



TRYON CREEK
WATERSHED COUNCIL



April 17, 2025

Dear Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

On behalf of Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) and Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC), we thank you for the opportunity to testify in person at last night's Joint Ways & Means Committee meeting; this letter summarizes our testimony and request.

First, Jack Halsey, OLWC, explained for a \$200,000 Capital Funding Request for the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration, which would allow our organizations to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage across the west side of the Willamette River spanning the cities of Wilsonville, West Linn, Lake Oswego, and Portland through Forest Park.

Later, Alexis Barton Castro, TCWC, explained how this project would provide a critical uplift for endangered salmon migrating throughout the Willamette Basin by establishing an organization able to work across jurisdictional boundaries to implement watershed-based planning and habitat improvements for fish.

The majority of Oregon's geography is covered by Watershed Councils, but this stretch of tributaries to the Willamette River -and the many Oregonians living there- does **not** currently benefit from Watershed Council coverage.

This is a **one-time funding request** which will allow us to engage with communities across the area to establish Watershed Council coverage. Establishing an organizational structure with strategic planning will allow us to then leverage long-term funding through other sources. Watershed Councils provide both environmental *and* economic benefits; 90 cents of every dollar spent on habitat restoration in Oregon [remains in our state](#).

Attached please find a three page project summary **including a map**, and Letters of Support from jurisdictional partners, conservation districts, nonprofits and landowners.

Thank you for your considered support of our Capital Funding Request, and for your attention yesterday evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Barton Castro, Tryon Creek Watershed Council
Jack Halsey, Oswego Lake Watershed Council



TRYON CREEK
WATERSHED COUNCIL



West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration

January 21, 2025

Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) and Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC)

Contacts TCWC: Alexis Barton Castro, E.D. alexis@tryoncreek.org 530-902-7528
 OLWC: Jack Halsey, E.D. jack@oswegowatershed.org 503-754-8770

Statement of Need: A Watershed Desert

A significant portion of the western slopes near the Willamette River near its confluence with the Columbia River are not represented by a Watershed Council. Our objective is to expand Watershed Council coverage in West Linn, Wilsonville, Lake Oswego, and Portland. Because of the unique terrain of the area, many small tributaries to the Willamette River do not follow the typical pattern of headwaters draining into a single river or lake. This has discouraged the formation of a single Watershed Council to represent this area and implement science-based environmental planning and projects, and communities have less access to resources for improving watershed health in their tributaries. There are significant interconnected threats to the Willamette River with the densely populated communities here; these include stormwater runoff transporting pollutants and exacerbating erosion, warmer water temperatures harming migratory salmon, and impaired forest health elevating wildfire risk.

History

In 1987 the Governor's Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) was established by the Legislature to help protect and restore Oregon's watersheds and natural habitats, with the mission to support strong economies and thriving communities. Over the past 38 years approximately 90 watershed councils have been recognized which represent most of the geography of the state ([mapped here](#)), but there are multiple gaps including the northern west Willamette, representing the largest population density of the neglected areas. Two small but established Councils in this area, Tryon Creek Watershed Council (TCWC) and Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC), have made significant contributions toward ecological protection and restoration of stream function. They have implemented the removal of significant fish barriers, restoration and replanting of creekside and upland forests, promoting land resilience, and restoration of significant Oregon White Oak habitat. These two Councils provide environmental education in local schools and collaborate with universities. They also provide information and technical resources to watershed residents and engage with the community to connect people with local watershed stewardship.

Some Watershed Councils, particularly geographically smaller ones including TCWC and OLWC, are currently ineligible for OWEB Operating Capacity Grants which provide about \$75,000 annually per organization to fund operations, administration, and staff time.

Further, over the past few years, citizens from unrepresented areas have come to both organizations looking for guidance on forming watershed councils. The leadership of TCWC and OLWC looked at the demonstrated need to have watershed representation throughout this expanded area, and it became clear that funding was necessary to support this process.

