



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

Fiscal Year 2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT

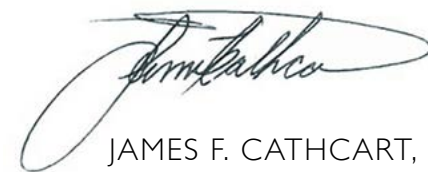


Message from Jim Cathcart, District Manager

In developing a communications strategy about the importance of oak and prairie ecosystems to Oregon, Sheepscoot Creative recommended to the team of partners forging this effort that the strategy should “lead with hope.” Key to this idea is that in order to market something to people, you first must get their attention and then hold and nurture it. Otherwise, people lose interest. This is transformative advice as all too often we in conservation lead with despair – take action now or face certain doom because the sky is falling – which tends to put people off.

In a similar vein, the Society of Ecological Restoration recently came out with four reasons why we should talk about restoring nature as our response to the United Nation’s Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change’s Sixth Assessment Report. This report was anything but hopeful about the severe weather and wildfire impacts we are enduring globally due to human-induced changes to our polar ice caps, atmosphere, and oceans from the burning of fossil fuels and a warming planet. Yet their primary message was restoring nature gives hope.

Another piece of sage advice I have learned over the years is to focus your energy on what you can control rather than on things out of your control. Taking local conservation action to protect and restore nature – leading with hope if you will – is the business of the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and the many people, organizations, agencies, businesses, and other partners we work with. In this edition of our Annual Report – which highlights our conservation work conducted over the pandemic-challenged fiscal year 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) – you will find nuggets of hope. The pages that follow highlight our work on eradicating the threat garlic mustard poses to our area and tells the story about how the impact of learning about permaculture’s place-based approach to solving environmental issues shaped the career of Board Director Weston Miller. You will also find a feature on our newly adopted strategic plan, a financial summary, program highlights, accomplishments detailed in numbers, and a map of our project activity. We also call out this year’s awardees – beacons of hope. Fiscal year 2020-2021 – reaching out and leading with hope.



JAMES F. CATHCART, PhD

MISSION

Our mission is to provide resources, information, and expertise to inspire people to actively improve air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil health.

VISION

Our vision is that all people in our district are informed and confidently engaged in the long-term caring for and giving back to the land. Everyone has the opportunity to connect or reconnect with the land, especially those who have been displaced from or deprived of land. People's engagement and connection to the land ensures clean water, clean air, healthy soil, and diverse habitats, for thriving communities, fish and wildlife.

Conservation staff identify and count plants to track the success of seeding and planting at a wetland habitat restoration site. Photo by Pat Welle.

OUR SERVICES

We are committed to working with all who live, work, and recreate in our district. We provide conservation information and technical assistance for farms, woodlands, organizations, schools, community centers, and private residences. Our specialties include conservation planning, invasive weed prevention and control, native plant restoration, livestock management, soil conservation, forestry assistance, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement to create social, economic, and environmental benefits for all communities. We serve Multnomah County west and north of the Willamette River, all of Sauvie Island, and a portion of the Bonny Slope region of the Tualatin Mountains in Washington County.



Some crab spiders (in the family Thomisidae) can change their color to match the flower they are on which helps the spiders capture visiting insects. Photo by WMSWCD.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT SUMMARY

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District believes all people deserve improved quality of life through healthy soil, clean water, and diverse habitats. We seek to welcome, engage, and better serve communities of color and other historically marginalized groups in all facets of our organization, activities, and programs. By working proactively and deliberately to be equitable and inclusive, we will be more successful in our work. Our goal is to become fully equitable and inclusive by holding ourselves accountable, utilizing an equity lens, addressing disparities, and sharing our experiences in this pursuit.

Our full racial equity statement can be found at: [Tinyurl.com/WMSWCD-Equity-Statement](https://tinyurl.com/WMSWCD-Equity-Statement)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the original Indigenous people whose land we are utilizing today; the Clackamas Chinook, the Willamette Tumwater, the Wasco-Wishram, the Watlata, the Multnomah, and other Chinookan peoples, as well as the Tualatin Kalapuya, the Cayuse, the Molalla, the Yakama, and other tribes and bands of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. It is important to acknowledge these original inhabitants of the land that falls within our service areas now known as the City of Portland, Sauvie Island, and the Tualatin Mountains. We further recognize that we are here because of the land displacement, cultural erasure, and the other sacrifices that were forced upon them. We also remind ourselves that we are guests of this land and must do our best to honor the original peoples through authentic cultural narratives and continued caring for, and giving to, the air, water, plants, animals and the ecosystems that make up this land community. To follow this acknowledgement with action, we will pursue impactful partnerships with Indigenous people, tribes and their sovereign governments, and inter-tribal organizations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERRI PREEG RIGGSBY, CHAIR Director, Zone 5

GEORGE SOWDER, VICE-CHAIR Director, Zone 3

SHAWN LOONEY, SECRETARY Director, At-large Position 2

WESTON MILLER, TREASURER Director, At-large Position 1

KIM PETERSON Director, Zone 1

JANE HARTLINE Director, Zone 2

BRIAN LIGHTCAP Director, Zone 4

Associate Directors

FINLAY ANDERSON

JAN HAMER

BOB WILEY, SR.

