



2019-2020: A Year in Review



tryoncreek.org



[@TryonCreekWC](https://www.instagram.com/tryoncreekwc)

Highlights

This report covers our activities from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.



- We updated our website, and created an interactive watershed map. [pg 7](#)
- In fall and winter/early spring, we continued hosting workshops and facilitating volunteer events, including through our Watershed 101 Workshop program. [pg 5](#)



- In March, many things ground to a halt, and COVID-19's impacts were first felt in our our largest annual volunteer event, Watershed Wide. [pg 4](#)



- Like many other groups, it took a few months to reach equilibrium and pivot to online programming. Thanks to flexibility from our funders, we have updated our technology for an effective home office setup, and began offering online education (while we would have preferred to gather in person, expect a few Zoom screenshots!).



- In the face of COVID-19 shutdowns, our Coordinator began convening meetings across regional Watershed Councils, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and other environmental nonprofits throughout the metro area. [pg 7](#)



- We added about 1 new acre across 8 properties to our Nettle Creek riparian project area. Our environmental restoration contract crews have been able to continue working on projects with additional safety precautions. [pg 4](#)



- The Tryon Creek Watershed Assessment was finalized. [pg 8](#)

- Our board continued working on updating our Strategic Plan and discussing Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) at each of our meetings. When we realized that by engaging with this work only internally, our silence could be doing more harm than good, and we publicly stated our support for Black Lives Matter. [pg 8](#)



- We've amplified partners' work by sharing the USFWS Tryon Creek Fish Monitoring report and updates about the Boones Ferry Culvert Project. [pg 6](#)

- Throughout the year, we've continued facilitating Stewardship Committee meetings, collaborating with partners, and supporting watershed residents' stewardship efforts.

Restoration Projects

TCWC worked with **24** landowners on projects spanning

5.2 acres, with

4,300 plants installed



Bare root plants ready for installation by Mosaic Ecology

Education & Outreach

TCWC provided environmental education to **361** community members

at **17** events & workshops



Science Talk about bats, tapping into the Halloween fun

via our Watershed 101 Workshop program, Science Talks, and various community outreach events

Volunteer Engagement

100 volunteers

contributed **251**
volunteer hours



removing
invasive species from
11,600 sq ft of work area,
freeing **119** trees from ivy,
and planting **344** native plants.

Their contributions are
valued at **\$6,827***

Volunteer Restoration Events:

Lewis & Clark College's New Student Orientation

No Ivy Day

Watershed 101 Workshops

TCWC's 11th Annual Watershed Wide Event

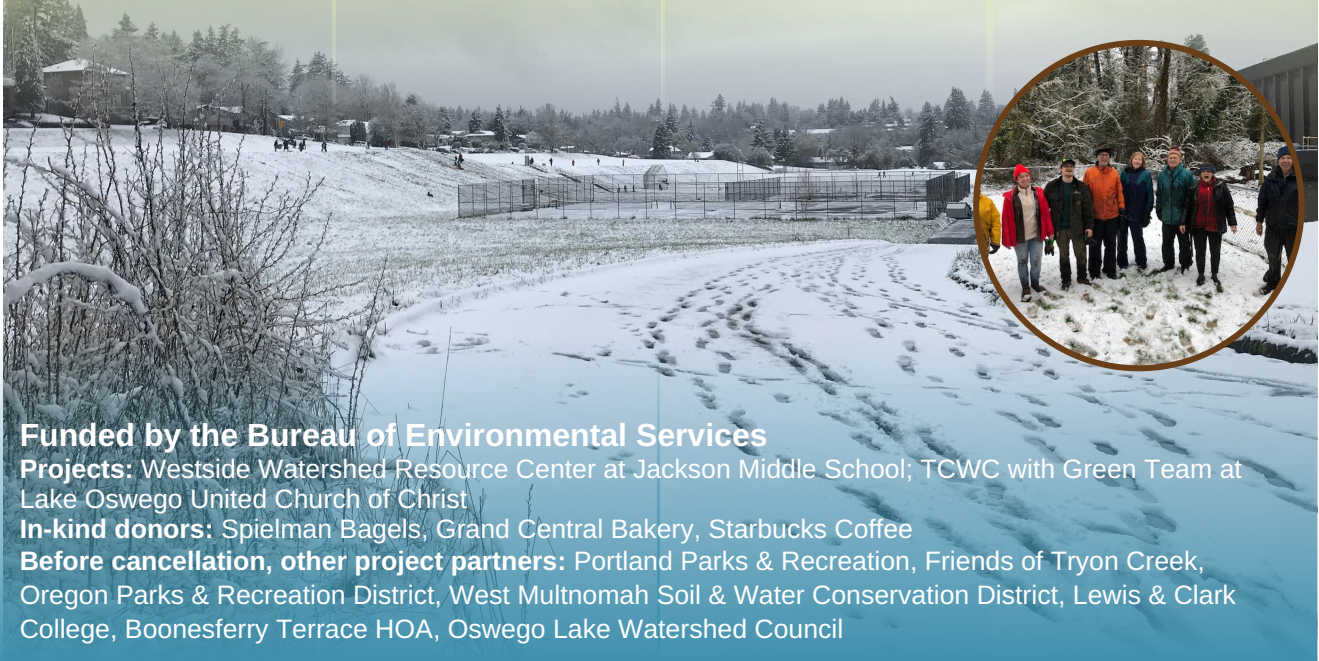
* Value of volunteer time per Independent Sector