Funding Request

Funding will provide essential capacity for the leading Watershed Councils to convene stakeholders and facilitate community involvement in the planning process to establish a structure for expanded Watershed Council coverage that will be recognized by OWEB. Based on this new structure, a strategic operating plan to serve the expanded area of the West Willamette Watershed will be prepared and initiated. Funding for this type of endeavor is not covered through OWEB's current grant programs. OWEB supports the expansion of the current boundaries but has suggested OLWC and TCWC secure outside funding for facilitation of the process. All OWEB criteria for watershed council development and strategic action plans will be followed. OWEB is looking forward to formally working with the West Willamette Watershed Council once these first steps are completed.

The leading Watershed Councils are making a one-time request of \$200,000 to be spent over a period of two years. Specific activities funded would include:

Staff Time	Including existing and new WC staff
Consultants	Facilitation with prospective partners (organizations, jurisdictions, Tribes, residents) Communications, planning & development
Stipends	For key stakeholders and community members, especially small nonprofits, potential partners, and those working by/for underserved communities
Events	Outreach & engagement

Outcomes

While Watershed Councils often follow watershed boundaries, they are ultimately community-defined. There are several potential ways to achieve this Watershed Council coverage:

- Establish a Network or larger Watershed Council to cover identified unserved areas. This Council will be established under OWEB guidelines and will be recognized by OWEB as an official watershed organization.
- Develop a strategic action plan as defined by OWEB to guide the new organization's activities over the next five years.

Collaboration

The cities of Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego are key partners to this project, along with representatives from appropriate community nonprofit organizations (including the adjacent Tualatin River Watershed Council and indigenous-led organizations).

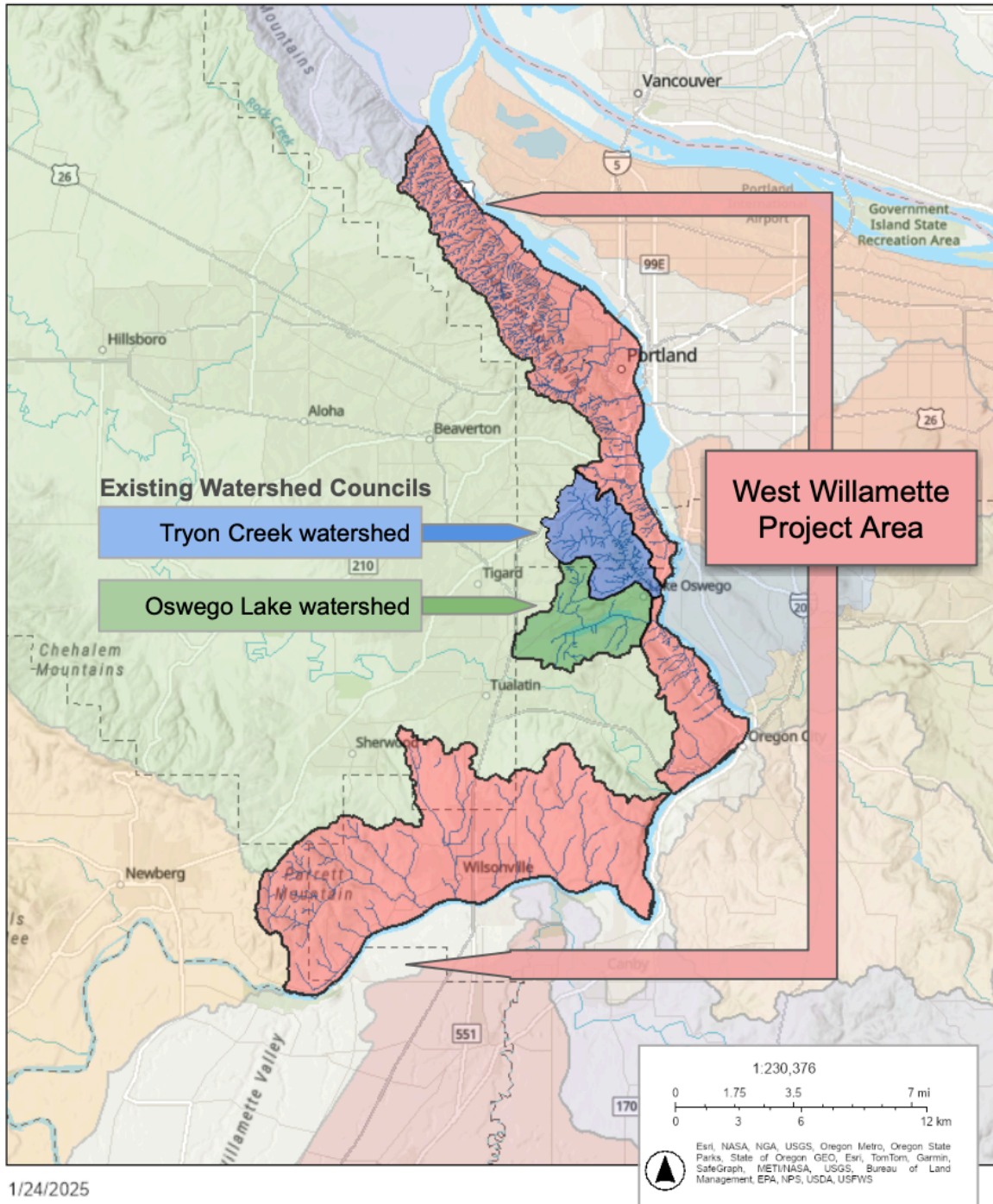
Everyone lives in a watershed, and this collaboration will be impactful across the West Willamette area; an important aspect of the project will be to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions from various supporters and stakeholders that make it possible.

