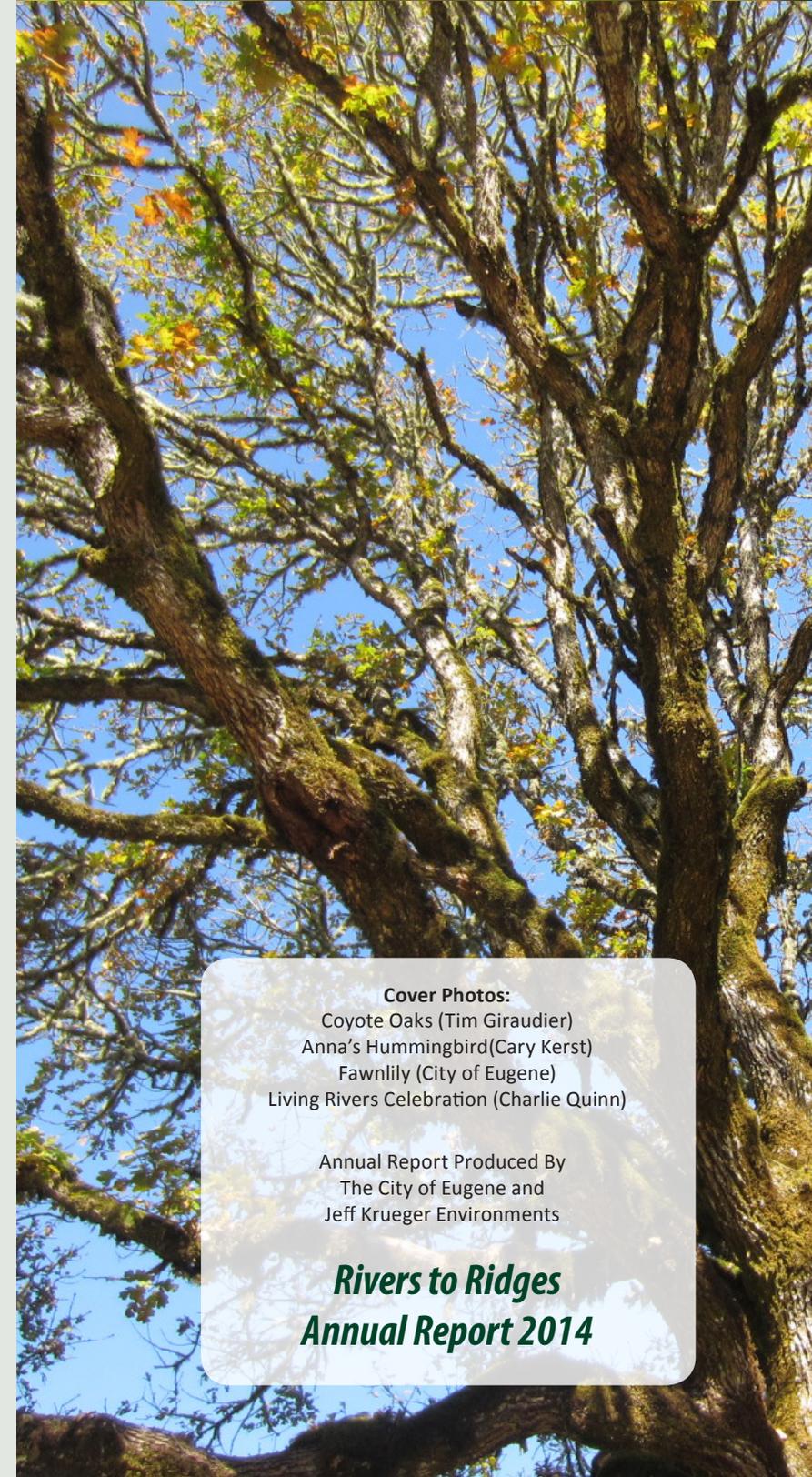


Rivers to Ridges Annual Report 2014



Section 1: Rivers to Ridges Partnership Background and Overview	1
1.1 The Rivers to Ridges Partnership.....	1
1.1.1 Vision Statement	1
1.1.2 Rivers to Ridges Statement of Partnership	1
1.2 Rivers to Ridges Annual Report.....	1
1.3 Administrative Structure and Summary of Activities	2
1.3.1 Rivers to Ridges Executive Team (R2R XT)	2
1.3.2 Perspective on the Partnership.....	2
1.3.3 Rivers to Ridges Implementation Team (IT!).....	3
1.3.4 R2R Field Operations Group	3
Section 2: Land Protection	5
2.1 Land Protection in 2014	5
2.1.1 Coyote Oaks Conservation Easement	5
2.1.2 Willamette Confluence Preserve Addition.....	5
2.1.3 Turtle Flats	6
2.1.4 Thurston Hills (Webb Portion)	6
2.2 Summary of Overall Partnership Acreages in the Rivers to Ridges Planning Area	6
Section 3: Habitat Restoration and Management.....	8
3.1 Controlled Ecological Burns	8
3.2 Native Plant Materials.....	8
3.2.1 West Eugene Wetland Plant Materials Partnership.....	8
3.2.2 Willow Creek Nursery	9
3.2.3 Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah Native Plant Nursery.....	9
3.3 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project Highlights.....	10
3.3.1 South Eugene Meadows	10
3.3.2 Ludwigia Control at Delta Ponds and Golden Gardens.....	10
3.3.3 Little Fall Creek Channel Enhancement Project Phase II.....	11
3.3.4 Elijah Bristow State Park Turtle Habitat Project	11
3.3.5 Green Island Floodplain Reforestation	11
3.3.6 Green Island Coburg Aggregate Reclamation Project Implementation	11
3.3.7 The Nature Conservancy Pudding Ponds Project.....	12
3.3.8 Coyote Creek South Management and Restoration	12
3.3.9 Hollyer Prairie Project.....	12
3.3.10 Mosby Creek Aquatic Habitat Project Phase II	13
3.3.11 Lomatium Prairie and Floodplain Forest Restoration	13
Section 4: Recreation, Education, and Events	14
4.1 Recreational Improvements.....	14
4.1.1 Dillard Connector Trail Completed.....	14
4.1.2 Buford Recreation Area Trail Improvements	14
4.2 Celebrations and Events.....	14
4.2.1 National Public Lands Day	14
4.2.2 Living Rivers Celebration.....	15
4.3 Education	15
4.3.1 Willamette Resources and Educational Network Education Program	15
4.3.2 Coast Fork Science Pub.....	16
4.3.3 Latino Community Outreach Program.....	16
4.3.4 Gamebird Community Garden	16
Section 5: Planning and Publications.....	17
5.1 Wetland Prairie Restoration Guide Completed.....	17
5.2 West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan	17
5.3 Thurston Hills Community Forest Plan Completed	17
5.4 Lane County Parks Planning Activities	18
5.5 Avian Survey with American Bird Conservancy.....	18
5.6 Dorris Ranch Habitat Restoration Plan.....	18
5.7 Landscape Architecture Students Produce Designs for Suzanne Arlie Park.....	18



Cover Photos:
 Coyote Oaks (Tim Giraudier)
 Anna's Hummingbird(Cary Kerst)
 Fawnlily (City of Eugene)
 Living Rivers Celebration (Charlie Quinn)

Annual Report Produced By
 The City of Eugene and
 Jeff Krueger Environments

***Rivers to Ridges
 Annual Report 2014***



R2R Partnership Organizations

- City of Eugene
- Coast Fork Watershed Council
- Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah
- Lane County Public Works Department
 - Long Tom Watershed Council
 - McKenzie River Trust
- Middle Fork Watershed Council
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Willamalane Park and Recreation District
- Willamette Resources and Educational Network

2014 by the Numbers

513

Acres treated through controlled ecological burns (an all time high)

1,083

Number of students receiving environmental education through WREN

569

Additional acres of land protected by R2R Partners

1

Rivers to Ridges Partnership Background and Overview

1.1 The Rivers to Ridges Partnership

The Rivers to Ridges Partnership is a voluntary association of fifteen organizations working collaboratively to advance the protection, restoration, management, and public use of open space resources in the southern Willamette Valley. The name Rivers to Ridges (R2R) emanates from a regional open space vision document which was endorsed by many organizations and unanimously by local elected officials from the Eugene-Springfield area in 2003.