STAFF

JIM CATHCART District Manager

MICHAEL AHR Forest Conservationist*

MARTINA AVENDANO Field Conservationist
Intern, 2021

COLE CARR GIS & Field Conservationist Intern, 2020

MICHELLE DELEPINE Conservationist & Invasive Species
Program Coordinator

ARI DEMARCO Seasonal Conservation Technician

SCOTT GALL Rural Conservationist

KAMMY KERN-KOROT Senior Conservationist

MICHELE LEVIS Controller and Budget Officer

MARY LOGALBO Urban Conservationist

RENEE MAGYAR Communications & Outreach Manager

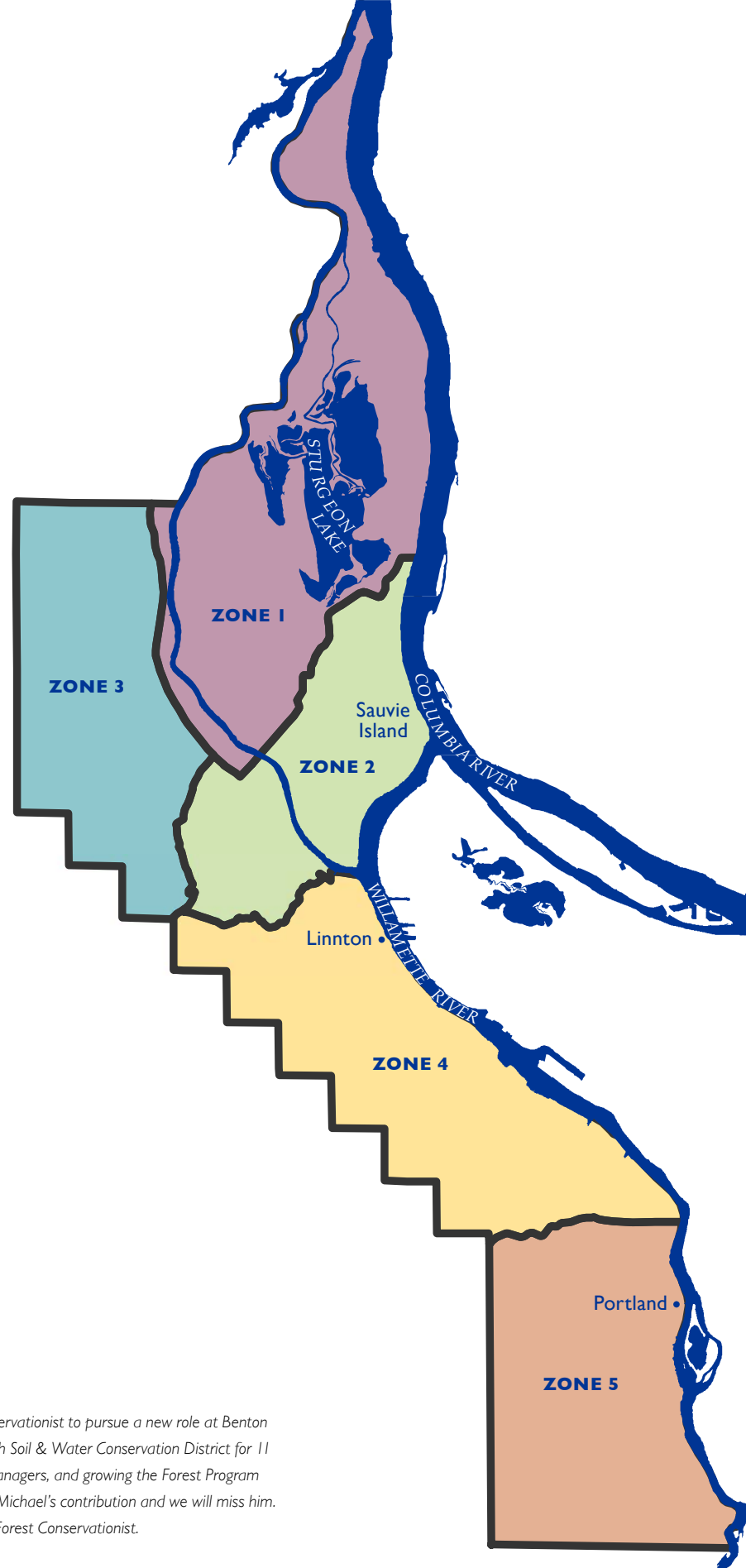
RANDI RAZALENTI Office Manager

ISA ROJAS GIS & Field Conservationist Intern, 2021

HANNAH SPENCER Field Conservationist Intern, 2020

LAURA TAYLOR Conservationist & Education Coordinator*

*Effective April 10, 2021, Michael Ahr departed his position as Forest Conservationist to pursue a new role at Benton Soil and Water Conservation District. Michael served the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District for 11 years, fostering many new and old relationships with forest owners and managers, and growing the Forest Program into the robust and effective program we have today. We are grateful for Michael's contribution and we will miss him. Effective March 29, 2021, Laura Taylor assumed responsibility as Interim Forest Conservationist.





FEATURED PROJECT

Garlic Mustard:
A TEN YEAR
RETROSPECTIVE

Conservation takes on many forms at our District. While it is easy to see and feel the benefits of a thriving streamside forest ten years after it is planted, it can be more challenging to fully appreciate a decade of work when the goal is to prevent a plant from establishing. Yet, this is exactly what we aim to do! In this year's annual report we reflect on our past ten years of garlic mustard prevention and control efforts.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is native to Eurasia and was used historically for culinary and medicinal purposes. However, garlic mustard is an aggressive survivor in our region. It changes soil chemistry and makes forests less able to support native plants, which means less forage for native animals. If allowed to spread, it can alter forests, streamside woodlands and other natural areas by quickly dominating these areas and smothering out diverse plant communities. Through our Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) program, we protect watersheds by seeking out and managing landscape-altering invasive species before they become widely established.

Partnership is key to this being a successful effort. We work closely with people in the community and other local agencies to locate and manage garlic mustard soon after it is found in an area. Together, we survey the land, revisit past sites, and remove plants when found to prevent the spread of garlic mustard into new areas, both locally and regionally. Across Oregon, garlic mustard is found in just a few locations, with the greater Portland Metro area being the most impacted. Actively controlling and containing garlic mustard patches in our District prevents accidental spread of seed to new areas elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest via wildlife, vehicle tires, or footwear.



Top photo: Conservation interns provide critical support for garlic mustard management efforts in the spring. Photo by WMSWCD.

Bottom photo: Garlic mustard rosettes in their first year of growth. Photo by WMSWCD.

