



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

Bringing people together for the Tualatin since 1990!

To inspire community members to protect the Tualatin River, we first must make them aware of the river. This was the idea that served as the main impetus in the creation of the Tualatin Riverkeepers thirty years ago in 1990. The infamous “Westside Bypass” was the catalyzing issue that led the way. Concerned watershed citizens Rob Baur, Kathy Clair and April Olbrich were troubled about the loss of rural and farmland in Washington County due to the proposed Westside Bypass project. They put their heads together and, along with the help of other concerned community members, organized the first Tualatin River Discovery Day. This paddle event that launched from Elsner Park in June of 1990 would serve as a way to get

folks out on the river, building a personal connection that would lead to stewardship of the river for years to come.

Incorporating in February 1992, Tualatin Riverkeepers was now preparing for the 3rd Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day. In 1993 TRK received 501 (c)(3) federal tax-exempt status from the IRS. Adding to its role as a recreational organization, TRK began to significantly enhance its organizational capacity by securing office space and launching a Watershed Watch advocacy program. The new program promoted stewardship by receiving direct citizen observations and reports of river conditions. The first paid staff persons were hired in 1995 as the organization began to line up a long list of new Riverkeepers, volunteers that helped achieve the new mission to protect and restore the Tualatin River while spreading awareness of the river as a valuable natural resource.

Once the most polluted river in Oregon, the Tualatin River has made an amazing comeback. Partnerships have been created and sustained with all of the cities in the watershed, relationships with government funders have helped to establish and sustain our various programs, and support from a variety of foundations have helped the organization become the strongest watchdog group in the watershed. Throughout the past 30 years our collaborations with other local non-profit and community organizations have strengthened our mission and helped to consistently move TRK forward.

Celebrating Three Decades of Discovery Days



Harold's Evolution Throughout Tualatin Riverkeepers' History

TRK chose the green heron (*Butorides virescens*) as the symbol of TRK, the co-founders called him Harold.

Original



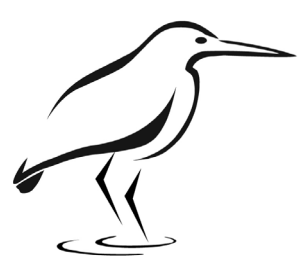
2005



2008



Today





TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS® 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

This past year was one of evaluation and growth for our organization. We started the year with a brand new Executive Director, Kris Balliet, and a new direction for the organization began to unfold. We said goodbye to old friends and colleagues on both the board and staff, as we welcomed new folks to fill the voids left by each individual's departure.

We hired a trusted outside consultant, Jonathan Poisner, to lead us through a thorough and thoughtful strategic planning process, which resulted in our new 3 year Strategic Plan which was approved by the Board in December. We are all very excited for how this planning brought us closer as a team, as well as challenged us to hone and refine our ongoing work.

On the program side, we decided to re-evaluate our Education Program. The long standing program will still be a pillar in our organization, but needs to reflect the desires and needs of the community we serve. A committee was formed and a new structure will be unveiled early in 2019. We also brought on new staff to support our growing programs and projects within the watershed.

Ashley Short joined as the Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator as our past Advocacy Manager, Ruby Buchholtz, took on a new role for our organization as the Communications and Grants Coordinator. We also welcomed Mark Fitzsimons as our new Outreach Coordinator. He will be leading our Trips and Tours program. We also brought on Piedad Mayagoitia as our new Community Engagement Coordinator. Of course, our anchor for office management and institutional memory is still firmly on staff, even after 17 years. Thank you, Margot Fervia-Neamtzu!

Not all of 2018 was focused on internal growth and changes. We have many highlights and successes to share. First, we hosted a variety of events this year, some new and some old. Our 29th Discovery Day at Farmington Paddle Launch was a hit with a little over 200 people attending.

River Discovery Day, had an amazing 29th year with a little over 200 people attending. We want to thank all of our dedicated Volunteer Trip Leaders and terrific seasonal staff that worked hard to support this program last year.



