



**WEST MULTNOMAH**  
Soil & Water Conservation District





*In June 2021, the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors adopted the District's updated 2021-2025 Long Range Business Plan.*

The plan was the product of a novel process which involved community outreach and surveys, partner interviews, equity lens reviews, external draft reviews, and robust staff and board engagement. This process led to the new mission, vision, strategic directions, goals, tactics, and organizational values and principles.

The plan guides the scope of the District's conservation work and the supporting financial sustainability and organizational health practices needed to implement this work. The plan also guides the development of the District's annual work plans and budget for five fiscal years (July 1 through June 30): 2021-22 (Year 1), 2022-23 (Year 2), 2023-24 (Year 3), 2024-25 (Year 4), and 2025-26 (Year 5). Following is a report on the District's progress and performance in Year 1.

*View the full Long Range Business Plan at [tinyurl.com/2021-2025-LRBP](https://tinyurl.com/2021-2025-LRBP)*



# A Year of Change and Adaptation

## Dear Friends of the District,

We write as Interim Co-District Managers because we lost our dear leader, Jim Cathcart, to cancer in spring 2022. We know he would be proud of the progress we made in the first year of implementing our new long-range business plan, which includes our strategic conservation work and furthering our diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. Jim's legacy carries on in all that we do here at the District. He left behind a strong organizational structure and a culture of caring and support, dedication to our mission, resiliency, and adaptability to change, both for our ecological restoration work and our organization. We've continued to thrive while managing staff changes, a move to a new office, and rapidly evolving social and climatic conditions.

This past year has given us the opportunity to focus even more on how we adapt to climate change, one of our strategic goals. Our technical staff continues to learn and practice new and old ways of doing conservation. We are increasingly open to using native plants that are sourced further south in our ecoregion, since they are adapted to hotter, drier summers, and listening to Indigenous voices about how we should manage the land. We're attending more to mitigating the risks of climate change, whether that is preparing for more intense flooding and summer drought conditions, or determining how to help alleviate the heat island effect impacting houseless community members. We're also experimenting with new tools to quantify carbon storage and other climate-related benefits of our work. We're forming new partnerships to increase access to undeveloped land for those that don't own land and to diversify the nature of farming and who grows our food. A more diverse population of growers that factors climate change into farming practices, such as use of cover crops and crop rotation, and improving pollinator habitat, will strengthen the resilience of our food supply and of our farmers' livelihoods.

We invite you to read further about our forest stewardship services and our continuing restoration of Sturgeon Lake. Also see the brief overview of many other projects in our performance measures—we met our Year 1 goals in nearly all cases—and our financial report, which shows how we use our property tax and grant dollars wisely to benefit the community (via the health of the ecosystems we support). We also celebrate the positive contributions of this year's awardees. The efforts of such land managers and partners are essential to expand and enhance the scope of our conservation work. We know that we can always improve, that our work is never done, and that caring for the land requires a continuous commitment. With the help of our passionate partners, talented staff, and committed board members, we will continue to adapt to the changes ahead.

*Kammy Kern-Korot*

**KAMMY KERN-KOROT**

*Interim Co-District Manager & Senior Conservationist*

*Michele Levis*

**MICHELE LEVIS**

*Interim Co-District Manager & Controller*



**Front cover** Farm field with cover crops (photo by WMSWCD); Licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*); Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*); Crews planting willow. **Back cover** Striped sweat bee (*Genus Agapostemon*) on cluster rose (*Rosa pisocarpa*)(photo by WMSWCD); White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)(photo by Jim Benson); Dairy Creek; Volunteers replacing sod grass with meadowscaping plants (photo by Jamie Stamberger). **Facing** Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) on Sauvie (Wapato) Island. **Above** Photos by WMSWCD. All photos by Pat Welle unless noted otherwise.



## 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.

## 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 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.

## 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://www.wmswcd.org/Equity-Statement)

With help from an intern, staff monitor the success of planting at a wetland habitat restoration site.



Sauvie (Wapato) Island was originally home to the Multnomah people, and may be again an important site for many Indigenous tribes during harvest seasons.

## 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 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 of, 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.*

Some actions we have taken following the land acknowledgement are ongoing. These are examples from Year 1:

### **Incorporating Indigenous perspectives into our programming and planning:**

We hired a Native American Community Engagement Liaison for the public launch of our 2021-2025 Long Range Business Plan. This followed the Liaison's involvement in the development of the plan. For input on how we should approach our education programming, we hired Indigenous community members and leaders, amongst other diverse stakeholders.

### **Sharing information and participating in important conversations about land management with Indigenous leaders and community members:**

We participated in a field trip led by Confluence, a nonprofit that connects people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. We joined with Indigenous community members who had advised City of Portland staff on a restoration project. We also provided funding for Indigenous community members to participate and to share their perspectives and ideas at this event.

### **Increasing staff cultural and Traditional Ecological Knowledge awareness:**

Two of our staff completed Confluence Field School, a multi-week training to better understand Indigenous world view, culture, historical and current day political dynamics, and perspectives in land management. Many other staff attended follow-up trainings on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and related topics including land acknowledgements.



