



2015-2017 Partnership Report

West Willamette Restoration Partnership

Prepared by WWRP Coordinator October 2017

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP) restores the watersheds of the Westside Wildlife Corridor (“the Corridor”), a forested spine of the west hills located in SW Portland between Forest Park and Tryon Creek. The WWRP is a partnership of agencies, non-profits, and community groups (see below for the full list of Partners). Since a capacity focused workshop in 2015, our Partners have leveraged tight budgets and limited grant money (a total of \$180,000 in Grant funds and Partner contributions since 2015)¹ to unite around large-scale restoration projects that improve the urban landscape for people and native flora and fauna.

Photo right: Educational signage created by PNCA Art & Science Initiative artist Egg Dahl. Funded in part by a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant. Photo by Kailey Fry, Samara Group.



The Partnership creates success through collaborative work that builds off the discrete missions and accomplishments of its individual Partners. The WWRP requires innovation, flexibility, and a passion for tackling projects beyond the scope of a single organization or agency. Here are a few of the **WWRP's accomplishments** made possible through collaboration in 2015-2017:

- Completed 2 “Listening Projects” in 3 SW Portland neighborhoods, talking to over 400 community members to understand how local communities interact with natural areas in & near the Corridor.²
- More than 50 acres of invasive weeds treated on public and adjacent private properties.
- Planted 3,000 native plants following invasive weed treatment.
- Collected data at 19 vegetation plots and 21 photo points to monitor the impacts of our restoration work at specific sites in the Corridor.
- Over 2500 volunteer hours logged by Friends groups and work party participants (photo below).
- Developed 5 educational signs featuring the stages of forest restoration and stewardship, working with a student artist at Pacific Northwest College of Arts (photo above).
- Told the stories of 7 committed volunteers, “[Conservation Champions](#).³”
- Involved 18 organizational partners, at varying levels of capacity, as part of the WWRP.
- Funded a part-time coordinator to facilitate meetings, manage data & outreach, and build capacity.
- Released a new & informative website at www.westwillamette.org designed for neighbors, recreationists, and partner organizations.
- Launched a Twitter & Instagram account that highlight work being done in the Corridor: #WestWillamette #WWRP.⁴

¹ Sources include Creating Community Natural Area Stewardship Metro NIN grant 2016-2018 [WMSWCD lead], Connecting Portland’s Urban Forests Metro NIN grant 2015-2018 [City of Portland lead], Terwilliger-Marquam Healthy Watershed Engagement FISH grant 2015-2016 [WWRP lead], WWRP Coordinator Budget 2017-2018 [Partner contributions], WWRP Coordinator Budget 2016-2017 [Partner contributions]

² First project led by Friends of Terwilliger and Friends Marquam Nature Park, funded by WMSWCD FISH grant; second project led by WMSWCD, funded by Metro NIN grant: <https://wmswcd.org/programs/connect-sw-pdx/>

³ Created by West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District: <https://wmswcd.org/projects/connect-conservation-champions/>

⁴ Twitter & Instagram, find us @WestWillamette

Partners

The WWRP bridges the interests of residents, nonprofit conservation organizations, educators, and City agencies and includes the following **Core Partners** working in the Corridor: City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD), Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCP), Columbia Land Trust (CLT), Friends of Marquam Nature Park (FMNP), Friends of Terwilliger (FoT), Oregon Health & Sciences University (OHSU), Southwest Watershed Resource Center (SW WRC), and community volunteers.

Recent educational and community partners that have collaborated with the Core Partners to enhance Portland's urban forests include Community Engagement Liaison Services, Jackson Middle School SUN Program, Oregon Episcopal High School, Pacific Northwest College of Arts, Portland Community College, Portland State University, Sunstone Montessori, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and Wisdom of the Elders.

Partnership activities made possible by our diversity of partners include:

- Removing ivy and other invasive weeds from steep SW Portland slopes.
- Creating pilot projects to start conversations about environmental resources in a neighborhood.
- Bringing students to the urban forest for research and education.
- Working with local artists to design artwork communicating the benefits of our public spaces.
- Providing reliable opportunities for Portlanders to maintain trails and remove invasives.
- Inspiring private landowners to be stewards of their property.



Photo left:
Community
volunteer
removes ivy at
Portland Parks
and Recreation
Volunteer
Stewardship
event on
September 9,
2017 at
Marquam
Nature Park.
Photo by Kailey
Fry, Samara
Group.

Next Steps

It takes a collaborative effort to restore a complex urban landscape with various landowners, threatening invasive species, and critical native habitat and wildlife to protect. West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP) received multiple grants in recent years to tackle collaborative restoration and education projects across this landscape. These opportunities to collaborate have prompted the improvement of data management and cross-organizational reporting and have paved the way for enhanced collaboration moving into 2018.

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