In 2018 we were able to get 3,357 people on the river to experience the beauty the Tualatin River has to offer, 454 of which were at no charge to the participant.

Although our Education program is currently being evaluated to ensure we are serving the community to our fullest, we still had an outstanding year with kids from ages 4 to 13. We hosted six different summer camps during the summer. We held a camp at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge for ages 4 to 6, and the rest at Dirksen Nature Park where kids discovered, explored, and learned about the environment around them.

We also tried something new this year and partnered with Washington County Solid Waste and Recycling to co-host a tire collection event. Tires left outside and uncovered can leach pollutants into the ground and inevitably end up in our rivers and streams. With massive help from volunteers we were able to collect 621 tires of all shapes and sizes, offering us an opportunity to connect with new community members in the watershed. The event was so well received that we plan to continue hosting these types of events in the future.

We collected 621 old tires, keeping them from ever entering our waterways!



We were also able to accomplish our stormdrain mural project, which was a pilot project for all partners involved. TRK partnered with Centro Cultural, Muslim Educational Trust, Metro and the cities of Tigard and Hillsboro to select two artists to create multicultural sidewalk murals. The murals are located around the stormdrains to increase awareness about urban pollutants that make their way to our waterways. The two artists selected were local artists, Linda Dalal Sawaya and Kanaan Kanaan. Both artists not only designed their murals, but also spoke with numerous people passing by while painting their murals in downtown Tigard and downtown Hillsboro.

through the generosity of Metro Nature in Neighborhoods, Meyer Memorial Trust, and our cherished Anonymous Donor.



The second year of the Green Jobs Training Program wrapped up and planning for year three began. We had 6 wonderful students complete the program which consisted of 10 modules led by experts from the natural resources field. This program is a partnership with Centro Cultural and Muslim Educational Trust, funded

Other highlights from 2018:

- Testified at Metro regarding the urban growth boundary expansion proposals
- Membership growth and renewal
- We welcomed new board member Brett Laney



- Our second year hosting Rain Barrel Workshops and we are now able to offer more workshops in more places because of our new partnership with the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
- Ongoing restoration projects with Ash Creek Forest Management, Adelante Mujeres, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin and Clean Water Services
- A very successful Annual River Clean Up led by long-time volunteers
- Celebrated our 14th Annual Rumbol Rio event with families from Adelante Mujeres



As always, our members, volunteers and supporters are critical to our successes. Without you, we would not be standing Farewell, 2018! **Bring it, 2019!**



TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®

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OUR MISSION

Tualatin Riverkeepers is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access and education.

The Tualatin Riverkeepers became a nonprofit in 1992 and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

503-218-2580

www.tualatinriverkeepers.org



Tualatin Riverkeepers is proud to be a Waterkeeper Alliance Member.



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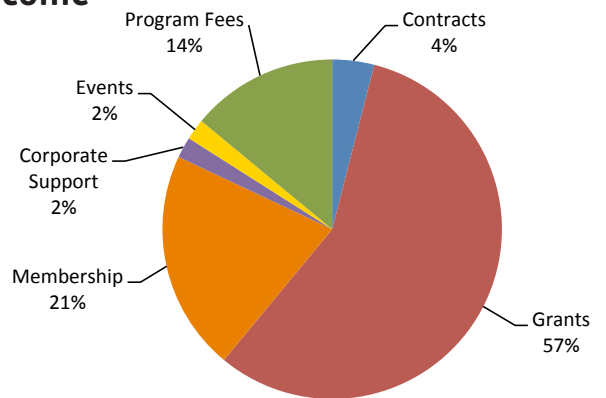
Margot Fervia-Neamtzu,
Office & Membership Manager

Mark Fitzsimons,
Outreach Coordinator

Piedad Mayagoitia,
Community Engagement Coordinator

Ashley Short,
Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

Income



Expenses

