



# LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



One of the four rain gardens installed at Willamette Christian Center. Visit [longtom.org/wcctour2023](https://longtom.org/wcctour2023) for more info!

## URBAN STORMWATER PROJECT TOUR

Thursday, September 14, 2023 | 6 - 8 p.m.

Willamette Christian Center | 2500 W. 18th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402

We will be hosting a **public tour of the Trout Friendly Landscapes project at Willamette Christian Center in west Eugene on Thursday, September 14th**. This joint project transformed a two-acre asphalt parking lot, intercepting runoff with four 200-foot plus linear rain gardens, greatly increasing the size of the planting areas, and improving the existing soils – including the 20-foot-wide mound of soil that separates the site from W. 18th Ave. This is a fantastic opportunity to see these newly completed rain gardens, which treat over 79,000 square feet of parking area. You'll learn how facilities like these they function to filter pollutants and reduce the temperature and quantity of stormwater reaching Amazon Creek, and you'll get insights into the design and construction process.

You'll also hear about the history of the Urban Waters & Wildlife Program and how the work is complementary to the City of Eugene's stormwater efforts. In addition, LTWC is piloting an exciting study at Willamette Christian Center, in a partnership with Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, to test different types of biochar soil amendments as a way to improve plant and stormwater health. Speakers will include: Sarah Whitney and Miranda Hawkes (Long Tom Watershed Council), Houston Sheppard and Bill Randall (Willamette Christian Center), Therese Walch (City of Eugene), and Todd Miller (Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission).



**This tour is free and open to all.** Light snacks and water will be provided. The tour will include both standing and walking; chairs will be provided for folks who may need them. There will also be signage indicating where to park. **More information at [longtom.org/wcctour2023](https://longtom.org/wcctour2023).**

# STORMDRAIN CLEANING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Did you know that storm drains need regular maintenance and cleaning to reduce pollution and prevent flooding? Lane County is now coordinating a new, voluntary Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program for anyone with a catch basin in the county, including businesses, apartments, and other housing. This program is able to offer more cost-effective options, at approximately half of what it has historically cost for this service. The fee is \$65 for single storm drains. A double catch basin, as is common throughout Springfield, is \$130. The county is able to pass along a cost savings by grouping adjacent sites together for cleaning. **The last day to sign up is October 31, 2023.**

You can find out more at Lane County's website: <https://www.lanecountyor.gov/cms/one.aspx?pageId=19608564>

## Stormdrain Cleaning Assistance Program

Storm drains discharge rain water to local streams and rivers and require regular maintenance to remove contaminants and prevent flooding. Lane County coordinates this program in partnership with [Stormwater Protection Systems](#) to help area businesses maintain their parking lot drains at a discounted price.



We're reaching out because you have a storm drain on your property that you're responsible for maintaining.

- Professional cleaning of a parking lot standard basin is **\$65 per drain** for single basins or **\$130 for sand collectors**
- Prevent parking lot flooding and reduce water pollution
- Maintenance records submitted automatically

This voluntary discount program is for businesses in Lane County. Service does not include jetting or repair, or industrial or oversized storm drains.

**Sign up by October 31, 2023** (for 2023 cleaning)

Register or get more information:  
LaneCountyor.gov/SCAP or  
email: SCAP@lanecountyor.gov



### Do you have a storm drain?

These often empty into vegetated water quality facilities or to the public stormwater system, which leads straight to local waterways.

- Clean out catch basins at least once per year.
- Replace oil-absorbing media annually.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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. We are committed to living this commitment by taking action. For example, we're acting as an ally and host for the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program and we're supporting efforts to uplift and reintroduce cultural burning through the Willamette Valley Fire Collaborative.



# ANNUAL CELEBRATION 2023

Thursday, November 2 | 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Building | 1626 Willamette St, Eugene, OR 97401

Save the date for this year's 26th Annual Meeting & Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Building, just south of downtown Eugene near Amazon Creek. Join us for a night of food, live music, reflection, and fun! **If you only come to one event a year, this is it!**

## ~ *Thriving Landscapes, Thriving Communities* ~

- Food and beverages by Mac's Custom Catering, featuring a dinner buffet of omnivore, vegetarian, and vegan options
- Special guest speaker Marta Lu Clifford, Tribal elder and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Chinook, Cree)
- Emceed by local comedian and writer Leigh Anne Jasheway
- Music by local string band Meadow Rue, featuring LTWC's own Greg Oldson!
- Recognition of outstanding contributions to the watershed this year
- Election of new board members
- The very best in watershed community!



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## THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO LTWC!

Applegate Regional Theater  
Cliff and Linda Brown  
Gayle Colehour  
Paula Conn  
John Deck  
Peter & Martha Dragovich  
Katie Geiser  
Kroger / Fred Meyer  
Brenda Lowery, in honor of  
Meredith & David  
Michael Mattick  
Shelly Miller & Dean Walton

Connie & Mark Peabody  
Steven Pringle  
Anami Ridge  
Charles & Karen Van Duyn  
Lorette Waggoner  
Phyllis Weare  
Ty & Richard Zeller (Earth Care  
Interfaith Fund)



Scan me to give at  
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**venmo**

# WELCOME, STASIE MAXWELL!



In August, we welcomed Stasie Maxwell (she/her) as the newest member of the LTWC team! Stasie is Inupiaq (Native Village of Unalakleet), German, Czech, English, Irish, and Scotch ancestry. She joins Long Tom Watershed Council as the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program's (TEIP) Program Associate and looks forward to weaving her skills and experiences together with joy, in service to the families and interns of TEIP. Stasie brings an array of experiences to her position, including administrative support and logistics, program and curriculum development, and leadership and co-facilitation in DEI, mindfulness and meditation, and Indigenous Health and Wellness workshops. Though born in Alaska, she has spent most of her life in the homelands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Cow Creek Umpqua, The Klamath Tribes, Takelma, and Shasta (known as the Rogue Valley).