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

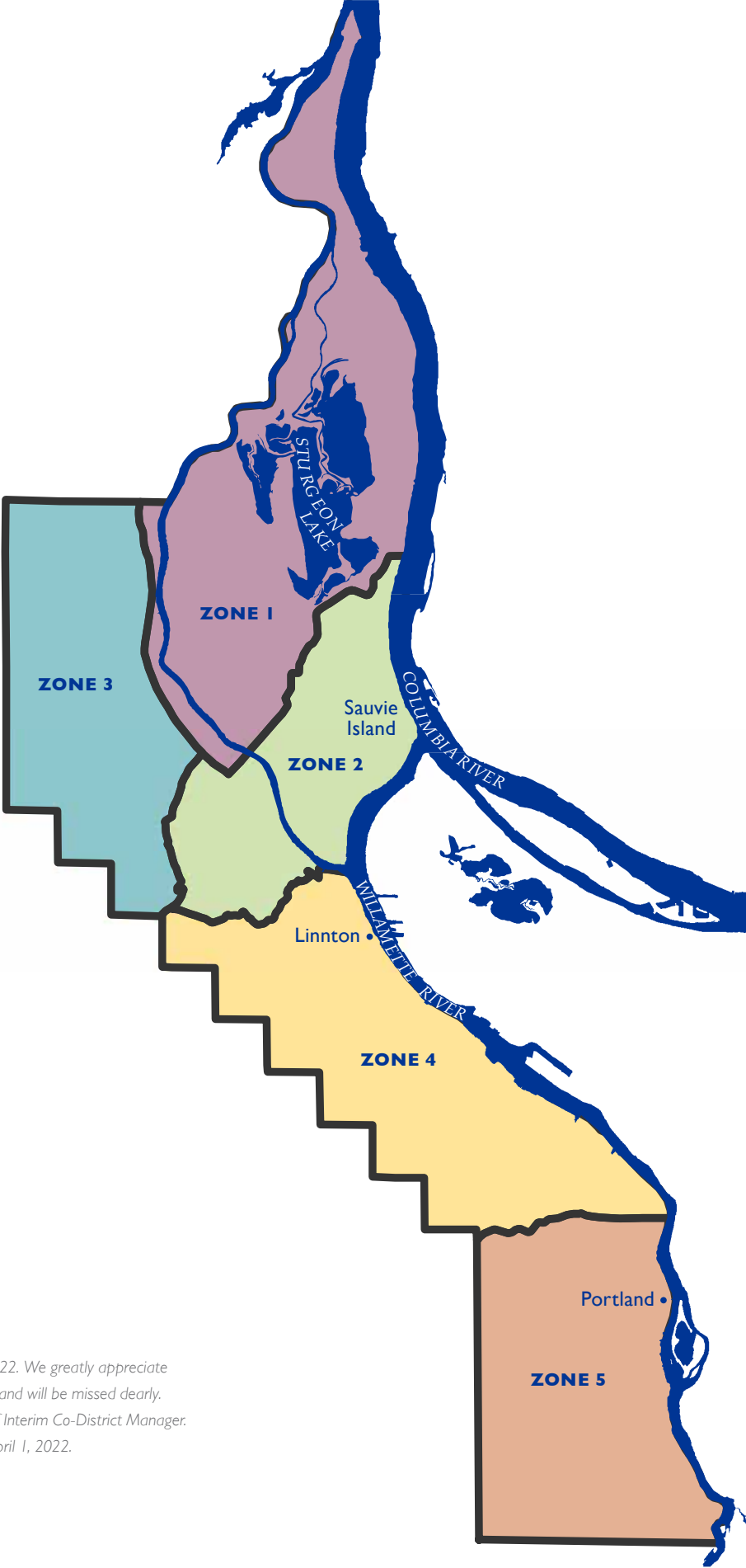
Associate Directors

- FINLAY ANDERSON\***
- JAN HAMER**
- BOB WILEY, SR.**

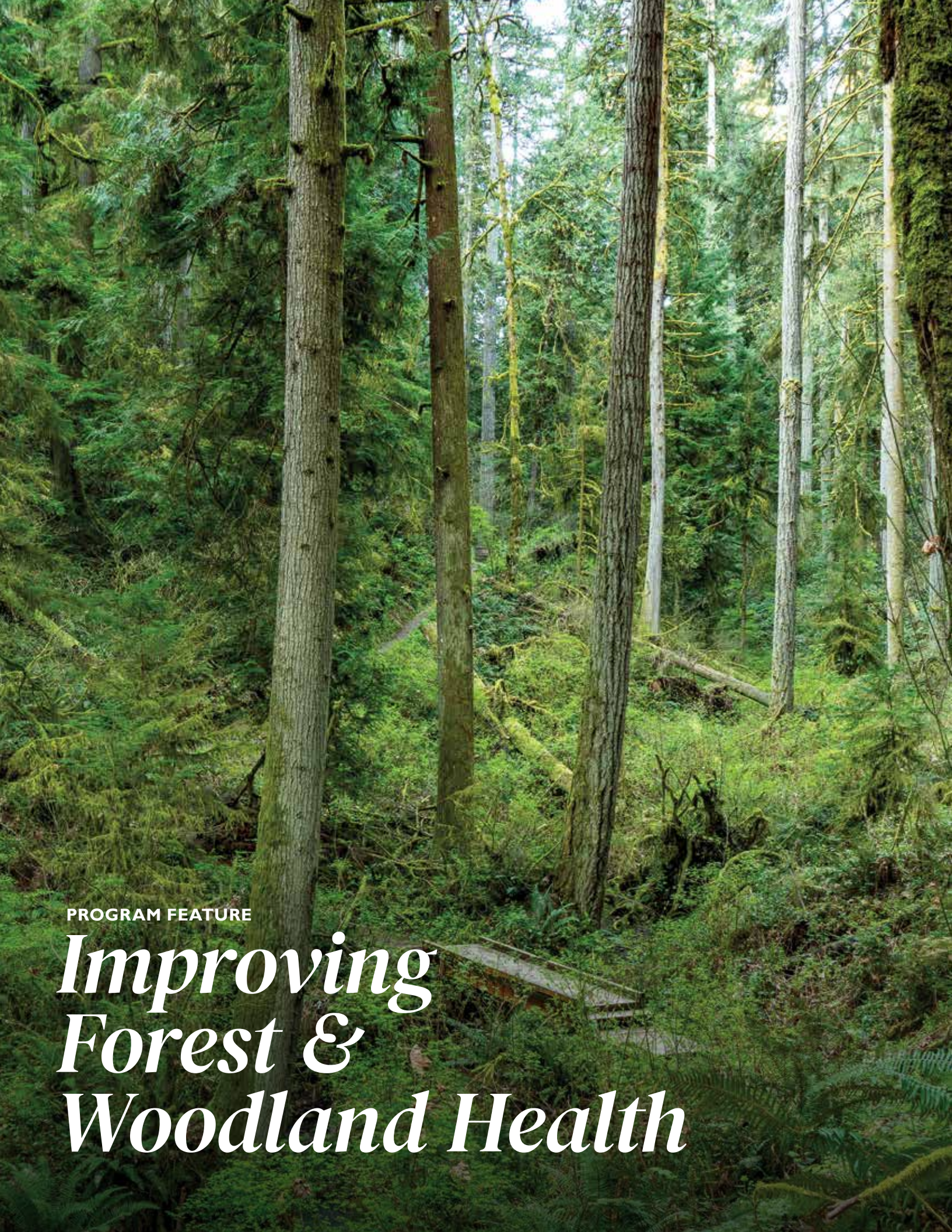
Staff

- JIM CATHCART** District Manager\*
- MARTINA AVENDANO** Field Conservation Intern, 2021
- MICHELLE DELEPINE** Conservationist & Invasive Species Program Coordinator
- JORDAN DELAWDER** Field Conservation Intern, 2022
- ARI DEMARCO** Seasonal Conservation Technician
- SCOTT GALL** Rural Conservationist
- KAMMY KERN-KOROT** Senior Conservationist\*
- SHAHBAZ KHAN** GIS & Field Conservation Intern, 2022
- MICHELE LEVIS** Controller and Budget Officer\*
- MARY LOGALBO** Urban Conservationist
- RENEE MAGYAR** Communications & Outreach Manager
- RANDI RAZALENTI** Office Manager
- ISA ROJAS** GIS & Field Conservation Intern, 2021
- LAURA TAYLOR** Forest Conservationist\*

\*Finlay Anderson stepped down as Associate Director effective January 7, 2022. We greatly appreciate Finlay's contributions to the District. Jim Cathcart passed on May 20, 2022 and will be missed dearly. Kammy Kern-Korot and Michele Levis subsequently both took on the role of Interim Co-District Manager. Laura Taylor took on the permanent position of Forest Conservationist on April 1, 2022.







PROGRAM FEATURE

# Improving Forest & Woodland Health

*The Tualatin Mountains (also called the West Hills) of western Multnomah County are a rare and precious place.*

They form a long narrow arm of the Oregon Coast Range that extends this regionally significant forested ecosystem east to the Willamette River. Despite their close proximity to the largest metropolitan area in Oregon, the mountains are still largely covered with forest. This is perhaps in part due to their steep rugged slopes which make development a challenge. This area also holds a rich tribal history. It was and remains a place of convergence for many Native American tribes who originally inhabited this land, including the Multnomah, Atfalati (Tualatin Kalapuya), St'l'pulmsh (Cowlitz), Clatskanie, and several other tribes.

Over the past few centuries, the forests of the Tualatin Mountains have been resilient—able to successfully weather the many changes they have experienced. With new threats on the horizon, the continued health and resiliency of these forests, and the communities who live among them, is the focus of our forestry work.

The Tualatin Mountain forests have seen several rounds of logging over the past century and a half. This has resulted in the forest structure becoming more simplified than it was when the local tribes maintained it as old-growth mixed conifer-hardwood forest and Oregon white oak woodlands. Now there's a prevalence of smaller trees of similar age, fewer tree species, fewer and smaller logs and snags (standing dead trees) and a less complex and diverse understory.

