



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL'S 2021 ANNUAL CELEBRATION AND FUNDRAISER

Week of Celebration
September 23 - 30



longtom.org/celebration2021

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Still Connecting, Still Learning, and Still Restoring!

During this year's **Annual Celebration & Fundraiser**, we invite the watershed community to join us for a "Week of Celebration." Rather than hosting a single large event, this year's celebration will feature a series of smaller outdoor tours for 20-30 people each (pending state COVID guidance), culminating in a virtual event on September 30th. Register for a chance to attend one of three outdoor tours to connect with others and learn about projects to improve watershed health. These outdoor sessions include a tour of Winter Green Farm, Willamette River restoration at Snag Boat Bend, and an urban stormwater project at HIV Alliance.



Attendance is FREE, but Registration is REQUIRED for all events, including the virtual celebration. Outdoor tours will be open to between 20-30 people each, and community members who register will be eligible to attend a maximum of one tour.

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CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

- **Thurs, Sept. 23:** Watch for a series of social media posts highlighting this year's watershed awardees as we kickoff our week of celebration
- **Sunday, Sept. 26 (2 - 3:30 p.m.):** Tour an organic farm and restoration project at Winter Green Farm
- **Tues, Sept 28 (4 - 6 p.m.):** Tour of Willamette River restoration project at Snag Boat Bend
- **Wed, Sept 29 (5:30 - 7 p.m.):** Tour of Trout Friendly Landscape project at HIV Alliance
- **Thurs, Sept 30 (6 p.m.):** Virtual Live Celebration. We'll recognize award winners, elect new board members, and give out prizes!



OUTDOOR TOURS

LEARN MORE & REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO ATTEND!

Deadline to Register for Tour Lottery is Monday, September 20th at 5 p.m.!

Since each tour is limited to a small group, we will be selecting participants via a lottery system. **Those interested in participating can register for a chance to attend by visiting our website at longtom.org/celebration2021/.** Please note that there is a limit of one entry per family of four or fewer. **Lottery winners will be chosen and notified by Sept. 22nd.**



Winter Green Farm Tour

Sunday, Sept. 26, 2 - 3:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Winter Green Farm

Location: 89762 Poodle Creek Road, Noti, about 2 miles north of intersection with Hwy 126 (directions and map will be sent to tour attendees)

Tour Description: *This tour is perfect for families and people of all ages and ambulatory abilities!* Winter Green Farm is a 171-acre certified organic farm founded in 1980. Nestled among the Coast Range foothills along Poodle Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek, the property owners participated in a habitat restoration project alongside LTWC in the mid 2000s. The multi-phase project included riparian planting and livestock fencing, oak savanna restoration, and the excavation of pools for native amphibians.

Educator, farmer, and LTWC board member Jabrila Via and her husband, Wali, will lead a guided tour of the farm, on foot and/or by hayride. The walking distance is about 1/4 mile on gravel or mowed grass). There is also a tractor hayride with little to no walking required.

Willamette River at Snag Boat Bend Tour

Tues, Sept. 28, 4 - 6 p.m.



Photo courtesy of River Design Group

Location: Snag Boat Bend is approximately 11 miles north of Harrisburg on the west side of Peoria Road. There is a large sign at the road and a public parking lot. (directions and map will be sent to tour attendees)

Tour Description: Snag Boat Bend is a unit of William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) located just south of the community of Peoria on the Willamette River. The gallery forests at the refuge provide essential habitat for songbirds, and the backwater slough creates critical slow-water habitat for native salmon and trout.

LTWC fish biologist Jed Kaul will lead the tour, along with project partner Samantha Bartling from the USFWS. Walking distance will be approximately 1 – 1.25 miles over gravel, on a boardwalk, and through grass with some uneven terrain. Tour attendees will get to view the Willamette River and side channel, culvert installation, bird blind, and several age classes of new plantings.

OUTDOOR TOURS (CONTINUED)

Rain Garden Project at HIV Alliance

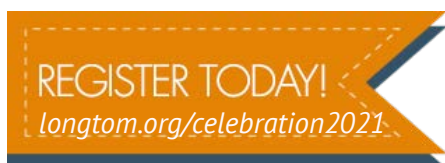
Wed, Sept. 29, 5:30 - 7 p.m.



