

2012 Year in Review

In 2012, the Tryon Creek Watershed Council grew in projects, capacity, budget, and staff hours. We launched a new program, a citizen base watershed monitoring effort that will help us to examine overall effectiveness of restoration in the entire basin and to develop a baseline characterization of Tryon Creek and its tributaries. Our mentor program has expanded with the help of our partners and is now accessible to volunteers throughout Portland. We have successfully funded several new restoration projects, including a large HOA common area and a 6 landowner restoration on Quail Creek. Some of our most important changes have been organizational. We have adopted stronger systems of fiscal and grant management and planning that will allow us to be more competent and take on larger projects in the future.



Grants Awarded in 2012

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District

Partner Funds

West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

Partner Funds

Quail Creek Restoration

Tryon Life Community Farm

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meadowview HOA

Spring Garden Restoration

Stone Bridge Materials

BES CWSP

2012 Mentorship Program

SWNI

2012 Watershed-wide event

Metro Nature in Neighborhoods

Stone Bridge Fish Passage

Organizational Capacity Building

A highlight of 2012 was organizational capacity building led by coordinator Corrina Chase. Our strategic plan is functional, updated, and used to develop our annual plans. We are able to check our progress on long term goals and maintain a steady course towards our objectives. Fiscal policies and an annual budgeting process is now in place that ensures that we manage our funds competently and transparently. Board chairs focused their efforts in 2012 in better defining our relationship with our fiscal sponsor and close partner, the Friends of Tryon Creek through the development of a formal Memorandum of Understanding. Obtaining Director and Officers and General Liability insurance was also a task for 2012.

Fundraising

Two events comprised our fundraising efforts in 2012. The Rock Bottom Brewery sponsored a Roctoberfest benefit in late September of 2012. Proceeds from sales of seasonal ale, silent auction items, and a raffle raised \$600 for the organization. Our traditional plant sale changed in character this year from a retail sale of gallon-size potted plants to a pre-order of bare root plants. We this change we were able to raise \$1,500 where previous years were not profitable.

Monitoring Program

Our volunteer monitoring program, started in summer of 2012, will track the overall effectiveness of restoration in our watershed and establish a baseline characterization of the watershed. Several types of monitoring take place. Annually, the volunteers conduct a basic habitat survey using the STEP protocol, photopoint, and macroinvertebrate monitoring at selected reaches. Monthly, temperature, bacteria, and turbidity samples are collected. Aspects of the program are taken on by individuals or teams. For instance, there is a monthly grab sample team, a lab team, a data entry team, and an individual that takes on the continuous temperature monitoring. Annual training is supplemented by shadowing by the coordinator or another experienced professional and duplicate data collection at least once a year. Continuous temperature data is collected in many reaches. In the winter, storm monitoring will collect flow and turbidity data at a few key sites before, during, and after a predicted storm event. This will help quantify the flashiness and erosion problems in this system and identify sub-basins that need further restoration work or other measures. USFWS conducts fish sampling throughout the watershed including pit tagging and spawning surveys

to complement this data. USFWS and TCWC will jointly evaluate the results, which among other things will be used to direct restoration projects and evaluate successes in the long term. Data will also be provided to Portland BES and to DEQ.

Riparian Vegetation Restoration Projects

MENTOR PROGRAM

The TCWC Mentor program, funded by the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Community Watershed Stewardship Program, is key to our success working with many small private properties in our watershed. Since 2008, trained volunteer “Mentors” from the community assist and advise landowners on completing streamside restoration projects, native gardening, and stormwater management. In 2012, our program was expanded with the help of WMSWCD to offer the training to volunteers outside of our watershed. This 6 month training program teaches basic sites assessment, how to make a native planting plan, invasive species identification and treatment, stormwater management basics, and an overview of resources and partners available. Through this program, TCWC Coordinator Corrina Chase visited around 20 new sites in 2012, most of which will receive plants, invasive species control assistance, or effort toward grant funding in 2013. Many of these sites have or will be adopted by mentors.

- **5,000 native plants installed**
- **200 Volunteer hours donated**
- **20 landowner site visits**
- **13 properties planted**
- **5 Mentors in Tryon**

QUAIL CREEK

This project, started in Fall of 2012 and funded by WMSWCD, will restore the riparian areas of 6 adjacent properties on Quail Creek. The project area covers around 0.7 acres. Sections are steep with erosion problems. There are a few large cedar and other native trees but most of the area is covered in invasive plants or bare soil. There is a small flood plain of varying width, to which the stream is not well-connected. Sections of bank are actively eroding. Invasive species including English ivy, laurel, Himalayan blackberries, periwinkle, lesser celendine, holly, and bamboo will be removed by a combination of mechanical and herbicide methods. These will be replaced with native species appropriate for this site and complemented with erosion control methods while they become established.

The landowners are not the only parties to benefit from this project. A popular trail runs adjacent to the site; hundreds of pedestrians will enjoy the improvement and have the

opportunity to learn about the project. Because the site has high visibility, a small sign will be installed visible to the trail describing the project and listing opportunities for similar work. This is also across the creek from a 2004-2007 SOLV project, so the work will complement existing efforts. Improving the habitat here will improve stream conditions downstream as water quality improves and inputs of invasive species decrease.

SPRING GARDEN

Immediately downstream from a BES sponsored project daylighting the stream into a series of wetland swamps, this project is a standard riparian revegetation project. Two property owners share a small swale that has been taken over with Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and other invasive plants. This site is funded by an OWEB Small Grant and was to be managed by a SOLV Green Team. This project suffered a delay when SOLVE backed out of the project. The Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) took over project management, and a volunteer mentor stepped forward at the end of the year. In 2012, contractors removed the laurel and holly and treated the stumps to prevent regrowth. A small volunteer crew has planted willow and other species in areas that were free enough of invasives to be planted. Blackberry removal will begin in 2013 and native plantings will occur in the winter of 2013-2014. Erosion control materials will be placed to prevent soil loss over the winter.

