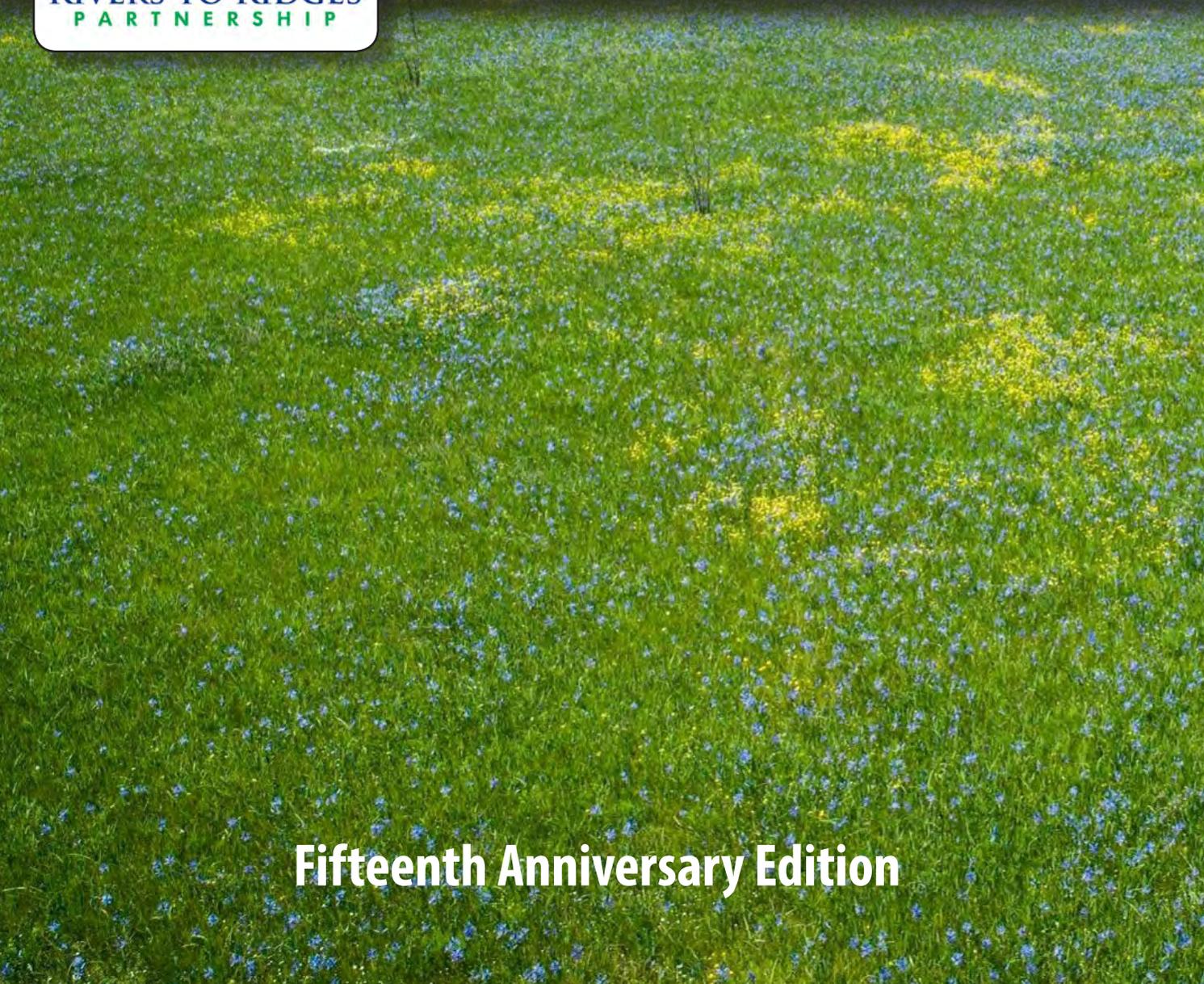




Rivers to Ridges Annual Report 2018



Fifteenth Anniversary Edition





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Cover Photos:
Post Burn Prairie in WEW (Meadowhawk Imagery)
Ecological Burn and Oaks at HBRA (Friends)
Lower Deer Creek Project (MWC)
Friends Native Plant Nursery (Friends)

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

**Rivers to Ridges
Annual Report 2018**



1

Rivers to Ridges Partnership Background and Overview

R2R Partnership Organizations

- City of Eugene
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
 - Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah
 - Lane County Public Works Department
 - Long Tom Watershed Council
 - McKenzie River Trust
 - McKenzie Watershed Council
- Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council
 - Mount Pisgah Arboretum (MPA)
- 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

1.1 The Rivers to Ridges Partnership

The [Rivers to Ridges Partnership](#) is a voluntary association of seventeen 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).

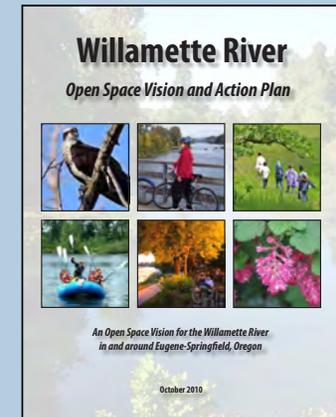
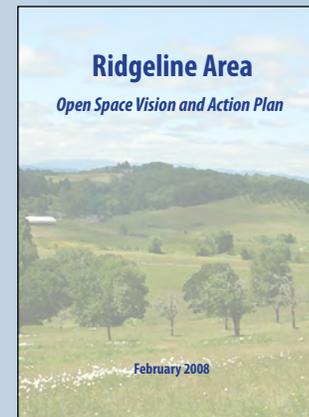
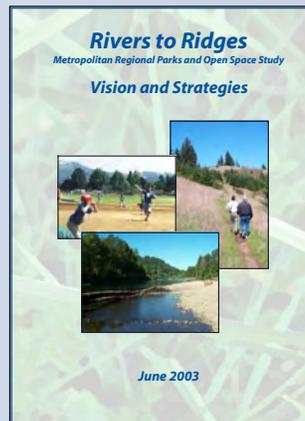
1.1.2 Vision Refinements

The 2003 vision was further refined by R2R partners in subsequent years and includes the [Ridgeline Vision and Action Plan](#) (2008) and the [Willamette River Vision and Action Plan](#) (2010). The Rivers to Ridges partnership was formalized in 2010 through a Statement of Partnership (SOP), signed by all partner organizations. The SOP outlines the administrative structure of the partnership and emphasizes the commitment to work collaboratively toward implementation of the vision.

The R2R Partnership mission is to advance implementation of the vision outlined in the Rivers to Ridges Metropolitan Regional Parks and Open Space Study – Vision and Strategies document.

Welcome Mount Pisgah Arboretum!

With the unanimous vote of the R2R Executive Team, Mount Pisgah Arboretum (MPA) was formally added to the Rivers to Ridges Partnership in December. MPA, a non-profit organization, is a 209-acre living museum that lies between the Coast Fork of the Willamette River and the slopes of Mount Pisgah on the western edge of the Howard Buford Recreation Area.



