



# Long Tom Watershed Council

April 2020 Newsletter

Action  
Through  
Understanding

## Explore the Rare Coyote Creek South Wet Prairie!

View this project's "Story Map" by visiting [longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth/](http://longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth/)!



Learn more about Coyote Creek South's wet prairie and vernal pool restoration through our [online and interactive Story Map!](#)



Raccoon print

### Inside this Issue

- Letter from the Executive Director...2
- Fun Ideas while Social Distancing...3
- Introducing Coyote Creek South!....4
- Donor Appreciation .....5
- Summer Volunteer Opportunities....6
- Volunteer Appreciation .....7
- Operation Appleseed .....8
- Watershed Map .....8
- Staff and Board Contacts.....8

*The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin and surrounding drainages through education and collaboration among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.*

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## ***The Health of a Watershed is Inextricable from the Health of its People***

If you've called the Council offices recently, you probably reached our voicemail. For weeks, members of our team have been working remotely to do our part to "flatten the curve" of the COVID-19 outbreak. *Our work for a healthier watershed has taken on a new meaning with the arrival of this virus to Oregon, but that work hasn't stopped.*

All of our work depends upon people sharing ideas with each other and planning for the future. There is plenty of that still underway through video conferences and the old fashioned phone call. We also continue to improve the function of our watershed using protective protocols safely outside. The ecological challenges we face as a watershed will still be here once this pandemic is under control. We are doing our best to keep momentum where we can, while supporting our team to take care of themselves, and the most vulnerable in our community by implementing, and going above and beyond, the guidelines of the Oregon Health Authority and Governor Brown's shelter in place order.

Our staff benefits from immediately accessible paid sick leave, health insurance benefits, and maximum flexibility to work from home. We have equipped our team with the necessary technological tools for their home office, and safety equipment and protocols for in the field.

This crisis presents immediate challenges for our contractors, many of whom are currently working on H2B work visas from Mexico. Our dedicated contractors continue to be the backbone of our projects, and they too rely on income from our projects to keep their families fed, safe, and healthy in this time of crisis. So far, we are pleased that we are able to keep projects underway in support of our essential contract partners. We continue to monitor the unfolding crisis with guidance from our national, state, and local officials on how best to ensure the safety and stability of our interconnected communities.

Over the past few weeks I have found plenty of reasons to feel anxious or uncertain as this crisis has unfolded. But I've also found many reasons to be hopeful, and buoyed by our team's and community's resourcefulness and resilience in the face of this serious threat.

The return of the rufous hummingbird from their wintering sites in Mexico to their summer breeding area in my front yard has been a colorful reminder of the continuity of the natural systems with which we are so intimately connected. My hope is that you too can use this time at home to forge stronger connections with the natural systems where you live.



Male Rufous Hummingbird by VJ Anderson

Inside this newsletter, you'll find a creative way to explore our Coyote Creek South project virtually right from your computer or phone! We have also compiled a list of fun resources you can use to

explore our broader world from the window of your computer screen. As you try these ways to stay connected to the work at hand, I hope that you'll also explore creative strategies to stay in community with each other - so that while we are physically distancing, we are keeping the social connections that make up our watershed community as close as ever.

Thank you for all you are doing to keep our community and watershed healthy and safe. Reach out anytime.

Sincerely,

Clinton Begley  
Executive Director  
Long Tom Watershed Council

### **Just for Fun: Top 8 Social Distancing “To Do’s” (From City of Eugene Recreation)**

1. Drive around Eugene to check out all the amazing [20x21 Murals](#) across Eugene.
2. Watch live webcams of your favorite animals at the [San Diego Zoo](#) or aquatic creatures at the [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#).
3. Visit [National Geographic Kids](#) to find amazing facts about animals, science, history and geography, along with fun competitions, games, and more.
4. Experience “The Museum of the World” by [The British Museum](#).
5. Take a tour of America’s most popular parks. Virtual tours allow visitors to travel through the trails of [Yellowstone National Park](#) or [Yosemite National Park](#).
6. Take a trip to Mars with [Access Mars](#) and see the real as recorded by NASA’s Curiosity rover.
7. [100 Ways to Play](#) courtesy of Boston Children’s Museum.
8. Travel the world from your couch with these breathtaking [360 tours](#)





## ***Explore Coyote Creek South with our Online Story Map!***

**[longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth](http://longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth)**

In lieu of a public meeting while we're all practicing physical distancing, we wanted to provide an opportunity to virtually explore one of the Council's wet prairie restoration project sites at Coyote Creek South. **Our website at [longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth](http://longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth) allows you to take an interactive online tour through our newly launched online story map!** The story map uses Graphic Information System (GIS) tools to combine text with maps, images, and interactive graphics.