Facing page: Photo by Katja Schulz/Wikimedia

TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Portland's first garlic mustard control efforts were initially spearheaded by community members beginning as early as 2003. Skyline Ridge Neighbors held neighborhood cleanups that, in addition to trash, targeted removal of garlic mustard. Starting in 2007, we teamed up with the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services to assist the community in garlic mustard removal. Many of our largest infestations were found during these early years from 2007 to 2011. Thanks to grant funding from the Oregon State Weed Board, we began leading professional contractor crews in control efforts at over a dozen sites in key locations near Forest Park and in South Portland. Outreach efforts such as articles in local newsletters, roadside signs, and weed watcher workshops continue to help elevate community awareness of garlic mustard.



Top photo: Conservation interns provide critical support for garlic mustard management efforts in the spring. Photo by WMSWCD.

Bottom photo: Native forbs return to a creek riparian area several years after garlic mustard is removed. Photo by WMSWCD.

2011 The District and partners begin discussing how to ramp up our collective efforts to control garlic mustard. Recognizing that a single year's crop of garlic mustard seed can germinate for at least ten years, we set the goal of preventing as many flowering plants as possible from setting seed. Through tangential outreach efforts targeting other weeds such as spurge laurel, we find garlic mustard is present in areas outside our active management. We realize the need to pivot our approach and cast a broader net in our survey work.

2012 We proactively begin reaching out to more people through mailings and in-person door-to-door outreach. Many of the people we speak with have heard of garlic mustard through earlier community outreach activities and are eager to have us survey their land. By filling in these survey gaps across watersheds, we find patches that hadn't been managed previously, though they are often small and isolated. Of the 94 new properties we survey, we find garlic mustard at 54 of them.

2013 We further expand outreach, sending 950 letters over the 2012-2013 period. Due to the discovery of these new patches, we control garlic mustard across a record 37 acres in 2013. This is also the peak acreage, and subsequent years have far less garlic mustard.

2014 We start seeing fewer new infestations and less garlic mustard cover overall, but continue to push to broaden our outreach. We also join with other partners across the region to form the Pacific Northwest Garlic Mustard Working Group to coordinate our local efforts at the regional scale. With few exceptions, we find all partners holistically and actively manage all known garlic mustard infestations in their respective landscapes. We also build a collaborative integrated pest management (IPM) matrix to track and improve upon control strategies.

2015 Garlic mustard flowers a whole month earlier than 2014, three weeks earlier than the previous record set in 2013. We adapt our approach by starting field work in early April and rely on hand pulling to remove garlic mustard before it sets seed during an unprecedented early heat and drought.

2016 District and partners focus outreach efforts to close survey gaps across the landscape and collaborate to share methods for adapting to annual variability in climate and plant life cycles. Garlic mustard density declines for the fourth consecutive year.

2017 No garlic mustard is found at 50 previously managed patches. Prevention tools grow to include mobile boot wash machines that remove seeds from workers' boots, helping slow the spread of seeds. Restoration work including seeding and native plantings become more important as garlic mustard coverage continues to trend downward.

2018 No garlic mustard is found at 88 previously managed patches. Technology improvements in survey work allow us to be more efficient. Fall field work is expanded to get ahead of spring flowering where needed. Focus on promoting healthy native plant competition is increasingly important as garlic mustard patches continue to thin out.



Top photo: A patch of garlic mustard before management efforts.
Bottom photo: The same patch of garlic mustard after management efforts.

Both photos by WMSWCD.



Top photo: Crews hand pull garlic mustard along a creek in the third year of treating this site. Photo by WMSWCD.

Bottom photo: Conservation interns provide critical support for garlic mustard management efforts in the spring. Photo by WMSWCD.

2019 No garlic mustard is found at 100 previously managed patches. Where field work once focused on control efforts (for instance hand removal), the majority of work is instead spent looking for remaining garlic mustard.

2020 No garlic mustard is found at over 100 previously managed patches. Staff, partners, and project participants adapt to conducting field work safely during a pandemic. Restoration efforts such as seeding continue to expand. Spot hand pulling is often the only type of work needed, even at sites that had required several people in 2018.

2021 We continue to see marked declines in plant density and our fieldwork model evolves to be primarily survey-oriented in order to most efficiently use our funding resources. In all, we manage 2.25 net acres of garlic mustard across an impacted area of 13.56 acres. Our total survey area in 2021 is 750 acres, with an additional 50 previously-infested or newly-surveyed acres that have no garlic mustard infestations present.

The garlic mustard control effort was born out of the local community, and the resulting professional natural resource management response continues to be driven and supported at the grassroots level. We credit our success over the past decade with establishing and growing lasting relationships with people and agencies across our district. Often these collaborations are the first to connect people with the land around them, providing an opportunity to receive more in-depth information about our natural areas and threats to them. Many people we interact with go on to pursue additional natural area restoration practices. In the future, our garlic mustard effort looks to phase into more active restoration to further encourage native plant recruitment and promote long-term ecosystem resiliency.

Early Detection-Rapid Response Program Area

Through our Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) program, we work directly with people across the district to find and treat (either by hand removal or treatment with herbicide) priority noxious weed species. To make best use of our resources, we focus on weeds that pose the greatest risk of harming our natural areas but that are not yet widely established across the region.

Last year we surveyed over 800 acres and reached over 500 people across our service area, providing conservation recommendations and on-the-ground weed treatments for a dozen priority weed species (see table for a numeric summary of these activities).

Detecting new insect species, such as the emerald ash borer (EAB), is an additional area of focus. Millions of ash forests and urban trees have been killed in the eastern and mid-western states, however EAB has not yet been found in Oregon. Due to the widespread establishment of EAB in the central and northeastern U.S., federal restrictions aimed at quarantining ash and prohibiting its transport were lifted this past year. This

puts Oregon at greater risk of EAB moving into the state. EAB is expected to severely impact Oregon ash forests in the Willamette Valley if it arrives. We coordinated with state and federal partners this past year to develop a pilot District EAB detection program. In all, we deployed and maintained six detection traps across the District, and thankfully caught no EAB.

