



Watershed Events

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council Newsletter

Fall 2019

Project updates

- [Holman Park](#) trees are visibly better. The Grand Rhonde Youth Crew removed much of the English Ivy around the trees. However, much remains. Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council (GGWC) is weighing the decision of adopting Holman Park. The 10 acre park contains many significant trees as well as mid and understory native plants. Park adoption commits the Council to two work events per year. Stay tuned for the future of this project.
- [Pollinator Gardens in West Salem parks](#) The pollinator garden in Eola Ridge Park is thriving. GGWC looks forward to working with the City of Salem to plant pollinator gardens in Orchard Heights (first park), College Heights, Sather Park, Ellen Lane Park, Brush College Park, Glen Creek Road Park and Eagles View Park. This project helps GGWC to meet our goals of watershed health and citizen engagement. Pollinator gardens provide habitat for many species that pollinate our gardens and crops. The splash of color adds beauty to the park.
- [Oak Savanna](#) The 14 acre oak savanna / native Willamette Valley prairie restoration project is entering its 17th year. These landscapes were traditionally maintained by annual burning. Since this project is surrounded by a residential neighborhood, annual summer mowing is substituted. Volunteers work to plant additional native plants and to weed out non-natives. This habitat type, once plentiful, is now greatly diminished and increasingly important to the survival of over 200 species of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council

Mission: to foster better understanding and stewardship of watershed resources

Purpose: to share information, reduce duplication of activities and to help address watershed management issues in the watershed and to provide a framework for coordination and cooperation among key interests

Vision: a balanced ecosystem that supports a healthy watershed and provides for an economic base and viable communities

www.glennqibsonwatershedcouncil.org

<https://www.facebook.com/glennqibsonwc/>



Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council Strategic Plan

<https://glennqibsonwc.org/Site/docs/StrategicActionPlan2019-Final.pdf>



Wallace Marine Park Rain Garden

Rain Gardens, Bioswales and Storm Water, Oh my...

Recent studies identify storm water run off from streets and roads as one of the major sources of micro plastics in the biosphere. Tires are shown to be the source of most of these substances that are showing up literally everywhere including the human body.

<https://www.sfei.org/documents/understanding-microplastics>

Hope... these studies show that rain gardens can reduce these pollutants by as much as 90%.

What you can do...

rain gardens at your home or business can make a big difference and create beauty in your yard. Disconnect your downspout and filter the run off from your roof and / or driveway by directing it to a bioswale or rain garden. Here is one method...

<https://www.bhg.com/gardening/landscaping-projects/landscape-basics/make-a-rain-garden/>

What the City does...

Some parking lots and streets now drain to vegetated bioswales that capture, filter and percolate stormwater back into the soil.



S.O.L.V.E.ing

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council volunteers joined the **S.O.L.V. E.** work event at Wallace Marine Park on September 21 to weed the Rain Garden that captures and filters run off from the restroom roof.



The rain garden plants include Red Twig Dogwood, Golden Current, Lupine and Giant Sedge. Unfortunately, it also grows non-native weeds such as Bind Weed and invasive grasses.

Project leader Donald Stoltz has purchased native bulbs to be planted this fall so next spring, visitors will see blooms of Oregon Sunshine and Giant Camas in addition to the existing plants.



This project was partially funded and is maintained through the Salem Electric Habitat Improvement Fund.

Thank you HIP participants!

How does your garden grow?

Stephanie Hazen and Ray Temple's story is a compelling commitment to protection of this small but critical part of our planet.

The key to the survival of the monarchs is the availability of the plants they need for food and shelter. Monarchs depend on Milkweed.

Stephanie raises Milkweed plants for home gardens. If you would like to help this project by raising some of these plants, contact her at

stephaniehazen17@gmail.com



Stephanie tells us...

"Butterflies released this time of year will have to survive cold nights, winter rains, and find scarce food in the form of garden flowers, weeds, and rotting fruit. They can fly 25 miles a day in warm weather, which is about how far cities are apart. This illustrates the critical importance of nectar rich flowers in home gardens."

"These butterflies are the "canary in the coal mine" and represent the plight of all living things in our overcrowded, over polluted, and largely degraded landscape."