Tryon Creek Watershed Council's Board Members
served **810** hours in 2019-2020, providing **\$22,032**
of in-kind organizational support.

Restoration: Events & Projects

Our 11th Annual Watershed Wide Event was held mid-March, right as major events were being cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. We made the difficult decision to cancel our event in near entirety. Ultimately we held two small work parties that day, which dawned with a blanketing of snow. We're still amazed at our intrepid volunteers who showed up to plant native plants and pull invasive species. We are so grateful!



OWEB Small Grants

OWEB Small Grants are well-suited for urban restoration projects, where work is done on smaller parcels of land.

In spring 2020, TCWC wrapped up an OWEB Small Grant with Marshall Park neighbors that addressed upland erosion in the Arnold Creek subwatershed.

At the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, an OWEB Small Grant has supported the dedicated Green Team members' consistent efforts towards restoring their Nettle Creek tributary. Over this year, the woody invasive trees have been removed to open up site access for managing groundcover invasives, and bare root shrubs and trees were installed in the wintertime. Volunteers supported this work at our snowy Watershed Wide Event.

Nettle Creek

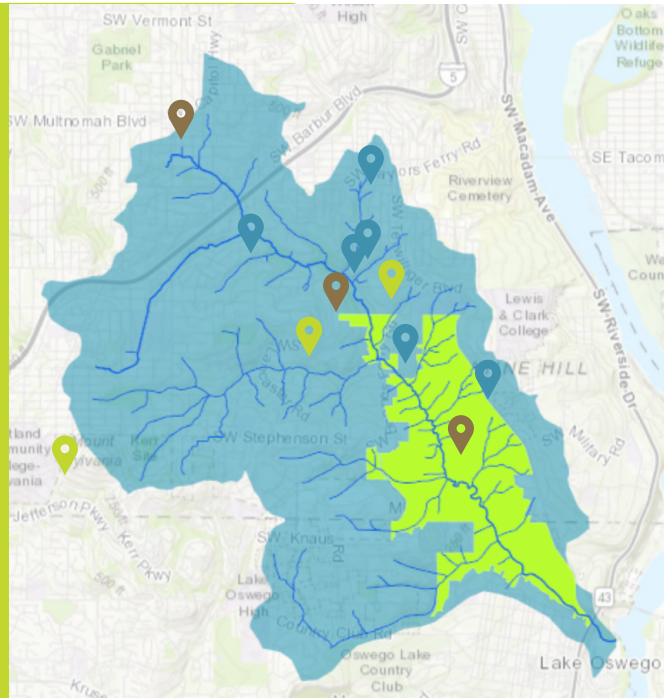
TCWC has been implementing riparian restoration in the Nettle Creek subwatershed, including along contiguous private properties upstream of the Tryon Creek State Natural Area. Removing invasive plants and planting native plants supports a healthier urban ecosystem, and workshops with private landowners whose properties are under restoration have provided community building and educational opportunities.




TCWC is glad to work with Mosaic Ecology and Sound Native Plants as contractors for our riparian restoration projects.

Watershed 101 Workshop Program

Our Watershed 101 Workshop program is a flexible, mobile workshop with education and hands-on restoration activities; each presentation is tailored for workshop location, audience and activities. Through this program we educate watershed residents & community members and accomplish on-the-ground restoration work, increasing our reach and ecological impact.

With COVID-19, TCWC pivoted to online workshops.