Funding this request will allow the new Watershed Council to utilize science-based planning in order to best support watershed health by working across jurisdictional boundaries to implement watershed-based ecological restoration in upland and in-stream areas, support community members in restoration and education, and nurture strong partnerships.

West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration

Project Map

The map below shows the West Willamette stream networks included in this collaboration. It does not demonstrate the final boundaries of a project area that will be defined through the collaborative formation effort.



The expansion will ultimately provide Watershed Council coverage to a larger geographic area, including westside tributaries to the mainstem Willamette River that are currently not covered. The coverage will extend southward through West Linn and Wilsonville, and northward could reach the Scappoose Bay watershed, covering Forest Park's tributaries.

Letters of Support for the West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration: Received from the following parties



Mayor Shawn O'Neil
City of Wilsonville



Megan Big John
Parks and Recreation Director
City of West Linn



Martha Bennett
City Manager
Ivan Anderholm
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Lake Oswego



Councilor Olivia Clark
Portland City Councilor
District Four
City of Portland



Christopher Lapp
District Manager
Clackamas Soil and Water
Conservation District



Lacey Townsend
Executive Director
Tualatin Soil and Water
Conservation District



Lynn Barlow
District Manager
West Multnomah Soil & Water
Conservation District



Glenn Fee
Executive Director
Tualatin Riverkeepers



Michelle Emmons & Heather King
Co-Executive Directors
Willamette Riverkeeper



Katherine Kallus
Park Ranger Supervisor
Tryon Creek State Natural Area



Scott McEwen
Executive Director
Tualatin River Watershed Council



Seth Healy, Manager
Westside Watershed
Resource Center



Jennifer Anne
Executive Director
Mountain Park Homeowners Association



Fiona Smeaton
West Willamette Restoration
Partnership Coordinator



PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

March 14, 2025

To whom it may concern,

The City of Lake Oswego is supportive of the collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work.

