



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



IT'S FALL STORMDRAIN CLEANING SEASON!

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



Sign up by October 31, 2025

Register or get more information:
LaneCounty.gov/SCAP or QR code below
email: SCAP@lanecounty.gov



Do you have a storm drain on your property that you're responsible for maintaining?

-  Professional cleaning of a parking lot standard basin is \$70 per drain
-  Prevent parking lot flooding and reduce water pollution
-  Maintenance records submitted automatically



EXCITING NEW FACES AT LTWC



Rachel Cushman

TEIP Manager

Rachel Cushman joins the Long Tom Watershed Council and the TEIP team with over two decades of fiscal management and land/water stewardship experience (governmental and non-profit). While much of Cushman's professional career has been in community organizing and higher education, she has always maintained a foothold in conservation, a passion that she has had since her youth. Her conservation experiences include working to enhance, protect, and revitalize tribal relationships with land, waters, and other-than-human relations; establishing, transforming, and stewarding relationships amongst tribes, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations; and developing and implementing decolonial models for climate and Indigenous justice endeavors.

Cushman is excited to share these experiences and her expertise with LTWC and TEIP staff, as well as the interns and intern families that TEIP serves. TEIP approaches learning and leadership development through a multigenerational knowledge exchange model, and Cushman cannot wait to be both a learner and teacher of the program.

Cushman is dedicating her first year as manager to long-term strategic planning. As the inaugural TEIP manager, Cushman aims to build long-lasting structural stability for the program. While planning for TEIP's future, Cushman will also spend this first year simultaneously completing her doctoral degree in Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon.



Amber Lamet

Urban Waters & Wildlife Program Manager

Amber brings a lifelong passion for the natural world to her role as the Urban Waters and Wildlife Program Manager. As a self-described nature nerd, she has spent much of her career developing skills in wildlife conservation, community and environmental planning, and spatial analysis.

Amber holds a B.S. in Wildlife Conservation from Oregon State University and a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning with a focus in Environmental Planning from the University of Oregon, along with a graduate certificate in GIS. This background gives her an understanding for the need to bridge urban ecology with community engagement to benefit both aquatic and terrestrial habitats and to the people who share these landscapes.



Chris Stillman

Urban Waters & Wildlife Program Specialist & Landscape Architect

Chris joined LTWC as a Project Specialist and Landscape Architect for the Urban Waters & Wildlife Program. Her role helps connect scientific knowledge with ecosystem services that support local water quality efforts. Her collaborative work focuses on using observations and data to share, heal, and reveal local natural processes at work in our waterways, ecosystems, and communities.

Prior to becoming a landscape architect, Chris worked as an educator and program director for nonprofits that guide youth through nature to help them discover the unique ecologies of coastal areas. After completing her degree in Landscape Architecture, she developed her professional skills at a firm in Eugene and later with the U.S. Forest Service in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area before joining LTWC.

Chris grew up in Missouri near the Mark Twain National Forest in the Ozark Mountains. In her free time, she can be found in the garden or near the water. She's always up for a dive or snorkel, spending time riverside with her two dogs, or paddleboarding on hot days.



You Did It!

A Huge Thanks to the Walk-a-Thon Donors and Participants!

Thursday, October 9th, 2025

South Eugene H.S. Track



The Village School's 4th Grade class is partnering with LTWC to support local ecology! Students will learn from LTWC staff, donate half of their walk-a-thon proceeds, and join in a community service project.

CHEERS TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

2025 Annual Celebration Wrap-Up



Under crisp blue skies, **Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company** set the perfect stage for an evening of connection and celebration in our watershed, accompanied by the lively sounds of the **Goldentwine String Band**. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate with us, and to our wonderful sponsors—**Bauman's Tree Farm, Bennett Vineyards, Café Mam Coffee, Gary Holzbauer, and Oregon Pacific Bank**—for their generous support.



A Fire Program Spotlight was delivered by Restoration and Fire Project Manger, Tiffany Perez, telling the story of how Indigenous Kalapuya people of the South Willamette Valley used fire as a vital ecological and cultural tool to sustain the land, a practice later suppressed by colonization.



Today, the Long Tom Watershed Council, Tribal Nations, and local partners are restoring this relationship through cultural and prescribed burns, reviving ecosystems and renewing community connections to the land.