In some places, Douglas-fir has been planted in thick stands, leaving little else growing under the closed-in canopy. In other areas, efforts to reestablish conifers largely failed, and the live roots of the cut native bigleaf maple trees resprouted and grew into whole forests of dense maple clumps. There's nothing wrong with either Douglas-fir or bigleaf maple, but a healthy forest generally has both of these species plus several more, rather than being made up entirely of one or the other.



Snags provide important habitat for insects and feeding sites for woodpeckers and other birds that hunt for insects.





Certain plants introduced for farm or garden use have, over the years, become invasive. Armenian blackberry, Scotch broom, and English ivy have, in some areas, significantly impacted forest health by further simplifying the forest understory. More recently, increased drought and high summer temperatures have severely stressed many trees in the Tualatin Mountain causing die-offs, especially of western redcedar growing in vulnerable locations. These trends have also led to a growing risk of wildfire in this region. These growing challenges have left the future of the Tualatin Mountain forests more tenuous. Yet despite this, the ethic of stewardship held by the residents of this area is a beacon of hope for this forest ecosystem. Through efforts great and small, independent and collective, the Skyline Ridge community is taking an active role to help improve the sustainability of these forests, and we are helping residents in this effort.

### OUR SERVICES IN ACTION

Over the past year, our Forest Conservationist, Laura Taylor, provided information and technical advice to 34 woodland owners through site visits and follow-up communications. In collaboration with landowners, Laura also developed 3 comprehensive forest stewardship plans that cover a total of 82 acres.

In a forest stewardship plan, we include information about the forest's current conditions that we gather during a series of site visits. We describe forest structure, wildlife habitat, weed presence, road conditions, water features, and other elements that might influence the condition of the forest. Plans also include forest management recommendations and a list of resources. Management recommendations are tailored to fit the goals of the landowner, but some common examples include forest thinning, gap creation, invasive weed removal, wildfire fuel reductions around homes, planting native trees, shrubs, and ground covers, and pollinator and other wildlife habitat enhancement.

