



# Watershed Events

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council Newsletter

Summer 2019

## Holman Park Ivy Removal Project

Holman Park is located just off Highway 22 at the confluence of Rickreall Creek and the Willamette River. Holman Park is currently closed to motor vehicles but continues as a hiking and bicycle trail through an amazing tree canopy. Sadly, these giants are being slowly choked by English Ivy vines.

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council and Rickreall Watershed Council are teaming up with Oregon State Parks to sponsor the Grand Ronde Youth Crew to remove as many of these vines as possible in a two day work event coming July 15 and 16.

The crew will work as hard as they can, but the scope of this problem is beyond a two day project so the two watershed councils will keep the park on their work plans for as long as it takes to keep these magnificent trees safe from the effects of invasive English Ivy.

The impacts of English Ivy on trees are significant. Although the ivy itself does not kill a tree, the resulting actions after the ivy has started growing can. By competing for nutrients, water and sunlight, Ivy makes a tree weaker and more prone to disease and branch dieback. English Ivy also contributes to added moisture around the bark, attracting bugs and accelerating rot. It grows from the ground up, so branch dieback is usually evident at the bottom of the tree first. This leaves the tree looking like a stalk of broccoli with a head at the top of the tree. The imbalance in branches, along with the added weight of the ivy at the top of the tree, makes a tree more prone to falling during drastic weather patterns.

### *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



### What you can do to help...

- Remove English Ivy from your yard
- Ivy is a persistent, noxious weed so remain vigilant for regrowth and remove when it happens
- Throw discarded vines into the trash, not the yard debris bin
- Volunteer at Ivy-pulling events in parks—contact [talanson@cityofsalem.net](mailto:talanson@cityofsalem.net)



Young visitors to our table at Public Works Day

## We had a great time

Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council tabled at two recent events, Super Saturday at the Edgewater Partners fair on June 15 and at Public Works Day in Riverfront Park on June 20. Thanks to our partner, Institute for Applied Ecology, we were able to pass out native seed packets. Our theme for both events was “Bringing Back the Pollinators, One Yard at a Time”. We passed out over 200 seed packets, so we are hoping for many pollinator plants in gardens around our watershed.

### What you can do...

- **Provide habitat** - plant native plants. They are adapted to our area and will provide the best habitats for native pollinators. Other types of habitats include bat boxes, shallow bowls or ponds of water for dragonflies and butterflies.
- **Use natural pest controls** rather than pesticides or herbicides. Chemicals kill indiscriminately and will harm pollinators as well as pests. Natural controls include bats, dragonflies and toads. Build a toad home by turning a ceramic pot on its side in a sheltered area.



## Pollinator Projects

Pollinators have declined in recent years. The decline is attributable to many factors including pesticide use, habitat loss and competition from introduced species.

Pollinators are important. Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council has placed pollinator habitat restoration on our 2019-21 work plan

We are working with the City of Salem to plant pollinator gardens in West Salem parks and we will be working to encourage homeowners to add pollinator plants to their yards



- In the US, pollination produces nearly \$20 billion worth of products annually
- An estimated 1 in every 3 foods and beverages is delivered by pollinators
- Pollinators ensure full harvests of crops and contribute to healthy plants everywhere



## Signage for Woodhaven Detention Basin on the way

Just upstream from Eola Ridge Park is the Woodhaven Detention Basin, a large stormwater holding area that has become a productive wetland.

On any given day, one can see and hear the birds that live in and use the basin as well as Insects, reptiles and small mammals that call this area home.

Volunteers, the Woodhaven Homeowners Association and the City of Salem keep the native vegetation weeded and mowed where necessary.

The Woodhaven Homeowner's Association, Glenn and Gibson Watershed Council and the City of Salem are working together to provide educational signage for this area so passers by and park users will be more aware of the natural values of this area.



Volunteers planting native trees and shrubs along the riparian area of Turnage Brook

## Eola Ridge Park Riparian Corridor

In December, 2017, volunteers from Jefferson High School National Honor Society, DoubleTree, South Salem HS Environmental Club, Sprague High School Environmental Club, Mingo-Craig family group, the Glenn and Gibson Creeks Watershed Council and the Eola Ridge neighborhood came out on the morning of December 9 and planted over 500 trees and shrubs in Eola Ridge Park. Volunteers also began preparation for a pollinator garden in the Park. The event was coordinated by Friends of Trees and sponsored by the City of Salem and the Polk Soil and Water Conservation District.

We are happy to report that the riparian corridor restoration project is growing. The renewed corridor is already providing habitat and shading and cooling the waters of Turnage Brook.

The pollinator garden planted this same day by volunteers is thriving.



New plants growing in the Turnage Brook riparian corridor



Pollinator plants in the new Eola Ridge Park Pollinator Garden



## Eagle Scout works in Dan Chandler Nature Park

Erik Jackson is an Eagle Scout from West Salem Troop 150. To earn his Eagle Scout rank, Erik planned a restoration project in Dan Chandler Nature Park to clear a specific area of invasive English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry and to replace those cleared areas with native plants. He organized volunteers to carry out this plan. He included an educational component by designing, creating and placing identification pedestals next to the native plants.

As Erik explained to the West Salem Neighborhood Association, "My project is about educating people about the invasive species of plants, and native plants, and show before/after pictures where my Eagle Scout project has cleaned up that area. It took almost 2 years of time."

"I also created educational signs that are plastic resin-based screwed to a cedar plank and then affixed to native plants in the park, to assist with identification."

This project has qualified Erik to apply for the Hornaday award, a national environmental award given by the Scouts B S A.

Young people caring for the watershed means we will enjoy healthy watersheds for the next generation. Long term habitat preservation, protection of water quantity and quality, our ability to enjoy birds, insects and wildlife-these all depend upon people like Erik and his scouting family



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

Visit our website [www.glennigibsonwatershedcouncil.org](http://www.glennigibsonwatershedcouncil.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@glennigibsonwc.org](mailto:info@glennigibsonwc.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.glennigibsonwatershedcouncil.org](http://www.glennigibsonwatershedcouncil.org)
- **Link** your Fred Meyer Rewards card to **FOWSWS** at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)
- **Amazon Smiles FOWSWS** participates in the Amazon Smiles charity program. Please choose FOWSWS as your charity at [Smile.amazon.com](http://Smile.amazon.com).
- Participate in the **Salem Electric Habitat Improvement Program** at [www.salemelectric.com](http://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@glennigibsonwc.org](mailto:info@glennigibsonwc.org) We will arrange to get the bags to you.