While the City of Lake Oswego coordinates with Oswego Lake and Tryon Creek Watershed Councils, the lack of watershed council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the Wilsonville, West Linn, and Portland metropolitan areas currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types, including working on private properties as a non-regulatory resource. Some benefits of Watershed Councils which would be brought to our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

- Ability to partner with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace maintenance
 - Wildfire risk reduction and coordination of land resilience projects
 - Partnerships with private forestland and agricultural lands
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - School districts, colleges & universities
 - Outreach events (BioBlitz, field trips, Tree Summit, etc.)
- Strategic watershed planning: Working in concert with existing planning documents, to develop strategic science-based guidance on implementation which provides the most ecological uplift.

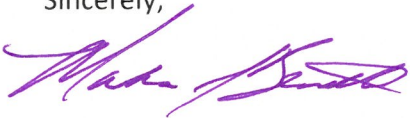
Respect. Excellence. Trust. Service.

- Increased alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead
- Improve water quality - temperature, sediment, etc. through riparian shading
- Managing non-native invasive species - in projects and through convening EDRR practitioners.
- Future ability to leverage funding opportunities
 - OWEB (Engagement, Technical Assistance, etc.); Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund; Oregon Community Foundation
 - Metro; Private Forest Accord Fund; Oregon Department of Forestry (Urban & Community Forestry); Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART; NRCS RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

The City of Lake Oswego looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. The increased collaboration aligns with our Urban and Community Forestry Plan and Natural Areas Habitat Management Plan to build on the work on public lands by bringing together private property owners for cooperative habitat enhancement activities.

The collaboration and expansion of efforts across the West Willamette Watershed to unite private landowners, HOA members, school districts, public municipalities, and many other stakeholders is aligned with the City's objectives. We look forward to partnering with the West Willamette Watershed Collaboration to support a healthy and resilient watershed.

Sincerely,



Martha Bennett, City Manager



Ivan Anderholm, Parks and Recreation Director



CITY OF West Linn

March 25, 2025

Megan Big John
West Linn Parks and Recreation
22500 Salamo Road
West Linn, OR 97068

To whom it may concern,

The City of West Linn is supportive of the collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types, including working on private properties as a non-regulatory resource. Some benefits of Watershed Councils which would be brought to our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

- Ability to partner with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace maintenance
 - Wildfire risk reduction and coordination of land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Partnerships with private forestland and agricultural lands
- Support the management of threatening non-native invasive species, such as Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer, through education and private property support.
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - Provide workshops and educational opportunities for the public on the restoration land management.
 - Assist in filling the gap created by the closure of the Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies (CREST), an environmental science education center previously operated by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District.



CITY OF West Linn

- Strategic watershed planning: Collaborating with partners and utilizing existing planning documents to help develop a science-based implementation strategy that maximizes ecological benefits
 - Improve water quality - temperature, sediment, etc. through riparian shading.
 - Increased alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.

- Future ability to leverage funding opportunities
 - OWEB (Engagement, Technical Assistance, etc.); Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund; Oregon Community Foundation
 - Metro; Private Forest Accord Fund; Oregon Department of Forestry (Urban & Community Forestry); Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART; NRCS RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

The City looks forward to collaborating with the Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to enhance watershed-based planning and the impacts of the Watershed Council.

Sincerely,

Megan Big John

Megan Big John
Parks and Recreation Director



March 12, 2025

Mayor Shawn O'Neil
City of Wilsonville
29799 SW Town Center Loop E
Wilsonville, OR 97070

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Wilsonville is supportive of the collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded watershed council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to communities throughout Oregon.

The lack of a watershed council, along the west side of the Willamette River in the Wilsonville, West Linn, and Portland metropolitan areas, currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill this gap.