For participants who have developed a forest stewardship plan and are ready to begin implementing some of the recommendations, we help identify and access financial assistance. Once funding has been secured and the project is ready to get started, our Forest Conservationist and other staff may be able to assist in managing its implementation, including mapping and marking project areas, securing and supervising contractors, selecting and securing appropriate species, monitoring project outcomes, and practicing adaptive management.

Taking on a forest health project is a big and complex undertaking for most, and we are helping many woodland owners navigate the process. In the past year, in addition to the planning work described above, we have also helped implement projects on 14 properties benefiting a total of 114 acres.

Many woodland owners who have taken advantage of our services say the effort has been worth it. They share their delight at now hearing birds singing from thriving trees, sighting elk, salamanders, and bumblebees, and seeing clear cool water flowing in the streams. 🌿

### *Interested in Protecting Your Forest for the Long-Term with a Conservation Easement?*

West Multnomah SWCD is partnering with The Forest Park Conservancy (FPC) to help woodland owners in the Tualatin Mountains protect their land into the future through conservation easements. Properties must demonstrate significant conservation value and fulfill a number of other criteria to be eligible for this program. For example, the property must be within the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative service area. FPC develops the conservation easement with the landowners, and then holds and manages them in perpetuity. West Multnomah SWCD contributes to the partnership by developing forest stewardship plans for the properties, either beforehand or in the early stages of the process. The forest stewardship plan informs the easement by describing baseline conditions, outlining long-term conservation goals, and specifying forest management strategies that the landowners can use to move the condition of the forest toward those goals. To learn more, visit: <https://forestparkconservancy.org/conservation-program/>



# PROJECT UPDATE *Sturgeon Lake*

*In 2018, along with many partners including the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Multnomah County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and several private donors, we completed the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project.*

The project reopened a connection between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake through Dairy Creek. Core to the project was the installation of a bridge (now known as Bill's Crossing, in memory of Bill Wessinger and the generous donation of the Wessinger Foundation) that fully spans Dairy Creek. We also opened up 3000 feet of the Dairy Creek channel. This connection has increased flow, circulation, tidal cycles, and fish access to the 3000+ acre floodplain lake that had been lost since a massive flood in 1996.

Now, four years later, the question is "Did the project achieve the goals of maintaining an open Dairy Creek channel, increased fish passage to the lake, and reduction in sedimentation within Sturgeon Lake?" To answer that question, we and CREST staff are measuring three factors: size and shape of Dairy Creek, fish presence, and flow channels in the bed of Sturgeon Lake.

Measurements of Dairy Creek began before the channel had been reopened and have continued annually since. Topographic measurements are taken at thirteen cross-sections of Dairy Creek, perpendicular to the flow, along a mile of channel between the Columbia River and Sturgeon Lake. While some sections of the channel have changed shape from the original design, overall the channel retained the same capabilities for flow. The bottom elevation of the channel has stayed within a foot or less of its original level since the project was completed in 2018. In sections closer to the lake that were not touched during construction, some of the bottom elevations have actually dropped. This is likely due to movement of very fine sediment out of the channel. Beavers have made large and complex systems of dams at the end of Dairy Creek nearest the lake, which is another welcome sign of wildlife activity. By all measurements and observations, these dams do not reduce flow through the creek and also provide great fish habitat.

To help detect fish in the creek, in late 2020, a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag detection array—sets of

antennas that work together as a single antenna—was installed in Dairy Creek on Sauvie Island. When a fish with a "PIT" tag swims by the detector its unique identification number is captured. That ID has information on the fish's origin, its species, and when it was tagged. While hatchery fish are the most commonly tagged fish, biologists

capture and tag wild fish as well. To date, the Dairy Creek PIT tag array has detected six different types of salmon as well as sturgeon using the waterway. Salmonids include hatchery Summer Steelhead, hatchery Summer Chinook, hatchery Fall Chinook, wild Steelhead, wild Summer Steelhead, and wild Coho.

