

A photograph of a forest stream with mossy rocks and ferns. The stream flows through a dense forest, with water cascading over dark, moss-covered rocks. The surrounding vegetation includes large green ferns and fallen brown leaves on the forest floor. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, looking down the length of the stream.

Greater Oregon City
Watershed Council
Annual Report
2016/2017

Newell Creek
Cascade



Old man
contemplating the
flow of water
studies around
sticks

Leonardo da Vinci
Windsor Castle Royal
Library

In 2015, The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board granted a \$137,696 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) to Clackamas area watershed councils. GOCWC is partnering with regional, tribal, state & federal agencies, PGE, Clackamas River Basin, Johnson Creek & North Clackamas Urban Watershed Councils and Clackamas Soil and Water District to guide the partnership.

The goal of the work is to create a strategic action plan for habitat enhancement projects within the wider Clackamas area. Enhancement projects could include a wide variety of projects including moderating water temperature, fish passage, enhancing in-stream habitat or upland habitat.

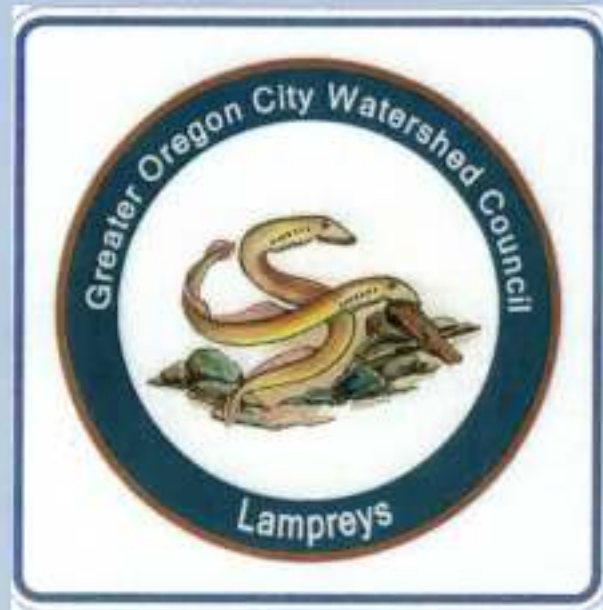
GOCWC staff and council members are actively participating in project review and ranking. The FIP expects to present the projects and priority ranking to OWEB in late 2018.



Clackamas Partners meeting
Photo credit: Craven



Signs,
Signs,
Everywhere
are
Signs!



*Water is the driving force of all nature -
Leonardo da Vinci*

Stream Crossing

Creating a sense of place and identity for the creeks within the 70 square mile Greater Oregon City Watershed boundary was the inspiration for the stream crossing road signs within Oregon City. The signs are funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and private contributions and installed in-kind by Oregon City Public Works. The signs feature the GOCWC logo, created by Oregon City artist Kathryn Kostow (retired ODFW fisheries biologist), and named creeks. The first phase of sign installations in 12 locations across the Oregon City were placed in December 2017. In researching creeks in Oregon City and Clackamas County, the GOCWC discovered that many creek segments are unnamed. The GOCWC will seek public input in the future to officially name these creeks. Additional stream crossing road signs in the county and city will be placed as funds become available.



The GOCWC sponsored an educational sign for the Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College with funds from OWEB

A Place to Heal the Soul and Watershed

Several years ago, an idea blossomed during a walk through Mt View Cemetery to access Newell Creek Canyon. Mt View Cemetery, established in 1854, is one of the oldest on the west coast. The scattering canyon, where ashes can be disbursed, contains a seasonal creek, which is eroding due to high flows from urban stormwater runoff. For the past several years the GOCWC has worked with the Oregon City Public Works



and Oregon City Parks and Recreation to design a series of pools and cascades along the stormwater inlet, which will slow down water, improve water quality and reduce erosion. The plans also include creating access to the cascades as a place for grieving families to visit and heal.

Currently the work is in the final design phase, funded in part from GOCWC acquired grant funds from Metro Enhancement, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and TNC/PGE Salmon Habitat Enhancement funds. The city of Oregon City has committed to fund construction once resources are available. The GOCWC will continue to seek grant funds for construction as well. Stay tuned for the implementation of this important project.

Abernethy Creek Fish and Stream Habitat Assessment and Survey



Blue Heron & lamprey Photo credit: French

The GOCWC is focusing its stream habitat restoration efforts in the Abernethy Creek Watershed, but more information is required to identify and prioritize restoration actions. In summers of 2016 and 2017, the GOCWC received permission from creek side landowners to access Abernethy Creek and its tributaries. The survey collected water temperature, stream habitat and fish species and distribution information to develop stream reach-specific restoration action plans for Abernethy Creek and its tributaries. The survey will be publicly available in 2018.

This project will compliment the analysis being done for the Clackamas Partnership. The first phase of the project is funded by grants from The Nature Conservancy's PGE Salmon Habitat grant and the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District.

Fur, Feathers and Shells

We are grateful to very talented naturalist landowners for sharing their talents and photographs of critters within the Abernethy Stream Survey area.



Otters Photo credit: French

One notable result of the 2017 (Feb 17-20) Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a stretch of Abernethy Creek had the highest number of Wood Ducks, 50, in the entire state. For the entire West Coast, with over 13,000 checklists submitted for California, Oregon, and Washington, only one other location, in Washington, had more.