1.1.1 Vision Statement

The vision for the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, as defined in the R2R Statement of Partnership is:

To improve the quality of life of residents in the upper Willamette Valley by working together to protect and enhance the region's land and water resources and their ecosystem functions and values, and to provide environmental education and compatible outdoor recreation opportunities as outlined in the Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study - Vision and Strategies document (2003).

The 2003 vision was further refined with by R2R partners in subsequent years including the *Ridgeline Vision and Action Plan* (2008) and the *Willamette River Vision and Action Plan* (2010).

1.1.2 Rivers to Ridges Statement of Partnership

The Rivers to Ridges partnership was formalized in 2010 through a Statement of Partnership (SOP), which has been signed by all partner organizations. The SOP outlines administrative structure of the partnership and emphasizes the commitment to work collaboratively toward implementation of the vision. The mission as stated in the SOP are listed below:

To advance implementation of the vision outlined in the Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study – Vision and Strategies document.

1.2 Rivers to Ridges Annual Report

This is the second Annual Report produced by the partnership. The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of administrative structure of the R2R partnership and to document key decisions and activities for the year. The report tracks annual accomplishments in the areas of land preservation; habitat restoration and management; recreation, education, and events; and planning. Additionally, the annual report provides the partners with an opportunity to highlight their own achievements from the year that have supported the implementation of the shared R2R vision.

1.3 Administrative Structure and Summary of Activities

Beginning in 2010, the Rivers to Ridges Partnership took over the administrative function that had been in place under the West Eugene Wetlands (WEW) Partnership since 1992. The WEW partnership had originally formed to oversee the implementation of the West Eugene Wetlands Plan, but over time had expanded its focus to include a much broader geographic area representing a range of additional habitat types. The formation of the R2R partnership, with the addition of several new partners, was an acknowledgement of this expanded reach. It is important to note that the R2R partnership has no

First Annual R2R Appreciation Award Presented

This year the Rivers to Ridges Partnership awarded the first annual appreciation award to Jeff Krueger for his enduring and tremendous contributions to the partnership. Jeff has worked on the sidelines for the partnership from its very beginning. Jeff, first at LCOG and now as his own firm (JK Environments) has contributed tremendously to the partnership's success. Jeff facilitated the development of, and then drafted, the Rivers to Ridges Vision and both refinement plans. Before the R2R partnership, he worked with the West Eugene Wetland Partnership since its inception. He has prepared most of the annual reports beginning in the 1990's along with many of the management plans that guide our work. He wrote all of the EPA grants that funded our ability to learn how to restore and maintain wetland prairies which resulted in the recent website and restoration guide posted to the Cascadia Prairie and Oak Partnership web page. These are just a few examples of the large volume of work that Jeff has contributed to the partnership. While much of that work has been under paid contracts, a good portion of it was accomplished by volunteering his time to go above and beyond what was contracted and ensure that the product he provided was outstanding. This extends to his personal life where Jeff likes to spend his free time exploring properties protected by the partnership. He even developed a course that he taught at the University of Oregon that engaged students to help develop plans and concepts for restoration and recreational development of a 500-acre parcel in City ownership. Jeff is always thinking about our vision and shares ideas, volunteers his time, and looks for creative ways to help us. Although Jeff has never actually been a formal member of our partnership, his heart and soul have always been truly with us. It was with great pleasure that we were able to honor Jeff for all of his contributions over the past many years.



-Trevor Taylor, City of Eugene Natural Areas Restoration Supervisor

outside funding sources for the administration of the partnership and it currently relies on voluntary annual partner dues, plus a significant amount of donated staff time. The partnership relies on rotating facilitators to head up the various committees. The basic administrative structure used by the R2R partnership, is described below.

1.3.1 Rivers to Ridges Executive Team (R2R XT)

The function of the Rivers to Ridges Executive Team (R2R XT) is to guide management of the regional open space system in a cooperative manner. The team includes at least one executive representative from each of the 15 members of the R2R Partnership and typically meets once annually. The 2014 meeting was held on November 6 at Lane Community College and facilitated by Julie Whalen from the **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**. To kick off the meeting, each partner organization was asked to highlight one of their major accomplishments from the past year. Following this, Chris Orsinger and Trevor Taylor made a presentation of the partnership's first Rivers to Ridges Annual Appreciated Award on behalf of the R2R XT. The 2014 award went to Jeff Krueger, who has been a long time contributor to the Rivers to Ridges partnership and coordinated the development of the original Rivers to Ridges visioning process in the early 2000s. The presentation of this award will be a regular agenda item at future R2R XT team meetings, with nominations submitted by the IT! The remainder of the 2014 meeting was spent planning for 2015 partnership activities and setting priorities. **The Nature Conservancy** then provided an afternoon tour of the Willamette Confluence Preserve for meeting participants.



2014 R2R XT Meeting Participants

1.3.2 Perspective on the Partnership - by Jeff Krueger

This past November I was extremely honored to have been selected to receive the first annual R2R Appreciation Award, having been nominated by a group of peers who are all extremely committed themselves. As I noted, highlighting an individual for this honor runs counter to the notion of partnership, so I accepted on behalf of the many dedicated individuals who make our partnership.

Continued next page



Photo credit: Sarah Finney

2001 R2R Charrette Small Group Exercise



One of the Four Concept Maps Developed by Participants at the 2001 R2R Charrette



In 2001, I was fortunate to have been asked to coordinate the Rivers to Ridges visioning process, which directed us to assemble and empower a group of extremely visionary staff from **Willamalane Parks and Recreation District**, **City of Eugene**, **City of Springfield**, **Lane County Parks**, and Lane Council of Governments. These individuals had been working toward similar goals for their parks and natural areas, but without the benefit of a regional perspective or regular collaboration. The notion of preserving and restoring an interconnected web of parks and open spaces was not a new concept and had been promoted in the late 1990s by a volunteer organization called Friends of Eugene Springfield Habitats (FRESH). When the R2R visioning process was initiated, the partners were able to build upon the principles that had been promoted by FRESH including preservation and connectivity of a viable network of native habitats in and around the metro area, development of an interconnected system of trails and vistas to promote public appreciation, protection of visual resources that give our region its sense of place, and utilization of a broad partnership to implement the vision.

The unanimous endorsement of the vision by our local elected officials and the formalization of the R2R partnership in 2010 have been key milestones in moving the vision toward reality. The partnership has brought together an immense amount of expertise and dedicated staff on a regular basis, helping to support the great successes in the areas of land acquisition, affordable native plant material production, construction of recreational trails and paths, and coordinated habitat management activities. I very much look forward toward continued involvement with the partnership in the coming years as we accomplish great on-the-ground success.

1.3.3 Rivers to Ridges Implementation Team (IT!)

The Rivers to Ridges Implementation Team (IT!) includes manager level representatives from each of the partner organizations. The IT! provides broad oversight for the implementation of the objectives of the R2R vision. The IT! met a six times in 2014 and meetings continue to be marked by good attendance from the R2R partners and productive discussions. The 2014 meetings were coordinated by Susanna Hamilton with the **Willamette Resources and Education Network** with rotating facilitators. Early in 2014, the IT! established several goals for the year including completion of the first annual report, completion of the partnership website, development of a partnership supported annual award, updating the FOG mission/purpose statement, and institution of an annual dues structure. In addition to working toward partner goals, IT! meetings focus on sharing information and seeking opportunities for collaboration on topics such as acquisition, funding, restoration, recreation, and education.

1.3.4 R2R Field Operations Group

The Field Operations Group (FOG) is a multi-jurisdictional team that meets several times annually to coordinate on-the-ground activities and share technical information and experience. The mission of FOG, as defined by the IT!, is to “Effectively coordinate information sharing and provide professional development opportunities through educational presentations and project field tours.”