2018 by the Numbers

440

Acres planted with native seed produced by the Friends Nursery and WEW Plant Materials Partnership in 2018 combined

44.7

Miles of new trails and paths constructed within the R2R planning area since 2003

702

Acres treated through ecological burns on Partner lands - a record high

Rivers to Ridges on Facebook

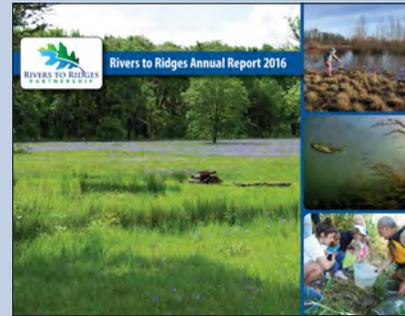
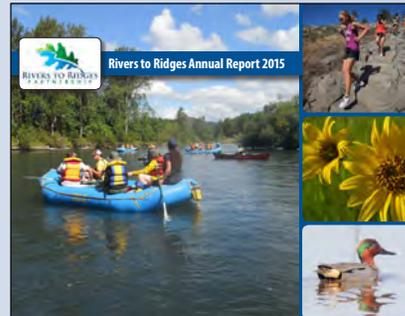


Please be sure to Like and Share!

Sunset on the Willamette River

1.2 Rivers to Ridges Annual Report

This is the sixth Annual Report produced by the partnership. The purpose of the report is to document key decisions and activities for the year and to provide an overview of administrative structure of the R2R partnership. 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.



[Click to Open Recent Annual Reports](#)

1.3 Rivers to Ridges Online

The R2R Partnership maintains a web site at www.rivers2ridges.org where vision documents, maps, annual reports, and information about R2R Partnership organizations can be accessed.



Photo credit: MFWWC



2

Land Protection

R2R Partner Conserved 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	4,531
Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah	63
Lane County	3,969
McKenzie River Trust	1,600
McKenzie River Trust Easements	1,131
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	607
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**	1,943
The Nature Conservancy	3,028
Willamalane Park and Recreation District	1,622
Total:	23,968

2.1 Land Protection in 2018

The past fifteen years has seen extensive land conservation efforts completed within the R2R planning area, with over 6,000 acres of permanently conserved land added to the system. Although no new land acquisitions were completed in 2018, several are in the works and are anticipated to close in the 2019 calendar year.

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

Rivers to Ridges partners currently own or hold permanent conservation easements on an estimated 23,968 acres of land within the R2R planning area (see table to the left). Since the Rivers to Ridges vision was endorsed in 2003, the R2R partners have combined to preserve approximately 6,241 acres of land, increasing the conserved land base by nearly thirty percent in a decade and a half.

- * BLM owns and manages another 27,409 acres of land within the Rivers to Ridges planning area, mainly O&C land within the Coburg and Thurston Hills.
- ** Includes 120 acres of Oregon Department of State Land ownership.



Photo credit: Meadowhawk Imagery

2018 Aerial Image of Thurston Hills Natural (Property Acquired by Willamalane in 2014)

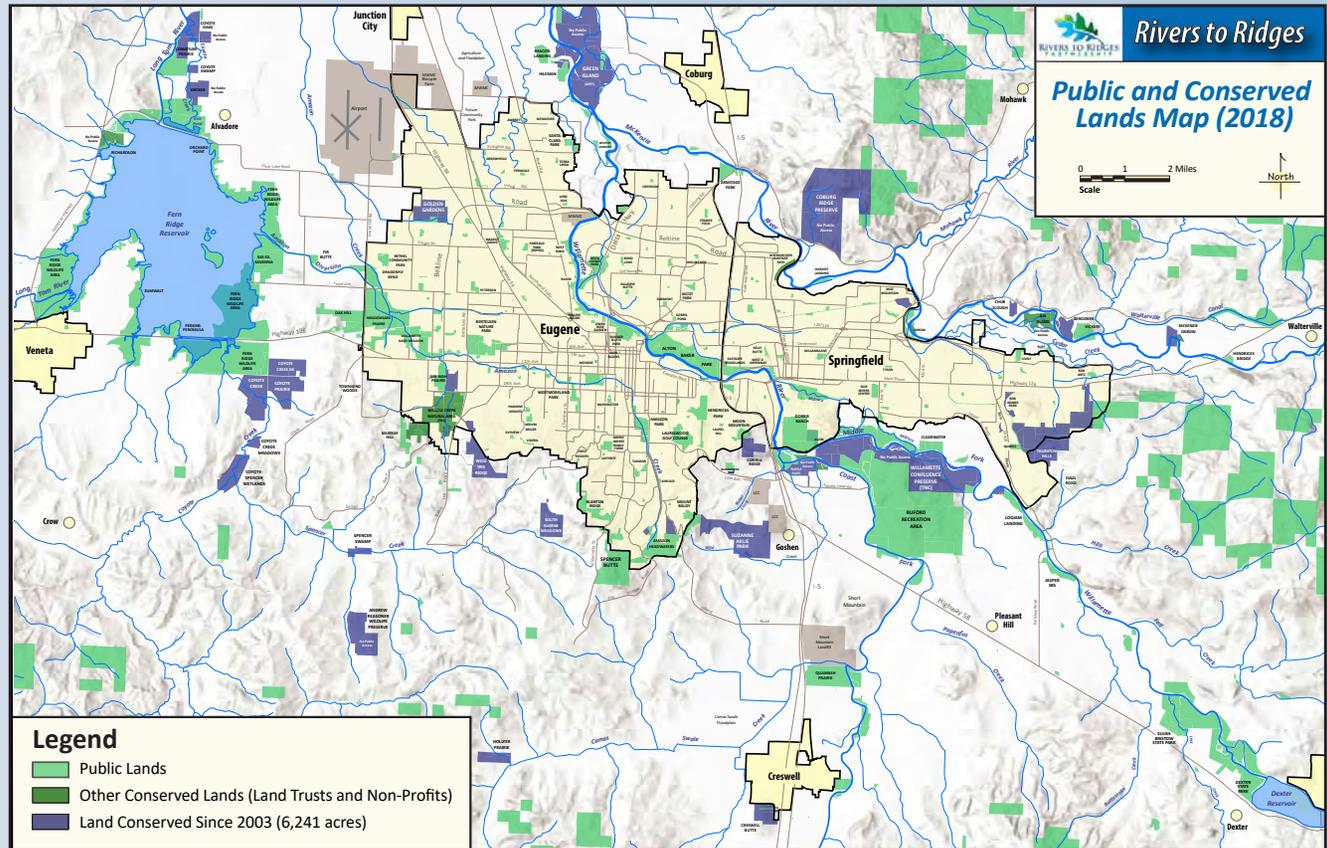


Photo credit: TNC



Willow Creek Preserve Hayfield Unit Burn

3

Habitat Restoration and Management

3.1 Record Year for Controlled Ecological Burns

The R2R Partnership completed a record number of controlled ecological burns and total acreage in 2018. Burning began on September 19th at **The Nature Conservancy's** Willow Creek Preserve and concluded at Howard Buford Recreation Area's South Bottomlands on October 19th. The partnership completed 25 units totaling 702 acres on **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, TNC, City of Eugene, Lane County, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administered lands.

First-entry (first-time) Partnership burns were conducted at TNC's Willamette Confluence Preserve, **City of Eugene's** Suzanne Arlie Park, and at the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's** West Coyote unit. Unusually late dry fall weather and atmospheric patterns favoring smoke dispersion allowed for a total of eleven burn days over the course of a month. Organizations assisting with this year's burns included Center for Natural Lands Management, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, **Friends of Buford Park**, Eugene-Springfield Fire, U.S. Forest Service, **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, Pleasant Hill-Goshen Fire and Rescue, Harrisburg Fire, Lane Fire Authority, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Woods, Inc., and Inbound, LLC.