Lastly, in response to community and partner reports of wild chervil (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) spreading rapidly around Forest Park, staff began a pilot program to study this plant. Unlike many other weeds that grow in shade, wild chervil can crowd out other plants under shaded forested canopy. It also thrives in rich soil, such as along stream sides. For these reasons, recent observations of it spreading rapidly into Forest Park are concerning. We are still assessing the local impacts of wild chervil and are evaluating study plots comparing several control methods. You can read more about this work on our website (wmswcd.org/species/wild-chervil-anthriscus-sylvestris) Depending on the results of this study, additional wild chervil work may be planned in future years.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITY WEEDS CONTROLLED FROM JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

Species	Gross area	Net area	Total number of properties with confirmed infestations	Total number of patches controlled	Average percent cover of all patches controlled	Number of past control areas where target weed did not return*
BUTTERBUR	950 sq ft	887 sq ft	3	3	93%	1
FALSE BROME	701 sq ft	123 sq ft	3	6	17.5%	1
GARLIC MUSTARD	5.72 acres	1.86 acres	209	995	33%	99
KNOTWEED	0.05 acres	0.03 acres	13		54 %	-
OBLONG SPURGE	40 sq ft	5 sq ft	3	6	43%	2
ORANGE HAWKWEED	None found					-
COMMON REED (PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS)	5000 sq ft	3000 sq ft	1	3	90%	-
POKEWEED	2500 sq ft	1500 sq ft	4	12	85%	1
POLICEMAN'S HELMET	None found					2
SPOTTED KNAPWEED	800 sq ft	300 sq ft	1	3	35%	-
SPURGE LAUREL	0.25 acres	0.16 acres	13	20	63%	1
TOADFLAX (YELLOW & DALMATIAN)	1200 sq ft	500 sq ft	2	5	60%	-
WILD CHERVIL	0.43 acres	0.20 acres	6	21	48%	-

* Target plant not found, not tracked for all species
Additional species surveyed and not found include giant hogweed, goatsrue, orange hawkweed, and water primrose.



LONG RANGE BUSINESS PLAN (LRBP)

Diverse Community Members and Leaders Inform Our 5-Year Strategic Plan

We are excited to have completed our 2021-2025 Long Range Business Plan (LRBP) – the product of a novel development process which involved community outreach and surveys, partner interviews, equity lens reviews, external draft reviews, and staff and board engagement. This robust process led to the new mission and vision (see page 4), strategic directions, goals, tactics, and organizational values and principles that are outlined in the plan. The LRBP is a strategic planning document that guides the scope of the District's conservation work and the supporting financial sustainability and organizational health initiatives needed to implement this work over the next 5 years (2021-2025). The plan is centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

A diverse conservation scope advisory committee comprised of partners, community members, landowners, and community leaders proved critical in helping shape the District's new mission, vision and strategic directions. This ad hoc committee provided insightful and rich community-informed guidance to the District's Board of Directors throughout the plan's development process. The advisory committee included representatives from state and federal agencies, non-profit partners, rural landowners, and community members and leaders from Indigenous and East African Immigrant Communities. Reciprocity, regeneration, and connection between land and the communities that depend on land are ideas the committee helped ensure are woven throughout the plan. The need to better understand, acknowledge, and address the full history of the land, its people, and our organization was emphasized as central to improving upon the scope of our work.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The following Strategic Directions define the scope of our work. Strategic Directions #1 through #3 are foundational and necessary for the long-term success of the District. Strategic Direction #4 intersects and supports all of the strategic directions, especially the strategic directions (#5 through #10) that define the scope of our conservation work.

1. EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Embed equity and inclusion in all that we are and all that we do.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH

Ensure we are welcoming, adaptable, supportive, effective, and sustainable in our practices.

3. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ensure we are financially sustainable.

4. SHARING CONSERVATION INFORMATION

Share conservation information so people have the knowledge and confidence to take action.

5. WATER AND SOIL

Protect and improve water quality and soil health.

6. HABITATS AND BIODIVERSITY

Protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, native landscapes, habitats, and ecological function.

7. WORKING FARMS, FORESTS AND GARDENS

Enhance the long-term health and productivity of farms, forests, woodlands, and gardens.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE

Promote resilient environments and communities in the face of climate change.

9. RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LAND

Enhance, support, and create opportunities for all people, especially those historically and presently displaced from and deprived of land, to foster mutually beneficial relationships with the land.

10. LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Provide for the long-term continuous success of our conservation actions.

To read or download the full plan, go to wmswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/WMSWCD-LRBP2021-25-final-7.2.21.pdf

PROGRAM UPDATE

Healthy Streams & Special Habitats

This past year, technical staff continued to do conservation planning and project implementation at multiple rural streamside, wetland, and upland habitat sites, including oak savanna creation and enhancement.

A focus area for the District is McCarthy Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary of Multnomah Channel. Vegetation crews maintained habitat at eleven existing projects along the creek, including protecting 120 trees from beaver browse with wire cages. We finalized plans with partner Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce for the third phase of a large-scale wetland restoration project that we began planning in 2012. The project is at the bottom of the watershed and since 2018, we've been adding large numbers of native plants. This latest phase creates additional wetland area and involves additional seeding of native grasses and forbs and native tree and shrub plantings. Funding for this project comes from Bonneville Power Administration salmon habitat restoration dollars aimed at restoring salmon habitat.

We maintained and monitored 21 total streamside and pond projects on Sauvie Island and in McCarthy, Abbey, Bronson, and Rock Creek watersheds and installed 10,000 new plants this past winter, with the help of grant funds. We're pleased to see canopy cover forming overhead as intended, which helps keep the water in streams and ponds cool. The corridor of trees and shrubs that we've created – which includes 40 different native species – allows for migration, food, cover, and nesting for wildlife, and is increasingly important with climate change. Our average riparian site starts with 50% canopy cover and some of our projects had as little as 0% cover when we started them.

Left photo: Lupine along McCarthy Creek. Photo by WMSWCD.

Right photo: A project manager with construction partner Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce pulls a protective fish net from the creek after the bulk of wetland "construction" work is complete. Photo by WMSWCD.