Much of the coordination role of FOG has been delegated to sub-committees with general meetings dedicated to guest lectures, trainings, or site visits. **The Nature Conservancy** scheduled and facilitated the 2014 FOG meetings, which included the following:

- Presentation by Susanna Hamilton of the **Willamette Resources Education Network** on curriculum development and audiences reached.
- Presentation by Jenny Getty of the Institute for Applied Ecology on the Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Cooperative: Strategy for Growing a Native Seed Cooperative.



Photo credit: Jeff Krueger

Matt Benotsch Leads a FOG Field Trip to the TNC Hayfield Project



Photo credit: Cary Kerst

Snowy Owl at Fern Ridge Reservoir

- Presentation by Lauri Holts of the **City of Eugene** on the Delta Ponds Side-Channel Habitat Enhancement Project and ongoing *Ludwigia* control efforts.
- Field tour of Dragonfly Bend's restored wetland prairie, which had been burned the previous fall. This tour was led by Diane Steeck of the **City of Eugene**.
- Field tour of the Willow Creek Preserve by Matt Benotsch of **The Nature Conservancy**. The tour visited the "Hayfield" prairie restoration area, which was initiated in 2007, and a newer restoration area on the east side of the Preserve where Fender's blue butterfly habitat is being restored through agricultural techniques.
- Hosted the 2014 Habitat Management and Restoration in the Southern Willamette Valley meeting. This annual forum hosted by the partnership included brief presentations by habitat managers from the southern Willamette Valley with an opportunity to share lessons learned.

Additionally, two subcommittees meet as needed to help coordinate specific aspects of FOG:

- SPROUTS (Seeds, Plugs, Rhizomes, or Underground Tubers): This committee meets on an ad-hoc basis to develop and coordinate the R2R Partnership's native plant materials program.
- Prescribed Fire: This committee meets on an ad-hoc basis to coordinate and plan the annual controlled ecological burn program.

2014 Trail Camera Photos from Around the R2R Region



Photo credit: Paul Gordon

Elk at Coyote Prairie



Photo credit: Jeff Krueger

Bobcat at Suzanne Arlie Park



credit: McKenzie River Trust

Bears at Coyote-Spencer Wetland

2

Land Protection



2.1 Land Protection in 2014

In 2014, **Willamalane Park and Recreation District**, **McKenzie River Trust**, **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah**, and **The Nature Conservancy** completed a total of four fee title acquisitions and one conservation easement, adding 569 acres to the protected land base of the Rivers to Ridges partners. This brings the total partner land base within the R2R planning area to an estimated 22,721 acres. The 2014 acquisitions and easements are listed below and shown on the Rivers to Ridges map on page 7.



Photo credit: Tim Giraudier

Coyote Oaks

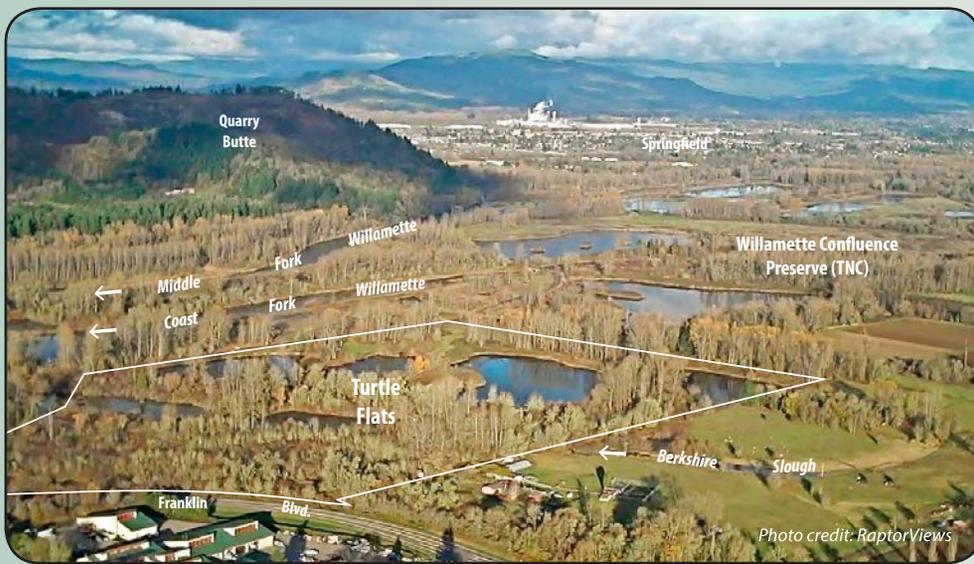
2.1.1 Coyote Oaks Conservation Easement

In September 2014, the **McKenzie River Trust** signed the papers on the Coyote Oaks Conservation Easement, which is located just north of Fern Ridge Reservoir. The easement protects 152 acres of forested wetlands from future development or commercial use. The land is owned by longtime Eugene residents and conservation advocates, Art and Anita Johnson. Mr. Johnson has completed numerous projects to enhance wetland and oak woodland habitat on the Coyote Oaks property and had won awards for his land stewardship on this property and others.

Strong partnerships play a role in the project. The **Long Tom Watershed Council**, **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, and **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** have all contributed, working towards a vision for a 1,500-acre natural area surrounding the property. At that scale, partners are able to amplify the benefits of conserving a single parcel. Partners helped identify the Coyote Oaks property as a conservation priority due to its extremely high-quality wetland and oak habitat. This rare habitat means that there is exceptional ecological diversity on the property, which includes important rare species such as Bradshaw's lomatium, red-legged frog, cutthroat trout, slender-billed nuthatch, yellow-breasted chat, and western bluebird. It's not unusual to see signs of elk, bobcat, black bear, and river otter on the property. Funding for the protection of this property was provided by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) through the ODFW-BPA Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program with additional support from individual donors.

2.1.2 Willamette Confluence Preserve Addition

In 2014, **The Nature Conservancy** (TNC) added two inholdings totaling 33.4 acres to their Willamette Confluence Preserve, bringing the total size of the protected site up to 1,307 acres. These key acquisitions included a 3-acre parcel purchased from Oregon Department of Transportation and 30-acre parcel purchased from Pacific Corps. Both parcels are located immediately adjacent to the Middle Fork Willamette River and include degraded riparian habitat. Private funds were used for this acquisition. These parcels have been integrated into the current planning and design efforts for the Preserve and both will be restored as part of a larger restoration effort, which will include large-scale reclamation of adjacent gravel extraction pits, now scheduled to be implemented in 2018.



2.1.3 Turtle Flats

Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah (Friends) is in the process of acquiring this 62-acre property, which is located at the dynamic confluence of the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River, from the Lane County Waste Management Division. The property is adjacent to both the 1,305-acre TNC Willamette Confluence Preserve and the 107-acre OPRD Glassbar Island Willamette Greenway property. Turtle Flats contains forested wetlands, willow shrub wetlands and six ponds which resulted from historic gravel mining. A collaborative floodplain restoration project is planned on nearly 200 acres on Turtle Flats, Glassbar and TNC's Willamette Confluence Preserve in the coming years. After restoration, low-intensity recreation compatible with habitat conservation is planned, subject to future funding. The acquisition is expected to close in 2015.

2.1.4 Thurston Hills (Webb Portion)

In May 2014, **Willamalane** finalized acquisition of the 384-acre former Webb property. This acquisition connects two previously acquired properties, forming the 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area. The natural area spans Springfield's Thurston Hills from the Jasper-Natron area in the Middle Fork Willamette drainage to

east Main Street (Highway 126) in the McKenzie drainage, and encompasses diverse landscape and habitat types, including riparian areas, Douglas-fir forest, oak woodland, upland prairie, wet prairie, and rocky outcrops. Management goals include community forestry, invasive species control, natural area restoration, environmental education, and a ridgeline trail system as envisioned in the R2R vision document and Willamalane's Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Funding sources for the acquisition include Willamalane's 2012 bond measure, the ODFW-BPA Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, and the USDA Forest Service Community Forest Program.



