

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



LEAP FOR THE LONG TOM! - INFORMATIONAL & FUNDRAISING GATHERING Thursday, February **29**, 2024 | 6 – 8 p.m. Long Tom Grange | 25823 Ferguson Rd

Join your friends and neighbors for this fun gathering to learn about the Long Tom Watershed Council's work on Owens Creek and Ferguson Creek to enhance fish passage as well as other Council projects including urban work along Amazon Creek in Eugene, dam removal in Monroe, landscape burning guided by indigenous practices, and how to financially help the Long Tom Watershed Council leap into new successes in 2024.

Enjoy free drinks and heavy appetizers while learning about these local projects. The event will be hosted by board members Kurt (and Mary) Koehler, John (and Christine) Deck, and Trustee Al (and Donna) Hrynyshyn, as well as staff members.

Our venue is the Long Tom Grange, located at 25823 Ferguson Road (see photo below). This will be a casual event, so come in your comfortable clothes and be ready to mingle and get to know your fellow LTWC members. This is a great opportunity not only to meet and greet your neighbors, but a chance to help boost the Council's financial capacity to continue to do this important restoration work. If you aren't able to attend, but want to support the LTWC, you can still go to the registration page and make a donation.

We ask, but don't require you to register. Pre - Registration helps us to make sure we have adequate food and have you all pre-registered to speed the on site entry. Register by going to **longtom.org/leap** and complete the form. If you aren't able to attend, but want to support the LTWC, you can still go to the registration page and make a donation.



Long Tom Grange

GROUND BREAKING AT EUGENE FRIENDS MEETING

We are excited to announce that construction is underway on the first Urban Waters and Wildlife Program project of 2024! Upward Landscape Solutions LLC began work at the Eugene Friends Meeting (EFM) in the South University District the first week of January, and is expected to have the project completed by late spring 2024.

This project was originally brought to Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) by a EFM member in 2019. Members were initially looking for guidance on whether their 1970's building could support a green roof. While that was sadly not an option, they were open to LTWC's suggestion of a Trout Friendly Landscape. Given the high water table, they also wanted to reduce ponding under the foundation and the neighboring downhill property as much as possible, as the moisture was creating a need to spray pesticides to control termite activity.

LTWC designers worked closely with the Friends to create a landscape plan that would combine the needs and goals of both organizations. Some of the main projects goals that the new landscape will address include:

Managing all on-site stormwater, as well as neighboring alley surface flow. Reducing groundwater load on the Friends Meeting House and downhill neighbor's foundations and crawl spaces



Construction of permeable paver patio, stormwater channel and the new Labyrinth.

Expanding on-site habitat value through a diverse planting scheme of native and pollinator friendly species, and removing lawn areas wherever possible

Accessible pathways, outdoor gathering spaces, and an existing labyrinth.

Strong focus on educational opportunities and outdoor gathering spaces.

The completed project will provide an example of how a small urban lot can be transformed to help keep pollutants out of our local creeks while balancing ecological function with human needs, including beauty and outdoor gathering spaces.

This project is funded by OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board), Earth Care Interfaith fund, the City of Eugene, Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Health Authority, and a generous match of both funding and time from EFM.

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Email us at info@longtom.org.

Thank you!





Eugene Friends Meeting Project Design

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.



THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO LTWC!

Thank you do these donors since our November Newsletter:

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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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February 2024 Newsletter

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