3.3.1 Multiple Ecological Burns Completed in the Mount Pisgah Area

Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah in cooperation with **Lane County Parks**, **The Nature Conservancy**, the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, and other partners were able to conduct three days of ecological burning at the Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) this fall. Areas receiving ecological burn treatments included the Meadowlark East Unit in the southeast section of the park, the North Bottomlands near Spring Box Savanna, the South Bottomlands meadow complex near the Coast Fork Willamette River in the southwest section of the park, and TNC's Willamette Confluence Preserve. These ecological burns are an important management tool in helping us preserve and enhance meadow, prairie, and savanna habitats in the park. Following the burn, Friends offered a public tour through the Meadowlark unit which was attended by 30 people and collaborated with the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** to host a public talk featuring TNC's Fire Program Manager Amanda Stamper.

Yearly Acreage Burned by R2R Partners (acres)

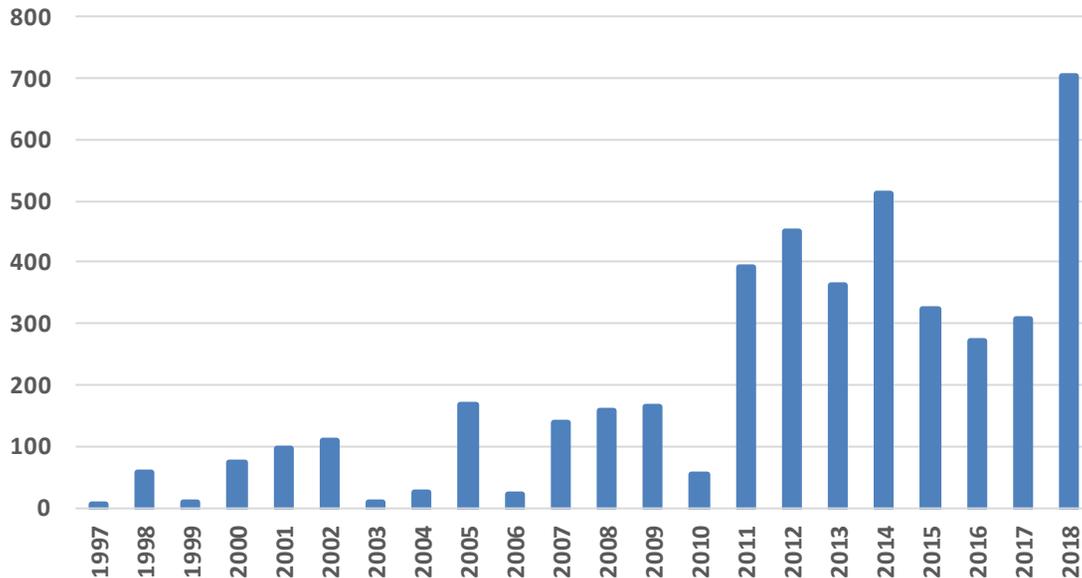


Photo credit: Friends

Howard Buford Recreation Area Burn



2018 Native Plant Sale at the Friends Nursery
(rosy plectritis in the foreground)



*Planting Underway to the
 Willamette Confluence Preserve*

3.2 Native Plant Materials

3.2.1 Friends of Buford Park & Mt. Pisgah Native Plant Nursery

The **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** (Friends) manages a native plant materials program with a two-acre nursery facility at its core. The nursery, located in **Lane County**'s Buford Park, propagates plant materials for use in habitat projects in the greater Mount Pisgah area. In 2018, Friends planted or seeded over 125 acres. Staff and supervised volunteers collect cuttings, divisions, and seeds from diverse native plant populations found at Mount Pisgah and then propagate them in the nursery. This year the nursery produced plant materials from 140 native species, including grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Most of the material produced in 2018 will be set aside in the Friends climate-controlled cooler and used to restore floodplain, prairie, savanna, and woodland habitats in 2019 and 2020. In addition, the nursery provided surplus seed and plants to other restoration entities for habitat projects elsewhere in the Willamette Valley including eight Rivers to Ridges partners.

3.2.2 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 providing seed of slow-growing, but long-lived prairie species, such as common camas and narrow-leaf mule's ear, that take five or more years to reach reproductive size and thus require a long-term production commitment. The Partnership's 0.1-acre camas beds, for example, are now producing between 40 and 75 pounds of seed annually.

In 2018, the partnership continued to supply native seed of over 60 species for use in local restoration and enhancement projects. Although almost all of the native seed used in the partnership is produced by Willamette Valley growers, the partnership continues to rely on hand collection from wild sites for a few, locally common wetland species and to add genetic diversity to the species grown for seed at nurseries. Seasonal botanists and interns working for the partnership hand collected seed of 26 native species in 2018 and continue to submit seed from these collections to the national Seeds of Success program, which partially funds the native plant materials program through the BLM. Altogether, about 1,050 pounds of local native seed was produced and procured for the plant materials program in 2018, with about 400 additional pounds used from seed inventory. The program successfully provided seed for 315 acres of restoration projects in over 20 locations, enhancing populations of native plants and animals throughout the West Eugene Wetlands.

3.2.3 Willow Creek Nursery

The Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek Nursery continues to produce small quantities of Bradshaw's lomatium, Willamette daisy, and Kincaid's lupine seed for use in local restoration projects, mostly at the Willow Creek Preserve.

3.3 Habitat Restoration and Management

Listed below is a sampling of major habitat restoration and management projects implemented by R2R partners in 2018.

3.3.1 Willamette Confluence Preserve Lower Middle Fork Restoration

The final phase of construction at **The Nature Conservancy**'s Willamette Confluence Preserve was completed in 2018 with a back-channel connection to the lower Middle Fork Willamette River and the restoration of several gravel ponds to be more fish and wildlife friendly. Several hundred logs from the **City of Eugene**'s Suzanne Arlie Park property were added to the dozens of habitat structures in the project area, and the final phases of planting are now underway, which will bring the total number of native trees, shrubs and plants installed at Willamette Confluence to over 500,000. Multiple funders and agencies have contributed to the Willamette Confluence restoration project.



Photo credit: Willamalane

Fuels reduction work at the Thurston Hills Natural Area

Excavators position large wood in the newly restored Lower South Fork McKenzie River floodplain



Photo credit: McKenzie Watershed Council

3.3.2 Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) Habitat Restoration and Fuels Reduction Projects

In 2018, **Willamalane** and the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** partnered to complete a 40-acre oak habitat restoration project in the THNA. This project addressed the degraded oak habitat through releasing the oak stands through timber harvest, snag creation of encroaching conifers, and repeated understory and prairie Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants before seeding with native forbs and grasses.

Willamalane also collaborated with the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** to treat vegetation along the main access road at Thurston Hills Natural Area in 2018. The treatment unit followed the gravel access road which bisects the property. This is the sole access for 400 acres on the west side of the property. The treatment within the unit creates an average 50-foot buffer along both sides of the access road. The treatment involved mowing and mastication of grasses, brush, and other woody fuels. Trees less than 12" DBH were removed from this zone and larger trees were limbed up 7 feet from the ground. Most oaks and madrones were selectively maintained. In addition to the actual work on the ground, Willamalane partnered with the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council to do public outreach around the topic of hazardous fuels reduction at the wildland urban interface. This is the first of many treatments that will be implemented at the site to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire while improving habitat.