Former Rock Quarry on the Newly Acquired Thurston Hills Property

Rivers to Ridges Partner Lands

R2R Partner Ownership and Easements	Acres
Bureau of Land Management (WEW)*	1,305
Bureau of Land Management Easement	22
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	3,870
City of Eugene	4,259
Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah**	62
Lane County	3,970
McKenzie River Trust	1,569
McKenzie River Trust Easements	803
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	382
Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.	1,943
The Nature Conservancy	3,028
Willamalane Park and Recreation Dist.***	1,508
Total:	22,721

* BLM owns and manages an additional 27,409 acres of land within the Rivers to Ridges planning area, mainly O&C land within the Coburg and Thurston Hills.

** Friends are in the process of purchasing the Turtle Flats site from Lane County. Closing expected in 2015.

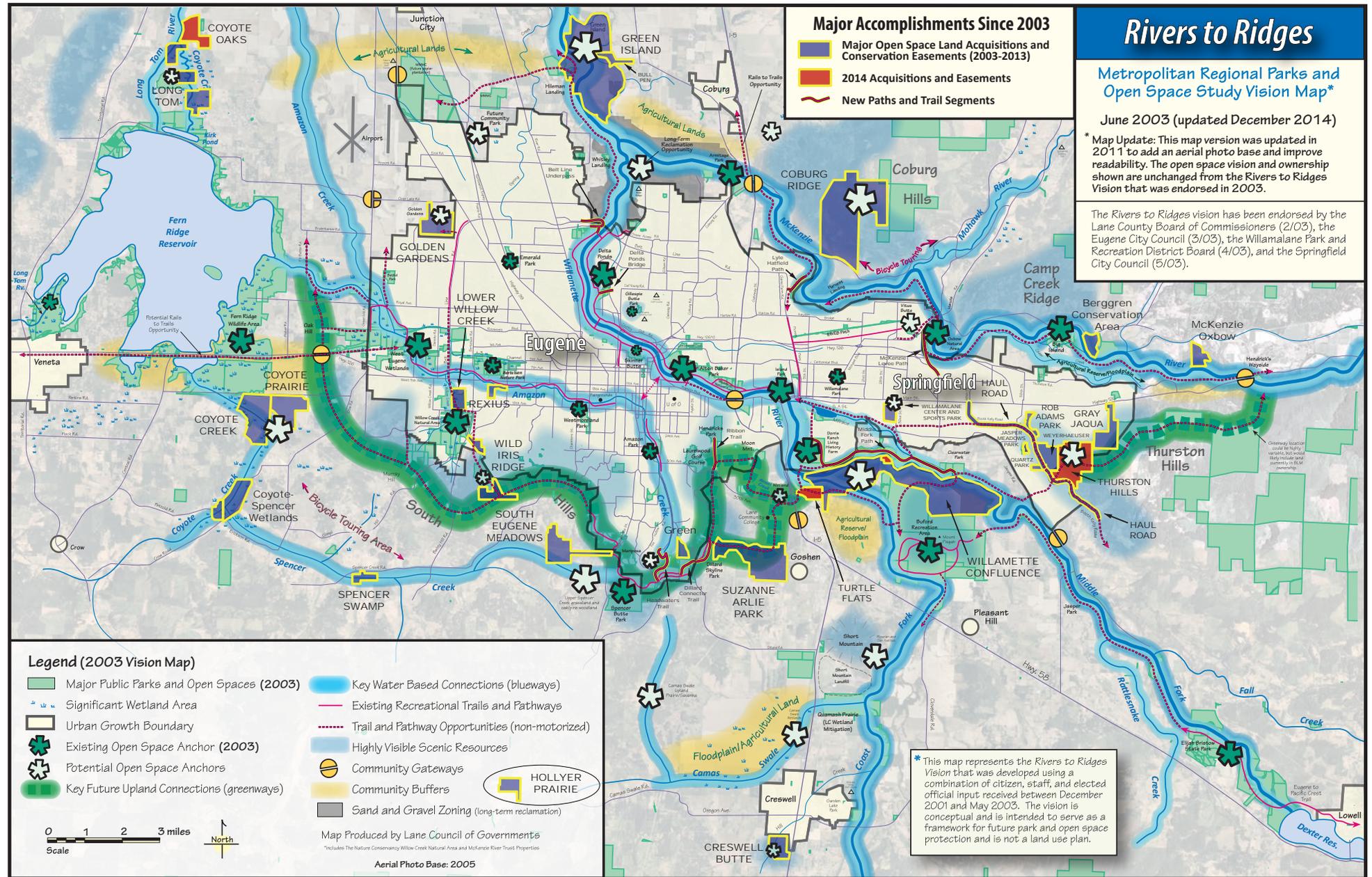
*** The Willamalane total includes approximately 289 acres of developed park land.

2.2 Summary of Overall Partnership Acreages in the Rivers to Ridges Planning Area

Rivers to Ridges partners currently own or hold conservation easements on an estimated 22,721 acres of land within the R2R planning area (see table) including an additional 569 acres added in 2014.

Since the Rivers to Ridges vision was endorsed in 2003, the R2R partners have jointly preserved approximately 5,100 acres land, increasing the protected land base by nearly thirty percent in just over a decade. The majority of this newly acquired land is in an undeveloped condition and has been acquired to preserve and restore high value native habitats, protect natural resource functions, and preserve the visual quality of the area. Compatible recreational and educational uses are planned on many of these lands in the future.

Rivers to Ridges Vision Map with Accomplishments and 2014 Acquisitions



The map above is a compilation of the Rivers to Ridges vision map that was endorsed by local elected officials in 2003 and an overlay of major open space acquisitions that have occurred since that time. 2014 acquisitions are shown in red.

Photo credit: The Nature Conservancy



*TNC's Visiting Southern Rockies
Wildland Fire Module*

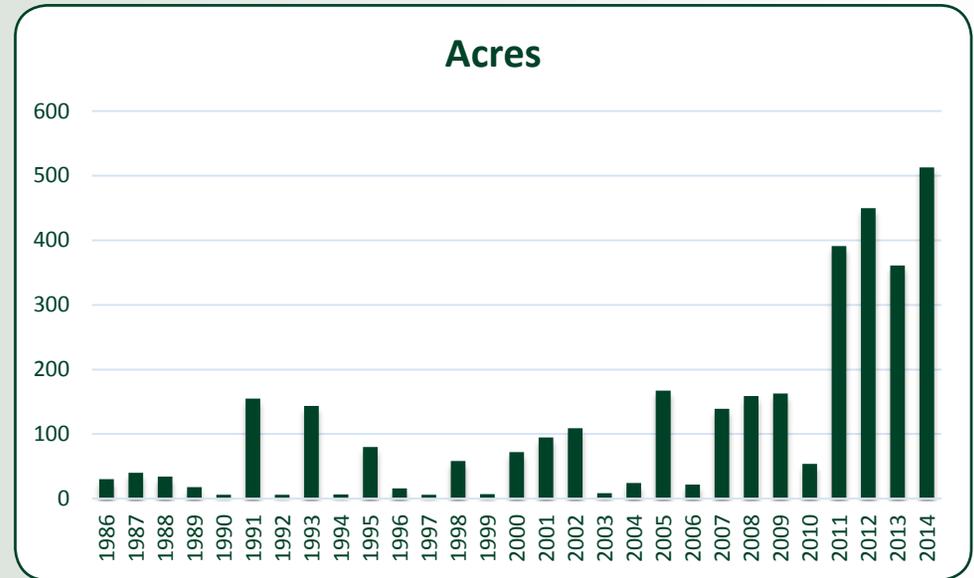
3

Habitat Restoration and Management

3.1 Controlled Ecological Burns

The R2R Partnership completed a total of nine burns in 2014 on **BLM, TNC, USACE,** and **City of Eugene** lands totaling 513 acres. This exceeds the previous acreage record of 450 acre set in 2012 and brings the total acreage burned since 1986 up to 3,334. This year's burn program received a boost with a September visit by **The Nature Conservancy's** Southern Rockies Wildland Fire Module. This group traveled to the area to help implement controlled ecological fire projects with the Rivers to Ridges Partnership as well as elsewhere around the Willamette Valley. The six person module spent a total of 14 days in the area leading and participating in a total of 5 days of ecological fire operations. The professional and experienced firefighters added capacity to the existing Willamette Valley Fire Partnership and were crucial in meeting our highest acreage objectives to date.

