



Above: TEIP interns putting the camas in the ground on July 2nd. Top Right: Youth interns digging up the camas. Bottom Right: Participants gathering to open the camas ovens on July 4th. Below Left: Preparing the camas for first foods feast. Photos by Rachel Cushman.

The 9th Annual TEIP Camas Bake at Chaa-lamali

Growing in Participation and Impact



On July 3rd and 4th, 2026, the Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program (TEIP) held our 9th Annual Camas Bake at Chaa-lamali. As a Native-led, autonomous program of the Long Tom Watershed Council, we wanted to provide an alternative to the national holiday.

TEIP was formed in 2017 with the goal of creating a safe and culturally grounded space for our Native communities of the South Willamette Valley to rebuild our relationship with the land, our other-than-human relatives, and each other. TEIP is a place-based eco-cultural education and stewardship program, encouraging intergenerational and intercultural ecological knowledge exchange.

Our youth interns, their families, and staff, gathered the camas for the bake, prepared it, and cooked it in a ground oven, using traditional methods of the region. Throughout the duration of the event, 61 individuals participated, with citizens of over 11 tribal nations and 12 partner organizations present. While the camas was in the ground, we provided participants with ecocultural learning activities and the bake ended with a first foods celebration.

New Ways to Give 🎁

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BottleDrop
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Link your Fred Meyer account to LTWC. Scan the QR code, login, and search for Long Tom Watershed Council or nonprofit #VV587. % given goes up with every donor!



HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS

New Chapter at Snag Boat Bend



Breaking Ground

This summer marks an exciting milestone at Snag Boat Bend as the Long Tom Watershed Council officially breaks ground on one of its most significant restoration projects to date: reconnecting a 1.1-mile historic side channel of the Willamette River by removing a portion of the former Porter Dam embankment.

Originally constructed in 1964, the embankment has blocked the river from flowing through its historic channel for decades. Over the coming weeks, restoration crews will remove a section of the

embankment and excavate new connector channels that will allow the Willamette River to once again flow naturally through this important floodplain habitat. The project will restore natural river processes by reconnecting the historic channel, installing large wood habitat structures, and revegetating disturbed areas with native plants. Together, these improvements will create healthier habitat for native fish and wildlife while strengthening the floodplain's ecological resilience.

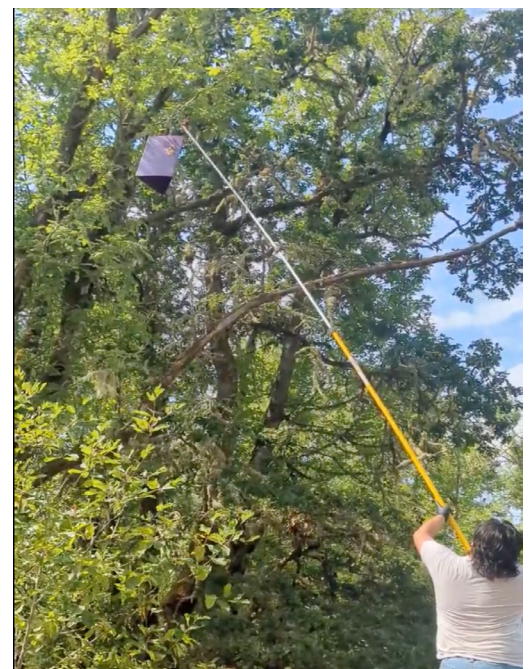
The groundbreaking celebrates years of planning and collaboration among agency partners, Tribal nations, and conservation organizations. We are grateful to the many partners whose support has made this transformative project possible. To ensure public safety during construction, **Snag Boat Bend is closed to all public access through the end of August**. We appreciate your patience while this important conservation work is underway. Once completed, visitors will experience a healthier, more connected river landscape that will benefit both wildlife and our community for generations.

Good News from Our Mid-Summer Emerald Ash Borer Trap Checks

There's good news to share from this year's Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring efforts: mid-summer trap checks found no signs of EAB in the Long Tom Watershed.

Throughout the summer, Long Tom Watershed Council staff and partners have been checking monitoring traps placed across the watershed to help detect this invasive beetle early. Emerald Ash Borer poses a serious threat to Oregon's ash trees, which provide important habitat, support healthy stream systems, and contribute to the diversity of our local forests.

While no EAB has been detected locally, the Oregon Department of Forestry recently confirmed several new detections within the existing five-county quarantine area. These findings highlight the importance of continued monitoring and community awareness as the insect continues to spread in parts of Oregon. For now, we're grateful that the Long Tom Watershed remains free of Emerald Ash Borer. We'll continue working with our partners to monitor for this invasive pest and help protect the ash trees that are an important part of our watershed and communities. For more information, visit www.oregonEAB.com

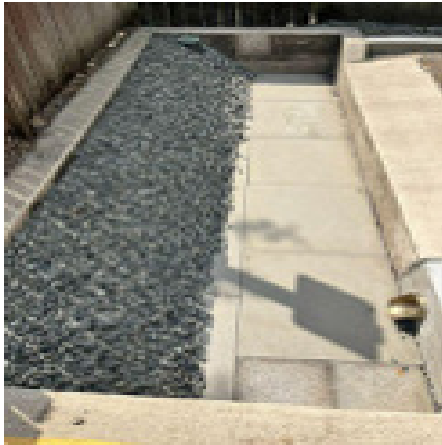


Alejandro Mejia bringing down an EAB trap for the mid-summer check. Photo by Tiffany Perez.