3.3.3 Fern Ridge Wildlife Area – East Coyote Unit Enhancement

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife completed work on the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area - East Coyote Unit Enhancement in 2018. The project included the installation of 15 water control structures, rebuilding and restructuring of 1,450 linear feet of levees, and the excavation and re-grading of 3,000 feet of water conveyance swales. Improvements will enable ODFW to manage desirable water levels for wetland inundations, moist soil management, and wetland bird nesting habitat. Project partners included Ducks Unlimited and the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**.



Photo credit: ODFW

One of fifteen water control structure installed at the East Coyote Unit

3.3.4 Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase I

Phase I of the Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project reconnected over 150 acres of floodplain on U.S. Forest Service land downstream of Cougar Dam on the South Fork McKenzie River in 2018. The installation of Cougar Dam in 1963, placement of levees and berms along the streambank, harvest of riparian forests, and active removal of in-stream wood combined to transform the lower South Fork McKenzie floodplain from a diverse and resilient ecosystem to a simplified, largely single thread channel with limited habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species. The 2018 project removed over 85,000 cubic yards of berms, old roadbeds, and floodplain deposits. Sediment was utilized to raise the level along nearly 0.7 miles of the incised South Fork McKenzie River. Nearly 3,000 pieces of large wood were placed throughout the floodplain by a combination of ground-based equipment and helicopter. The South Fork McKenzie River is now flowing over 50 acres of new surfaces at base flow and once again forming a range of diverse pool, backwater, and wetland habitats. The project was managed by the U.S. Forest Service and **McKenzie Watershed Council** with significant support from the **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife** and **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**.



Photo credit: LTWC

Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve south of Eugene



Photo credit: MFWWC

Crew from R. Franco Restoration removing invasive species from along Gorrie Creek



Photo credit: OPRD

Riparian trees and shrubs ready for planting along the Middle Fork Willamette River in Jasper Park

3.3.5 Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve Oak Habitat Restoration Project

The Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve (ARWP) is located 5 miles south of the Eugene ridgeline and encompasses 283 acres of mixed species woodlands and savanna and 10 acres of upland prairie. The land is owned by Doug and Linda Carnine and conserved through an easement held by **McKenzie River Trust**. The Carnines have been busy implementing their own restoration work since 2004 to control invasives, retain open meadows, and release the most sensitive oaks and pines. In 2016, the **Long Tom Watershed Council** secured an OWEB grant with the goals of restoring 65 acres of open canopy oak woodland, 15 acres of oak-pine savanna, removal of encroaching invasive species, and enhancing 10 acres of native prairie. This past summer and fall, LTWC has made considerable strides toward completing this restoration project and will continue this work next year.

3.3.6 Madrone Meadow Upland Habitat Restoration

The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** is working with private landowners on a 55-acre property located near Fall Creek with remnants of oak woodland and savanna habitat as well as wet and upland prairies. As is common in the Willamette Valley, Douglas-fir, non-native trees, and invasive weeds have invaded these habitats. Therefore, in close partnership with the landowners and Walama Restoration, the MFWWC released four acres of oak woodland and cleared invasive weeds from seven acres of the property. The landowner is committed to carefully stewarding this land for decades to come.

3.3.7 Gorrie Creek Riparian Restoration

Thirty percent of the drinking water for the city of Springfield comes from the Springfield Utility Board well field located between the Middle Fork Willamette River and Gorrie Creek. The well system is shallow and, therefore, recharged by these surface water bodies whose water quality directly impacts the water quality of that in the wells. The section of Gorrie Creek that flows through the Springfield well field lacks native riparian vegetation and is dominated by reed canary grass. In February 2018, the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** planted 3,000 native plants along 1.2 acres of Gorrie Creek to help restore riparian structure and function, improve water quality, and increase groundwater recharge.



Photo credit: Tanya Harvey

Newly released oaks at Madrone Meadow

3.3.8 Aquatic Habitat Improvements at Jasper Park

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of improving aquatic habitats along the Middle Fork Willamette River at Jasper State Recreation Site. Several actions are now underway including site preparation for planting involving control of blackberry, removal of debris from the slough, and establishing a riparian buffer along the river totaling six acres. Additionally, the replacement of two undersized culverts with a box culvert was completed in 2018 to better connect the slough to the main river during flooding and allow passage of fish and amphibians.



Photo credit: McKenzie Watershed Council

Large wood placed in Lower Deer Creek



Photo credit: OPRD

Active floodplain at Dexter State Recreation Site



Photo credit: MRT

Fully planted south end of Green Island

3.3.9 Lower Deer Creek Enhancement Project

Deer Creek provides important habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species in the middle McKenzie River upstream from the community of Vida. A history of stream “cleaning”, timber harvest, and road building within the sub-watershed actively removed large wood from the stream channel and floodplain and degraded aquatic habitat. The Lower Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project was designed to restore aquatic habitat and floodplain connectivity through the placement of large wood within the stream channel. Over 200 pieces of large wood were added to the lower 0.7 miles of the creek on **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**-owned land in collaboration with the **McKenzie Watershed Council** and OWEB.

3.3.10 Coyote Spencer Wetlands Oak Release

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians sponsored a Northwest Youth Corps crew that cut and stacked female ash trees on the edges of the existing prairie at the **Mckenzie River Trust** Coyote Spencer Wetland site. The NWYC crew had created over 80 brush piles during this effort. The Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) funded a spray crew to treat re-sprouts and do additional ash removal near a Bradshaw’s Lomatium area. MRT hired Rosario Franco to burn the slash piles and IAE donated seeds to plant in the burned areas.

3.3.11 Floodplain Restoration Efforts Underway at Elijah Bristow State Park

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**, and partners have initiated several projects at the 855-acre Elijah Bristow State Park to restore ecosystem functions within the park. Project actions will include analysis, modeling, and designs to restore floodplain processes; removal of berms and other human-caused constraints to activate sediments and re-water the floodplain; restoration of 60 acres of riparian habitat along Lost Creek; and enhancement of prairie-oak habitats. The projects will greatly improve habitat conditions of native fish and wildlife species including Western pond turtle and Oregon chub. Work has also begun on the creation of a Natural Resource Management Plan for the park plus the nearby OPRD-managed Pengra and Dexter sites.

3.3.12 Habitat Restoration at Golden Gardens Park

In 2018 the **City of Eugene** partnered with the **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife** and the **Long Tom Watershed Council** to plant hundreds of native emergent and aquatic plant species at Golden Gardens ponds. The planting of emergent plants was made possible through the Long Tom Watershed Council’s Oregon State Weed Board grant with the goal of planting areas where Ludwigia had been controlled with native emergent vegetation. A three-year Competitive State Wildlife Grant aimed at implementing habitat restoration, population surveys, and invasive species control to benefit Western pond turtles funded the effort. Some of the aquatic plant species were purchased from a local nursery, while others were harvested, with permission from the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** from nearby Fern Ridge Reservoir and Kirk Pond.