Location: 1195 City View St, Eugene, OR 97402 – 2 driveways south of West 11th Ave. along Amazon Creek and Fern Ridge Bike Trail (directions and map will be sent to tour attendees)

Tour Description: *Perfect for people of all abilities!* Join us for a tour of an urban restoration project in the heart of Eugene. The Council worked with HIV Alliance to install two project phases to date with more on the horizon. In Phase I, we reconfigured a parking lot to drain into a 520 square foot linear rain garden treating 12,170 square feet of parking lot; this filters pollutants and cleaning stormwater before it flows into Amazon Creek. Also in Phase I, several planting beds were rejuvenated, improving their soil structure and planting them with native and native compatible plantings. In Phase II, significant soil areas were rejuvenated, adding compost and biochar to allow for more water absorption and support more soil organisms that will better support the new perimeter tree plantings that were also part of Phase II. See how we are building climate resilience into all urban projects!

Urban Waters & Wildlife Program Manager Sarah Whitney will lead the discussion and describe the installation process and techniques. She will be joined by Diana Silva of HIV Alliance.



Important Notes About All Tours:

Voting: Attendees of the Sept. 30th virtual event and any of the tours will have an opportunity to vote on a proposed incoming slate of board members. At the beginning of each tour, there will be a short introduction by LTWC staff, which will include a brief vote. Information on this year's board candidates will be provided in advance to both tour attendees and registrants of the live event.

What to Bring: Mask; comfortable shoes or boots; coat or rain jacket (dress for the weather!); water bottle

What's Provided: Water, snack bars, masks, hand sanitizer, first aid kits, extra masks

COVID-19 Protocols: In order to ensure the safety for all attendees, our maximum threshold for each tour is 20 - 30 people. **All tour attendees will be asked to wear masks, and when able, maintain at least six feet physical distancing between households.** Masks will be provided for folks who forget.

At the time of publication, incidences of COVID-19 in our area are higher than they have ever been since the start of the pandemic, and we are following CDC, state, and health expert recommendations closely. We'll continue to monitor the severity of the situation in September, and we may need to adjust our outdoor tour plans accordingly.

Other Safety Considerations: First aid kits will be on site at each tour. September is also wildfire season in Oregon, and air quality can be unpredictable. In the event smoke creates hazardous or unhealthy conditions, we will cancel any outdoor events.

Questions about tours and/or registration? Rob: operations@longtom.org

Deadline to Register for Tour Lottery is Monday, September 20th at 5 p.m.!

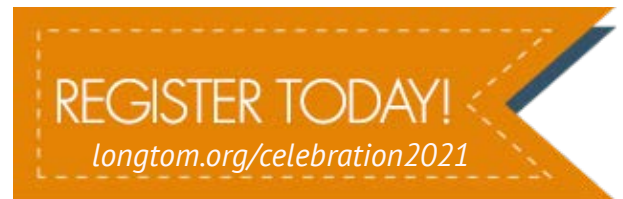
VIRTUAL LIVE EVENT

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30TH AT 6 P.M.

The finale of our week of celebration will be a brief (30 - 45 minutes) virtual broadcast on Thursday, September 30th. Unlike the outdoor tours, there is no lottery - **any and all are welcome and encouraged to attend!** Attendance is free, but we are requiring pre-registration so attendees can participate in a short board election during the broadcast. All pre-registered attendees will receive an event Zoom meeting link ahead of time.

Live Event Features:

- **Give out Awards!** We'll honor this year's Watershed Awardees - the outstanding project and community partners, volunteers, contractors, and other folks who have made invaluable contributions to our watershed over the last year.
- **Elect New Board Members!** We are asking attendees to register so that you'll be able to participate in a virtual vote to elect our incoming slate of volunteer board members. Help us welcome them aboard!
- **Highlights & Accomplishments!** We'll look back at a few of our major accomplishments from the last year, which we couldn't have done without you, our watershed community.
- **Prizes!** We'll be giving out prizes at the end! **Anyone who donates any amount toward our Annual Celebration Fundraiser will be entered in the drawing for prizes!**



Deadline to Register for Sept. 30th Live Event is 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 27th

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



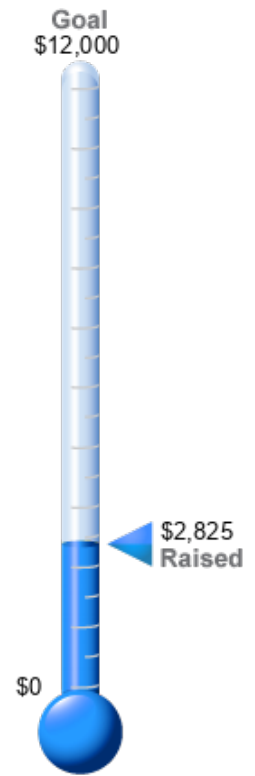
The Long Tom Watershed lies within the traditional homelands of the Tribes and Bands of the Kalapuyan peoples. Following treaties in the 1850s, the Kalapuya people were dispossessed of and forcibly removed from their Indigenous homeland by the United States government. Today, many descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. We acknowledge that we are on occupied lands, and express our respect for Kalapuya and all Tribal Nations of Oregon, and the important contributions they continue to make to their communities, including to the stewardship of this watershed.