In 2018, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) supported the Council with a grant for an exciting project to help us "tell the story" of collaborative restoration actions on Coyote Creek South, a 309-acre property located between Eugene and Veneta and managed by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). The goal of this public engagement effort is to communicate ecological outcomes and the scope of the habitat restoration and monitoring actions to the community through a combination of visual products. In addition to the story map, LTWC created a **brochure** and **fact sheets** about the restoration and monitoring actions at Coyote Creek South. **These downloadable resources are also online for you to explore.** We contracted with Natalie Reed at Creative Pollen to develop the design for the brochure and fact sheets.

Historically maintained as part of the Kalapuya people's prairie horticulture system in the Willamette Valley, Coyote Creek South is part of a complex of more than 8,500 acres of protected lands around Fern Ridge Reservoir that include the largest remaining acreage of wet prairie in the valley. Many of



the plant and animal species associated with these wet prairie habitats have become threatened or endangered because of habitat loss, including the streaked horned lark and the red-legged frog. The property serves critical ecological and hydrological functions that support a diversity of plant and animal life, and is part of the broader 8,500-acre West Eugene Wetlands and Fern Ridge Wildlife Area that comprises the largest remaining acreage of wet prairie habitat in the entire Willamette Valley. In addition to wet prairie, the site hosts other biologically and culturally important habitats, including riparian forest, oak savanna, ash swale wetlands, and vernal pools.



Vernal pool at Coyote Creek South

**So fire up your browser on your computer, tablet, or phone, and virtually immerse yourself at Coyote Creek South! [longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth](http://longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth).**

## ***Save the Date for Summer Volunteer Paddle & Pulls!***

Join us on the water this summer for some canoeing fun in the watershed while helping the Council to control ludwigia, an invasive aquatic weed. LTWC will be partnering with our friends at McKenzie River Trust (MRT) to host two volunteer events this summer as part of MRT's "Watershed Wednesday" volunteer series. Those Wednesdays will be **July 15th** and **August 5th** - both from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Mark your calendars if you're interested! Contact Amanda Reinhotlz for more information or to RSVP: [amanda@longtom.org](mailto:amanda@longtom.org).



## Thank You for Giving to LTWC!

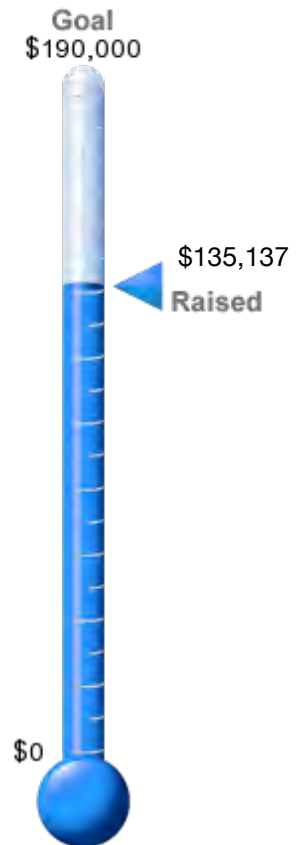
We would like to thank our donors of the last few months who have given generously to our current campaign to make fish passage in Monroe a reality! You can see everyone who has given and join them by visiting our campaign website: [longtom.org/springchinook](http://longtom.org/springchinook)