Photo credit: French



Photo credit: Clark

.....More Feathers



Green Heron, Hidden Lake. Photo credit: Clark



Bald Eagle, Hidden Lake Photo credit: Clark



Common Merganser Photo credit: Clark

Helping Fish Travel Up Abernethy Creek

The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the GOCWC worked with the Beaver Lake HOA to modify the Monpano Dam fish ladder in the summer of 2017. The benefits from this effort are for juvenile and adult upstream fish passage. Specifically, cutthroat, steelhead and lamprey species are expected to benefit from the improved passage. The dam and lake are located on Abernethy Creek off Henrici Road, in Clackamas County.



Photo credit:
Stewart

"Leonardo da Vinci described water as 'the vehicle of nature,' believing water to be to the world what blood is to our bodies." *Professor Chris Witcombe*

Newell Creek North

The GOCWC is continuing its work with Metro to complete the final phase of invasive removal and native planting project on approximately 66 acres in the northern portion of Newell Creek, including the confluence of Newell and Abernethy Creeks. The project is generally located north of OR-213, west of Redland Road and includes both public and private lands. Many of the invasive species include English ivy, holly and clematis.

The work will be completed in the Fall and Winter of 2018.



Christmas Tree Sales



The GOCWC continues our successful annual Christmas tree sale with the North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council. GOCWC provides donated noble firs and the NCUWC provides live potted trees. Wreaths and other greens were also available. A tree was donated to the Stone Creek Christian Church food party to share with a family. The funds from the tree sale will be placed in the GOCWC general fund for future enhancement projects.

What do lamprey ornaments and beautiful noble fir trees have in common? They are ways the public supported its watershed with their purchases.

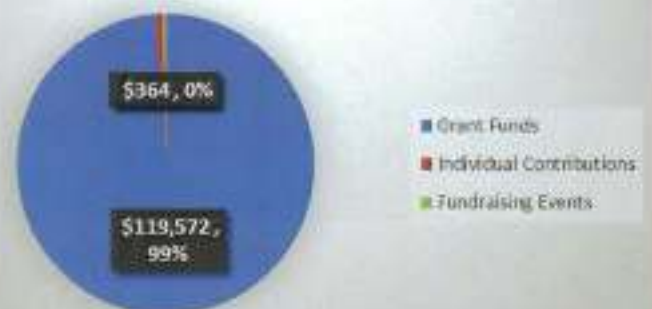


GOCWC Financial Position 2016-17

Greater Oregon City Watershed Council
Financial Position
 July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

	<u>Actual To Date</u>
Revenue	
Grant Funding	\$119,571.77
Individual Contributions	593.00
Contributions/Fundraising	\$33.61
Total Revenue	<u>\$120,198.38</u>
Expenses	
Salaries/Wages	\$21,114.34
Payroll Taxes	29,568.13
Council Expenses	37,473.19
Project Expenses	\$15,284.24
Total Expenses	<u>\$103,439.89</u>
BEGINNING NET ASSETS	\$13,953.47
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$17,711.88
ENDING NET ASSETS	<u>\$31,665.35</u>

Y16-17 GOCWC Funding



Donors:

The GOCWC expresses its gratitude to donors who have contributed financially or with goods to the organization over the past year:

American Property Management, Robert Austin, R. Baker, Backyard Bird Shop, Beavercreek Grange, Jon French and Patricia Ferrell-French, Kathryn Kostow, Tom & Janet Miller, Doug Neeley, Oregon City Brewing Company, Villa Catalana Cellars, and Vista Hills Vineyard & Winery.

In the Community



Coordinator Rita Baker at the Clackamas County 'Flood of Information' event



Council Chair Doug Neeley volunteering at Clackamas Community College's Environmental Learning Center native species planting event.



SOLVE event OC High Jr. ROTC Abernethy Creek Park



Oregon City National Night Out

How to support our work

You can support our work by making a charitable donation. The GOCWC is a non-profit.

Tax OD # 27-2507688

Please contact Rita Baker at (503) 427-0439 or gocwc@aol.com for more information.

GOCWC Council & Technical Assistance Committee Members

Thank you to our tireless 2017 council members: Robert Austin, Richard Craven, Alison Heimowitz, Cedomir Jesic, Sarah Miller, Doug Neeley and Devin Patterson. Technical Assistance Committee members: Doug Cramer, Nathan Dasler, Doug DeHart, and Brian Monnin. Frequent participants: Dr. Renee Harber, CCC ELC and Dave Stewart, ODFW

Join Us!

Get involved by attending Greater Oregon City Watershed council meeting.

Date: Second Tuesday of each month

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: First United Methodist Church

18955 South End Rd. Oregon City, OR 97045

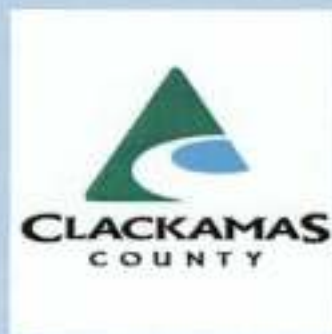
Find us on Facebook or online at www.gocwc.org

Partners



Each of us can make a difference. Together we make change.

Barbara Mikulski



Clackamas Partnership

Greater Oregon City WSC
 Clackamas River Basin Council
 Johnson Creek WSC
 North Clackamas Urban WSC
 + affiliated organizations