



Annual Report **Fiscal Year 2010-11**



Outreach & Education

Volunteer Involvement



Technical Assistance

...for healthy watersheds and healthy people!



About the Watershed Center

Drop-In Visits:

Open Hours	Adult Visitors	Youth Visitors	TOTAL Visitors
1056.5	443	437	877

The mission of the Southwest Watershed Resource Center (WRC) is ***to inspire awareness and action on behalf of watershed health in SW Portland neighborhoods.*** This is accomplished through outreach, education, technical assistance for on-the-ground projects, and support for watershed volunteer groups.

The SW Watershed Resource Center was established in 1999 by the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services through an agreement with Portland Parks and Recreation. Housed inside the lobby of the SW Community Center at Gabriel Park, the WRC serves drop-in visitors, landowners, volunteers, neighborhood groups, congregations, and other organizations.



Though some drop-in visitors come expressly seeking WRC assistance, many are incidental visits that take place in the course of recreation at the Southwest Community Center, which is one of the busier public buildings in SW Portland with over 700 visitors per day.

Services provided at the WRC include, but are not limited to:

- *Watershed information and referrals*
- *Best management practices for invasive plant removal, native plants, and stormwater management*
- *Site visits for technical and project development assistance*
- *Tool loan for restoration projects (tool shed, right)*
- *Grant writing assistance*
- *Work party & event organizing*
- *Neighborhood event tabling*
- *Meeting facilitation*
- *Public speaking and presentations*
- *Youth education programs*
- *Support and training for youth educators*
- *Watershed e-newsletter, online resources, and social networking*



Each of the sections that follow contain information about WRC work, and also highlight outcomes and accomplishments from the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Enjoy!

Watershed Resource Center Manager

Volunteers and Friends Groups

WRC Event Volunteer Hours:

Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	Multiple WS	TOTAL
128	64	121	89	402

The ultimate goal of watershed awareness is action -- through pollution reduction, watershed restoration and long-term stewardship. One of the key reasons that the WRC is a powerful and effective partnership toward this goal is that it bridges grassroots, neighbor-to-neighbor action with city and regional resources.

A major way that this happens in SW Portland is through the work of fourteen SW watershed "Friends" groups. These volunteer-led groups organize work parties in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation - City Nature West, neighborhood associations, and other partners. Volunteers contributed 1,278.5 volunteer hours to parks in Fanno and Tryon Creek in 2010-11.

Friends groups do a variety of work, from neighborhood outreach to on-the-ground projects, at different times in different settings. The WRC provides flexible support -- some groups with meeting facilitation, tool loan, or periodic check-ins; others with grant writing or event publicity.

Current watershed "Friends" groups include:

- Bridlemile Creek Stewards
- Dickinson Park Stewards
- Friends of April Hill Park
- Friends of Marshall and Maricara Parks
- Friends of Marquam Nature Park
- Friends of Terwilliger
- Friends of Tryon Creek

- Friends of Vermont Creek
- Friends of Woods Park
- Multnomah Village Gateway Project
- North Ash Creek Neighbors
- PCC Habitat Team at Sylvania Natural Area Park
- Shomrei Teva at Neveh Shalom
- South Portland Riverbank Partners
- Stephens Creek Stewards
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council

Additionally, WRC staff continues to network and, as opportunities arise, partner with:

- Fans of Fanno Creek
- Tualatin River Watershed Council
- Tualatin Riverkeepers
- Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon



SW Community Center teen summer camps complete ivy removal project in Marshall Park, August 2010

In helping to provide best restoration practices, and connect the SW watershed restoration community beyond its borders, the WRC also presented at regional events in early 2011. A poster on Fanno Creek restoration projects (see *Grants* section, page 7) was shown at the January 2011 Urban Ecology & Research Consortium conference and again at the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area Pull Together symposium. The WRC also gave an invited presentation at the May 2011 Tualatin Basin Restoration practitioner gathering.