HELP US REACH OUR \$12,000 FUNDRAISING GOAL!

We at the Council are continually inspired by our watershed community's resilience, collective wisdom, diverse talents, and passions. Last year, we hosted our very first virtual annual celebration, which we also rebranded as a celebration and fundraiser. Like so much in the last year, that approach was new to us, and we weren't sure what to expect. **What we experienced was an outpouring of generosity that carried forward into our year-end appeal.** Combined, your giving exceeded our expectations with over \$25,000 raised in a few short months. Your gifts are essential to keep the work going to improve the health of our watershed. This last year, despite a pandemic, we were able to continue working for you on behalf of the watershed by continuing to form new relationships and partnerships, and steward existing ones; we improved habitat and water quality through urban, stream, riparian, oak, prairie, and wetland restoration projects; we also brought you virtual programming to keep you connected through a series of YouTube presentations.

Our goal for this year's week of celebration is to raise \$12,000 to support amazing and cutting-edge work in the Long Tom Watershed!

Thank you for all that you do for this watershed, and please help us meet this year's goal by giving whatever is meaningful to you.



WAYS TO GIVE:

- Use the online form (longtom.org/celebration2021) to pay with your credit card
- Mail a check, payable to LTWC, to 11 East 27th Ave, Eugene, OR 97405
- Purchase LTWC logo wear: hats, plush otters, and steel pint glasses at the online form.



***With your gift of any amount, be it \$1,000 or \$1.00, you will be entered into a drawing to win a prize that will be announced during September 30th's live event.**

Thank You for Giving to LTWC!

JULY - AUGUST 2021 GIVING

Bruce Campbell
Josh Hinerfeld & Andrea Binder
Sarah Hocken & Peter Karlik
(restoration project match)

Kurt & Mary Koehler Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Carrie Mcgranahan
Allen Mullen
Marion Sproul

Laura Sievert
Gregory Van Vlack
(improving land stewardship through tribal engagement)
Earth Care Interfaith Fund
(various donors)
Anonymous

THE AMAZON CREEK PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP ENTERS ITS SECOND DECADE

This June, LTWC and partners completed a rapid strategic planning process to guide the Amazon Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) into the next five years. The Amazon Creek PSP is a collaborative effort between the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and area partners like the City of Eugene, local stakeholders, and LTWC. The goal of the PSP is to monitor pesticides in Amazon Creek to determine which chemicals are of greatest concern to local water quality. This data is used to engage local stakeholders to voluntarily reduce, eliminate, or mitigate the impacts of pesticide use on their properties. Amazon Creek, the Long Tom River's largest tributary, is one of 10 pesticide stewardship partnerships in Oregon, and has been enrolled in the program since 2011.



As we move into the PSP's second decade, the strategic plan process was an important opportunity to review progress, establish monitoring priorities for the next five years, and set an action plan moving forward. The plan includes a wealth of information on Amazon Creek history, geology, and geography, and summarizes both regional and Amazon Creek-specific toxics data to help contextualize Amazon PSP data trends. But at the heart of the strategic planning process was a set of one-on-one interviews with partners and stakeholders. These stakeholders included farmers, industrial businesses, sawmills, local NGOs, federal and state agencies, and municipal partners. These interviews helped us understand program strengths and weaknesses, identify where we might achieve more collaboration and synergy, and identify priority pesticide user groups.