3.3.13 Green Island Riparian Planting

In 2018, **McKenzie River Trust** completed their twelve-year planting effort on the northern end of Green Island, planting a total of 265,000 trees and shrubs across 195 acres utilizing OWEB and BPA funding along with many volunteer hours. A total of 40 different native species were planted. Planting on the southern half of Green Island had previously been completed.



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Installing aquatic plants



Photo credit: MPA

Wayfinding signage at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

4

Recreation, Education, and Events

4.1 Recreational Improvements

4.1.1 New Exhibits and Signage at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

In 2018, **Mount Pisgah Arboretum** completed installation of a new Oak Woodlands Exhibit, which highlights how seasonal changes create surprising interactions between species that find a home in and among the Oregon white oaks. This was followed by the installation of new educational signs on a 442-year-old Douglas-fir tree round. These new signs reimagined the 30-year-old display as a tool to discuss the science of tree rings and their ability to reveal stories of climate change and forest succession. Lastly, a new wayfinding plan was completed and, in early fall, over 20 new wayfinding signs were installed on the Arboretum's seven miles of trails.

4.1.2 Thurston Hills Natural Area Trail System Grand Opening

Six years ago, the **Willamalane Park and Recreation District's** \$20 million bond measure was approved by voters and specifically included a goal of acquiring property in the Thurston Hills for a natural area park and trail system. To date, Willamalane has leveraged its bond funding to acquire a total of 665 acres, constructed a major trailhead facility in east Springfield, and developed 4.5 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails on the property. In February, Willamalane held a grand opening event at the trailhead, attended by U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio and Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg and a large gathering of citizens and trail enthusiasts. Since that dedication, the new trail system been heavily used, and additional trail development is anticipated in the coming years, including connections with a forthcoming trail system to be developed on adjacent land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

4.1.3 Thurston Hills Mountain Bike Trail Construction

In 2018, **Willamalane** partnered with the **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** to gravel a new half-mile section of the Mossy Maple Trail at Thurston Hills Natural Area. Initially when the trail segment was opened in 2017, the public was routed to an overly steep road to make the connection from the North Access Trail to the Spine trail. The new alignment moves trail users off the steep road and provides a much better trail experience with an average trail grade of between 5 and 7 percent. Additionally, Willamalane also opened two new mountain bike trails at THNA in 2018 in partnership with the Disciples of Dirt, who donated over \$27,000 to the project in addition to over 1,700 hours of volunteer trail work. Willamalane also received a Recreation Trail Program grant from the **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**. The project was implemented by a professional trail builder, Ptarmigan PTrails from Port Orford and is considered to be the first mountain bike optimized trails in the Metro area. The trails were named in appreciation for the habitats and species found on the site and on the respective trails. The Yew Haw trail is a mile-long intermediate downhill mountain bike trail and the Acer Spades trail is a mile-long beginner downhill/flow trail.

THNA Trails Map

Photo credit: BLM



Mural painting at the BLM field office during the 2018 National Public Lands Day

4.1.4 National Public Lands Event at BLM Field Office

At an event sponsored by the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** and **Willamette Resources Education Network**, volunteers spent the morning of the 2018 National Public Lands Day painting a mural, cleaning-up garden beds, controlling invasive vegetation, and planting native plants at the West Eugene Wetland field office.

4.1.5 Recreational Improvements Completed at Finn Rock Reach

In 2018, **McKenzie River Trust** installed an informational kiosk and vault toilets and at its Finn Rock Reach boat landing. These improvements will allow for a tidier and more educational experience for the visitors to this heavily utilized boat landing. Signs for the kiosk are still in development and expected to be up before the 2019 summer season.



Photo credit: MRT

A vault toilet was one of the recent facility upgrades at Finn Rock

4.1.6 Events and Tours Held on TNC Preserves

The Nature Conservancy hosted nine public hikes at Willamette Confluence Preserve including one tour for participants with limited mobility, and two bird walks led by volunteer expert birders. At Willow Creek Preserve TNC hosted a Fender's blue butterfly focused interpretive walk in May and a volunteer work party in October where participants seeded over 75 pounds of native flower and grass species into prairies that were burned as part of our controlled fire operations in September.

Trail 4 on the north side of HBRA

4.1.7 Stewart Pond Trail, Recreation, and Visitor Service Improvements

A new 1.2-mile gravel trail was constructed at the Stewart Pond Complex in 2018 for the benefit of walkers, bikers, disc golfers, and other visitors of the recreation area. The pathway has helped reduce erosion and focus pedestrian travel from school groups, nearby business employees, and hundreds of disc golfers that come through on a weekly basis. Terracing, gravel and bark walkouts, retaining walls, and other structures were also constructed in order to harden areas, reducing erosion and providing for a higher quality recreation experience, throughout the disc golf course footprint. The **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** funded the project and implemented the work through a contract.

Photo credit: Catia Juliana



4.1.8 Major Reroute of the Lower Trail 4 at Howard Buford Reaction Area Completed

A major relocation and surfacing improvements were completed in 2018 on Trail 4 on the northeast side of Howard Buford Recreation Area by the **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** and **Lane County Parks** along with many volunteers. The new trail segment completes a shady wooded hiking option on the north side of the mountain and decommissions the old ankle-turning, eroded, and muddy section of trail. The new alignment winds through the dappled shade of Oregon white oaks and statuesque madrones, and displays a wonderful assortment of spring wildflowers such as Pacific hound's tongue, Oregon fawn lily, Menzie's larkspur, tall camas, Henderson's shooting star, Idaho blue-eyed grass, Tolmie's cat's ear lily, and more.



Photo credit: MFWWC

Volunteers at Dorris Ranch oak habitat event



Photo credit: MWC

Art activities at the Salmon Celebration



Photo credit: MRT

MRT's Get Outdoors Day at Green Island

4.2 Celebrations and Events

4.2.1 Volunteer Planting Event Held at Dorris Ranch

This habitat restoration event was organized by the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** and **Willamalane** as a follow up community engagement component of the OWEB restoration grant that funded oak woodland and prairie restoration at Dorris Ranch. Volunteers planted over 1,500 native plants and plugs to add diversity to the habitats that were enhanced as part of the Oak woodland restoration project. Over 50 volunteers came out on a blustery, wet Saturday in February to help with the planting.

4.2.2 Play in the Rain Day

The 11th annual Play in the Rain Day, which is intended to provide opportunities for youth to spend time in nature, was held at **Mount Pisgah Arboretum** in November. This free, fun, all-ages event attracted over 1,200 people and included tree climbing, campfire cooking, archery, nature crafts, hayrides, and scavenger hunts. The event is a collaboration of multiple organizations including **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, the **City of Eugene**, **Friends of Buford Park and Mount Pisgah**, Nearby Nature, Northwest Youth Corps, **Mount Pisgah Arboretum**, **Willamalane Park and Recreation District**, the U.S. Forest Service, Whole Earth Nature School, and **Willamette Resources and Educational Network (WREN)**.