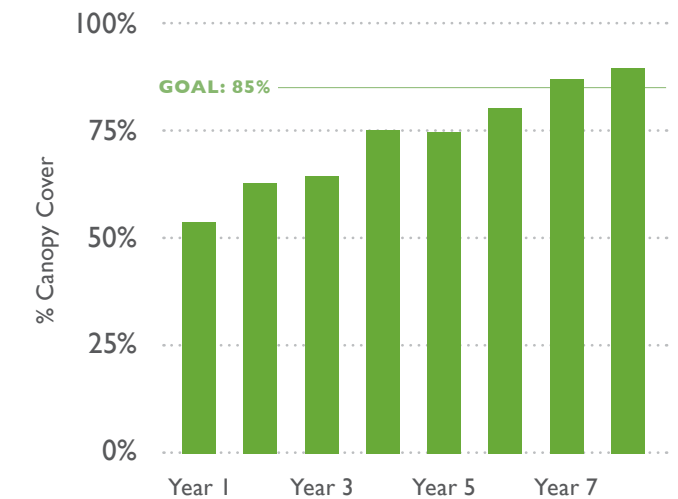
On the oak and pollinator habitat side of our rural habitat programs, we endeavored to enhance oak savanna and woodland on four different sites with special funding. Despite the rough wildfire season and terrible air quality conditions in September 2020, we managed to continue efforts to enhance oak savanna and pollinator habitat with new native trees, shrubs, wildflowers "plugs", and native grass seeding.

In the upland, dry areas of our large wetland site at McCarthy Creek, we're maintaining more than three acres of newly planted Oregon oak trees and four large pollinator hedgerows with a wide diversity of flowering shrubs and small trees, as well as seeded wildflowers and prairie grasses. The riverbank lupine and showy tarweed have been particularly successful.

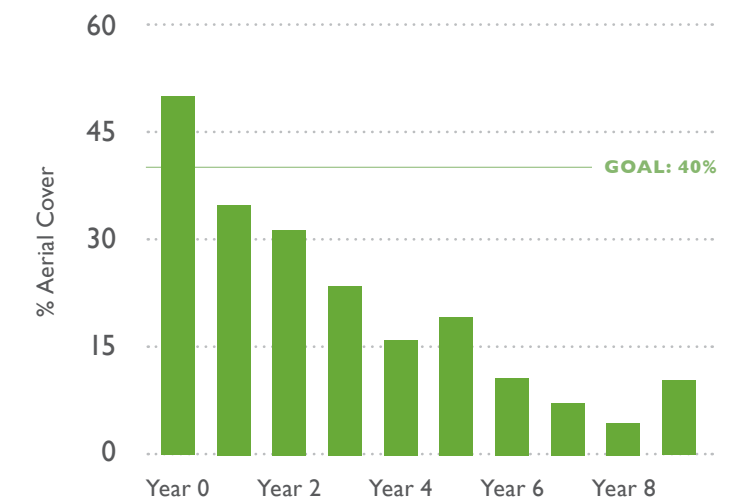
The District helped secure a \$15,000 small grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to enhance riparian, wetland, forest, and oak habitat at a large Sauvie Island farm. We continue to promote "Clackanomah" Oak Habitat Conservation Implementation Strategy funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, our federal natural resources partner, with our outreach and technical assistance.

Returning to the waterway side of our work, we've continued supporting Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC) with partner funding and project collaboration. SBWC has done a great job of distributing our joint Living on the Water: A Guide for Floating Home Owners and Marina Managers publication and offering invasive species education for the moorage community along the Multnomah Channel.

PERCENT CANOPY BY PROJECT AGE



PERCENT COVER OF TARGET INVASIVE PLANTS BY PROJECT AGE



These two graphs show the progression of tree and shrub canopy at our Healthy Streams projects (top) and the decrease in invasive weeds in response to our efforts (bottom).

2020-21 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



EDUCATION Educators, families, and non-profit partners continued to support conservation education for youth and surrounding community members despite the challenges of the past year. Overall, we provided nine partners with funding and conservation planning advice for a range of projects including native plantings, a greenhouse, raised garden beds, a wheelchair accessible pathway, and online garden and climate education lesson plans.

Read more about this program area: wmswcd.org/types/education



RURAL Our soil health services were in high demand from small and large farms alike, and the crops produced on those farms include just about everything that can be grown in our area. We provided cover crop seeds and recommendations for how to ensure long-term soil health and productivity. We chose a variety of types of cover crops based on the farms' needs, such as reducing soil compaction, increasing organic matter, capturing nutrients, and producing nitrogen.

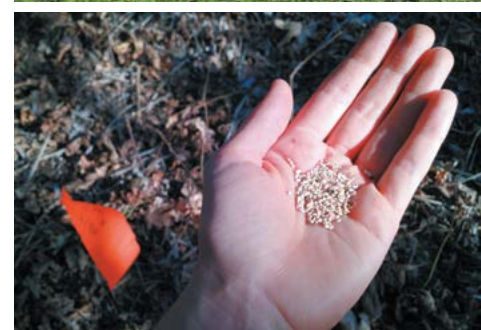
Access to farming land is another growing area of focus, in particular for those who have historically been deprived of land. Two farms, which are also enrolled in the Soil Health Program, are providing small plots of land for their community members to grow food, medicinal plants, and other culturally important crops. Wapato Island Farm is one of these farms, and is the recipient of our 2021 Rural Cooperator Award.

Read more about this program area: wmswcd.org/types/soil



FOREST Our most exciting projects involved creating clearings in younger deciduous forests to allow newly planted conifers to grow. Standing in the middle of one of these clearings on a warm spring day, the air can be positively humming with all the pollinators visiting the many native shrubs that bloom in the now brighter light. The young conifers shoot up vigorously through the brush thanks to the bright, yet protected, conditions created by the gaps in the forest. We also completed the Forest Understory Vegetation Enhancement Project study where we tested different ways to establish native forest floor plants from seed.