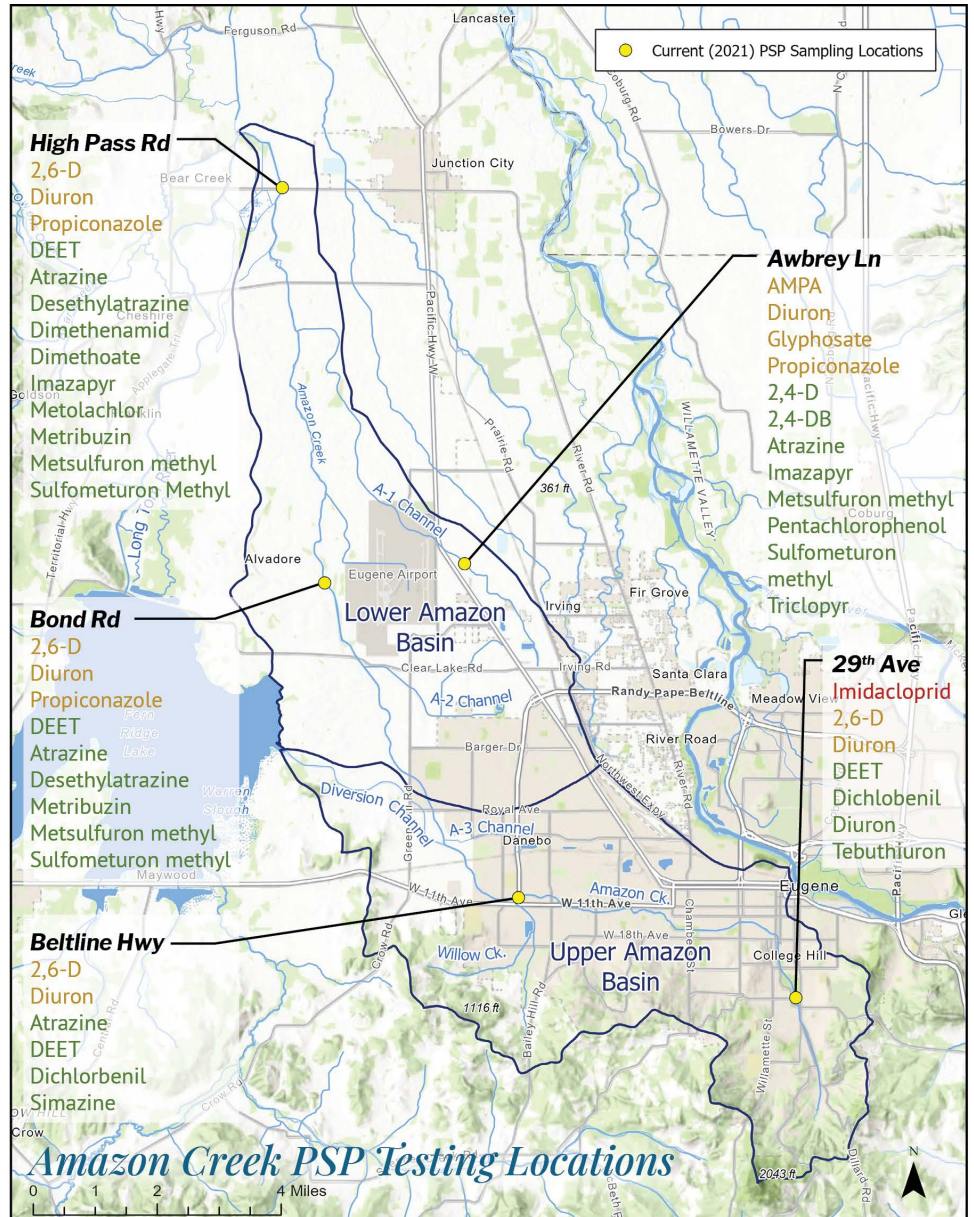
This strategic process identified two priority pesticide applicator groups to address: 1) urban industrial and commercial users, and 2) agricultural users. To increase the impact and resiliency of our efforts, work alongside these pesticide users and applicators will be embedded into two regional partnerships: the Urban Waters and Wildlife Partnership and the Upper Willamette Working Lands Program, respectively. These programs are already helping to generate region-wide funding streams, reduce redundant efforts between partners, increase communication, and leverage the diverse strengths and capabilities of members. For our stakeholders, we hope the biggest impact of these programs is a more seamless and streamlined experience in finding the right support to help make voluntary improvements towards the health of our watershed.

Continued on next page

One of the bigger questions we hope to continue working toward answering with the data is whether water quality conditions are improving, and if collective community efforts are having a measurable impact. Overall, it seems like Amazon Creek is trending in the right direction. The concentrations of almost all detected pesticides in Amazon Creek have been going down, with the exception of atrazine (no trend), glyphosate (upward trend), and sulfometuron-methyl (upward trend).