Watershed councils are uniquely positioned to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types, including working on private properties as a non-regulatory resource. Some benefits of watershed councils which would be brought to our jurisdiction through the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration include:

- Assisting Wilsonville in addressing regulatory requirements (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit) through riparian restoration and tree planting projects.
- Strategic watershed planning: Working in concert with existing planning documents, to develop strategic science-based guidance on implementation which provides the most ecological uplift.
 - Increased alignment with recovery planning for Salmon and Steelhead
 - Improve water quality - temperature, sediment, etc. - through riparian restoration
 - Managing non-native invasive species in projects and through convening practitioners. Mediterranean Oak Borer presents a particular threat to Wilsonville, which will benefit from the collaboration and outreach associated with a watershed council.
- Ability to partner with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations and other wildlife
 - Collaborate with homeowners associations on greenspace maintenance and enhancement

CITY OF WILSONVILLE

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- Wildfire risk reduction and coordination of land resilience projects
- Partnerships with private forestland and agricultural lands
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - School districts, colleges & universities
 - Fill a gap left by the closure of the Center for Research in Environmental Sciences and Technologies (CREST), an environmental science education center operated by the West Linn-Wilsonville School District.
- Future ability to leverage funding opportunities
 - OWEB (Engagement, Technical Assistance, etc.); Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund; Oregon Community Foundation
 - Metro; Private Forest Accord Fund; Oregon Department of Forestry (Urban & Community Forestry); Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART; NRCS RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

The City of Wilsonville looks forward to working with the existing watershed council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and watershed council impacts. The increased collaboration aligns with the City Council goals to protect and preserve Wilsonville's environment and provide engagement to build a more connected community.

Sincerely,



Mayor Shawn O'Neil
City of Wilsonville

cc. Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager
Chris Neamtzu, Community Development Director
Kerry Rappold, Natural Resources Manager



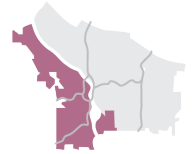
City of Portland

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portland.gov/clark
503-823-4359

City Councilor, District 4 Olivia Clark

(she/her) councilor.clark@portlandoregon.gov



March 31, 2025

To whom it may concern:

Portland City Councilor Olivia Clark is supportive of the collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and regional partners to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work.

The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the Wilsonville, West Linn, and Portland metropolitan areas currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types, including working on private properties as a non-regulatory resource. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be brought to our jurisdiction through the West Willamette Watersheds process include:

- Helping cities to meet regulatory requirements (NPDES/MS4) through riparian restoration and tree planting projects
- Partnerships with neighborhood associations and community groups to improve watershed health
- Strategic watershed planning: working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance on implementation that provides the most ecological uplift
 - Increased alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead
 - Improve water quality (temperature, sediment, etc.) through riparian shading
 - Managing non-native invasive species – in projects and through convening EDRR practitioners

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 311 (503-823-4000) for Relay Service & TTY: 711

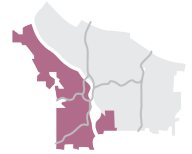
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□ 笔译服务 | Устный и письменный перевод
Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad
Письмовий і усний переклад
Traducere și interpretariat
Chiaku me Awewen Kapas
Translation and Interpretation:
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- Ability to partner with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace maintenance
 - Wildfire risk reduction and coordination of land resilience projects
 - Partnerships with private forestland and agricultural lands
- Provide environmental education and community engagement with school districts, colleges, and universities
- Future ability to leverage funding opportunities
 - OWEB (Engagement, Technical Assistance, etc.); Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund; Oregon Community Foundation
 - Metro; Private Forest Accord Fund; Oregon Department of Forestry (Urban & Community Forestry); Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART; NRCS RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

Councilor Clark looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. These types of partnerships help support the City of Portland's work in accomplishing watershed stewardship and outreach goals for the westside.

Sincerely,

Olivia Clark
Portland City Councilor

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Translation and Interpretation:
503-823-4000 or 3-1-1



CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Celebrating 50 Years of Conservation

March 14, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (District) to express our full support of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Soil and Water Conservation Districts partner closely with Watershed Councils to provide technical support, implement habitat restoration, and support community-based education. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps, in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the West Willamette Watersheds process include:

- Strategic watershed planning:
 - Working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance to implement projects with the most ecological uplift.
 - Increase regional alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - School districts, colleges & universities, as well as neighborhood associations, homeowners' associations, and neighborhood-based groups
- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborating with Homeowners Associations on greenspace stewardship
 - Agricultural engagement and resource conservation

The District looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. This increased collaboration aligns with our strategic goal of supporting regional conservation efforts on high-quality natural areas and open spaces, biologically sensitive areas and large intact landscapes on public and private lands.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lapp,
District Manager

March 7, 2025

To whom it may concern,

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) provides technical assistance, financial assistance, and education in order to create a sustainable, productive, healthy environment for the Washington County community. Our work helps to create healthy, livable communities that are good places to work and to play. We form partnerships to achieve stewardship, provide conservation education, and bring communities together in shared responsibility.