Read more about this program area: wmswcd.org/types/forest



URBAN Urban educational demonstration projects such as native habitat gardens, porous walkways, streamside enhancements, culvert removal, signage, and retention basins continue to benefit soil, water, local wildlife habitat, and neighborhood greenspaces. These projects engage and connect diverse communities with conservation practices and provide access to nature in areas that have been historically underserved by the District through volunteer events, tours, signage, and local neighborhood enhancements. For example, our work with the SW 25th unimproved roadway project has helped turn a muddy and often flooded trail heavily infested with invasives into a well-drained trail with stormwater improvements, native plant gardens, educational signage, and even a "bug hotel" for mason bees. Diverse groups use the path for a variety of reasons, including youth taking a safe route to school, orthodox Jewish community members walking to synagogue, and community members from affordable housing units accessing bus routes. All of these community groups have had representatives helping enhance this project under the great leadership of the Friends of Fanno Creek Headwaters.

Despite initial restrictions on in-person gatherings due to COVID-19, the Stormwater Stars Program was able to conduct design and build workshops by adding health and safety protocols. Partners assessed 23 sites for stormwater upgrades, engaging 55 people through hands-on planning and installation workshops for yard-scale stormwater management techniques. They also launched a new website with photographs and descriptions of past workshops to inform and inspire more people to install stormwater management features (www.stormwaterstars.org).

Along with partners, we celebrated the 9th year of the Canopy Weeds Program with 411 participating landowners and 34,186 trees cleared of invasive vines. Portland Fire & Rescue joined the partnership, adding wildfire risk reduction to the suite of benefits offered to program participants.

Read more about this program area: wmswcd.org/urban-conservation-planning-and-collaboration-highlights-from-2020-2021

Bottom photo by Corey Shelton



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

JUNE 30, 2021

Assets

Cash and Investments	\$1,344,713
Accounts Receivable	2,209
Property Taxes Receivable	44,979

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,391,901**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$73,251
Accrued Liabilities	50

TOTAL LIABILITIES **73,301**

Deferred Inflows of Resources

Deferred Property Tax Revenue	33,795
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TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES **33,795**

Fund Balance

Assigned for Sturgeon Lake	90,421
Unassigned	1,194,384

TOTAL FUND BALANCE **1,284,805**

TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCE **\$1,391,901**

Photo by Corey Shelton

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Revenues

Property Tax Levy	\$1,721,836
Federal, State, and Local Grants	205,724
Other Income	24,758

TOTAL REVENUES **1,952,318**

Expenditures

Conservation Programs	1,182,208
Conservation Support Services	635,351

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **1,817,559**

Change in Fund Balance 134,759

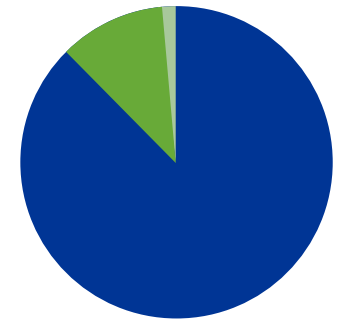
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year 1,150,046

FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR **\$1,284,805**

The audit of our fiscal year 2020-2021 financial statements was in process at press time.

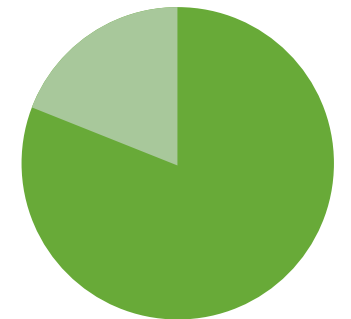
The above fund statements are not audited. The District fiscal year 2020-2021 Audit Report will be available at the Conservation District office before December 31, 2021.

REVENUES



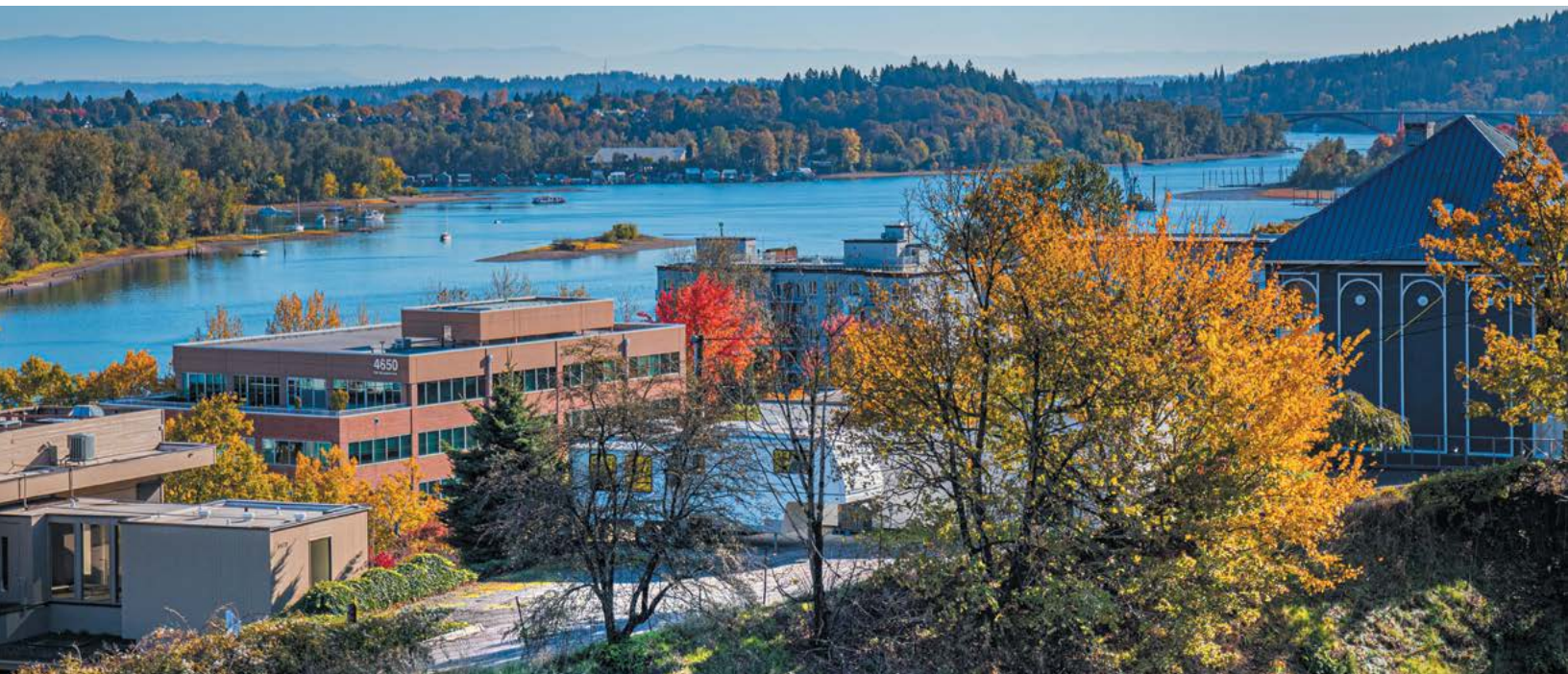
- Property tax levy
- Federal, state, and local grants
- Other income