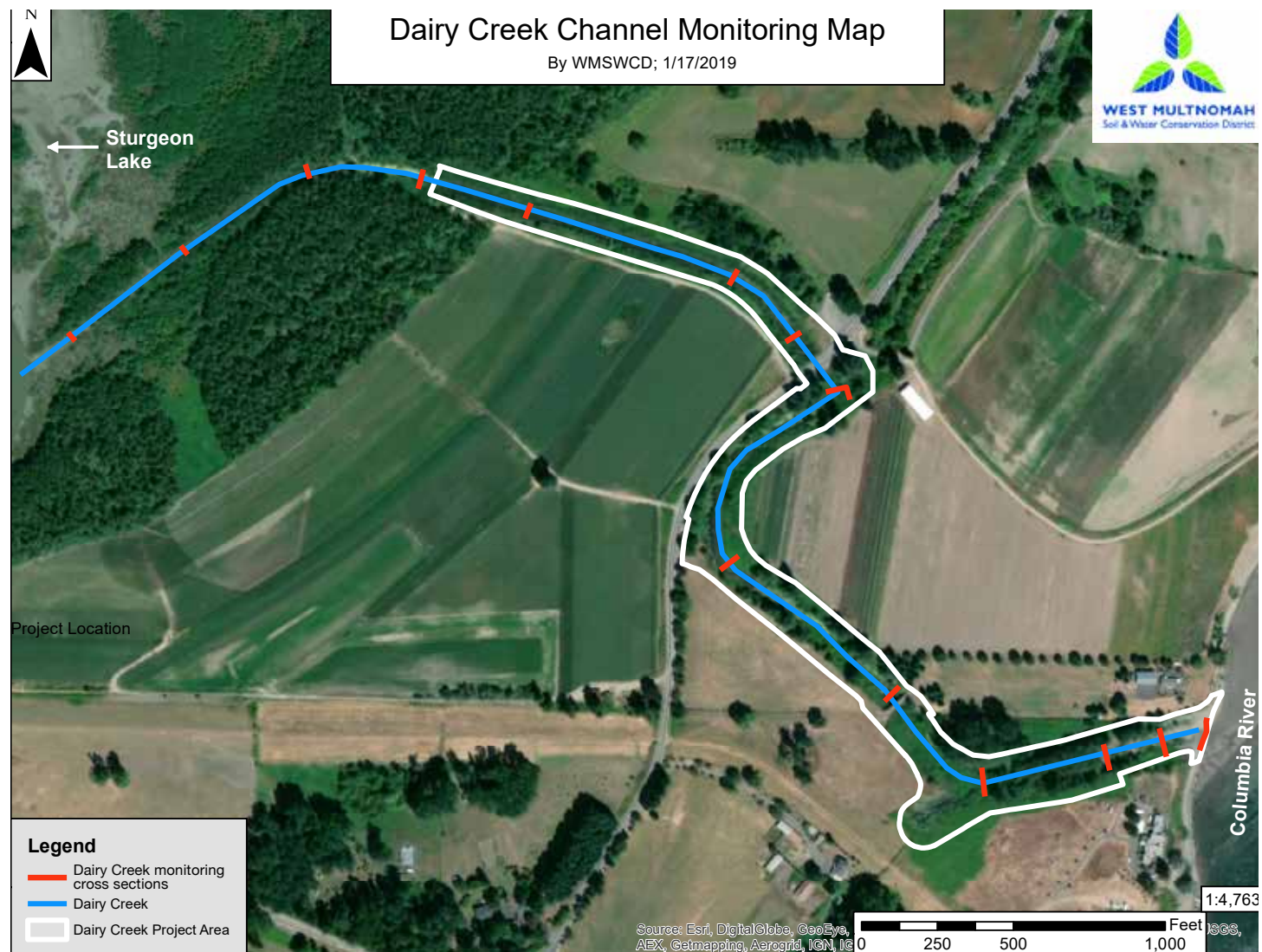
Before the project was completed, CREST led the effort to take aerial photos of sections of Sturgeon Lake to track potential changes in the lake bed. Within the lake, even before the 2018 project, water currents created by tidal action and high river flows created channels in the fine lake-bottom sediments. One goal of the restoration project was to move more water through the lake to flush out some of those sediments and keep the lake from filling up with silt.

***You can see all the salmon and sturgeon detected in Dairy Creek!***

Visit [tinyurl.com/DairyCreekFish](https://tinyurl.com/DairyCreekFish), choose the time period, and click Submit.

**Facing** Sturgeon Lake provides opportunities for recreation as well as important fish habitat.  
**Below** Native Wapato (*Sagittaria latifolia*) grow along the shores of Sturgeon Lake.





Being such a large lake with few road access points, monitoring the lake bed is a big challenge. Conveniently, however, the lake becomes almost completely empty of water late in the summer. This is a natural phenomenon that occurs when the Willamette River and Columbia River are at their lowest levels, and also when there are far fewer fish passing through the area. This allows for aerial images that show the contours of the lake bed. So far the images are showing that there are some minor new channels forming and potential widening of larger, existing channels. More years of images are needed to make

definitive claims, but these are signs that sediment is moving around within the lake in new ways, potentially preventing build-up of sediment as hoped.







Four years into the project, the answer to the question, "Has the project been a success?" is a tentative "Yes." More years of observation are needed to know for sure, and we will continue to monitor and gather data to discover that answer. Nonetheless, we can say with confidence that fish are accessing the lake in ways they have not been able to for decades, and that is absolutely a successful outcome. 🌱








The mouth of Dairy Creek fully opened to tidal flow after project completion.







Year 1  
Performance Measures






Success Criteria	Year 1 Performance Measures	Project Specifics and Results	Status
Strategic Direction 1: Embed equity and inclusion in all that we are and all that we do.			
Internal staff and board diversification and capacity development	Plan developed for a diverse advisory committee; Capacity developed with trainings and facilitated discussions	The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will participate on the planning team and review the plan with an equity lens to identify any potential unintended impacts.  This work is currently on hold due to a period of reduced staff capacity.	 On Hold
Service benefits are increased for historically underserved communities	District-wide assessments of program benefits and access issues	We completed an equity lens review of our partner funding and soil health services to determine accessibility issues, and reached out to foster new relationships with partner organizations working with communities we have not yet served.	 In Progress
Favor the award of contracts for hired services and other purchases from Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women Business Enterprises (WBE)	Evaluate the % of contracts and purchases from MBE and WBE with respect to number and value awarded	We developed a system to track the percent of contracts awarded to Minority & Women Business Enterprises.  See Numbers in Review (Page 20) for details on dollars spent on diverse suppliers.	 Successful
Strategic Direction 2: Ensure we are welcoming, adaptable, supportive, viable, effective, and sustainable in our practices.			
Staff work-life balance	Staff surveys show they feel healthy about work-life balance; Create and evaluate realistic annual work plan; Ensure regular communication-feedback processes	Our focus on work-life balance, including incorporating employee hybrid schedules when planning for our office move, helped staff to feel greater organizational commitment and job satisfaction.	
Safety	All incidents are reported in a timely manner with corrective and preventative action taken	A committed Safety Committee and the engagement of all staff in monthly safety reviews ensured safety was prioritized and staff felt safe at work.	
Efficiency and effectiveness	Maintain detailed job descriptions; Identify and implement workflow auditing; Complete annual performance evaluations	Succession planning that began and continued through FY22 allowed us to operate effectively and efficiently as we managed the loss of a staff member and as we planned for FY23.	
Staff and board feel welcomed	Exit interviews and new staff interviews/surveys report out a welcoming environment	Regular check-ins with all staff, as well as exit interviews with departing staff, help to ensure that we continuously improve our welcoming environment. Exit interviews reflected that all staff members felt welcomed by the District.	
Strategic Direction 3: Ensure we are financially sustainable.			
Remain fully compliant with all laws and regulations pertaining to public entities.	Independent audit of financial statements resulting in clean audit opinion and finding that District is in compliance with relevant laws and regulations	Our annual audit showed the public and funders that we operate in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. It also transparently and accurately reported our financial health and use of funds.	
Use best practices for budgeting and forecasting, working to enhance revenues, contain costs, and allocate resources strategically.	Annually receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation award	Our achievement of the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation award recognized our goal-driven approach to budgeting that annually incorporates best practices in planning, development, adoption, and execution of our budget, ensuring public trust.	