TSWCD is supportive of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts partner closely with Watershed Councils to provide technical support, implement habitat restoration, and support community-based education. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps, in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

- Strategic watershed planning:
 - Working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance to implement projects with the most ecological uplift.
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 - School districts, colleges & universities, as well as neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood-based groups
- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace stewardship



- Agricultural engagement and resource conservation

TSWCD looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. **The increased collaboration aligns with our Strategic Plan and our view that partnerships achieve more positive outcomes for the community.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lacey Townsend".

Lacey Townsend
Executive Director, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District



March 10, 2025

To whom it may concern,

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) is supportive of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. WMSWCD is a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our service territory largely overlaps with the proposed West Willamette Watersheds collaboration area and includes Multnomah County west of the Willamette River, Sauvie Island, and a portion of the Tualatin Mountains known as Bonny Slope.


Across Oregon, Soil and Water Conservation Districts partner closely with Watershed Councils to provide technical support, implement conservation and habitat restoration projects, and support community-based education. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-scale planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their local waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration would work to fill these gaps in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

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- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace stewardship
 - Agricultural engagement and resource conservation

WMSWCD looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-scale planning and Watershed Council impacts. **The increased collaboration aligns with WMSWCD's mission to *provide resources, information, and expertise to inspire people to actively improve air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and soil health.***

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Barlow". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Lynn Barlow, District Manager
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Cc: WMSWCD Board of Directors



11675 SW Hazelbrook Road | Tualatin, OR | 97062 | (503) 218 2580 | tualatinriverkeepers.org | info@tualatinriverkeepers.org

March 20, 2025

To whom it may concern,

Tualatin Riverkeepers protects and restores the Tualatin River Watershed, which includes and is contiguous to much of the area that Tryon Creek Watershed Council and Oswego Lake Watershed Council work to steward. In most of our own watershed, we work collaboratively with and benefit from the Tualatin River Watershed Council through their strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, and community engagement. Their work is essential to fulfilling our mission to protect our watershed, as we rely upon their science-based research and guidance, and strong relationships with private landowners. For these reasons, we support expanded Watershed Council coverage in the area west of the Willamette River through the establishment of the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration.

Despite having strong Watershed Councils in most of Washington and Multnomah Counties, the area west of the Willamette River – where Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah Counties come together – do not enjoy the same level of Watershed Council operations. This serves as an impediment to potential collaborative efforts, and – perhaps more importantly – residents and local community groups are not able to access and engage in the deep strategic watershed planning, environmental education, and place-based opportunities that other Watershed Councils are able to provide. For our part, we envision a stronger Watershed Council leading to working closely with our partners at Willamette Riverkeeper on important advocacy and restoration work on rivers and tributaries near the confluence of the Tualatin and Willamette Rivers.

We strongly support expanded coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration, which would work to fill gaps in Southwest Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego, while amplifying our own work. Tualatin Riverkeepers looks forward to expanding our partnership with the existing Watershed Council staff and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts.

Sincerely,

Best Regards,

Glenn Fee, Executive Director



Mailing: 454 Willamette St. #218
Eugene, OR 97401
Office: 8940 N. Bradford St.
Portland, OR 97203
503.223.6418
info@willametteriverkeeper.org

Michelle Emmons
Upper Willamette
Riverkeeper &
Co-Executive Director

Heather King
Lower Willamette
Riverkeeper &
Co-Executive Director

Board of Directors:

Cathryn Tortorici
President

Tamara Madsen
Treasurer

Jessie Rohrig
Secretary

Steve Hernandez

March 18, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Willamette Riverkeeper strongly supports the growing collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners to expand Watershed Council coverage through the West Willamette Watersheds initiative.

