



Why the Watershed Alliance

Clark County is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

One reason: we're blessed with great creeks, lakes, and natural areas. We count on them as places to spend time with our families and as habitat for fish and wildlife. We depend on clean water every time we turn on the tap.

Yet, our waterways and natural areas are under constant threat. If we're not vigilant, even our cleanest waterways will become degraded.

The Watershed Alliance was formed in 2008 to help clean up Burnt Bridge Creek in Vancouver. In 2017, we expanded our mission to protect all of Clark County's water bodies. No other local organization has this focus on our Clark County waterways.



Why we're successful

There are three keys to our success:

1. We embrace partnerships
2. We are people-powered
3. We work locally all across the county

Embracing Partnerships

Local government: From the start, we partnered with the City of Vancouver on Burnt Bridge Creek. We've since expanded to work with Clark County, and the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, and Washougal.

Businesses, schools, and community groups: Our partners funnel volunteers into our tree plantings, litter cleanups, and invasive species removal days.

Nonprofits: We partner with other nonprofits. An example: the Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaboration with Columbia Land Trust and Audubon Society of Portland.

Landowners: We partner with landowners, particularly those whose properties abut waterways. We believe property owners will protect our watershed and improve wildlife habitat if given the proper information and incentives.



People-Powered

We believe protecting our creeks, rivers, and natural areas starts with providing opportunities for people – both kids and adults – to take action to demonstrate stewardship of our environment.

We've historically involved more than 1000 volunteers each year planting trees, ripping out invasive species, and cleaning up litter. We teach countless more how to avoid polluting our waters with animal waste, leaky cars, or overuse of pesticides.

Local all Across the County

Examples of recent & upcoming projects:

- Restoration and instream work: Manley Creek
- Septic system program (Poop Smart): Battle Ground and Camas
- Restoration work: Gee Creek, Burnt Bridge Creek, Fisher Creek, Washougal River, Little Washougal, and Gibbons Creek



What's in front of us?

Our top priorities for 2022:

- Increase the scale of our stewardship events, particularly with a big MLK Day, where we hope to involve more than 150 volunteers.
- Move all of our creek-specific projects forward with a full suite of on-the-groundwork this winter and on into next summer.
- Continue promoting the Backyard Habitat Certification Program across the county.

We are also hoping to:

- Launch expanded outreach and education efforts in Ridgefield and Camas.
- Launch a new restoration project, with participation of a middle school, on Gibbons Creek, which flows into Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge.

Where you fit in

Institutional donors provide the majority of our funding, but support from individuals is critical to pay for:

- ▶ The research and legwork required to leverage larger grants and secure partnerships to clean up specific streams and rivers.
- ▶ Improved online tools to educate more people and recruit and manage more volunteers.
- ▶ Adding more educational content at our stewardship events. We believe there will be an upwelling of community members jazzed to participate in 2022 and we want to capture that enthusiasm.