EXPENDITURES



- Conservation programs
- Conservation support services

Photo by WMSWCD





FEATURED BOARD MEMBER

Weston Miller

Conservation and connection to the land have been important parts of Weston Miller's life since he was introduced to sustainable farming methods while traveling in Australia in college. He saw how permaculture – a permanent connection between healthy natural and human systems – can provide positive ways to manage the land, solve environmental issues like stormwater runoff, and address social issues like providing food. Weston studied rainforest ecology in Australia and saw how a reforested streambank brought back a supply of water during the dry season.

This introduction led to building an organic farm on a forested property where he was able to gain experience with food production, sustainable forestry operations, and tractor-scale composting. Following this, Weston continued his education, earning a master's degree in environmental studies. In his current role as Community and Urban Horticulturist at the College of Agricultural Sciences Department of Horticulture at Oregon State University Extension Service (OSU), Weston's time is allocated to managing two important programs – Solve Pest Problems and the Master Gardener program – both of which seek to provide individuals with information about their gardens and landscapes.

Currently, it is difficult for gardeners in the Pacific Northwest to find a readily available and reliable source of general information on pest management that is easy to use and understand. The State of California and Oregon State University both offer pest control information, but it's written for professional agricultural producers and pest management companies and is not suitable or useful guidance for a general audience. For example, if a gardener is looking online for information about how to manage yellow jackets, they might find hundreds of different articles with a wide variety of recommendations, so it's difficult to know which sites to trust. Sites may provide information about traps or insecticides, but might not mention the risks inherent with either of these options.

The Solve Pest Problems program seeks to fill this gap. Initiated and funded by a consortium of local agency partners, OSU is a natural fit to lead the project as the keeper of science-based pest management information for the state of Oregon. OSU is developing a new Solve Pest Problems website that will be a comprehensive source of information for the public, offering recommendations and options for effective, low risk ways to manage Pacific Northwest pests and weeds. The site will lay out the risks and strategies for hundreds of pest species to help gardeners make the most informed choices. It also aims to help reduce use of pesticides by providing a wider variety of options for pest management. If it turns out a pesticide is the best option, the site will offer best practices to reduce risk to the gardener and lessen environmental impact.

The new site will also be very useful for the Master Gardener program. The program houses 600 dedicated volunteers locally across Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties, and 3000 statewide who all want to make a difference by helping identify plants and insects, offering how-to guidance to gardeners, and answering general gardening questions. The site is on track to be launched in summer 2022, and once it goes live, Master Gardener volunteers will be able to share links to in-depth information on problem species.

Weston and his family live in SW Portland, and he sees unwanted plants everywhere. He appreciates the work of mission-driven organizations like West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District and that is why Weston decided to join the Board as an At-Large member in 2015 after serving as an Associate Director. Weston appreciated and now is part of the effort the District puts into creating a healthier local environment, for the benefit of all district residents and visitors. And he loves his volunteer role of Board Treasurer – a position he has held since 2016. He enjoys working with the District Manager and Controller on financials and "signing checks for awesome work." He sees his role as supporting that work from behind the scenes. Thank you, Weston, for all you do for the District!





ANNUAL AWARDEES

We recognize members of our community each year for their important contributions to regional conservation efforts. Read more about them at wmswcd.org/our-2021-conservation-awardees



URBAN COOPERATOR AWARD

Joel Hanawalt



RURAL COOPERATOR AWARD

Jennifer Rose Marie Serna,
Wapato Island Farm



NON-PROFIT PARTNER AWARD

Neighbors West Northwest



VOLUNTEER AWARD

Xuan Sibell,
Budget Committee Member



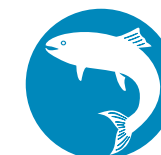
GOVERNMENT PARTNER AWARD

Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Mitch Bixby,
Botanic Specialist (ED/RR)

