted in additional partnerships. Out & About teen summer campers participated in service learning opportunities in conjunction with SW Watershed Steward groups.

Some programs were held in partnership with BES Clean Rivers Education staff, although numbers below correspond only to the participants led directly by the WRC Intern. Several new curricula were created this year by WRC Education Intern Julia DeGagné. Programs were delivered to SWCC camp groups, including elementary and teen camps.

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	All/Unspecified	Total
Total programs	9	2	3	20	34 programs
Youth	222	50	32	301	605
Adults	53	14	5	153	225
Total participants	275	64	37	454	830 participants

- 14 programs had all or significant components inside the WRC room.
- 20 programs were hosted outside, in Gabriel Park or other SW sites.

Activity kits were created by the Education Intern, and are now available for checkout by WRC visitors, who can take them out in Gabriel Park for field use. Topics include:

- Botany Challenge (invasive and native plant identification),
- Bug's Eye View (insects), and
- Junior Naturalist (scavenger hunt, also covering naturalist skills).

These were completed in May 2010 and had a total of 4 checkouts by June 30.

6. Events

Outreach events provide an opportunity for the Watershed Resource Center to "meet people where they're at" and increase exposure to watershed information in the community and neighborhood context. WRC outreach opportunities include:

- Neighborhood Association meetings
- National Night Out
- Park concerts and movies
- Communities of faith

Tabling at these events bring many of the resources available at the WRC out to the community – information on invasive and native plants, natural gardening, stormwater management, and wildlife – as well as engaging kids in watershed-related activities. Events provide an opportunity for community members to get questions answered and consider new options for stewarding their property.

WRC staff tabled, or helped prepare outreach at the following **25** events in FY 2009-10:

Event Name	Description	Youth	Adults
<i>Fanno Outreach Events</i>			
Hayhurst NA meeting	Depave/VHUMC garden project info, general watershed Q&A	0	12
Maplewood Picnic	Tabling, art activity	50	20
Science Night: Bridlemile	<i>(Helped plan activities that were carried out by volunteers)</i>	50	10
Science Night: Maplewood		50	10
St. Luke's Church	"Sustainability Sunday" tabling for native plants & natural gardening	0	50
SWHRL Quarterly Forum		0	21
<i>Willamette Subwatershed Improvement Strategies & Other Outreach Events</i>			
Heron Pointe/Rivers Edge Board Annual Meeting	Presentation on HPW grant project; intro to Naturescaping	0	12
Willamette Park movie and National Night Out	Provided information via tabling or PowerPoint presentation on watershed planning process, subwatershed characterization, project types, and example projects. Received comments and relayed to Willamette Team staff.	22	53
SWNI Board		0	27
South Portland NA		0	19
Friends of Marquam NP		0	11
Homestead NA & Friends of Terwilliger		0	7
<i>All Watersheds/Unspecified Outreach Events</i>			
Backyard Habitat tour	Provide program information and site interpretation to visitors	0	25
Multnomah Days	Tabling for watershed stewardship groups	200	500
SWNI Board	WRC update & partnerships memo	0	20
Trillium Festival	Table; inquiries on watershed BMPs, plant ID, natural gardening, stormwater mgmt	67	221
Trout Unlimited	60 min presentation w/Q&A on salmonid presence in SW Portland, actions landowners can take to protect habitat, and available resources	0	10
Other (7 events)	Includes general tabling, and providing support/consultation to BES Education Cmte, SWCC staff, city-neighborhood participation, CWMA outreach	7	127
Total		446	1155

Other outreach conducted by the WRC (see section 2) includes social networking (Southwest Watershed Stewards on Facebook; "Riffles" e-newsletter produced every 2-3 months.)

7. Grants

A significant value of the WRC to the community exists in grantwriting assistance. Landowners and community groups planning restoration can request feedback on grants. Where a good alignment exists with WRC mission and work plan, more in depth partnerships are also feasible. This year, 3 landowners received assistance with individual grant applications. Additionally, the following grant projects that included significant partnership with the WRC were funded in 2009-10:

Friends of Vermont Creek (FOVC) \$2,760
Cavity Habitat Enhancement/Nest Box Installation

Through this BES Community Watershed Stewardship (CWSP) grant, over 25 nest boxes were installed in Gabriel Park to mitigate for the loss of snag habitat. WRC staff coordinated this grant while FOVC volunteers and a local arborist provided technical guidance. The WRC Education Intern also helped organize the celebration event. More details are reported in Success Stories (section 11) below.