As we shared in the March 2021 newsletter, this downward trend in pesticides is a promising sign of the watershed community being willing to make important strides to improve watershed health, and it reflects a decade of collaborative efforts from LTWC, the City of Eugene, and other partners. However, the results continue to speak to the need for sustained vigilance and continued improvement. Our friends downstream in Monroe receive all of their drinking water from the Long Tom River and its tributaries, including Amazon Creek. There is still much work to be done to improve drinking water and water quality in general, and it will require a community-wide effort.

We recognize that the impacts of water quality and environmental conditions, including the detrimental impacts of pesticide use are experienced unequally by race, economics, occupation, and urban/rural residency. Our programs strive to address this inequity and provide support to those most impacted by the quality of our local water.



Each sampling location labeled with 2020 detections and level of pesticide concern: **High Concern** Moderate Concern Low Concern

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: LONGTOM.ORG

Save the Date for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival!



WILD & SCENIC[®] FILM FESTIVAL
where activism gets inspired

NOVEMBER 16
A Benefit for the
Upper Willamette
Stewardship Network



The Wild & Scenic Film Festival comes to Eugene on Tuesday, November 16th! Join the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) in celebration of our environment and the people working to care for it across the globe. This year's film festival will be adapted to keep our community safe from COVID-19.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival works with nonprofits across the globe to host the film festival as a way to reach out to communities and bring together a diverse audience.

TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH. More to follow on our website and newsletter!

CORRECTION

We're issuing a correction fo last month's newsletter. The interview with Dana Dedrick printed an incorrect response to the question listed below, and we've reprinted her correct answer. Thanks again to Dana for sharing a bit about herself!

What is the coolest or most important trend you see out there today?

"That we are running back around the circle of community to see who has capacity to be more involved - people and entities we have left out. People that have been here since time immemorial, and people whose voices we have not heard. We are a big choir of talented people and there's always room for more contributions, more learning, and more caring."



REGISTER BY MAIL FOR LTWC'S WEEK OF CELEBRATION AND/OR MAKE A DONATION!

YOU CAN ALSO GO ONLINE AT LONGTOM.ORG/CELEBRATION2021

I would like to register for the LIVE EVENT on Thurs, Sept 30 at 6 p.m.*

- Yes
- No

Our live event is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE. We are requiring people to pre-register since we will be electing a slate of new board members, and we need to have a list of who is attending to participate in the vote. We will send you a Zoom link as part of your registration confirmation. DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR LIVE EVENT IS SEPT. 27!

I would like to Register for one of the OUTDOOR TOURS!

- Organic Farm tour at Winter Green Farm - Sun, Sept. 26, 2 - 3:30 p.m.
- Willamette River project at Snag Boat Bend - Tues, Sept. 28, 4 - 6p.m.
- Urban Stormwater tour at HIV Alliance - Wed, Sept. 29, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Select which of outdoor tours you would like to attend by checking the box(es) above. In order to ensure the health and safety of our community, each tour is capped at 30 attendees. Attendees will be selected via a LOTTERY DRAWING. Each registrant is eligible for a maximum of ONE tour. DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR TOURS IS SEPT. 20! Drawing winners will be announced on by no later than Wed, September 23.

Name(s) of Attendees: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation toward LTWC's 2021 Annual Celebration Fundraiser!!

Anyone who donates a gift of ANY amount to LTWC before September 30th will be entered into a drawing to receive a "door prize" during our Sept. 30th live event.

Name as you would like to be recognized: _____

Amount of Gift: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Long Tom Watershed Council or "LTWC"

DRAFTING ASSISTANT JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

We're hiring! LTWC is looking to hire a Drafting Assistant to join our incredible team of staff. The Drafting Assistant will provide support for the Urban Waters & Wildlife Program by drafting Trout Friendly Landscapes and stormwater retrofit projects using AutoCAD and performing site visits to gather site information. The ideal candidate will have a demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the Council's mission and will be experienced with drafting in AutoCAD.

Position is 20-40 hours/week with flexible scheduling. Starting compensation ranges between \$20 - \$22/hour depending on experience and includes a generous benefits package (health/dental/vision + PTO + retirement match + short-term disability)

DEADLINE TO APPLY is September 17 at midnight. Check out our website for the full position announcement and application instructions.

longtom.org/drafting-assistant-job



Mission Statement

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.



11 EAST 27TH AVE.,
EUGENE, OR 97405

(541) 654-8954

COORDINATOR@LONGTOM.ORG

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