*Yearly Acreage
Burned by
Rivers to Ridges
Partners*



3.2 Native Plant Materials

3.2.1 West Eugene Wetland Plant Materials Partnership

The **U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), City of Eugene,** and **The Nature Conservancy's** plant materials partnership continues to produce locally-sourced native seed and plants for restoration and enhancement efforts within the West Eugene Wetlands and associated upland prairies. In addition to more common native annuals and perennials, the program is now providing seed of several slow-growing prairie species, such as common camas and narrow-leaf mule's ear, that take



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Woolly Sunflower



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Narrowleaf Onion in Grow-Out Beds at Heritage Seedlings



Photo credit: BLM

Seasonal Botanists Working for the Partnership Hand Collected Seed of Over Twenty Native Species in 2014.

five or more years to reach reproductive size and thus require a long-term production commitment. In 2014, the partnership provided seed of about 60 native plant species for use in local restorations and enhancements. Although almost all of the seed is produced by Willamette Valley growers, the partnership continues to rely on hand collection from wild sites for a few wetland species that are common locally and to genetically refresh species cultivated by contract growers. Seasonal botanists working for the partnership hand collected seed of 21 native species in 2014 and submitted seed from several of these collections to the national Seeds of Success program, which partially funds the native plant materials program through the BLM. A total of 160 volunteer hours were donated to the program in 2014 for seed collection and planting. Altogether, about 1,350 pounds of local native seed was produced and procured for the plant materials program in 2014. The program successfully provided seed for over 100 acres of restoration projects in 29 customized seed mixes for emergent, vernal pool, wet prairie, and upland prairie communities. In addition, the program provided 50 seed mixes for two research projects addressing recovery of Fender's blue butterfly and wet prairie restoration. This plant materials partnership helps leverage between \$80,000 and \$120,000 of federal funds annually through grants, sharing of equipment, and staff time.

3.2.2 Willow Creek Nursery

The **Nature Conservancy's** Willow Creek Nursery has shifted its production almost exclusively to the federally listed plant species, Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette daisy, and Kincaid's lupine. These species are being grown out for use on local restoration projects. In its eighth year of production, Kincaid's lupine produced approximately 5,000 seeds. This is down from the all-time high of 40,000 in 2011. In their third year of production, Bradshaw's lomatium and Willamette daisy both produced well. In 2015 TNC plans to expand the bed sizes for all three species.

3.2.3 Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah Native Plant Nursery

The **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** manage a plant materials program with a two-acre nursery facility at its core. The plant materials are used to support restoration projects on and around Mount Pisgah. Cuttings, divisions, and seeds are wild collected by staff led interns and volunteers from diverse populations of native plants found throughout the greater Mount Pisgah area. The collections are propagated within the nursery. In 2014, the nursery produced plant materials from 130 species of native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees accounting for 325 pounds of live seed and over 2,500 live plants of various sizes.

In partnership with Pacific NW Natives, Friends produce several crops on a commercial scale to ensure an adequate supply of seed of matrix species associated with forest, prairie, savanna, and woodland habitats. This venture produced nearly 1,000 pounds of seed in 2014. An additional 30,000 pounds of seed is available from recent production. Species include blue wild rye, California fescue, California oatgrass, Columbia brome, prairie junegrass, Roemer's fescue, and Sitka brome. In addition, Friends are members of the Willamette Valley Seed Cooperative.

While the primary purpose of the nursery is to provide genetically-local plant materials, the nursery is also growing relationships between people and plants.

Friends trained 27 interns from the LCC, UO, and the broader community in 2014. In return, interns and general volunteers contributed 7,000 hours to operate the nursery. Volunteer energy matched with donor investments empower a small staff to grow a lot of plants. Furthermore, the nursery is open to the public during hours of operation.



Photo credit: FBPMP

Delphinium Grow-Out at FBPMP Nursery



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Helicopter Lifting Douglas-Fir Logs at South Eugene Meadows



3.3 Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Project Highlights

Listed in the section below is a sampling of major habitat restoration and enhancement projects that were implemented by R2R partners in 2014.

3.3.1 South Eugene Meadows

The **City of Eugene** began to restore habitat structure to former prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland areas at its 200-acre South Eugene Meadows site with the 2014 project focusing on removing encroaching trees from 85 acres. The project included saving the highest quality remaining oaks, removing Douglas-fir from steep slopes, and re-opening prairies to create habitat connectivity. The design minimized ground impacts to the site, which has limited equipment access and hosts several areas of remnant native prairie forbs including Kincaid's lupine and spurred lupine. In May and June, two sawyers moved through the site, felling trees. The thinning targeted 30-80 year old trees with commercial value, which were then hauled off the site by a helicopter during an eight-day flight period. The project was further able to limit impacts to the site by partnering with a private landowner to stage the logs on their neighboring active forestry site. The logs were sold locally to Seneca Sawmill Company, and the revenue was used to help pay for the costs of the restoration project. After the trees were moved off the site, the City's Natural Areas and Urban Forestry staff created nine habitat snags from large Douglas-fir that were not able to be removed but were impacting oak trees. In winter, excess tree limbs and downed material that had been consolidated into several hundred piles were burned to remove excess woody debris. Native grass seed was sown in disturbed areas in December 2014. Overall, the project restored and enhanced approximately 18 acres of prairie and oak savanna, 55 acres of oak woodland, and 12 acres of mixed conifer woodland and forest.

3.3.2 Ludwigia Control at Delta Ponds and Golden Gardens

Uruguayan primrose-willow (*Ludwigia hexapetala*) is an aggressive invasive aquatic species threatening fish and wildlife habitat at **City of Eugene** owned Delta Ponds and Golden Gardens Park. These populations were among the most extensive found in the Willamette River watershed prior to treatment and were a threat to downstream habitats on both the Willamette and Long Tom Rivers. In 2014, the Oregon State Weed Board funded phase II of implementation of the "Invasive Ludwigia Management Plan for Delta Ponds", which outlines a five-year strategy to eradicate *Ludwigia* from Delta Ponds. While Golden Gardens was not specifically addressed in the management plan, the City has followed the same protocols and timeline to eradicate *Ludwigia* at that site. The City of Eugene's efforts to control *Ludwigia* at these two sites has been so successful that it has become the model for other regional control efforts.



Before Control

Ludwigia

Photo credit: City of Eugene



After Control

Photo credit: City of Eugene



Photo credit: OPRD

Western Pond Turtle After Emerging from its Nest at Elijah Bristow State Park

The Coburg Aggregate Restoration Project at Green Island Shortly After Grading was Completed in 2014



Photo credit: River Design Group, Inc.

3.3.3 Little Fall Creek Channel Enhancement Project Phase II

The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** implemented the second phase of the Little Fall Creek Channel Enhancement Project in 2014. This phase involved installation of habitat elements in two stream reaches to create essential habitat for spring Chinook salmon. This work is a continuation of a three phase restoration effort planned for Little Fall Creek, with Phase I being implemented during the 2013 in-water work period. Phase II was implemented during the summer 2014 in-water work period and included the construction of four boulder complexes in a 1,500-foot channel reach and installation of 80 large wood complexes over a 4.3 mile reach of Little Fall Creek on U.S. Forest Service land. Phase III is in development and will include enhancement of the lower reaches of the creek near the confluence with Fall Creek.

3.3.4 Elijah Bristow State Park Turtle Habitat Project

Western Pond Turtles (WPT) have been documented and studied extensively at Elijah Bristow State Park, which is located along the Middle Fork of the Willamette River. The project site is as a primary nesting areas for the turtles and adjoins “Beaver Pond” and “Channel Lake” areas. Current management actions of fencing and invasive species control seek to protect and enhance these areas over the 29-acre project area. This project has expanded upon the work already completed, and upcoming work will consist of the following:

- Restoration of turtle nesting areas by removing hard-to-access invasive species using hand crews;
- Bobcat mowing to control invasive species;
- Scotch broom control (cut and paint);
- Installation of fencing around turtle nesting areas to discourage off-trail travel; and
- Conversion of existing damaged viewing platform at Beaver Pond into a wildlife viewing blind.