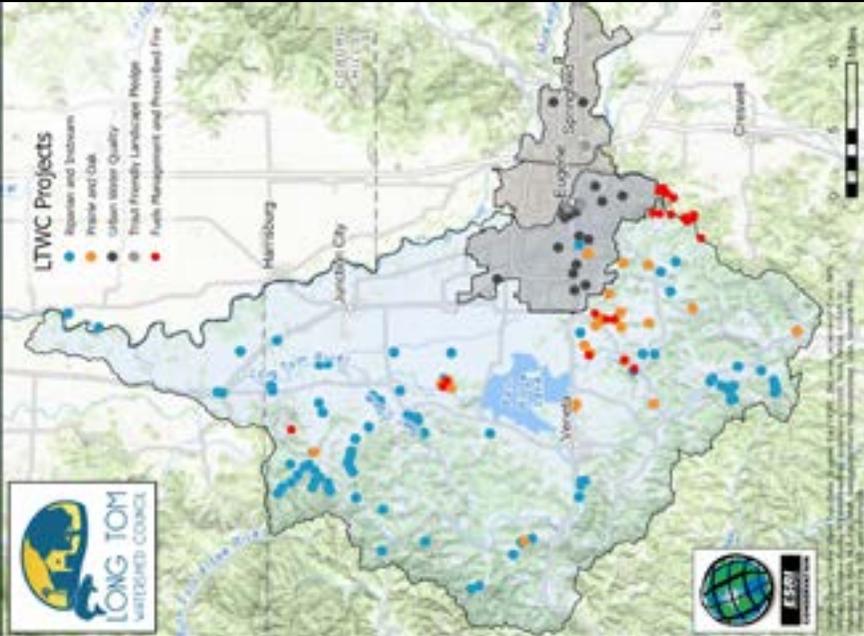
Partner Appreciation Awards went out to Amanda Gilbert of the Coast Fork Watershed Council; outgoing board member of 10 years, Shelly Miller; Bryce Izlar and Paul Gordon of R2R Burn Group; and Matt Sorensen of LRAPA.

The Board Member Election led by council chair, Kurt Koehler, confirmed new members: Erik Burke, Jesse Cary-Hobbs, and Scott Detmer; and re-affirmed continuing members Jabrila Via and Taylor Evans. Check our website for new board member bios!

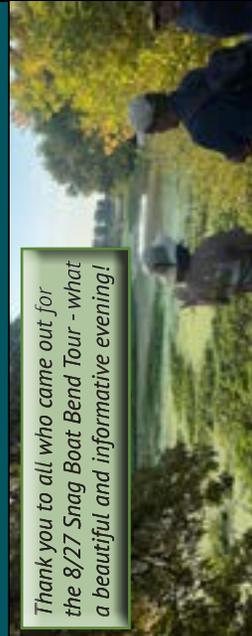
The Bear Creek Restoration Project Tour was led by Program Manager, Jed Kaul, highlighting fish passage barrier removal and improvements.



Watershed Map & Projects



LTWC Calendar of Events



Thank you to all who came out for the 8/27 Snag Boat Bend Tour - what a beautiful and informative evening!

-  **October 25** Hileman Heroes Work Party
 -  **December 11** Beaver Workshop
- Watch our website and social media for more details.
We hope to see you at our next event!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kurt Koehler** – Chair
- John Deck** – Vice-Chair
- Jessica “JJ Jones** – Treasurer
- Connie Peabody** – Secretary
- Erik Burke, Jesse Cary-Hobbs, Scott Detmer, Taylor Evans, Pat McDowell, Jabrila Via, and Paulina Whitehat**

STAFF

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TEIP Manager
- Miranda Hawkes**
UWWP Landscape Designer & Stormwater Specialist
- Jed Kaul**
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Urban Waters & Wildlife Manager
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- Alejandro Mejia**
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- Sydney Nilan**
UWSN Program Director
- Tiffany Perez**
Restoration & Fire Projects Manager
- Amanda Reinholtz**
Habitat & Water Quality Specialist
- Chris Stillman**
UWWP Specialist & Landscape Architect
- Marisa Wood**
Operations Manager
- Sara Wort**
Restoration Project Manager



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



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