TRYON LIFE COMMUNITY FARM

This project, funded by WMSWCD, will convert a large area of solid Himalayan blackberries and an area of thick garlic mustard at the Tryon Life Community Farm (TLC Farm) into medicinal native plant educational garden and forest habitat. Immediate ecological benefits of the project include invasive species removal, increased riparian shade, and filtration of animal waste. Along the spring, native wetland plants will be planted to slow flows, filter pollutants, and decrease erosion. This site is an organic farm so herbicides will not be used. Instead, the farms goats will be used to graze blackberry regrowth after the blackberries have been cut. After a year of grazing and volunteer work parties, planting will occur in the following winter. Long term effects will include lessened impact of invasive species on adjacent land, including encroachment on the Tryon Creek State Park, increased and improved habitat and biodiversity, and improved water quality to the spring and downstream Tryon Creek. Environmental education aided by this project is another long term benefit that is harder to quantify in terms of ecological impact, but is very important.

MEADOWVIEW HOA COMMON AREA

This project, funded by an OWEB Small Grant and started in the Fall of 2012, will remove roughly 1.5 acres of invasive species and replant with native trees and shrubs in the upland and riparian areas surrounding Park Creek within the Meadowview HOA common space. The expected outcome of the project will be three-fold: habitat restoration, outreach, and education. Critical upland and riparian habitat along Park Creek will be improved through the project. Additionally, the landowner and TCWC will use the project as a demonstration and incentive for the 26 properties surrounding the project site to practice habitat friendly techniques including using native plants and controlling stormwater.

The removal of blackberry, clematis, and ivy in the riparian area and from mature trees will protect existing native trees and allow native shrubs and plants to be planted and become established. English holly and English laurel are also scattered throughout the site and will be cleared to make way for native vegetation. When mature, native trees will shade the stream and reduce water temperatures. They will also help ensure a stable source of large wood for future recruitment into the stream. Invasive removal, erosion control installation, and native planting focused on deep-rooted trees and shrubs will help decrease fine sediment runoff into the stream and reduce upland erosion potential. Finally, the project seeks to address the overall lack of biodiversity in the project area. Invasive removal along with replanting focused on a wide variety of native plants will help establish diversity in plant life and will also attract a wider variety of wildlife.

DEER CREEK EXPANSION

This grant was funded by the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's FISH program. Situated on nearly a half-acre of riparian and upland habitat along Deer Creek, a tributary to Tryon Creek near Marshall Park. The project will restore a healthy forest canopy to an area once filled with blackberry and ivy. The project is the second phase of a multi-phased project that is restoring a healthy ecosystem to private properties up and down Deer Creek.

DEER CREEK PHASE 3

This grant was also funded by the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's FISH program. Two private property owners joined together to restore nearly an acre of riparian habitat along Deer Creek. This project is directly linked to a three-property restoration project completed last year, bringing the total project area to nearly 3 acres. A native forest ecosystem will replace invasive clematis and blackberry in the project area. Outreach to adjoining neighbors will continue in an effort to re-forest the most degraded

sections of this Tryon Creek tributary. Thick Clematis to be removed as part of the restoration project Blackberry chokes out native vegetation prior to removal

ARNOLD CREEK grant funded by the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's FISH program. Situated on over 1.5 acres of prime riparian habitat along Arnold Creek, Tryon Creek's largest tributary, this project will restore a floodplain ecosystem and healthy upland forest to this private property. This property is unique because it contains intact floodplain, where storm flows can spread out and slow down before continuing downstream. Generous financial contributions from the landowner helped to make this project possible.

Tryon Creek Watershed Wide Event

This fourth annual Watershed Wide Event was funded by Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement. This year focused on planting and potting donated bare root trees, pulling invasive plants, and removing trash from Tryon Creek tributaries. Sites included the Tryon Life Community Farm, Tryon Creek State Park, Deer Creek, Arnold Creek Natural Area, Englewood Drive, and Arnold Creek at 16th.

Plant Propagation Program

This program has been supported by a grant from the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District's FISH program. Over 3000 individual and 12 varieties of native trees and shrubs were propagated from cuttings and grown into 1-gallon containers for planting at restoration sites this winter. Additional overstocked bare root plants were donated in late spring by Ash Creek Nursery. Various volunteer groups led by TCWC or the Friends of Tryon Creek State Park have propagated plants and kept the nursery organized. Space and water is donated by the Tryon Creek State Park. This program allows us to get more plants into the community for restoration work while educating residents on the importance of native plants.

2012 Budget Figures

2012 Budget by Category	
Total Income 2012	\$65,503.00
2012 Budgeted Expenses	<i>\$65,503.00</i>
Contracted	\$15,975.00
Subscriptions	\$0.00
Equipment	\$350.00
Events	\$0.00
Insurance	\$1,200.00
Payroll	\$30,150.99
Printing	\$240.00
Publicity	\$590.00
Supplies (inc. postage, refreshments)	\$16,336.00
Transportation	\$627.00
Training/conferences	\$500.00
Fiscal Admin fee	\$1,000.00

2012 Budget by Grant	
Total budgeted	\$65,503.00
Operations	\$20,501.00
Monitoring	\$5,274.78
Quail Creek	\$1,213.37
Mentor Program	\$10,433.33
Meadowview	\$3,095.00
Deer II (Johansen)	\$1,151.20
Deer III (Lindberg)	\$1,029.72
Native Nursery	\$1,790.51
SWNI WWE 2012	\$1,816.00
Lunde	\$2,442.94
SpringGarden	\$517.97
Plant Sale	\$400.00