4.2.3 Pisgah Heritage Festival

The first ever Pisgah Heritage Festival, organized by the **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah**, was held in June at the Native Plant Nursery on a beautiful summer day in June. The event is intended to celebrate the rich natural, cultural, and agricultural heritage of the area. The event opened with a greeting from Kalapuyan ethnohistorian David Lewis, who talked about the original people of the area. The event featured native plants for sale from the nursery and walks and talks throughout the even on topics including pollinators, Kalapuya History, pioneer heritage, and fermentation. Music was provided by local acts, Tyler Morin, A Side of Beets, and Edson Oliveira. Kids flocked to the large meadow, where they were greeted by a giant Sulcate Tortoise! They also got to meet native turtles, snakes and frogs, and they learned about protecting their habitats from Brad of Brad's World Reptiles. Event Sponsor Agrarian Ales poured Fog on the Mountain, a brew they made from heritage Seavey hops.



Photo credit: Catia Juliana

Heritage Festival participant

4.2.4 Salmon Celebration

The **McKenzie Watershed Council** celebrated the return of wild salmon to the Upper Willamette River Basin at the fourth annual Salmon Celebration on September 29, 2018. The event was held at the McKenzie Community Track & Field in Blue River. Volunteer educators provide hands-on learning opportunities on topics including macroinvertebrate identification, water quality, riparian ecology, wild Salmon viewing, fly-casting lessons, and a host of other family-friendly activities to over 100 attendees. The Salmon Celebration is made possible with help from a range of partners including McKenzie School District, **McKenzie River Trust**, **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**, McKenzie Community Track and Field, and the Wayfarer Inn.

4.2.5 Get Outdoors Day at Green Island

McKenzie River Trust's largest outreach event took place at Green Island on June 9. Despite the rainy weather, over 500 people visited the island to attend tours (mammals, birds, and restoration), go on tractor rides, and to enjoy a fun day on the land.



Photo credit: MPA

Site-based education at Mount Pisgah Arboretum



Photo credit: MWC

WATERS program students controlling invasives



Photo credit: LTWC

Joe Scott shows students of Team TEK how to construct a traditional camas oven

4.3 Education

4.3.1 Site-Based Environmental Education at Mount Pisgah Arboretum

Mount Pisgah Arboretum (MPA) provided site-based environmental education to 2,663 K-5 students in school districts across Lane County in 2018 through MPA's Discovery Tours Program. In addition, over 300 elementary students participated in a series of three field trips with Restoring Connections, a partnership with the Environmental Leadership Program at the University of Oregon which includes a stewardship component as part of the field trip. MPA's Walks and Workshops Program continues to see growth, with over 1,000 adults and families attending 39 natural history walks and 13 workshops this year. The Arboretum also partnered with Whole Earth Nature School and Nearby Nature to host 184 kids at summer camps.

4.3.2 Record Attendance at Annual Festivals

Mount Pisgah Arboretum's annual festivals saw record attendance in 2018, with more than 2,900 attendees at the May Wildflower Festival (a partnership with the Native Plant Society of Oregon and Lane Community College), and 5,400 attendees at the October Mushroom Festival (a partnership with Cascade Mycological Society and LCC). Both festivals provided opportunities to learn about local ecology from experts with curated displays, guided walks, and presentations.

4.3.3 Special Land Stewards

McKenzie River Trust's new Special Land Steward (SLS) volunteer program trained over 20 people in 2018 on how to monitor MRT's properties. Each SLS visited their assigned property a minimum of three times over the year and created a monitoring report. These stellar volunteers are helping MRT have more eyes on the properties we conserve and identify issues ranging from trespass to trash dumping to invasive species infestations before they become large problems.

4.3.4 WATERS

The Watershed Action Teams for Enhancement, Restoration, and Stewardship (WATERS) program integrates environmental education within priority watershed restoration and monitoring projects in the Upper Willamette River Basin. WATERS engages over 200 middle and high school students from 15 schools in six local school districts in the Coast Fork Willamette River Watershed and McKenzie River Watershed. Four high school teams focused on monitoring water quality in the City of Springfield urban core, Upper McKenzie River, and Mohawk River. Two additional high school teams completed stream habitat surveys associated with in-stream restoration projects on Deer Creek and Gate Creek. Fifteen middle school teams engaged in riparian restoration projects on a range of public and private lands. WATERS is managed jointly by the **Coast Fork Willamette** and **McKenzie Watershed Councils**. A student-led conference at the end of the school year provided a forum for over 100 students to share their projects with peers and the public.

4.3.5 Team TEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) Youth Education Program

Team TEK's Youth Education Program provides opportunities for Native middle school through college-age youth and their families to explore topics related to traditional ecological knowledge in the Long Tom Watershed and surrounding southern Willamette Valley. The program seeks to build relationships between youth and their families with lands that offer outdoor classrooms for exploring TEK, and the program offers lessons on habitat restoration techniques and natural resource professions, including engaging college-age and older Native mentors to share how they got to where they are today. LTWC facilitates the program and Native educators develop and implement the curriculum. This program is a collaboration that



Photo credit: MPA

2018 Mushroom Festival



Photo credit: MWC

Salmon Watch field study



Photo credit: MFWWC

Students from Thurston High Environmental Science class rest under an Oregon white oak after pulling teasel from a field of camas

includes area Tribes, Native youth organizations, and local educators, was created and piloted in the spring of 2018 with an initial cohort of eight students. A seed grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund, along with donations from numerous individual donors and partners including the Carnine family, **McKenzie River Trust**, Columbia Bank, and Bonneville Environmental Foundation, helped support the work, and Doug and Linda Carnine have graciously hosted many outdoor classroom events at the Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve. The program now have a fall cohort of six students with the goal of securing funding and support for the remainder of the 2018-19 school year.

4.3.6 Salmon Watch

Salmon Watch is a regional program that connects youth to the salmon life cycle by integrating in-class lessons with a field trip to see wild salmon spawning. Field trips are organized into four separate stations that examine salmon biology, water quality, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and riparian ecosystems. Stations are taught by volunteer educators and provide an opportunity for connection between community partners and students. In 2018, over 1,200 students from 8 school districts in Lane County participated in 40 field trips to the upper McKenzie River and Whittaker Creek on the Siuslaw River. The program is managed by the **McKenzie Watershed Council** with significant support from the **U.S. Bureau of Land Management**, **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**, McKenzie Flyfishers, EWEB, and McKenzie Masters.

4.3.7 Thurston High School Education Partnership

In conjunction with our restoration work in the Thurston Hills Natural Area, the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** and **Willamalane** have been working with three classes at Thurston High School (Environmental Science, College Now Biology, Forestry) to teach the students about native habitat restoration, Oregon white oak, invasive species, carbon sequestration, and forestry skills. This program includes in-class lessons followed by field excursions to Thurston Hills (just one mile from the school) where students complete service learning activities, conduct their own research, and participate in interactive field lessons with local professionals in their backyard.

4.3.8 Willamette Resources Education Network Education Program

In 2018, **WREN** held a total of 37 classroom programs and 24 field trips reaching a total of approximately 1,694 learners. WREN educators taught a range of thematic topics including: ecosystem services, restoration priorities, Eugene area watersheds, hydric soils, trophic jenga, and water quality. Educational programs not only share the rich natural history of restored wetlands, but also include opportunities for students to observe patterns, make relationship connections, and build models. WREN contributed as a key partner in 9 different community events, engaging approximately 3,906 people, and held 12 Wetland Wanders, totaling approximately 122 participants. The Wetland Wanders offer opportunities for adult learners to engage with a local scientist, naturalist, or natural resource specialist, walk relatively unknown properties, and learn about active restoration projects in their community.



