TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS®
2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Empowering the community to protect, restore, and enjoy the Tualatin River

Photo by Curtis Heikkinen
The popularity of the Tualatin River as a dynamic river to explore via kayak, canoe or SUP continued to increase and our number of hosted paddlers continued to rise. Through all of our Trips & Tours programs, TRK Paddle Trip Leader Volunteers guided hundreds of paddlers on a variety of river experiences.

Continuing our goal of reaching out to everyone who calls our watershed home, we hosted a number of well-attended paddle trips with local groups such as Unite Oregon and Muslim Educational Trust as just two partners who advocate for immigrant and refugee rights. Sharing stories of their experiences with waterways and natural areas from their homelands as we enjoyed a leisurely paddle helped us all connect to the Tualatin River watershed.

TRK’s summer staff launched close to 2,000 paddlers from our Cook Park Boat Rentals in Tigard. After spending quality time on the river, 250 new families decided to become official Riverkeepers through membership. We continued to spread the word and let people find out for themselves that the Tualatin River offers a paddling experience that is fun, safe and accessible for everyone.

TRK’s annual events added another year to their tallies. In June, we hosted our 27th Annual Tualatin River Discovery Day. Families from Adelante Mujeres also participated in our summer Rumbo al Rio (Heading to the River) paddle and education event. Some of the high school aged participants have been attending this event since they were in kindergarten! Paddlers who participated in our Persons with Disabilities Paddle found that most disabled persons can enjoy paddling with little or no modifications to kayaks or canoes. Local elected officials flexed their muscles and their paddling skills at our annual Politicians Paddle Race in August.

Through offering memorable experiences on our waters and green spaces, our recreation program is fast-tracking opportunities for children to foster a connection with the natural world and help make learning fun. After all, our motto is “Clean Water, Dirty Kids!”

In February 2016, TRK hired Charissa Jones as the Environmental Educator, beginning a year of both transition and growth for the education program. With the support of our dedicated Volunteer Naturalists, our Field Trips Program expanded to include a fall session to ensure that there are ample opportunities to serve local K-8th grade students. We were able to host over 1,400 students on 28 field trips in 2016 with 60% of the schools being Title I.

TRK reaches youth through three main programs: field trips, nature camps and community opportunities. Community work is grounded on pioneering collaboration with institutions such as Community Partners for Affordable Housing and Adelante Mujeres, ensuring that youth from a truly global background are exposed to what makes the Tualatin magical. In order to continue to provide valuable experiences for youth and their families, we seek out partnerships that can provide us with resources and mentorship. The education program has put in a strong effort to continue strengthening old and developing new partnerships with organizations such as the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. The Portland Metro STEM Partnership has also been instrumental in helping to provide professional development towards improving our curricula and program design.

Heading into 2017, we are strengthening our aim to instill curiosity and excitement for nature in our youth, and hope that the students of today become the Watershed Stewards of tomorrow.
OUR MISSION
Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization working to protect and restore Oregon’s Tualatin River system. TRK builds watershed stewardship through education, public access to nature, restoration and advocacy.

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

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Income

Expenses