**UP TO \$150:** Rick Ahrens, Laura Allen, Merle & Kathy Allen, Vicki Blackman, Sharon & Jim Blick, Mike Brinkley, Paul Brown, Ted Brown, Paula & Denny Conn, Marcia Cutler - In honor of John Coglein, Alan & Sue Dickman, Lee Dulcy, Ron & Karen Gilson, Green Theory, LLC, Allan Gubrud, Nancy Hafner, Becca Hale, Nikolai Hall, Keyte Hladky, Lauri Holts, Einar & Deb Ingebretsen, Kachina Inman, Debra Johnson & Bill Harper, Jeff Krueger, Jessica Lambright, Laughing Stock Farm, Gary Lech & Sally Crum, Darian Lightfoot, Lochmead Farms, Ashley Malan - In honor of Piper, Pepper & Lee March, Fred Meyer, George & Pat Miller, Shelly Miller, Eileen Nittler & Greg Van Vlack, Kelly Parrott, Matthew Parrott, Letha & James Pontius, Leo & Carole Poole, Robert Bingham Powell - In honor of Ty & Dick Zeller, Jim & Connie Regali, Reinsche Family LLC, Jim & Joan Remington, Nancy Rich in honor of Jim Rich, Anami Ridge, Court Smith, Carrie & Joseph Steinbach, Transition Management, Inc., United Way of Lane Co., Charles & Karen Van Duyn, Phyllis Weare, Rudy Weidenbeck - In memory of Molly B., Liz Vollmer-Buhl, Peter Pollock & Diane Yates, Charles Zennache & Bonnie Henderson, Anonymous (2)

**UP TO: \$500:** Rolf Anderson, Bauman Family Tree Farm, Jim & Mary Ellen Bradshaw, Leslie Burpo, Doug & Linda Carnine, Barbara Combs, Allen Dong, The Iris Charitable Fund, Patricia McDowell, Kate and Dwight Nilan, Whitey Lueck, McKenzie Flyfishers, Network for Good, Organically Grown Co., Jim & Christine Pendergrass, Kevin Shanley, Steve Soltesz & Ditte Lokon, Jodi Sommers & Jay Keister, WildCraft Cider Works

**UP TO: \$2,500:** Oregon Community Foundation Advised Fund, Ray Morse & Phyllis Helland, Kurt & Mary Koehler, Karen Leigh, Mountain Rose Herbs, Royal Blue Organics / Café Mam, John Winquist

**UP TO: \$5,000:** "Anonymous Acorn Woodpecker" Family Charitable Trust



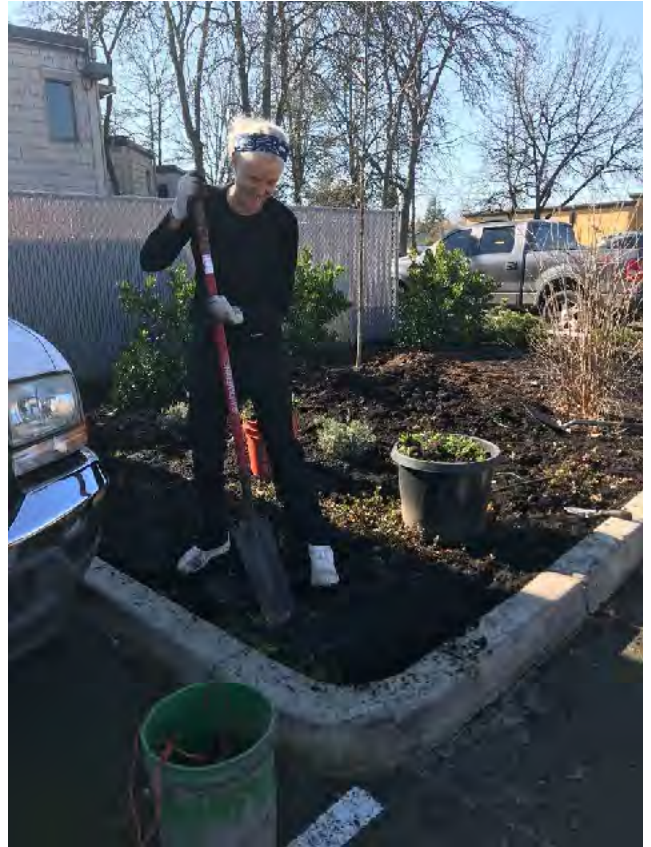
## *Volunteers help support a healthy watershed at HIV Alliance!*

Thank you to the half dozen or so volunteers who helped plant the rain garden at HIV Alliance in March! This volunteer project was part of another fantastic “Watershed Wednesday” event coordinated by our partners at McKenzie River Trust.