Strategic Direction 4: Share conservation information so people have the knowledge and confidence to take action.			
Understandable and culturally accessible	Work with Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) to develop communications plan	We contracted with two community engagement organizations to connect us to new communities, as outlined in a new communications plan, still in development in Year 1.  We introduced ourselves to Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese-speaking communities. The second phase of this project will further build out the communications plan to engage these communities in our services.	
Science-based credible information that includes other, non-dominant culture ways of knowing	10 conservation plans completed; Technical staff participate in at least one training or opportunity that involves learning about Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)	Two staff members completed Confluence's Field School and brought back learnings and materials focused on understanding Traditional Ecological Knowledge, indigenous history, and increased cultural literacy.  Other staff members attended follow-up trainings on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and related topics including land acknowledgements.  In addition to plans completed for farmland and forest properties (see Strategic Direction 7), we completed 9 conservation plans in urban neighborhoods.	
Strategic Direction 5: Protect and improve water quality and soil health.			
Cropland improved	30 acres per year	The number of acres planted each year across our participating farms on Sauvie Island changes on a cyclic basis. A total of 10 acres was planted with cover crops in Year 1. Our goal is an average of 30 acres per year across the 5 year span of the Long Range Business Plan.	
Stream length enhanced	Minimum 22,910 feet by Year 5	We controlled invasive weeds and enhanced stream banks along 2400 feet of the Gilbert River on Sauvie Island. In total, we enhanced 21,224 feet of stream banks as part of maintaining Healthy Streams Program sites and the Gilbert River site.	
Strategic Direction 6: Protect, enhance, and restore biodiversity, native landscapes, habitats, and ecological function.			
Native habitats conserved, enhanced and/or restored	9 acres of priority habitat restored or enhanced	We partnered with Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce on a project to lower the ground surface elevation of the lower McCarthy Creek floodplain and improve adjacent wetland areas. We installed 10,000 native plants after installation of 2 new bridges to replace old culverts and improve floodplain connectivity and habitat.  In total, we enhanced or maintained 58 acres of habitat that are part of new or ongoing riparian and special habitat projects.  At the McCarthy Creek headwaters, we increased forest complexity with thinning, planting, and weed removal. At Dairy Creek on Sauvie Island, as part of the greater Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project, we monitored and maintained 10 acres of riparian habitat.	

Note: “Measures of Success” is the term used in the 2021-2025 Long Range Business Plan. We are now using “Performance Measures” to be consistent with our financial reporting.



Preventing and/or eliminating new invasive species threats	Annually survey at least 300 properties and respond to any detected priority Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) species found quickly and collaboratively	We surveyed and controlled priority noxious weeds at 316 properties as part of our Early Detection Rapid Response approach to invasive species management. In total, we enhanced or maintained 63 acres of habitat that are part of new or ongoing riparian habitat projects.	
Strategic Direction 7: Enhance the long-term health and productivity of farms, forests, woodlands, and gardens.			
Working forestlands and farms covered by conservation plans	Annually complete 6 conservation plans	We developed a total of 7 conservation/forest stewardship plans covering 100 acres. These include 1 conservation plan and 2 forest stewardship plans for 82 acres of forest, and 4 conservation plans for 18 acres of farmland.  One forest stewardship plan includes alder thinning, ash forest enhancements, farm prescriptions, and oak or pollinator enhancements.	
School and community gardens receiving technical or financial assistance	Annually support 6 school and/or community gardens	We offered funding for 6 garden projects, of which 3 schools and 1 community organization were able to take on projects in Year 1. A fifth project was deferred to Year 2.  One school completed a greenhouse for year-round garden learning opportunities. One school installed a native plant garden which includes native camas. The school brought in an Indigenous speaker who shared about the cultural significance of camas that the school planted. The other school installed a bird feeder to engage students in bird identification, and also planted a first foods garden with students learning Grande Ronde Tribe's social studies curriculum.  The community garden funding supported the creation of a garden for a food-insecure community at River District Navigation Center, a temporary, low-barrier shelter for 100 adults that offers safety off the street and connections to housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. The shelter helps temporary residents regain stability, connect to essential support services, and access stable and permanent housing options.	 Needs improvement
Strategic Direction 8: Promote resilient environments and communities in the face of climate change.			
Wildfire risk reduction	Find niche	We completed conservation plans and contractor scopes of work to create defensible space around private residences in and around Forest Park. This work is being funded by monies secured by Forest Park Conservancy from NW Natural and is complemented by similar work happening in the park with U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds secured by Portland Parks & Recreation.  Local partners completed a related pilot weed removal project we helped plan, solidifying our niche with local partners; we offer technical resources to help plan and implement plant management activities that complement defensible space goals of residents and local fire districts.  Residents in these FireWise communities are now more familiar with the efforts of Portland Fire & Rescue and Tualatin Fire to reduce wildfire risk and are helping outreach to their neighbors.	