Activity		Native Plants	Invasives removed	People engaged
	Watershed 101 Workshops: Both education and restoration activities (prior to COVID-19 program changes)	142	11,000	42
	Program Extension: Native Plants were offered to online Watershed 101 Workshop attendees and previous workshop hosts	217		14
	Watershed 101 Education/online-only held with 4 groups			55
	Science Talk at the Lucky Lab			61
	Marshall Park Foley-Balmer	100		15
2019-2020 Program Total:		459	11,000	187
TCWC's CWSP activities typically take place throughout the Multnomah County portion of the watershed (above dotted line on map).		Plants installed	Sq ft of invasives removed	People engaged

This work is funded by the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services' Community Watershed Stewardship Program

Fish Monitoring & Passage Projects



Boones Ferry Culvert

A big highlight of 2019-2020 was seeing the Boones Ferry Culvert Project begin. Led by the Bureau of Environmental Services, this has been one of the remaining major fish passage barriers in the watershed. Located at the confluence of Arnold Creek with main stem Tryon Creek near Marshall Park and Tryon Creek State Natural Area, this project will open up habitat connectivity for wildlife and hikers alike. In 2020-2021, TCWC staff is coordinating with regional partners to engage neighbors around this project.

USFWS Fish Monitoring Report: Making the case for more fish passage improvements

In early 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published their report on the Monitoring of Native Fish in Tryon Creek, summarizing their work in the Tryon Creek watershed to date. USFWS found that Tryon Creek provides high quality habitat to thousands of native fish, with cutthroat trout through much of the system, including upstream of the Stone Bridge project which TCWC led in 2014. The report also shared that migrating salmonids spend days to weeks in the cool-water refuge provided at the confluence, where Tryon's water is twelve degrees (F) cooler than the Willamette River in the summertime.

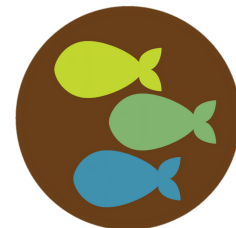


Read more:
tryoncreek.org/usfws2020

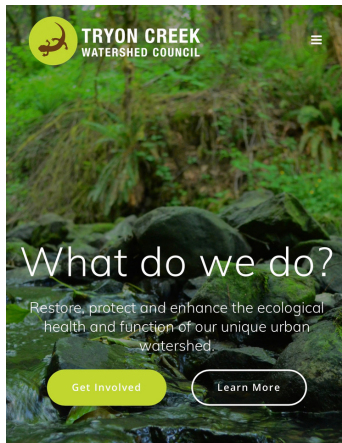
Bridges abound! New bridges in Marshall Park, replaced by PP&R, opened this year; at No Ivy Day, volunteers planted native plants near the new bridge at Foley-Balmer.



See photos from USFWS fish monitoring, habitat quality data, and more at the Interactive Map on our website.



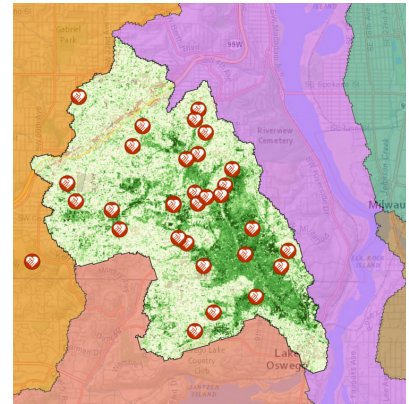
Tryon Creek Watershed: Online!



Website Update

We've been grateful to work with Yuko Ohnuma-Oyler who helped us update our logo and develop a brochure about TCWC.

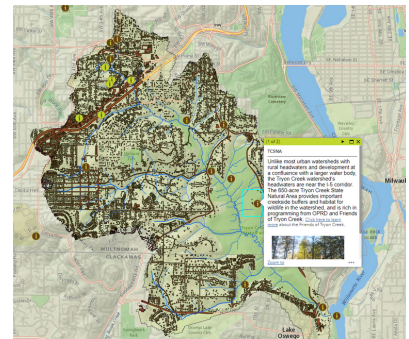
With those updates, we were then able to update our website to a mobile-friendly, modern, and informative layout, with thanks to our board member Sharon Keast.



Interactive Web Map

Each spring, we work with a GIS student from PCC Sylvania.

This year, Hunter Bradshaw went above and beyond in developing an interactive watershed map for our website. The map is mobile-friendly, though best on a computer, and easy to find on our website. It's clickable and full of information, including to external links for further learning.



Together for Watersheds: COVID Collaboration

When the onset of COVID-19 led to widespread spring cancellations, TCWC began convening meetings with nearly two dozen regional community-based stewardship organizations.