As an organization committed to protecting and restoring the Willamette River and its tributaries, we recognize the critical role that Watershed Councils play in advancing watershed-scale planning, ecological restoration, and meaningful community engagement. The absence of dedicated Watershed Council operations on the west side of the Willamette River within the Portland metropolitan area leaves a significant gap in watershed health and community connection. The West Willamette Watersheds collaboration is poised to address this need, providing much-needed services in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely positioned to work across jurisdictional boundaries and with diverse landownerships, making them essential partners in creating resilient ecosystems and communities. Through this expanded initiative, we see several key benefits to our shared region:

Strategic, science-based watershed planning:

- Development of planning frameworks that complement existing documents and guide high-impact restoration projects.
- Enhanced regional coordination with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.

Community engagement and environmental education:

- Opportunities to engage local school districts, colleges and universities, neighborhood associations, and grassroots organizations to foster stewardship and education.

Partnerships with private landowners and non-regulatory support:

- Implementation of riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects.
- Collaborative support for coexistence with beaver populations.
- Engagement with homeowners associations to improve greenspace management.

Willamette Riverkeeper looks forward to partnering with Watershed Council staff, board members, and local communities to advance this collaborative effort. We view this as a vital step toward ensuring long-term ecological health and community-driven restoration efforts along the west Willamette corridor. This initiative is well-aligned with our mission and values, and we are eager to contribute to its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Emmons', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle Emmons, Co-Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper
michelle@willametteriverkeeper.org

CC: Heather King, Co-Executive Director
Willamette Riverkeeper
heather@willametteriverkeeper.org

CC: Vanessa Youngblood, Restoration Manager
Willamette Riverkeeper
vanessa@willametteriverkeeper.org



March 17, 2024

Scott McEwen
Tualatin River Watershed Council

To whom it may concern,

The Tualatin River Watershed Council is supportive of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will fill these gaps, in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

- Strategic watershed planning:
 - Working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance to implement projects with the most ecological uplift.
 - Increase regional alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - School districts, colleges & universities, as well as neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood-based groups
- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace stewardship

Tualatin River Watershed Council looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. **The increased collaboration aligns with the Tualatin River Watershed Council's three-year Strategic Plan.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "SMcE", is enclosed within a green rectangular border.

Scott McEwen, Executive Director



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

(503) 986-0707

Fax (503) 986-0794

stateparks.oregon.gov

To whom it may concern,

Oregon State Parks is supportive of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration.

Oregon State Parks work with Watershed Councils on coordinated restoration projects, volunteer events, and environmental planning efforts. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps, in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be increased in our jurisdiction through the West Willamette Watersheds process include:

- Strategic watershed planning:
 - Working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance to implement projects with the most ecological uplift.
 - Increase regional alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.
- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
- Provide environmental education and community engagement

Oregon State Parks looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. The increased collaboration aligns with (our strategic plan/org values/etc).

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Katherine Kallus

Park Ranger Supervisor



434 NW 6th Ave, Suite 202, Portland, OR 97209 · www.westsidewatersheds.org
manager@westsidewatersheds.org · 503-865-6759

March 12, 2025

Seth Healy

Westside Watershed Resource Center

Dear Review Committee,

The Westside Watershed Resource Center (WWRC) strongly supports the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to expand Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. Currently, the absence of a council along the west side of the Willamette River in the Portland metropolitan area deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits. The West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

We recognize that Watershed Councils bring essential benefits that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process, including:

- **Strategic Watershed Planning:** Collaborating with existing planning documents to develop science-based and indigenous guidance for projects with maximum ecological impact and aligning efforts with regional recovery plans for salmon and steelhead.
- **Enhanced Environmental Education and Community Engagement:** Connecting with school districts, colleges and universities, and indigenous groups, as well as neighborhood associations, homeowners' associations, and neighborhood-based groups.
- **Targeted Restoration and Resilience Projects with Private Landowners:** Implementing riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience initiatives, as well as supporting coexistence with local wildlife and collaborating on greenspace stewardship.