Reduce heat island impacts for those most vulnerable	Find niche	We collected information and reviewed maps to inform our work moving forward. We verified our Urban Heat Island focal areas within central downtown & industrial areas of Portland.  We joined the first Government Partners meeting of the "Connecting Canopies" project, a collaborative effort dedicated to reducing urban heat island impacts with more equitable distribution of the urban canopy cover. Solutions will be crafted by historically marginalized community members and supported by a wide network of relevant regional stakeholders.	
Strategic Direction 9: Enhance, support, and create opportunities for all people, especially those historically and presently displaced from and deprived of land, to foster positive relationships with the land.			
People have ways to connect with the land	Find niche to provide school and community garden support	With the help of consultants, community members, land-based education leaders, K-12 school educators, non-profit leaders and staff, and government staff, we completed a discovery project to identify the best role we can play in local, land-based education. This led to partnership development, funding, and support of organizations and collaborative groups providing BIPOC- and culturally-specific programming.  With District funding, Friends of Tryon Creek delivered a successful Tryon Creek Ecology Adventures pilot program that provided culturally-responsive environmental education to youth of color in partnership with a host of other BIPOC-led and -serving organizations.  Our community garden program provided access to garden space for community members looking to connect with the land. (See the River District Navigation Center Garden project in Strategic Direction 7.)	
People have access to land	Identify strategies to facilitate land access for cultural benefits	Two staff members completed Confluence's Field School which helped staff engage with local Indigenous community members to learn more about cultural resources in our area and how we can provide for these resources through our operations.  Additionally, with District funding, the Sauvie Island Center designed and planted its First Foods Forest in partnership with an equity committee.	
Strategic Direction 10: Ensure the long-term success of our conservation actions.			
Monitor restoration sites and respond to findings	40 sites annually	This was a challenging year for monitoring with staff transitions that left our monitoring coordinator position largely unfilled. Even with this short-staffing, we managed to continue monitoring the highest-priority sites containing new plantings. In total, we monitored 11 sites. Monitoring results were communicated to program managers to inform future maintenance and planting needs.	
Maintain and secure long-term agreements	2 total agreements held and maintained (Sturgeon Lake and McCarthy Creek)	We wrote a forest stewardship plan and conservation easement for a 60-acre parcel of land in the heart of the McCarthy Creek watershed. The easement was donated to Forest Park Conservancy to protect the property in perpetuity. The stewardship plan is legally referenced in how the easement conditions will be met.  In total, we held and maintained three agreements including one at Sturgeon Lake and one at McCarthy Creek.	



# The Numbers in Review



18

Conservation plans completed



\$162,386

To on-the-ground projects



110 acres

Treated for invasive plants



195 acres

Of native habitat enhanced



26,491

Native plants installed



828 people

Served at outreach events



477

Residents and land managers served



70

Partners engaged



1,172 people

Served by educational opportunities



\$167,491

In support of partner projects



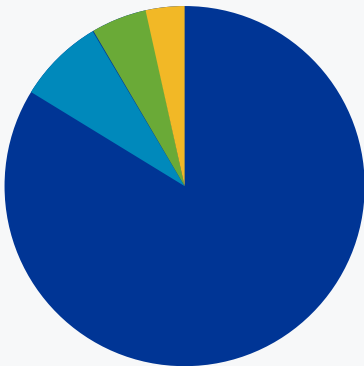
25,882 linear feet

Of streamside habitat enhanced

Historic metrics for “Acres of cropland improved through soil health practices” and “Restoration sites monitored” are now captured directly in the Performance Measures on the preceding pages.

Partners Funded in Year 1	FY 22
4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area	7,500
Backyard Habitat Certification Program	30,000
Ecology in Classrooms and Outdoors	10,000
Forest Park Conservancy (includes Canopy Weed Program)	28,000
Friends of Tryon Creek	9,500
Oregon Integrated Pest Management Website	7,500
Sauvie Island Center	10,000
Scappoose Bay Watershed Council	9,491
Tryon Creek Watershed Council	22,500
Westside Watershed Resources Center	33,000
TOTAL PARTNER SUPPORT	\$167,491

Materials & Supplies sourced from Diverse Suppliers with State of Oregon Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity (COBID) certifications



- Other Suppliers (\$537,901)
- WBE Certification (\$48,833)  
(Women Business Enterprise)
- WBE & ESB Certification (\$31,540)  
(Women Business Enterprise & Emerging Small Business)
- WBE & MBE Certification (\$24,147)  
(Women Business Enterprise & Minority Business Enterprise)  
*This group includes businesses with federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification.*



Cedar waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)





**RURAL  
COOPERATOR AWARD**  
**Dr. Ivan Law**

Dr. Ivan Law worked with our Forest Conservationist to remove a large area of fruiting mature non-native holly trees from what had been a holly farm on his property. The holly trees were “ground zero” for spreading the invasive berries to surrounding natural areas. With help from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and District cost share funding, Dr. Law contributed significant funds to the project. The project was logistically difficult, requiring new contractor connections, tools and methods we hadn’t previously used, and an involved multi-step strategy. Dr. Law was very cooperative and patient through this whole process, and his support has made a huge conservation impact across the West Hills.



**NON-PROFIT  
PARTNER AWARD**  
**Confluence**

Through Confluence’s Field School, members of our staff deepened their understanding of the history and living cultures of the land in our district that we now have the privilege of helping to steward. The Field School program also provided valuable connections to an expanded network of Indigenous community members and leaders, as well as organizations with missions to care for the land. We now have the opportunity to work with these communities on long-term caring for and giving back to the land with a culturally-sensitive approach that values and integrates multiple ways of knowing. Through these new relationships, we also see opportunities to increase access to land and help others connect or reconnect with the land, especially those who have been displaced from or deprived of land. These efforts enable us to move beyond land acknowledgments toward partnerships with Indigenous people, tribes and their sovereign governments, and inter-tribal organizations, recognizing we still have much work to do in this regard.