Heron Pointe Wetland \$4,400
Wetland Rehabilitation

WRC staff initially met with residents for several site visits and assisted with writing a BES CWSP grant to fund the project. When the volunteer project coordinator needed to scale back due to family and health issues, WRC staff also stepped up to ensure smooth implementation of the project. This included communication between community partners (including the condo associations, Northwest Service Academy, and SW Charter School, which was not involved in the 2009-10 phase of the project but may be involved later), site assessment, development of the restoration, safety and planting plan, presenting the plan to the condo board, hiring of contractors, plant acquisition and delivery, other site logistics and support, crew orientation, communication and feedback, mop-up, Metro disposal waiver acquisition and reporting, review of project accounting and submitting the final grant report.

Southwest Watershed Stewards \$4,043
Intern Funding; Production of Outreach DVD \$4,326

WRC received funding from WMSWCD to hire an AmeriCorps Education Intern to enhance education offerings at the WRC (\$675); additionally, a Friends of Vermont

Creek (FOVC) volunteer who is a professional videographer was contracted to produce a 12-minute video and accompanying DVD “toolbox” (total \$7,694). This DVD will serve to inspire landowners to view their backyards as part of the watershed and ecosystem, and provide short informational videos on how to get started with removing invasive plants, installing natives, managing stormwater, enhancing wildlife habitat, and more.

Southwest Watershed Resource Center **\$850**
Outreach Equipment (LCD projector, canopies)

An LCD projector and three pop-up canopies were purchased to enhance involvement through improved community presentations and visibility at work parties.

TOTAL 2009-10 grants: \$16,379

8. Other Projects

See grant-funded projects in Section (5) above. Other projects that WRC staff participated in without obtaining separate grant funding in 2009-10 included:

Willamette Subwatershed Improvement Strategies (WSIS) Outreach: WRC staff collaborated with BES Willamette Team to refine SWIS talking points and develop presentations for the community. Four PowerPoint presentations were delivered to neighborhoods and watershed groups. Additionally, WSIS tabling took place at Willamette Park summer concerts and National Night Out.



Backyard Habitat Certification Sign

Backyard Habitat Certification Program Outreach: WRC staff integrated and expanded BHCP outreach efforts in 2009-10, with onsite visitors, in community presentations and tabling events. BHCP has become a major marketing point of WRC outreach within the past year and WRC staff was involved in the January 2010 BHCP strategic planning retreat.

Garlic Mustard Outreach: WRC staff served as liaison between Arnold Creek Neighborhood Association residents and BES staff regarding communication and delineation of manual-control areas. Staff also provided outreach based at the WRC and at other community presentations offered in spring 2010, assisting with permission of entry forms, and served as public contact on neighborhood signage. Finally, WRC staff helped convene a post-season debriefing to ensure that a consistent and clear message will be delivered to neighborhood volunteers in 2011.

Tryon Creek Watershed Council Watershed Wide Event: WRC staff assisted with event planning efforts via participation on the Stewardship Committee. Through arrangements with the Arnold Creek neighborhood association, WRC staff agreed to coordinate garlic mustard manual removal as part of the Watershed Wide Event.

Multnomah Days: Each year the WRC facilitates the participation of many local watershed community partners in the Multnomah Days parade and street fair by coordinating registration, booth rentals and assisting groups with developing displays and outreach materials. In August 2009, 16 groups were represented in 10 booths, including:

- BES Fanno/Tryon & Willamette (2)
- Friends of Tryon Creek State Park
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council
- SW Friends groups shared booths (3): April Hill Park, Marquam Nature Park, Marshall & Maricara Natural Areas, Multnomah Village, South Portland Riverbank,
- Stephens Creek, Terwilliger, Vermont Creek, Woods Park
- Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District



FOVC and Tryon Creek Watershed Council volunteers, Multnomah Days parade 2010

The fair attracts approximately 3,000 people, with each booth serving 50-300 visitors.