*WREN
field study*



Photo credit: WREN



Photo credit: MFWWC

Katherine Nordholm from ODFW shows fish from the river to Middle Fork Bike Tour participants at Clearwater Park in Springfield



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Aquatic Invasive Species workshop at Delta Ponds

4.3.9 Middle Fork Path Bike Tour

The **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** and several partners hosted a bike tour along the Middle Fork Bike Path in Springfield in August. The tour started at Dorris Ranch and concluded at Clearwater Park. The group stopped along the way to hear from our partners about their clean water and habitat restoration efforts, including Springfield Utility Board, the City of Springfield, **Willamalane Park and Recreation District**, and the **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**. These partners shared how they are working towards a healthier watershed.

4.3.10 Arts Integration in Environmental Education

Integrating art into science curriculum accommodates diverse learning styles and can transform the way people think about humanity's relationship with nature because of its emotional and experiential power. In 2018, the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** Watershed Education Program utilized two art projects to deepen students' connection to the watershed. Fourth graders enhanced their year-long study of healthy salmon habitat by creating clay habitat sculptures featuring elements of healthy riparian and in-stream habitat. The project involved volunteer artists and parents, and donations of clay and kiln firing. Oakridge High School students learned about native lifeways in the Willamette Valley through a presentation by anthropologist and Kalapuya tribal member David Lewis. The students worked with the OHS art teacher to sketch images from the presentation and create a series of block prints.



Maiah Flack



Jesse Schnelle

Environmental themed block prints by Maiah and Jesse

4.3.11 Invasive Species Workshop at Delta Ponds

On June 19th, the **City of Eugene**, in partnership with Willamette Riverkeepers, Benton SWCD, Portland State University, and **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** held the first Eugene area Aquatic Invasive Species workshop at Delta Ponds. Participants, which included local/regional agency staff and members of the public, learned how aquatic invasive plants and animals threaten waterways and how best to prevent and/or control infestations. The training included paddling canoes and kayaks to observe and collect both invasive and native aquatic plant species, which were then brought back to shore for further examination and identification. The City's efforts to control Ludwigia at Delta Ponds continues to be a model that other agencies and organizations are following in their attempts to control aquatic invasive species. This workshop was a great way for City staff to both share knowledge and expertise, and highlight the success of many years of hard work.

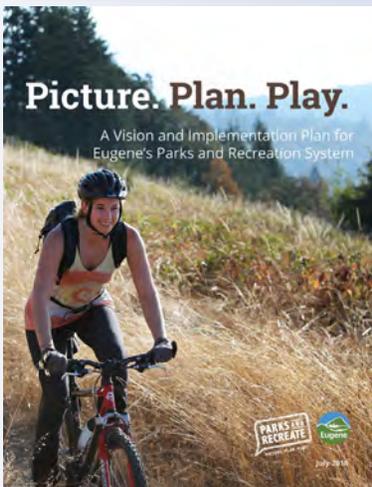
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Planning and Publications



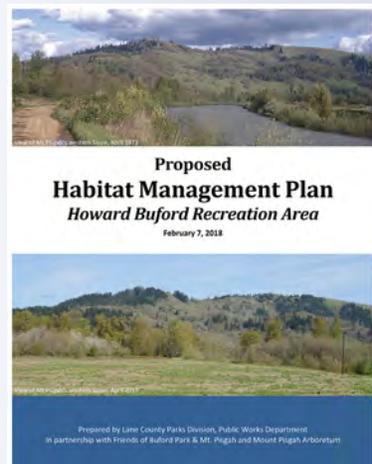
5.1 Lane County Parks & Open Space Master Plan

On December 18, the Board of County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt the new [Parks & Open Space Master Plan](#) that will guide investments and priorities for **Lane County**'s parks for the next 20 years. The new Master Plan replaces the previous plan from 1980 and is organized around six goals identified through community input and the work of a citizen-led, 23-member task force: collaborate, connect, create vibrancy, generate economic vitality, protect resources, and reflect our values. The new plan addresses the needs of the County's evolving communities, the realities of the current local economy, and the opportunities available to enhance the County's portfolio of 68 parks on 4,364 acres.



5.2 City of Eugene Parks and Recreation System Plan Update

2018 marked the completion and adoption of the [City of Eugene's Park and Recreation System Plan](#), which includes a vision and strategies to be implemented over a 30-year period along with high priority implementation recommendations for the next 10-year period. The plan proposes new parks and trails, habitat restoration, improved access and safety along the Willamette River, revitalized pools and community centers, and more recreational opportunities for underserved areas. Development of this plan took three years and included input from an estimated 12,000 citizens. Shortly after the plan was adopted, City residents voted overwhelmingly for a bond and levy to help fund implementation.



5.3 Howard Buford Recreation Area Habitat Management Plan Adopted

After many years of analysis and plan development by **Lane County** and the **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah**, the [Habitat Management Plan](#) (MHP) for the 2,214-acre Howard Buford Recreation Area (HBRA) was completed and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in December 2018. HBRA is Lane County Parks' largest and most-visited park, with 28 miles of trails and more than 400,000 annual visitors. The park also contains 1,000 acres of rare prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitat, which is one of the largest remnants of these habitats in public ownership in the Willamette Valley. The HMP is intended to guide Lane County land managers, park stakeholders, agency partners, and interested park users in managing and sustain the park's valuable aesthetic and natural resources. With this Plan in hand, park managers, partner agencies, and volunteer groups can work together more effectively secure funding to sustain the park's diverse habitats to benefit native wildlife and provide enjoyment to park users.

5.4 Designing for Downstream – Stormwater Retrofit Project Prioritization

Reducing the impacts of urban runoff in the Upper Willamette River system has been identified as an important goal by the **Long Tom Watershed Council**, the cities of **Eugene** and Springfield, local utility providers, and others. Codified stormwater management strategies are in place through Eugene's and Springfield's land use development codes but are only applicable to new construction. Public stormwater retrofit projects tend to be limited to road rights of ways and public parks. This leaves much of the existing urbanized land area without requirements to address stormwater runoff. The Long Tom Watershed Council has been working to fill this gap by partnering with private landowners to implement voluntary stormwater improvement projects through its Urban Waters and Wildlife Program, which has now completed fourteen such projects. After the program's first few years of outreach and project implementation, the LTWC has successfully generated interest in voluntary stormwater projects from over 200 landowners in its area of service. In 2018, LTWC developed and applied a prioritization methodology with the assistance of Jeff Krueger and numerous local partners. The sites that ranked the highest under this evaluation will be targeted for more detailed site analysis, design, and implementation.



Photo credit: Jeff Krueger

Landscape architecture graduate student Victor Garcia with his final design for Suzanne Arlie Park

5.5 UO Landscape Architecture Students Plan for Coryell Ridge and Suzanne Arlie Park

In spring term 2018, University of Oregon Adjunct Instructor Jeff Krueger led a landscape architecture planning and design studio that focused on the **City of Eugene**-owned Suzanne Arlie Park and Coryell Ridge natural area sites. The class, which was made up of a dozen first-year graduate and fourth year undergraduate students, conducted site analysis, identified target vegetation communities and species, proposed management actions, and prepared master plans for each site. Additionally, the students developed detailed designs for a variety of recreational uses and facilities including trails, a mountain bike skills park, nature play trails, a group camping area, a viewing platform, and a multi-use pavilion. Staff from several R2R Partners including City of Eugene, **Willamalane**, **The Nature Conservancy**, attended midterm and final reviews to provide feedback on the student work. The final plans and design details were handed off to the City for future consideration.