THE NUMBERS IN REVIEW



12
Conservation plans completed



25,882 linear feet
Of streams/banks enhanced



\$178,969
To on-the-ground projects



660 people
Served at outreach events



654
Residents and land managers served



34 acres
Of cropland improved through soil health practices



788 acres
Treated for invasive plants



57
Restoration sites monitored



183 acres
Of native habitat enhanced



1,310 people
Served by educational opportunities



18,964
Native plants installed

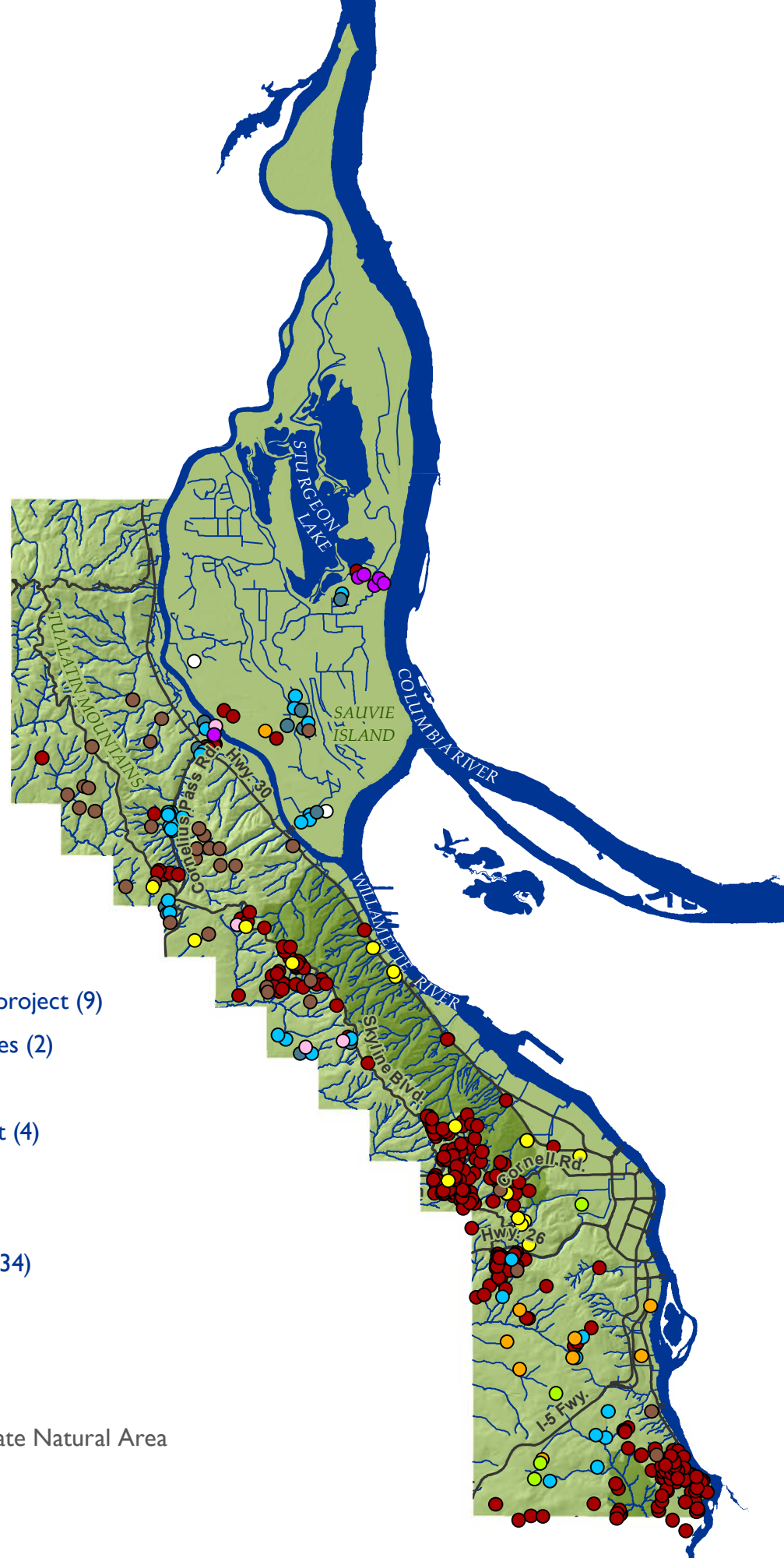
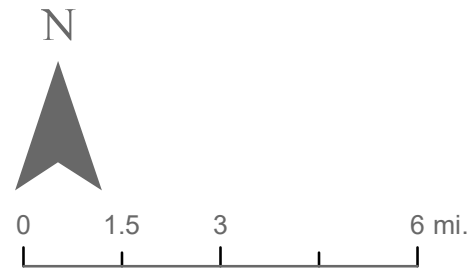


\$151,733
In support of partner projects

Photos taken on Sauvie Island by Pat Welle.
Top photo: Young bald eagle (family Accipitridae) near Dairy Creek.
Bottom photo: Red-winged black birds at Bybee-Howell Park (family Icteridae; female, above; male, below)

DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROJECTS

2020–2021



Project Type:

- Canopy weed removal (17)
 - Education and demonstration project (9)
 - Farmland conservation practices (2)
 - Oak habitat restoration (12)
 - Pollinator habitat enhancement (4)
 - Priority weed control (347)
 - Stormwater improvement (4)
 - Stream and pond restoration (34)
 - Wetland restoration (6)
 - Woodland restoration (32)
- ~ Streams and rivers
- Forest Park & Tryon Creek State Natural Area



Crews plant willow on a wetland restoration site. Photo by Pat Welle.

PROJECT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Canopy weed removal	Projects include sites where partners, with support from WMSWCD, have removed invasive ivy or clematis from trees.
Education and demonstration projects	Projects help schools and communities develop and care for edible and native habitat gardens and expand environmental education opportunities.
Farmland conservation practices	Projects may involve cover-cropping and other soil health practices that help farmers and livestock owners build healthy soil, promote beneficial pollinators and other wildlife, and conserve and protect water.
Oak habitat restoration	Projects aim to enhance or restore Oregon white oak woodlands and savanna, and can involve weed control; planting of oaks and associated trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers; wildlife habitat structures; and removal of competing Douglas fir.
Pollinator habitat enhancement	Projects include establishing native plant hedgerows and other habitat features that provide nectar, pollen, and nesting resources for native bees and other pollinators throughout the growing season.
Priority weed control	Projects include sites where high priority invasive species such as garlic mustard and knotweed were found and controlled through the Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) program.
Stormwater improvement	Projects contribute to watershed health by filtering pollutants and reducing the volume of water runoff and sediment in streams from storm events. Projects include raingardens, pavement removal, porous walkways, soil restoration, converting lawn to a diversity of native plants, erosion control, and retention basins.
Stream and pond restoration	Projects include controlling invasive blackberry, reed canary grass, or other invasive weeds along streams and around ponds, and planting native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to help shade streams, improve water quality, stem bank erosion, and improve habitat.
Wetland restoration	Projects involve significant wetland restoration which may include earth moving to improve hydrology, controlling weeds, and restoring native vegetation.
Woodland restoration	Projects may include treating invasive weeds, addressing erosion concerns, planting trees and shrubs on forested land, and thinning trees to reduce competition.



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District does not discriminate based on any class or identity including age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and veteran status. The District is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. The District makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities and special needs to provide access to District events, materials and services. If you have requests for accommodations or complaints about discrimination, harassment, inequitable treatment, lack of access to District events, materials or services, or for any questions at all, please contact us at info@wmswcd.org or call 503.238.4775.



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