Education Programs

Education Event Participants:

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	Multiple WS	TOTAL
Youth	55	14	0	32	101
Adults	15	25	0	74	114

Along with general outreach and on-the-ground restoration, the WRC engages the whole community in deeper learning about our watersheds. Youth education research, in particular, has demonstrated the importance of children connecting to the natural world, both for their own health and in order to become active and engaged adults.

The WRC supports watershed-based education, both by offering programs directly and by providing environmental education training for professional staff and community volunteers. In 2010-11, these included nature-based activity programs for the youngest members of the community, watershed science programs for older youth, and watershed-related programs for adults:

Nature Based Education:

- Friends of Spring Garden Park hands-on nature awareness activities (*right*) and additional activity training and materials
- Multnomah Neighborhood nature-based activity training
- PP&R Sprout Academy staff training on nature based education



- Rieke Elementary School EcoThink parent training
- Vermont Hills Preschool - Earth Day program development consultation

Science Learning:

- SW Charter School: field work with data collection, and Watershed Summit
- Sunstone Montessori: watershed model and outdoor nature walk
- SW Parent-Child Collective preschool: aquatic species art & Watershed Storytelling
- Partnership development with Tryon Creek Watershed Council for a citizen science based monitoring program

Adult Programs:

- Landscaping for Conservation (*photo, right*: homeowner Dave Baasch demonstrates principles in his yard)
- Gardening for Native Wildlife brownbag presentation to OSU Extension Master Gardeners
- SW Portland Weed Watcher workshop



Event Attendees:

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	Multiple WS	TOTAL
Attendees	117	52	237	639	1045
Events	4	1	5	9	19

Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP):

BHCP is a partnership of Columbia Land Trust and Audubon Society of Portland that promotes watershed-friendly residential actions. A site visit helps identify and plan for invasive species in need of removal, opportunities to put in native plants and other wildlife habitat enhancements, as well as stormwater management options. The BHCP is a strong complement with other WRC outreach to on-site visitors, in community presentations and at tabling events. WRC staff continues to help plan and recruit neighborhood participants for Community Site Visit Days in SW Portland.



Farmer's Market and Summer Events:

WRC staff tabled at the Hillsdale Farmer's Market, Willamette Park summer concerts and neighborhood National Night Out events. These events have generated interest in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program (15% of contacts requested BHCP information). Additionally, tabling at these events is a time-effective way to reach a broader community audience.



Multnomah Days:

In August 2010 the WRC facilitated the participation of 19 local watershed community partners in the Multnomah Days parade and street fair by coordinating registration for 12 booths, equipment rentals, and assisting Friends groups with developing displays and outreach



materials. Special thanks to *West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District* for helping

sponsor a strong watershed presence at this event! The event draws 5,000 people each year, with each watershed booth attracting 100-300 visitors.

Garlic Mustard:

In response to residents' request to minimize use of herbicide in the neighborhood, the WRC continued to serve as liaison between Arnold Creek neighbors and BES staff, continuing a multiyear partnership. WRC involvement ensured clear communication and delineation of roles. WRC staff provided additional community outreach, and led a garlic mustard pull at the Tryon Creek Watershed Wide Event on April 30.



Landowner Assistance and Restoration Projects

Landowner Assistance by Type:

	Fanno	Tryon	Willamette	Multiple WS	TOTAL
Technical Assistance Inquiries	26	6	4	5	41
Site Visits & Projects	11	(TCWC)	2	0	13

**note: landowners in the Tryon Creek watershed are referred to the Tryon Creek Watershed Council for assistance.*

In 2010-11, the Watershed Resource Center received a \$4,000 grant (see next page) to support technical assistance in the upper Fanno Creek watershed. Funding was used to hire a Fanno Basin Project Manager for a four-month duration position, which generated these on-the-ground restoration projects:

- Active beaver site stabilization: staff completed tree guarding to protect healthy riparian vegetation on stream bank with beaver activity close to house (right).
- Completed design on Pendleton Creek neighborhood project (see detail in **Grants** section), applied for implementation funding, received \$4,374 grant.
- Completed design for Maplewood School stormwater facility and interpretive sign.
- Initial site assessment of perched wetland site in Woods Creek subwatershed.
- Initial site assessment at multifamily condominium association; obtained bids for future grant.
- Initial site assessment at Sunstone Montessori school for rain garden, riparian restoration and interpretive signage.