5.6 Advancing Western Pond Turtle Conservation in Washington, Oregon, and California

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the **City of Eugene** worked cooperatively at Golden Gardens Park as part of a broader three-year multi-state initiative to protect and enhance Western Pond Turtles. Project components at Golden Gardens included habitat restoration through the planting of emergent and sub-emergent vegetation as well as installation of small woody debris; control of non-native invasive animal species; implementation of standardized nest survey protocols; analysis of shell disease; and bathymetric and sediment depth mapping. This project is funded through a State Wildlife Grant and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation with in-kind from the City of Eugene and ODFW.

5.7 Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Station

The **U.S. Bureau of Land Management** operated a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Station at the West Eugene Wetlands for its third year in 2018. The station captured or recaptured hundreds of songbirds. The MAPS Program is a continent-wide collaborative effort among public agencies, non-governmental groups, and individuals to assist the conservation of birds and their habitats through demographic monitoring. Since 1989, more than 1,200 MAPS stations spread across nearly every state and Canadian province. Local community members volunteered over 200 hours of time during the 2018 season, and the effort would not have been possible without their contributions. MAPS data provides insights into important questions such as:

- What factors drive avian population declines?
- Where are problems most acute, on the breeding or non-breeding grounds?
- What drives differences in trends between regions or habitats?
- What is the relationship between population change and weather, climate, or habitat loss?
- What can we do to reverse declines?

5.8 Lower Long Tom River Habitat Enhancement Strategy

The **Long Tom Watershed Council** is working with the City of Monroe, the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, and lower Long Tom area residents to identify a fish passage solution that benefits native fish, the growth aspirations of Monroe, and the health of the entire watershed. Currently, a small dam in downtown Monroe owned by the Army Corps blocks upstream fish passage for juvenile spring Chinook salmon to over 100 miles of important rearing habitat in the Long Tom and its tributaries. Beginning in November 2016, dozens of watershed stakeholders have participated in public meetings and Steering Committee meetings to discuss project goals, understand current river conditions, provide feedback about fish passage alternatives, and share ideas. In 2018, LTWC and project partners developed a draft Lower Long Tom River Habitat Improvement Plan, and current activities include engaging the community in evaluating alternatives for the dam presented in the plan, gathering fish monitoring data, and community surveys that will work toward an outcome with the greatest watershed benefit that also meets community needs.



Photo credit: BLM

Bird banding station for the MAPS study



Photo credit: City of Eugene

Riparian plantings along Amazon Creek



Photo credit: LTWC

Upper Willamette Stewardship Network members



Photo credit: Jeff Krueger

Formal gravel quarry at Finn Rock Reach

5.9 Riparian Shading Inventory

Interns and **City of Eugene** staff spent hundreds of hours inventorying riparian tree and willow cover along the entire reach of Amazon Creek from Martin Street to Terry Street, as well as the Roosevelt, A-2, and A-3 channels in 2018. The data collected is being used to update the Amazon Shading Plan, originally completed in 2014. The updated document will summarize what reaches of Amazon Creek and its tributaries have been planted and which are in need of additional planting. This will help staff develop a plan for which City-owned reaches to plant over the coming five years and will also help identify and prioritize privately-owned commercial, industrial and residential sites lacking riparian vegetation. This work is being done in collaboration with the **Long Tom Watershed Council** (LTWC) who will use the revised Amazon Shading Plan to develop and guide outreach, to investigate potential incentivized voluntary shade enhancement strategies, and to implement one or two volunteer pilot planting projects on private land.

5.10 Tribal Funds Support Hydrology Internships

The Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation and the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund have awarded grants to the Friends for the Thompson Slough Hydrology Monitoring Internship Project. This project will train students from Lane Community College and University of Oregon to gather hydrology and geomorphology data for Thompson Slough at **Lane County's** Buford Park. Interns will survey a mile of the slough as the first part of a multi-year, interdisciplinary approach to floodplain restoration in the park.

5.11 New Coast Fork River Trail planned

Lane County and **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah** worked to redesign, enlarge, and re-gravel the North Trailhead parking lot during summer 2018, creating an opportunity for a new trail along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River in that area. The planned trail will connect the Mount Pisgah Arboretum boundary south of the Seavey Bridge to the north parking lot, and eventually continue north to the North Bottomlands. In collaboration with the **Mount Pisgah Arboretum**, Phase 1 (between the Arboretum and the parking lot) will be built in 2019, contingent on grant funding.

5.12 Advancing Diversity Equity & Inclusion in the Upper Willamette

In cooperation with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (comprised of R2R partners: **Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council**, **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**, **McKenzie River Watershed Council**, **Friends of Buford Park & Mount Pisgah**, and **McKenzie River Trust**), the **Long Tom Watershed Council** crafted a project proposal and funding strategy to engage in a multi-year, stakeholder process to develop a strategic action plan for advancing DEI in our shared service area. The project includes developing strategic action plans for each of the partner organizations, as well as a synthesis plan for the Network. The plan will include input and guidance from local stakeholders and community led organizations. The UWSN has contracted with the Center for Diversity and the Environment to facilitate and guide this work. The project began in Summer of 2018 and will conclude in fall of 2019. This work is funded by Meyer Memorial Trust, the Land Trust Alliance, private donors, and in-kind donations from within the partnership.

5.13 Finn Rock Restoration Plan

McKenzie River Trust has engaged Tetra Tech to create a restoration plan at Finn Rock Reach. The plan is still in the conceptual stage. The technical team reviewing the progress includes **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, **Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife**, the **McKenzie Watershed Council**, and **The Nature Conservancy**, with additional technical assistance provided the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council**.

6

Administrative Structure

6.1 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 outside funding sources for the administration of the partnership and currently relies on voluntary annual partner dues, plus a significant amount staff time contributed by partners. The basic administrative structure used by the R2R partnership, is described below.

6.1.1 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 members of the R2R Partnership and typically meets once annually. The 2018 meeting was held on December 7 at the Eugene Parks and Open Space office and was facilitated by Trevor Taylor from the **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**. The meeting included the addition of the **Mount Pisgah Arboretum** to the Partnership, Rivers to Ridges Team updates, and accomplishment presentation from Partners. In 2018, the R2R XT instituted a coordinator role. This person, Trevor Taylor in 2018, will facilitate the annual meeting, act as a point person between the XT and the R2R implementation team (IT) and coordinate communication among XT members as needed. Joe Moll of **McKenzie River Trust** has agreed to take over the coordination role for 2019.

6.1.2 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 approximately a half dozen times in 2018. The IT! meetings were coordinated by Audrey Squires of the **Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council** in 2018. August Jackson of the **Mount Pisgah Arboretum** has agreed to coordinate the IT! in 2019.

6.1.3 Rivers to Ridges Field Operations Group (FOG)

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 subcommittees with general meetings dedicated to guest lectures, trainings, or site visits. Emily Ring from **Willamalane** scheduled and coordinated the 2017-2018 FOG meetings and tours. Jennifer Weber from the **McKenzie River Trust** has taken over as the FOG coordinator duties for 2019 and 2020.