Photograph by Dorald Stoltz

Tagged monarch released into Dorald's Garden

The Monarch Project

Many people are working to save the Western Monarch Butterfly. Locally, environmental citizen scientist Stephanie Hazen and her husband Ray Temple raise, tag and find release sites for these threatened creatures. They work with Washington State University scientist Dr. David James to tag and track the Monarchs they release.

Recently, GGWC Director Dorald Stoltz released E3763 and E3753 into her front yard after Stephanie had determined that Dorald's garden could support these butterflies. Dorald's garden qualified due to the presence of Fall blooming plants such as aster.

This is an ambitious project involving many people and organizations working hard to save the Monarch. GGWC hopes that you will join in.

<https://www.facebook.com/MonarchButterfliesInThePacificNorthwest/>



Photograph by
Dorald Stoltz



Pollinator plants and no pesticides help the Monarch

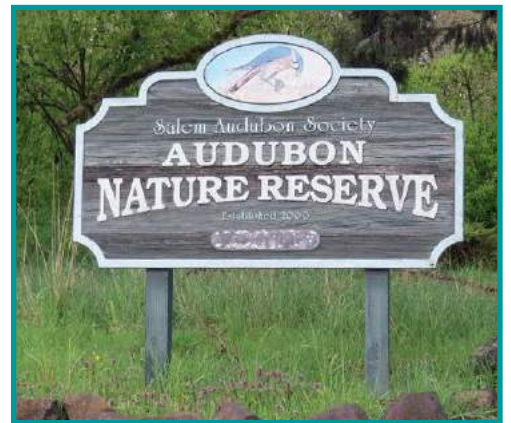
For more information <https://xerces.org/monarchs/>

GGWC Partnerships - Salem Audubon Society

Salem Audubon Society has partnered with the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council for many years. This organization provides information, help with citizen science and a very important project to West Salem, the Audubon Nature Preserve. GGWC has worked with Salem Audubon Society on the Nature Preserve, providing funding for native plants and constructing a fence to keep plants and shrubs from damage due to hikers and bikers.

Jim Scott, Salemtowne Audubon birder, has trained us in e-bird, a tracking website run by Cornell Labs to help identify and track birds. He has placed the Oak Savanna project and Eola Ridge Park as birding hot spots on the app. He is a regular contributor to the GGWC Facebook page, allowing viewers to enjoy his bird photos.

Dorald Stoltz, GGWC Director and Audubon Society rep on the GGWC, has participated in Glenn and Gibson Creek Watershed Council since the Council was established in 1996, including serving as Chair. She has coordinated needs and common interests between GGWC and Salem Audubon Society for many years. She guided the horse logging project and fencing the trails to keep the plants safe and secure. Most recently, she has secured HIP funding for new plants for the Nature Preserve.



Jim Scott photo of Barred Owl at Orchard Heights Park



Would you like to know more about the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council?

Visit our website www.glenngibsonwatershedcouncil.org

Our meetings are open to anyone interested in watershed health. Look for our agendas on Facebook

Do you have questions or ideas? Send us an e-mail info@glenngibsonwc.org

Ways to support habitat improvement projects

Friends of West Salem Watersheds (FOWSWS) is the non-profit that holds donations for the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council and allows your donations to be tax-deductible. All funds go toward conservation and restoration in the West Salem watersheds

- **Donate** at www.glenngibsonwatershedcouncil.org
- **Link** your Fred Meyer Rewards card to **FOWSWS** at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
- **Amazon Smiles FOWSWS** participates in the Amazon Smiles charity program. Please choose FOWSWS as your charity at Smile.amazon.com.
- Participate in the **Salem Electric Habitat Improvement Program** at www.salemelectric.com
- **Bottle Drop/Give** Your Refundable Cans and Bottles can help improve watershed health. Friends of West Salem Watersheds is now a part of **Bottle Drop/Give** Fill our pre-labeled blue bags with refundable cans and bottles and drop them off at any of the Bottle Drop sites in Salem. Staff will count the refundables and credit the FOWSWS account. Send an e-mail to info@glenngibsonwc.org We will arrange to get the bags to you.