Building Better Stormwater Solutions

The Urban Waters Partnership has been partnering with a local consulting team to better understand the maintenance challenges facing green stormwater infrastructure facilities. Long-term maintenance is a critical factor in the continued performance of these installations. When facilities are not properly maintained, their ability to filter contaminants from stormwater declines.

To gain firsthand insight into what landowners and maintenance workers are experiencing on the ground, the consulting firm conducted interviews with a diverse group of stakeholders. In total, they interviewed 32 individuals representing 27 entities across public, private, commercial and residential sectors.



Interview results are still being analysed, but we hope this process will provide a clearer picture of how the Urban Waters Partnership team can better support the long-term function and performance of these facilities.



In addition to ongoing maintenance work, the Urban Waters team recently completed a retrofit of an undersized sediment drop at the Eugene Friends Meeting House. Sediment drops are a critical component of green stormwater infrastructure as they are the first point at which sediment is removed from stormwater before it continues through the system. They are also designed for easy maintenance, allowing anyone to scoop out accumulated sediment once the water has filtered through the permeable pavers.

This upgrade will allow a greater volume of stormwater to be filtered before it enters our local waterways.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 3-6pm

Long Tom Pull & Paddle

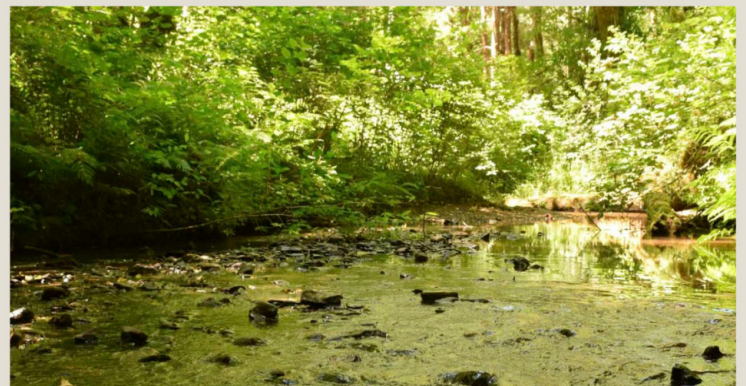
Learn about aquatic invasive weeds, have fun, and get out on the water! A limited number of boats are available. **RSVP is required, scan the QR code below to sign up.**

MONROE CITY PARK
24811 HWY 99, MONROE, OR 97456

Sep

1

2026



Luther Creek

Thursday, 6-8pm

Annual Celebration

Save the date for our 2026 Annual Celebration, **"Taste the Watershed"**! Dinner and wine exclusively sourced from local growers. Hosted at a beautiful spot on Luther Creek and the Long Tom River.

CAMP LUTHERWOOD
22960 HIGHWAY 36, CHESHIRE, OR 97419

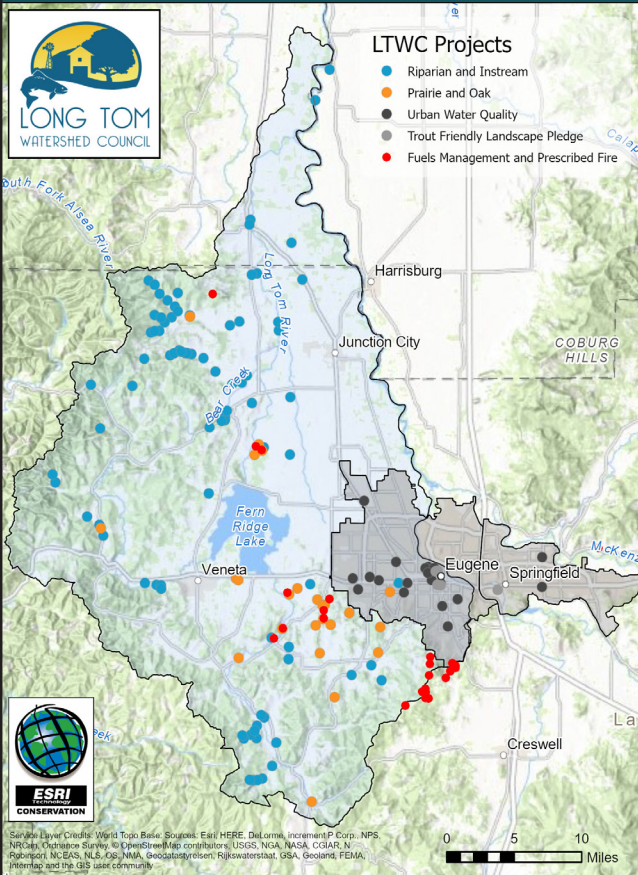
Oct

8

2026



Watershed Map & Projects



LTWC Calendar of Events

- August 21** **Summer Salmon Watch Training**
3pm-5pm, SUB - Board Room
Oak Hill School, Eugene
- August 22** **Roots Talk 2026, 10am-4pm**
Oak Hill School, Eugene
- September 1** **Long Tom Paddle & Pull, 3-6pm**
Monroe City Park
- October 8** **Annual Celebration, 6-8pm**
Camp Lutherwood
- October 25** **Mushroom Festival, 10am-6pm**
Mt. Pisgah Arboretum

Follow our socials for more details ~ Hope to see you at our next event!



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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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