Stasie has a B.S. in Psychology and a certificate in Native Studies from Southern Oregon University. She has two teen boys, two dogs, is mischievous if you really get to know her, and has a creative streak as wide as the Willamette River. Welcome, Stasie!

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# FARWELL FROM ROB HOSHAW

In September, I will be bidding a fond and bittersweet farewell to the Long Tom Watershed Council after more than 13 years as its operations manager/director. While I'll be starting a new chapter in my life as a grant writer for a national nonprofit, I will always cherish the relationships I've made with the staff, board, partners, and the watershed community.

I showed up to my interview in 2010 as a fresh-faced kid just out of grad school, decked out in a full suit and tie and a towel stowed away in my glove box so I could wipe my sweaty palms before going in. I don't remember much about what I said during that interview, but I do recall how kind everyone was to me, and I saw immediately the deep commitment and passion they had for the Long Tom. It was more than about applying for a job, it was about joining a community, and that has stuck with me.

What's also always struck me is how connected people are to the Long Tom Watershed as a place, and how caring for the health of our land and water is such a galvanizing goal among people from all backgrounds and lived experiences. One of our taglines is "neighbors working together on land and water issues" and that's



*The staff spelling out "Long Tom" in 2017 (I am the "L")*

absolutely the truth. I've seen us accomplish so much together as neighbors and a shared community through the watershed council's approach of voluntary, community-based learning, restoration, and stewardship. To name a just few of our many accomplishments together: the complete restoration of year-round fish passage on four streams; the expansion of our Uplands Program to include reintroducing prescribed and culture burning to the landscape; the launch of the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program; and most recently, our largest grant ever at over \$5 million in support of improving our urban waterways and built environment.

I will carry many fond memories and stories of my time here. During my first summer, I shadowed Jed Kaul on a snorkel survey of Ferguson Creek. The day before, he suggested I wear long sleeves and pants. Given that it was a hot, 85-degree day, I ignored his advice and arrived in shorts and a T-shirt. By the end of the survey, I'd become very well acquainted with our native trailing blackberry and looked like I'd wrestled a bobcat. Suffice to say, I learned my lesson, but that first introduction to the creek through an otter's eye view – which was like immersing myself in a whole other, wonderful world – was priceless.

I'll always remember my first project tour at Laughing Stock Farm and sun setting behind the rolling hills south of Coyote Creek; my first annual celebration at Diamond Woods Golf Course and the incredible sense of community and camaraderie that's been the hallmark of every celebration. It brings a smile to remember training volunteers how to carefully insert tracking tags into the bellies of (mostly) anesthetized trout with a surgical scalpel. Thankfully, my hands were (slightly) less shaky than during my interview. And, after I was hired, I'll always remember then board chair Jim Pendergrass pulling me aside with a wink to say, "I hope that's the last time we see you in a tie." I think that was his way of telling me that working with the Council is more like being among friends than business colleagues, and I've found that's absolutely true.

I'm forever grateful to that hiring committee, and especially Dana Dedrick, for taking a chance on me. I've worked more closely with the Council's executive directors than anyone else, and LTWC has had some phenomenal directors in Dana and Clinton Begley, both of whom I consider tremendous mentors, and now in Steve Dear. I look forward to watching the Council continue to accomplish great things under the leadership of Steve and the board, behind its amazing, top-notch staff, and especially from the contributions of this wonderful watershed community. It's been an honor and privilege to work with all of you. I will be at the Willamette Christian Center project tour on September 14th and I expect to attend the Council's annual celebration on November 2nd, so I look forward to seeing some of you then!

- Rob Hoshaw



*My favorite photo of the Long Tom, taken by Josh Harrison at the Johnson property in 2011.*

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## HELP US SAVE PAPER-GO DIGITAL!

Subscribing for our **digital newsletter** helps us save on the significant costs of printing a paper newsletter, saves paper resources, AND you get access to more content. Switching to digital is easy! **Email us at [info@longtom.org](mailto:info@longtom.org).**

# SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER WEED PULL!

We had another successful weed pull on the Long Tom this August at Monroe! After years of efforts to manage aquatic invasive weeds, we were pleased to only find one tiny patch of ludwigia and some parrot feather! It was a lovely day to connect with each other and the river. Cricket DeLoe (lower right) won the prize as the best searching for finding the elusive ludwigia patch!

Ludwigia is an extremely aggressive invasive aquatic weed. In just a couple of years, it can take over slower-moving bodies of water, forming dense mats that may span the entire water body and form a thick fringe of vegetation at the water's edge. It can alter flow, impair aquatic habitat, reduce available oxygen in the water, interfere with navigation, recreation, and water withdrawal, and pose threats to water delivery and flood conveyance. Ludwigia populations in and around Eugene and the Long Tom Watershed are the oldest and furthest upstream populations of the plant in the Willamette system. This makes them source populations that lead to the spread of ludwigia to downstream areas. LTWC and partners have been highly successful in managing the spread of ludwigia over the years and have seen significant decreases in their populations. Sustained success depends on engagement from volunteers and property owners through efforts like these. Thank you to the volunteers who came out to pitch in!



## *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.

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