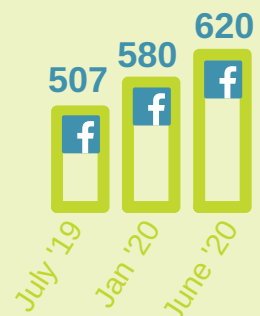
By coming together and discussing pertinent issues on how our organizations were adapting in the face of these challenges, we...

- Exchanged recommendations on programs and processes for developing webinars and online workshops;
- Compiled existing resources to share, avoiding reinventing the wheel and using these resources to maintain consistent online engagement with our constituents;
- Discussed how to approach from-home engagement in an equitable way;
- Shared best practices for hosting COVID-adapted events;
- Established a method to centralize social media posts to amplify regionally applicable content that is still in use;
- We continue to convene these meetings in 2020-2021.

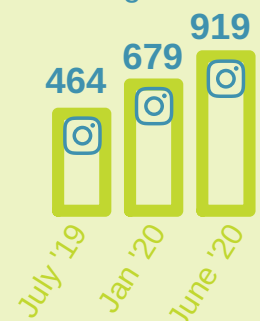
Social Media

Our social media reach continues to grow:

Facebook



Instagram



Tryon Creek Watershed Assessment

Tryon Creek Watershed Council has worked with Danielle Goodrich, PSM, over the last several years as she completed a Tryon Creek Watershed Assessment. Finalized in late 2019, the document compiles existing data and provides a thorough overview about the historical and current conditions of the watershed, as well as an identification of data gaps and recommendations for future cooperative management of the watershed.



Danielle presented her Watershed Assessment in our February 2020 meeting, and is now a board member with TCWC. The assessment and a copy of the presentation can be found on our website: tryoncreek.org/about/watershed.

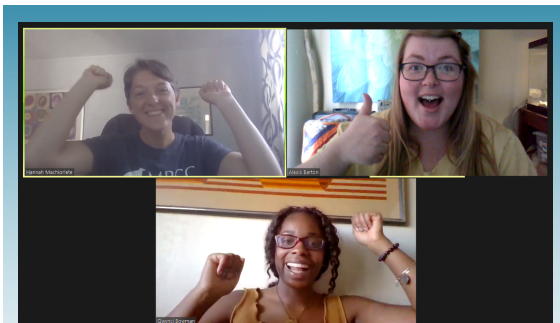
TCWC on Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI)

As a board, our monthly meetings have been incorporating reading, watching, and discussing topics related to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). With a limited work plan and capacity, we are focusing on developing a culture that understands and prioritizes the need for intersectionality in our work plan. In summer 2020, we became one of many voices unequivocally stating our support of Black Lives Matter. In 2020-2021, we will be implementing more action items in line with this work.

Both the Watershed Assessment & JEDI understandings have informed TCWC's strategic planning process (2020-2021)

TCWC's June 2020 statement in support of Black Lives: tryoncreek.org/blacklivesmatter

Board Update: Lewis & Clark Student Representative



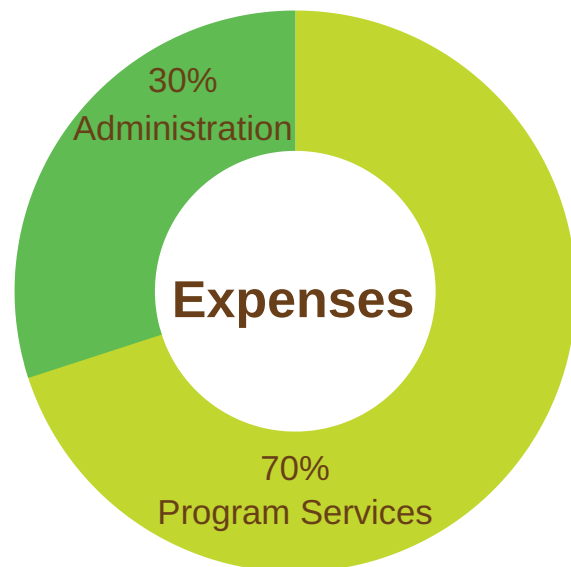
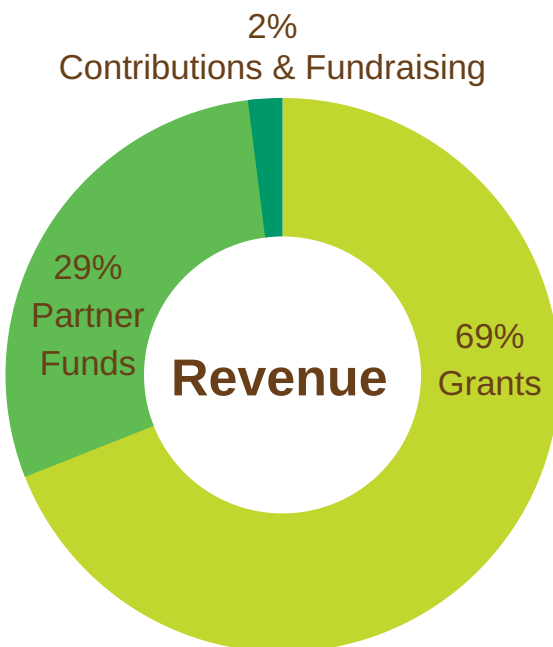
Hannah Machiorlete served on the TCWC Board for the past several years as a Lewis & Clark student representative. As Hannah's graduation approached, we were able to do a gradual offboard/onboarding and welcome her successor, Qwynci Bowman, albeit virtually due to CV-19 precautions.