9. Landowner Assistance

Landowners continue to seek out technical assistance for watershed restoration at the WRC. This has included:

- Native plant recommendations and sample landscaping diagrams
- Treatment options for specific invasive plants
- Referrals for contractors to perform revegetation activities
- Garden pest control; recommendations for chemical reduction
- Opportunities and support for neighborhood organizing and involvement

WRC staff attempts to respond as thoroughly as possible to technical inquiries and requests based from the WRC location at the SW Community Center. In situations where landowners have site-specific questions that cannot be answered at the WRC, and are not eligible to receive on-site services from other organizations or their concerns are beyond the scope



WRC staff provided tools and guidance at a work party for elderly Hillsdale neighbors following a landslide.

of other programs, the WRC has conducted a limited number of site visits. Site visits include assessment of challenges and opportunities, development of a basic restoration plan, and/or assistance with grantwriting or partnership development.

Distribution of inquiries and site visits in FY 2009-10:

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	Unspecified	Total
Inquiries	10	6	1	9	26
Site Visits	8	2	6	0	16

Note: some of these contacts included multiple landowners such as homeowners and condo associations. Through these inquiries and site visits, over 70 landowners received WRC technical assistance in 2009-10.

10. Partnerships

The Watershed Resource Center participated in the following partnerships in 2009-10.

- *4-County Cooperative Weed Management Agency (February 2010)
 - Education & Outreach Committee
- Bureau of Environmental Services
 - Education Advisory Committee
- Southwest Community Center
 - *Sprout Academy (Preschool) Advisor & Program Provider (September 2009)
 - *Teen Force Community Service Partner (August 2009-July 2010)
- Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
 - *Parks Committee (June 2010)
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council
 - Council Member, Stewardship & Education/Outreach Committees
 - Site Logistics, Native Plant Sale
 - Site Coordinator, Watershed Wide Event
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
 - FISH Grant Review Committee
- West Willamette Restoration Partnership
 - Member and meeting host

**New partnerships in FY 2009-10*

11. Success Stories

One of the major success stories that emerged in FY 2009-10 was the Friends of Vermont Creek nest box installation. FOVC is lucky to have Jay Withgott, board member of Western Field Ornithologists, as a volunteer/member. Jay conducted

regular visits to Gabriel Park to collect bird species usage data from 2003 to 2009. Another significant aspect of this project was the unique partnership with Emerald Tree LLC. Owner Jim Wentworth-Plato, certified arborist, graciously donated his time on the day spent climbing trees to install the nest boxes.

Factors that made this project successful included:

- Citizen science: bird surveys, though informal, provided longitudinal data to substantiate the importance of the project.
- Number, representation and creativity of partnerships:
 - Friends of Vermont Creek and the Watershed Resource Center led the grant with direction from Portland Parks & Recreation;
 - Jim Wentworth-Plato, owner of Emerald Tree, LLC (arborists) agreed to donate time on this project;
 - Students from a job training program volunteered on the day of installation and were thrilled to have the opportunity to talk with Jim about his job as an arborist;
 - A concurrent WRC outreach DVD project documented the installation which provided footage for the DVD on tree protection and enhancing wildlife habitat.
- Uniqueness: while many groups conduct invasive removal, this project also conferred specific on-the-ground wildlife habitat benefits.
- Versatility: the project dovetails well with public education/outreach; for the outreach component, bird-related kid's activities were developed that can be implemented again in the future.
- Long-term benefits: the nest boxes will be useful for many years and FOVC is committed to hosting events over several years.

12. Future Steps for 2010-11

- *Technical Assistance:*
 - Seek greater collaboration with community partners that also provide technical assistance to landowners.
 - Produce additional documents for landowners to clarify technical assistance resources and process.
 - Finalize and distribute outreach DVD (see Grants section above).
 - Pursue continuation funding to retain Fanno technical assistance staff (received from WMSWCD in July 2010).
- *Education:*
 - Provide continuing education and training opportunities for watershed groups and individual volunteers.
 - Host one or more workshops to provide technical resources for larger groups of individuals.



- Continue to expand partnership with Sprout Academy and look for opportunities to enhance nature-based education and outreach at Gabriel Park.
- *Reporting:*
 - Develop improved outcomes tracking database.
 - Adjust reporting of WRC outcomes by funding entity (BES Fanno-Tryon, BES Willamette, WMSWCD).

Photo credits: Jen Seamans except BHCP sign, David Pickar

Southwest Watershed Resource Center logo: Erik Carr

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