Willamette subwatersheds projects included:

- Initial site visit and assessment with Greater Portland Bible Church in the headwaters of Stephens Creek (below)



to develop stormwater management options or facilities, and a separate project for pavement removal and community garden.

- Hillsdale Community Church (UCC) project development assistance following Backyard Habitat program site visit.
- The WRC led neighborhood efforts to organize a Stephens Creek stewardship event at the SW Texas Green Street wetland site to remove purple loosestrife and other invasive plants.
- Focused Backyard Habitat Certification Program outreach efforts toward organizing a Community Site Visit Day in Homestead and South Portland neighborhoods.

WRC Core Funding: \$52,000
 Additional Grant Funding Awarded in FY 2010-11: \$11,374
 External In-Kind Support Leveraged in FY 2010-11: \$10,400+

Core Funding:

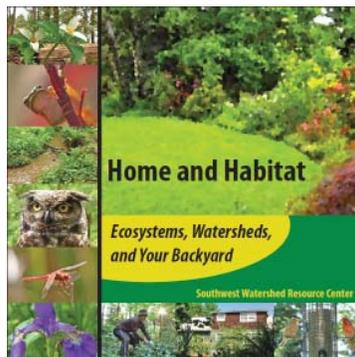
The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) provides core funding for the WRC with \$52,000 in funding from a \$73,000 grant agreement to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Funds support one 0.9 FTE staff position, taxes and liabilities, benefits, contract administration, program supplies, equipment and mileage. The remainder of this section summarizes non-BES grant funding received, and additional community resources (external to the WRC), including donations and volunteer time, leveraged by these investments.

SW Watersheds Outreach and Video Grant (2 grants totaling \$7,694 continued from FY 09-10)

This WMSWCD-funded project culminated in the spring 2011 production of the “Home and Habitat” DVD (1,000 copies). The introductory Home and Habitat video (13:10) is available online at YouTube.

The DVD (*right*) also contains a “toolbox” of short videos on nine additional topics related to watershed restoration. Informal feedback on the DVD has been very positive.

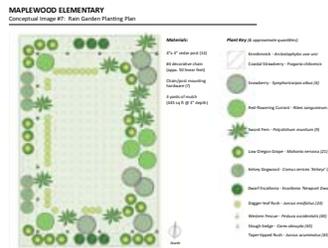
The footage and testimony of many community members and watershed volunteers helps viewers connect to their home landscape, seeing its role in the watershed and ecosystem.



Upper Fanno Technical Assistance: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Partner Funding (\$7,000)

The WRC partnered with Tualatin River Watershed Council on a proposal for landowner technical assistance in the Fanno Creek watershed, where TRWC does not

have organizational capacity to provide technical assistance for restoration. Six projects resulted, including design work (*left*)



that helped access funding for projects. See additional info, previous page.

Pendleton Creek Habitat Enhancement Grant (\$4,374)

Under the Upper Fanno grant (*above*), staff worked with local neighbors and Hayhurst Neighborhood to design, fund, and begin a creekside revegetation project (*right*) with assistance from WMSWCD.

This unimproved right-of-way is a Safe Route to Schools that about 50 children walk through on a daily basis. Project



plans also include initial outreach for a proposed second phase along a heavily-infested adjacent stretch of the creek (*left*).

Acknowledgments and Collaborators

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August 2010 - March 2011

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Watershed Center Interns, Summer 2011

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**SW Portland neighbors,
watershed volunteer
groups, and:**



Southwest
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