Qwynci will carry forward activating L&C student volunteers for TCWC, and working to strengthen coordination and management of invasive plant management between Lewis & Clark, TCWC, and other groups, and foster student connections to the creek - especially when it's safe to gather in person!

Financials

Fiscal Year is July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenue and other support		
Grants	89,368	45,565
Partner Funds	28,660	28,560
Contributions	3,107	395
Interest Income	126	223
Total Revenue and other support	\$ 121,261	\$ 74,743
Expenses		
Program Services		
Restoration/Riparian	27,444	67,271
Outreach	9,473	10,832
Total program services	36,917	78,103
Supporting Services		
Administration	27,232	22,432
Total Expenses	\$ 64,149	\$ 100,535
Net assets, end of period	\$ 76,408	\$ 36,497



Program Services breakdown:
82% Restoration & Riparian; 18% Outreach

Staff and Board

Tryon Creek Watershed Council has a small staff and working board who support the many outreach activities and restoration projects.

Staff

Terri Preeg Riggsby – As Executive Director, Terri provides guidance and administrative support & represents TCWC on regional committees to advocate for environmental considerations.

Alexis Barton – As TCWC's Coordinator, Alexis manages restoration projects, volunteer events, workshops, outreach and education, communications, and more, working closely with the board and partners.



Board

Glen Leverich – Chair

Megan Hill – Vice Chair

Jennifer Jones – Secretary

Kristie Focht – Treasurer

Sharon Keast – Technology Dir.

Dustin Day – At-large

Welcoming new Board Members:

Qwynci Bowman

As a Lewis & Clark College student representative Qwynci will be engaging her classmates in school in engaging with the watershed & TCWC.

Danielle Goodrich

Upon the completion of her Watershed Assessment we were glad to welcome Danielle to the board, where she also supports our Interactive Web Map.

TCWC Board Members served 810 hours in 2019-2020

Ex-officio Board Members

Colleen Mitchell, Portland BES
Jim Cathcart, West Multnomah SWCD
Sonja Johnson, City of Lake Oswego

Ex-officio Board members are non-voting members who represent partner organizations

TCWC convenes quarterly Stewardship Committee meetings with regional partners in restoration

Stewardship Committee Members

Iris Benson, Oregon Parks & Recreation
Erik Horngren, Westside Watershed Resource Center
Amy Stout, Friends of Tryon Creek
Mary Logalbo & Michelle Delepine, West Multnomah SWCD
Mary Verrilli, Portland Parks & Recreation



Thank you to our Funders & Partners

Tryon Creek Watershed Council restores, protects, and enhances the ecological health and function of our unique urban watershed.

Funders:

- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- City of Lake Oswego Habitat Enhancement Program
- Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- *You! Thank you to our individual donors*



Partners in Restoration & Outreach

- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
- Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District
- Creightonwood HOA
- Boonesferry Terrace HOA
- Earth Day Oregon
- Friends of Marshall Park
- Friends of Tryon Creek
- HAKI Community Organization
- Jackson Middle School SUN Program
- Lake Oswego United Church of Christ
- Lewis & Clark College
- Mosaic Ecology
- Oregon Parks & Recreation District
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Zoo
- Portland Community College Sylvania
- Portland Parks & Recreation
- Solve
- Sound Native Plants
- Vanderbilt University
- Westside Watershed Resource Center
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- Wisdom of the Elders
- Youth Charity League

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Photos: Tryon Creek Watershed Council; Westside Watershed Resource Center; Diane Quivey; Bureau of Environmental Services; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service