A total of \$9,600 in Stewardship Funds from **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** was awarded for this project with an estimated additional \$19,500 in matching funds provided by local park staff. The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** has used this project area as a site for their Watershed Ranger Program which is a place-based education program for elementary school students in grades 3 through 6.

3.3.5 Green Island Floodplain Reforestation

McKenzie River Trust continued their floodplain reforestation efforts on their Green Island Property in 2014 with the planting of an additional 65 acres with 25,000 native trees. This project was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Meyer Memorial Trust.

3.3.6 Green Island Coburg Aggregate Reclamation Project Implementation

This floodplain restoration project is located within a 56-acre sand and gravel extraction site on Green Island, a property owned and managed by the **McKenzie River Trust**. The project area is within a historical channel of the McKenzie River, which now functions a secondary channel to the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers immediately downstream of the confluence. Forty years of mining activities created three shallow ponds with steep slopes and limited native vegetation. ESA-listed Upper Willamette spring Chinook salmon were documented in the project area and a population of Oregon chub lives nearby the site.

The creation of a by-pass channel around the ponds provides fish with a more diverse and connected habitat to the floodplain and existing channel systems. Pond grading and shoreline edge habitat improvements (e.g. large wood, shoals, and benches) provide



Photo credit: RaptorViews

*The Pudding Ponds Restoration Project
Shortly After Grading was Completed*



Photo credit: The Nature Conservancy

*Pudding Pond Inlet from the Middle
Fork Willamette River Under
Construction with Log Jam Placement*

richer and diverse aquatic habitat and improved the shoreline areas for native vegetation establishment and survival. The project also met the criteria for reclamation as required by the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Engineering design and construction oversight were provided by River Design Group and MRT staff and the primary contractor was Wildish Construction. Project funding came from OWEB and BPA.

3.3.7 The Nature Conservancy Pudding Ponds Project

Located on the eastern end of **The Nature Conservancy's** Confluence Preserve, the Pudding Ponds Project included restoration and reconnection of floodplain habitat along the Middle Fork Willamette River, covering approximately 130 acres. The area supports ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead, and loss of off-channel and floodplain rearing habitat has been identified as a key limiting factor for recovery. TNC worked with an engineering design firm to complete alternatives analysis, 2D modeling, and engineering design that resulted in a flow-through system including both upstream and downstream connections to three former gravel extraction pits. In addition to reconnecting the Willamette River to its floodplain for a minimum of 193 days per year, the project created 3,046 feet of new river channel and 60% more shoreline. Shoreline habitats were transformed from steep banks lacking vegetation to diverse aquatic habitats with a variety of water depths and flows with large wood added. Invasive vegetation was removed from the floodplain forest and in January through March 2015 and 70,000 trees and shrubs, 82,000 emergent plugs,

and 6,000-10,000 additional live stakes and willow clumps will be installed in the project area. Immediate functional responses to the project area included lower water temperatures and more basking use by western pond turtles.

3.3.8 Coyote Creek South Management and Restoration

Beginning in the summer of 2014, the **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife** began property clean-up and site preparation for planned restoration activities at the 309-acre Coyote Creek site. The property had been acquired by ODFW in 2012. Prior to implementation of on-the-ground activities, a series photo points were established throughout the property. The photos will be used for long-term and short-term monitoring of the property. Initial vegetation management activities included mowing and herbicide application on 32 acres of reed canarygrass and 22 acres of blackberries. Elimination of agricultural infrastructure and fencing occurred along with removal of miscellaneous debris including an abandoned car. Levees that had been used for both water control and property access had become severely overgrown, so willows and invasive shrubs were cut and chipped and the levee tops and banks were mowed to provide better access for restoration and management activities.

The first phase of habitat restoration also began in 2014. Following the final harvest of the grass seed crop on a portion of the agricultural field, the site preparation phase of the planned wet prairie restoration was initiated with the application of the herbicide glyphosate to begin eradication of the crop species and other non-native vegetation. A follow-up treatment is scheduled for spring of 2015 with the plant establishment phase possibly beginning later in the year.

3.3.9 Hollyer Prairie Project

Historically, the wide, low-gradient Camas Swale basin was an extensive prairie and wetland community. However, much of this area has been degraded through agricultural practices, drainage projects, and later for a planting of hybrid poplar, resulting in reduced native biodiversity and degraded habitat. The Hollyer Prairie Project, located nine miles west of its confluence with the Coast Fork Willamette River, has resulted in the restoration of native ecosystems on 31-acres in Upper Camas Swale Creek. The **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council** has worked with the landowner, **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, and **McKenzie River Trust** since 2008 to prioritize and fund restoration actions that target the rare plant communities. Enhancement actions focused on reducing invasive species, mitigation of altered fire regimes through mowing, targeted spot spraying of woody species, the introduction of fire to 13 acres of prairie, and thinning of ash corridors and oak



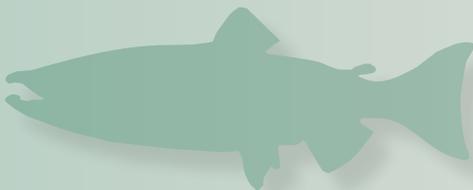
Photo credit: Coast Fork Watershed Council

Controlled Ecological Burn at Hollyer Prairie



Photo credit: Coast Fork Watershed Council

Constructed Rock Weir on Mosby Creek



woodlands edges. The introduction of 50 pounds of native plant seed in addition to a planting of golden paintbrush and the native onion (*Allium amplectens*) will further diversify these rare plant communities and ecosystems.

3.3.10 Mosby Creek Aquatic Habitat Project Phase II

Mosby Creek is one of three major tributaries providing flow to the Coast Fork Willamette River, and as the only one without a dam, making it a high priority for native salmonids. However, since much of the Mosby Creek watershed been managed as a tree farm since the late 1950s, the creek has been significantly altered by stream cleaning, loss of riparian vegetation, and the high flows, which scoured it during the 1964 flood. The 2014 Mosby Creek Aquatic Habitat Project is the second phase of a multi-year effort to prioritize and enhance mainstem habitat in this large (30+ meters wide), free-flowing tributary of the Coast Fork Willamette River. To provide key habitat improvements, over a half mile of spawning and rearing habitat was created in two low-gradient segments. A total of five channel-spanning rock weirs were placed in August 2014 following extensive design, permitting, and rock staging by project partners led by the **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council** including Weyerhaeuser, **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**, City of Springfield, the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program, the Eugene District of the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, Kennedy Conservation Corps, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement.

The rock weirs used in this project are highly effective at mitigating the bedrock-dominated character of this stream channel that can sustain flows of 7,000 cfs in a 2-year, bank-full event. Significant accumulations of gravel (1,000+ cubic yards/structure) provide important physical temperature mitigation by preventing mainstem bedrock from warming. The collection of fines and smaller gravels contribute to secondary channel and island formation as trees and shrubs move in and shade the summer stream flow. The effectiveness of the phase I project was documented by Trask and Associates in their Mosby Creek Limiting Factors Analysis (2014) and in a preliminary temperature study showed a 0.5 degree-F drop in temperature between the upstream influence of the project and the face of the rock weir.

3.3.11 Lomatium Prairie and Floodplain Forest Restoration

In 2014, the **Long Tom Watershed Council** completed an OWEB-funded wet prairie and oak woodland restoration project on a 90-acre private property in the Lower Long Tom Conservation Area. The Lomatium Prairie and Floodplain Forest Restoration Project lies within the 1,200-acre, multi-ownership area of intact native habitats situated just to the north of Fern Ridge Reservoir. At the Lomatium Prairie project site and two adjacent private properties, the Council has worked with the landowners to restore open oak woodland, riparian, vernal pool, and wet and upland prairie habitats, and associated rare species populations in partnership with the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, OWEB, the **McKenzie River Trust**, Institute for Applied Ecology, and numerous local contracting ecologists.

Within this 1,200-acre area, 1,040 acres are permanently protected lands. The **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** and **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** own 640 acres and the McKenzie River Trust holds conservation easements on 400 acres. Large populations of Bradshaw's lomatium and shaggy horkelia are located at the Lomatium Prairie project site and on adjacent parcels. A breeding population of western pond turtle, northern red-legged frogs, and western pond turtles have been observed in the area, along with acorn woodpeckers and many other species of migratory waterfowl and songbirds.