In addition to planting new trees and removing invasive weeds, volunteers added compost and biochar to the soil, the latter of which was created from trees that were thinned on that Andrew Reasoner Wildlife Preserve as part of an oak habitat enhancement project. The resulting charcoal, or “biochar,” was added to the soil to aid in filtering stormwater flowing through the rain garden.

The new trees were directly funded by our Faith Community Fund! Local faith leaders have worked with LTWC and McKenzie River Trust to build a planting fund for conservation work in our watershed, so we want to thank St. Mary’s Episcopal Church and the Earthkeepers for this awesome partnership! The Faith Community Fund is part of an expanding group of funders and business donors helping to pay for plants on LTWC project sites such as the Arbor Day Foundation, Worthy Garden Club, One Tree Planted, and Promise the Pod.

Urban rain-gardens are a beautiful and easy way to help protect our local watershed. You can learn more about this urban water work at our website: [longtom.org](http://longtom.org). Thank you to HIV Alliance for investing in green infrastructure and to volunteers and partners for keeping these gardens growing!



# Operation Appleseed

Big news! LTWC is helping to plant one million trees in Oregon for communities and wildlife! We are partnering with Worthy Garden Club and Arbor Day Foundation for this "Operation Appleseed" effort!

## Why trees?

Trees are natural superheroes. They improve air and water quality, expand natural habitats for wildlife, and help to sequester carbon! Planting them is one of the easiest & effective things we can do to make Oregon more climate resilient.

## Where are we planting?

To do our part in our area of Oregon, we're planting 120,700 trees at Snag Boat Bend on the mainstem of the Willamette, 6,000 trees on Long Tom's tributary Bear Creek, and 3,660 trees right here in Eugene as part of an exciting urban stormwater project to improve water quality in Amazon Creek! These and other plantings in this multi-partner project focus on high-need public and private lands and utilizes a diverse array of native trees that will support local ecosystems and create viable and sustainable impacts.

Stay tuned for more info and updates on this exciting initiative! Big thanks to Arbor Day Foundation and Worthy Garden Club for their support of this huge planting projects! You can help make this big vision for Oregon happen Operation Appleseed by donating at:

[operationappleseed.com/donate](https://operationappleseed.com/donate) or directly to council at our website at [longtom.org](https://longtom.org).



# LTWC Board of Directors

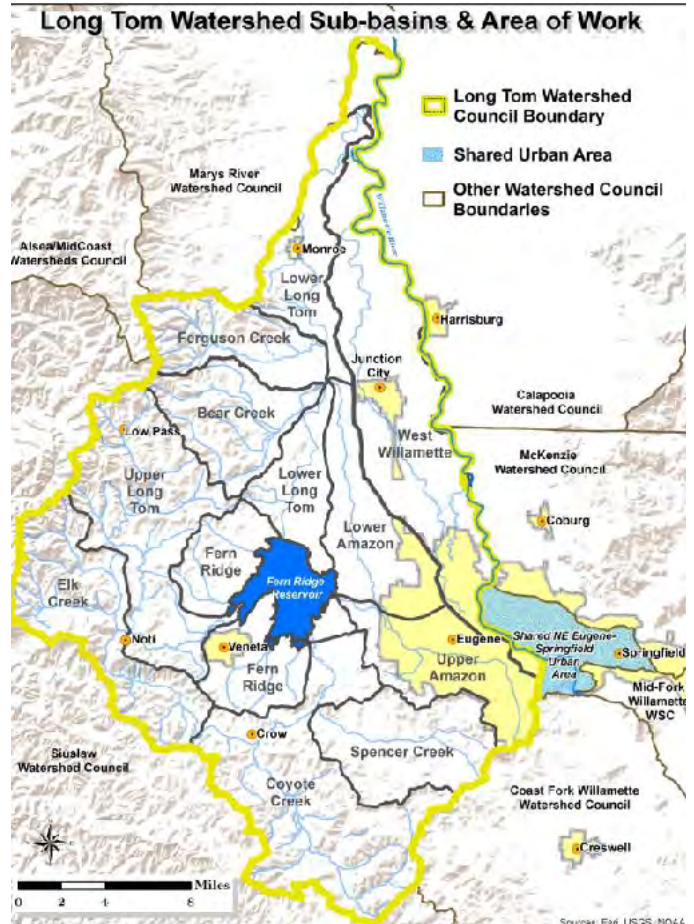
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