**GREEN AWARD**  
**Diane Field &  
Dick Williams**

Diane Field and Dick Williams completed an updated forest stewardship plan with the District. Based on this plan, they donated to the Forest Park Conservancy a conservation easement which protects their 60-acre forested property in the heart of the McCarthy Creek watershed. They have been working with the District for over 10 years on a range of forest health activities including forest thinning, invasive weed management, and planting native trees and shrubs. They are currently starting a new Conservation Stewardship Program project with funding support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.



**WEST MULTNOMAH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
**Jim Cathcart, 1957-2022**

*West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, District Manager 2016-2022*

With this award, we recognize Jim Cathcart’s outstanding conservation stewardship and partnership, leadership, mentorship, and dedication to justice, equity, and inspiring and lifting up so many throughout his career. Jim came to lead the District with over two decades of experience in forest policy, forest health and monitoring, management planning, and communications, which included 17 years with the Oregon Department of Forestry. During his time at the District, Jim accomplished far more than we can include here, but there are a few efforts that stand out. Jim’s positive attitude and determination were essential to completion of the Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project. He invested a great deal of careful thought into the development of the Field-Williams forest easement, approaching it as a template for future easements. As a leader and mentor, he empowered his staff to take on new challenges and opportunities, providing helpful guidance along the way. Jim has left behind an impressive and meaningful legacy.



**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**  
**Forest Park Conservancy**

We recognize Alejandro Orizola and his team at Forest Park Conservancy for being great partners this year. Alejandro devoted significant time to our interview panel for the Forest Conservationist position. His insights and thoughtful consideration of applicants contributed greatly to our hiring process. We are also grateful to Alejandro and the other Conservancy staff who have partnered with us to develop a model forest conservation easement (and to accept one from Diane Field and Dick Williams), for their collaboration on wildfire risk reduction and canopy weed control in the West Hills, and for fieldwork help and sharing of knowledge on the part of the Green Jobs Workforce Team. The Workforce interns spent around 18 days surveying and controlling invasive garlic mustard, oblong spurge, giant hogweed, and spurge laurel. On the canopy weed front, the Conservancy helped free 155 trees from invasive ivy and clematis on 6 properties. For wildfire risk reduction, they secured funding and oversaw contractor work for a pilot project showcasing fuels reduction and “firewise” native planting in the Linnton neighborhood. 🌿



# Financial Summary

## Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds

JUNE 30, 2022

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Investments	\$1,521,004
Accounts Receivable	46,021
Property Taxes Receivable	42,437
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,609,462</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$91,067
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>91,067</b>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Deferred Property Tax Revenue	32,305
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>	<b>32,305</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>	
Assigned for Sturgeon Lake	90,935
Unassigned	1,395,155
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>1,486,090</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$1,609,462</b>

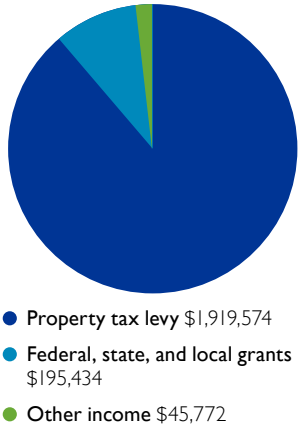
The audit of our fiscal year 2021-2022 financial statements was in process at press time. The above fund statements are not audited. The District fiscal year 2021-2022 Audit Report will be available at the Conservation District office before December 31, 2022.

## Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds

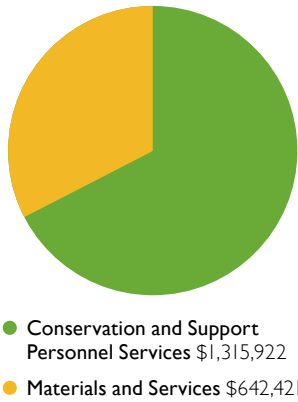
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

<b>Revenues</b>	
Property Tax Levy	\$1,919,574
Federal, State, and Local Grants	195,434
Other Income	45,772
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>2,160,780</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Conservation and Support Personnel Services	1,315,922
Materials and Services	
Conservation Programs, Education, and Outreach	442,768
Operations	199,653
<b>Total Materials and Services</b>	<b>642,421</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,958,343</b>
Change in Fund Balance	202,437
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	1,283,653
<b>FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,486,090</b>

### Revenues



### Expenditures



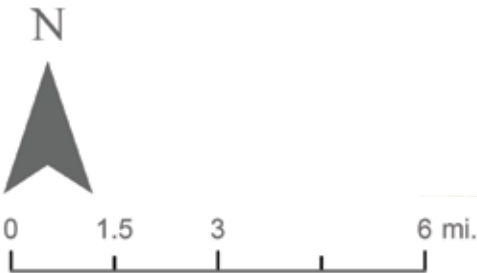
Chorus frog (*Pseudacris*) on thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*)

Sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*)



# District Conservation Projects

## 2021–2022



- Project Type:**
- Canopy weed removal (9)
  - Education and demonstration project (10)
  - Conservation on farmland (4)
  - Oak habitat restoration (10)
  - Pollinator habitat enhancement (3)
  - Priority weed control (270)
  - Stormwater improvement (6)
  - Stream and pond riparian restoration (27)
  - Wetland restoration (8)
  - Woodland restoration (27)
- Streams and rivers
- Forest Park & Tryon Creek State Natural Area



Volunteers help manage invasive weeds on Sauvie Island.

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.
Conservation on farmland	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 include raingardens, pavement removal, porous walkways, soil restoration, converting lawn to a diversity of native plants, erosion control, and retention basins. They contribute to watershed health by filtering pollutants and reducing the volume of water runoff and sediment in streams from storm events.
Stream and pond riparian 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.





**WEST MULTNOMAH**  
Soil & Water Conservation District

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Portland, OR 97239

[WMSWCD.ORG](http://WMSWCD.ORG)