This collaboration aligns closely with our mission of inspiring action and awareness for watershed health in NW and SW Portland. WWRC looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to further develop watershed-based planning and expand on-the-ground impacts.

Thank you for considering this vital initiative. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Seth Healy
Manager



03/21/25

Fiona Smeaton, WWRP Coordinator
West Willamette Restoration Partnership

To whom it may concern,

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP) is supportive of the collaboration between Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. The WWRP was founded in 2006 with a mission to manage invasive species and educate homeowners on responsible gardening through the Backyard Habitat program. By collaborating with organizations such as Portland Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Health Sciences University, and various "Friends of" groups including, Forest Park (Marquam Nature Park), Terwilliger, and Tryon Creek State Park, the WWRP understands the importance of a unified approach to managing invasives and supporting healthy diverse habitats.

Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the metropolitan area currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps, in Portland, Wilsonville, West Linn, and Lake Oswego.

Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types. Some benefits of Watershed Councils that would be extended in our jurisdiction through the **West Willamette Watersheds** process include:

- Strategic watershed planning:
 - Working in concert with existing planning documents to develop strategic science-based guidance to implement projects with the most ecological uplift.
 - Increase regional alignment with the Lower Columbia Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead.
- Provide environmental education and community engagement
 - School districts, colleges & universities, as well as neighborhood associations, homeowners associations, and neighborhood-based groups
- Partnerships with private landowners, as a non-regulatory resource
 - Implement riparian restoration, wildfire risk reduction, and land resilience projects
 - Provide resources to support coexistence with beaver populations
 - Collaborate with Homeowners Associations on greenspace stewardship

WWRP looks forward to working with the existing Watershed Council staff, Board, and community members to develop increased watershed-based planning and Watershed Council impacts. We strongly support this collaborative effort, as it aligns with our mission to conserve and enhance the forests and natural areas of Southwest Portland by fostering an active coalition of engaged volunteers and organizations. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Fiona Smeaton

wwrpcoordinator@gmail.com

520-425-9574

<https://www.westwillamette.org/>

Support for West Willamette Watersheds Collaboration

The Mountain Park Homeowners Association (MPHOA) is supportive of the collaboration between Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and regional partners, to develop expanded Watershed Council coverage through the **West Willamette Watersheds** collaboration. Watershed Councils bring strategic watershed-based planning, restoration projects, community engagement, and other on-the-ground and collaborative benefits to each region in which they work. As the largest homeowner's association in Oregon, with more than 8,000 residents, MPHOA has a long record of working with both of these watershed councils and has experienced the many benefits for private partners in being a member of a watershed council. Watershed Councils are uniquely able to work across jurisdictional boundaries and land ownership types, including working on private properties as a non-regulatory resource.

MPHOA has a formal memorandum of understanding with Oswego Lake Watershed Council that has fostered significant restoration and other enhancement projects on the common properties of Mountain Park. In addition, we have partnered with them on sponsored projects to restore the natural function of Springbrook Creek, a tributary of Oswego Lake and the Willamette River. Most recently we completed a major demonstration project with the councils and the Oregon Department of Forestry to reduce the risk of urban wildfire as part of our "Hazardous Fuels Reduction" program. We appreciate the example our activities have had for other private entities in the West Willamette Watershed region.

The lack of Watershed Council operations along the west side of the Willamette River in the Wilsonville, West Linn, and Portland metropolitan areas currently deprives residents and their waterways of these benefits, and the West Willamette Watersheds collaboration will work to fill these gaps.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors

Jennifer Anne, Executive Director