Photo credit: Long Tom Watershed Council

Lomatium Prairie

4

Recreation, Education, and Events



Photo credit: Jeff Krueger

Dillard Connector Trail



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Fiberglass Boardwalk on Dillard Trail



Photo credit: BLM

4.1 Recreational Improvements

4.1.1 Dillard Connector Trail Completed

In fall of 2014, the **City of Eugene** completed the one-mile Dillard Connector Trail, filling a critical gap in Eugene's Ridgeline Trail system. This new shared-use trail is open to hikers and mountain bikes and replaces the former route, which took ridgeline trail users down the side of the Dillard Road. With this addition to the Ridgeline Trail system, a contiguous trail now spans six miles between Spring Boulevard and Blanton Road to further implement the R2R vision of a 20-mile trail between Fern Ridge Reservoir and Mount Pisgah. A unique feature of this new trail segment is a 40-foot long fiberglass boardwalk crossing over a headwater stream of Amazon Creek. For long-term sustainability, three steeper climbing turns along the trail have been outfitted with native stone trail armoring, which look like weathered cobblestone path sections.

4.1.2 Buford Recreation Area Trail Improvements

Lane County Parks had two major recreation projects at Howard Buford Recreation Area in 2014. The first took place early in the year with the addition of Trail 38 to the system. Trail 38 is a connector trail from the horse arena to existing Trail 3. The trail project is intended to help minimize recreational impacts to the recently enhanced Spring Box Savanna by concentrating users along a single route along the edge of the meadow, where in the past, multiple braids crossed the area. This trail will also serve the dual purpose as a maintenance access for the **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah's** (Friends) stewardship crew. The length of the new trail is approximately .16 miles and has an average grade of 10 percent. Additionally, in the summer of 2014, Lane County Parks and Friends utilized a mini-excavator to make improvements on Trail 4 which had become very difficult to hike.



Photo credit: Lane County Parks

Trail 38 at Mount Pisgah

4.2 Celebrations and Events

4.2.1 National Public Lands Day

This annual community service project was on September 27, 2014 at and around Stewart Pond in west Eugene. Sponsors included the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, Mountain Rose Herbs, **City of Eugene**, and Looking Glass Youth & Family Services. Efforts included trail improvements (adding bark chips to existing paths), pulling non-native vegetation, and seeding natives.

Day of Caring Volunteers (left)



Photo credit: McKenzie River Trust

Canoes and Kayaks Were Available for Visitors at the Living Rivers Celebration



Photo credit: WREN

WREN Led Classroom Activity

4.2.2 Living Rivers Celebration

McKenzie River Trust celebrated 25 years of land conservation with their third annual family-friendly event at Green Island on June 29. Over a thousand visitors enjoyed birdsong and live music, fresh water, and local food and beverages, all while exploring 1,100 acres of rolling floodplain that grows wilder by the day. Activities included tree climbing, guided tours, birding, picnicking, self-guided walks and runs, canoeing, Ninkasi beer, a musical performance by guitarist Don Latarski, and more than a dozen booths from local conservation organizations. Writers and others offered walking tours and free workshops for nature lovers to get in tune with their senses and better appreciate the land.



Photo credit: McKenzie River Trust

Over a Thousand Visitors Attended the 2014 Living Rivers Celebration

4.3 Education

4.3.1 Willamette Resources and Educational Network Education Program

The **Willamette Resources and Education Network (WREN)** was initiated in 1999 as the result of collaboration among various organizations interested in providing environmental education based in the West Eugene Wetlands. With the help of tremendous volunteers, project partners, members, and donors, WREN has offered environmental education programs rooted in the heart of the remaining Willamette Valley wet prairie since that time. WREN continued its mission of education and stewardship in 2014 and during that one year period has:

- Served 1,083 students, 241 volunteers, and 3,711 additional community members!
- Increased outreach to diverse communities with even more field trips and classroom visits for students in low-income and rural schools, including Bethel, Eugene 4J, Springfield, Junction City, Fern Ridge and Florence districts, as well as home-schooled students and Girl Scout troops.
- Revised and updated all established curricula to meet current Next Generation Science Standards.
- Developed new educational curricula for invasive species and macroinvertebrates that meet Oregon State Benchmarks for grades 5 and 2-6 respectively, and address topics of interest to local teachers and school districts.
- Hosted family exploration activities and wetlands bird seminars to reach even more members of the community.

Since its formation in 1999, WREN has served more than 54,000 through school and interpretive programs for children and adults in their outdoor classroom.



Photo credit: WREN

WREN Field Study



Photo credit: CFWWC

Science Pub

4.3.2 Coast Fork Science Pub

The **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council** hosts a free monthly public meeting series called the Coast Fork Science Pub on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 5-7 p.m. at the Axe & Fiddle in Cottage Grove. The event begins with informal socializing, trivia, prizes, and updates about the watershed then features a special science topic. Participants are encouraged to support the CFWWC by ordering food and drinks, as 10% of the sales from evening sales benefit the watershed council. 2014 speakers included:

- Native Insects with Melissa Scherr, NW Entomological Research Center – March 2014
- Prairie Wildflowers with Wes Messinger, **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** – April 2014
- Pacific lamprey by Luke Shultz & Gabe Sheoships, Oregon State University – May 2014
- Water Rights with Michael Mattick, Oregon Water Resources Dept.—July 2014
- Fishes of the Willamette by Shannon Richardson, **Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**—August 2014
- Oregon chub with Brian Bangs, **Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife** —September 2014
- NW Bats by Cameron Bishop, **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**—October 2014
- Willamette Greenway by Scott Youngblood, **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** —November 2014

4.3.3 Latino Community Outreach Program

As part of the **Long Tom Watershed Council's** growing Urban Waters & Wildlife Program, a new outreach project was initiated this past year to educate local Spanish-speakers who work with pesticides in the yard and landscape industry. With a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and support from the **City of Eugene**, Downtown Languages, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and other partners, LTWC is educating Spanish speaking landscapers and families on the safe and effective use of pesticides. This is the only program in the Eugene metro area that provides bilingual outreach specific to pesticide and stormwater education.

4.3.4 Gamebird Community Garden

The Gamebird Community Garden is a good example of a partnership project. **Willamalane** designed the garden and built it with help from the Springfield Twin Rivers Rotary Club on land owned by Springfield Public Schools. It will be managed for Willamalane by Huerto de la Familia/The Family Garden, a local non-profit focused on increasing food security through organic community gardening. The community garden, one of only two in Springfield, has 60 plots including eight raised beds, a toolshed, and a gathering area. Huerto de la Familia plans to offer presentations on food preservation and other subjects. The garden is located adjacent to Gamebird Park and the Food for Lane County Youth Farm in the Gamebird Village neighborhood of north Springfield.



Photo credit: Erhram Payne

The Urban Waters & Wildlife Outreach Program was Expanded to Spanish-Speakers



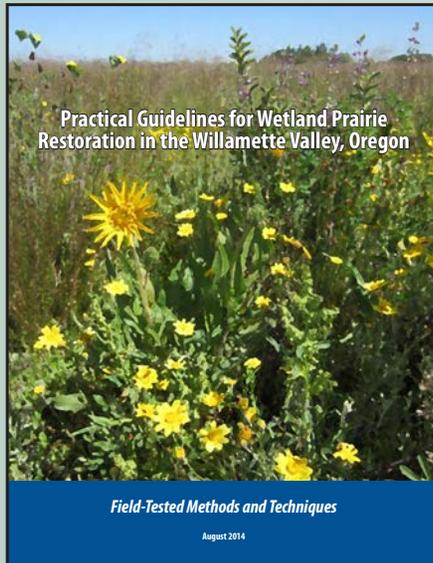
Photo credit: Huerto de la Familia

Kids Working in the Gamebird Community Garden



5

Planning and Publications



5.1 Wetland Prairie Restoration Guide Completed

The primary goals of this decade-long partnership project has been to improve the long-term viability and quality of wetland prairie restoration efforts through innovations in design and through the distribution of practical information about the various steps of the restoration process to a broad audience in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere in the nation. With funding assistance provided by EPA, the partnership, which included the Institute for Applied Ecology, **City of Eugene**, Lane Council of Governments, and the University of Oregon, assembled a team of experts with extensive experience in wetland prairie restoration and management. The process has included documentation of lessons learned from on-the-ground projects, implementation of several replicated field experiments at Coyote Prairie to fill knowledge gaps, and compilation of results from multiple interviews with restoration practitioners throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2014, the partners completed this effort by consolidating the best methodologies for each phase of the restoration process and distributed this information through a variety of methods including development of an illustrative user-friendly guide (Practical Guidelines for Wetland Prairie Restoration in the Willamette Valley, Oregon - Field-Tested Methods and Techniques, 2014), establishment of a web based resource (<http://cascadiaprairieoak.org/resources/wet-prairie-guide>), and by hosting a series of mobile training sessions for over a hundred people in the Willamette Valley and southern Washington.

5.2 West Eugene Wetlands Resource Management Plan

In 2014, the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, Eugene District completed a Proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 1,340 acres it manages in the West Eugene Wetlands. The Proposed RMP provides a comprehensive management plan for the long-term protection and management of these BLM-administered lands, and includes management actions to contribute to the recovery of threatened and endangered plant and animal species under recommendations in the USFWS Recovery Plan for Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington. The Proposed RMP also provides for educational, cultural, and recreational enhancement opportunities, including the construction of a disc golf course within the Stewart Pond area. The Proposed RMP and Final EIS were released for a 30-day public protest period and received no protests. The agency is currently in the process of finalizing this land use planning effort. The Record of Decision designating the Approved RMP is scheduled to be signed by the State Director in spring 2015. The BLM is planning to celebrate this achievement and thank the formal cooperators: **US Army Corps of Engineers**, **City of Eugene**, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, and others that have helped throughout the process.

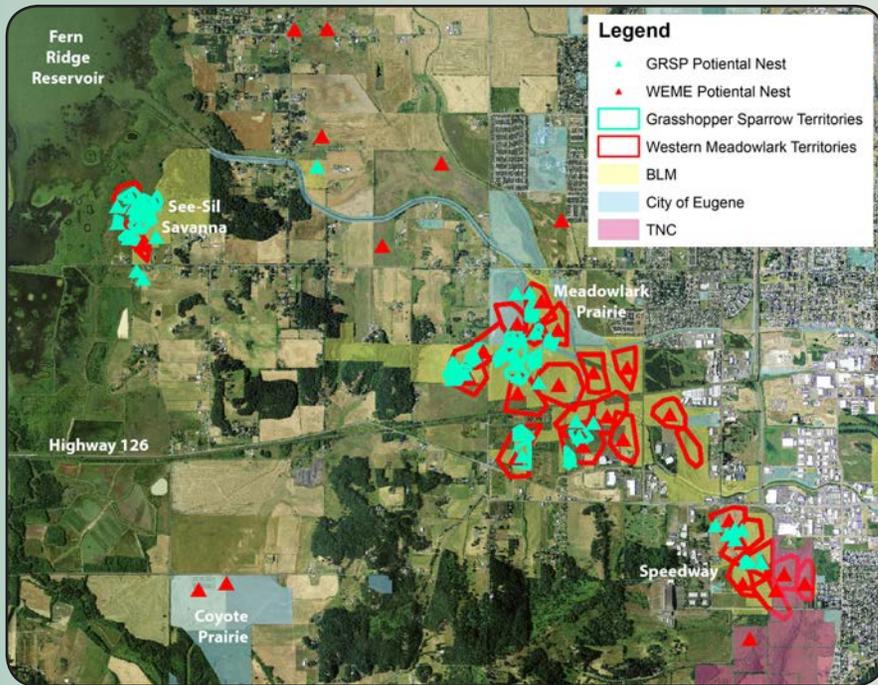
5.3 Thurston Hills Community Forest Plan Completed

In September 2014, **Willamalane Park and Recreation District**, with technical assistance from the Oregon Department of Forestry, completed the Thurston Hills Community Forest Plan, the subject of which is a 79-acre area in the northern portion of the 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA). Completion of the plan was a requirement of a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service (the first of its kind in Oregon) that helped fund acquisition of part of the THNA. The plan provides direction for future management and stewardship of the forest. It identifies overarching management goals, including: increasing awareness of forest stewardship through community engagement; maintaining a productive forest adjacent to the urban area; introducing public access, recreation, and environmental education; and showcasing best practices for sustained forest stewardship and timber management. In the coming months, Willamalane will be working with ODFW and BPA to develop a management plan for the entire 665-acre THNA.

Thurston Hills

Photo credit: Willamalane





5.4 Avian Survey with American Bird Conservancy

The primary goal of this partnership project between the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** and The American Bird Conservancy was to conduct data collection (avian census) and analyses to identify the habitat features and conditions in and around the West Eugene Wetlands that are being utilized by several priority grassland bird species. The information will be used to help guide ongoing and future prairie restoration efforts to support conservation of these birds. Preliminary mapped grassland bird census areas included:

- Western Meadowlark: Approximately 30-35 territories and 4 nest sites (BLM, City, TNC)
- Grasshopper Sparrow: Approximately 20-25 territories (BLM, City, ACOE)
- Vesper Sparrow – 1 territory (TNCs Willow Creek Preserve)
- Streaked Horned Lark – 1 territory (Coyote Prairie), sightings of Streaked Horned Lark observed at Greenhill and Turtle Swale in 2013.
- Western Meadowlark – 4 nest sites: One abandoned (Oxbow West) and three still active (Oxbow West, Turtle Swale, Speedway)

5.5 Lane County Parks Planning Activities

In 2014, **Lane County** restarted working on their Parks Master Plan which will guide the Lane County Parks Division over the next decade and expect to have it completed in 2015. Also in 2014, Lane County continued work on the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) for Howard Buford Recreation Area. This planning effort is well underway and is now waiting for the plan adoption process.

Mapped Territories of Grasshopper Sparrows and Western Meadowlarks

5.6 Dorris Ranch Habitat Restoration Plan

In partnership with **Willamalane Park and Recreation District**, the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** worked with specialists to develop a habitat restoration plan for an 80-acre area within Dorris Ranch Living History Farm in 2014. The plan proposed the enhancement and restoration of 80 acres of oak woodland, wetland prairie, and upland habitats. Restoring the oak habitat at Dorris Ranch will expand efforts to restore oak savanna elsewhere in the lower watershed by R2R partners **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** and **The Nature Conservancy**.

5.7 Landscape Architecture Students Produce Designs for Suzanne Arlie Park

In the fall term of 2014, Jeff Krueger led a landscape architecture planning and design studio at the University of Oregon that focused on the 500-acre **City of Eugene** owned Suzanne Arlie Park. Suzanne Arlie Park is located just to the east and south of Eugene's city limits and contains a diverse mosaic of high value native habitats including oak savanna and woodland, mixed forest, and prairie. The City purchased the property from Arlie & Company in two separate land transactions in 2008 and 2011 in order to preserve and eventually enhance these high value habitats and to provide a large-scale site that could accommodate a range of compatible recreational activities such as hiking, mountain biking, nature play, and disc golf in close proximity to the city. The property also fulfills the long-term regional goal of extending Eugene's ridgeline park system eastward toward Lane Community College and Mount Pisgah and will soon accommodate a two-mile extension of the ridgeline trail system from its current eastern terminus at Mount Baldy. The class, which was made up of dozen second-year graduate students and fourth-year undergraduates, conducted site analysis, identified target vegetation communities and species, proposed management actions, and each prepared an action plan for the park. Additionally, the students developed detailed designs for a variety of recreational uses and facilities including community orchards and vineyards, a disc golf course, mountain bike facilities, cyclocross, a group camping area, trails, and community meeting facilities. The final student work was packaged electronically and handed off to the City for future consideration.



Photo Credit: Philip Richardson

Landscape Architecture Students at Suzanne Arlie Park