

Fiscal Year  
2022 - 2023

# Annual Program Reports



*Photo: Ryan Kozar*



Tualatin Soil and Water  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation is for everyone.

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## Our Organization

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The Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) is a local unit of government that helps the community improve conditions of soil, water, and other natural resources. We are a non-regulatory organization. We work with Washington County residents on a cooperative, voluntary basis to conserve our shared resources for current and future generations.

## Our Staff & Board

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### **Executive Director**

Lacey Townsend

### **Operations**

Matt Boyer

Kelly Dawes

Judy Marsh

Aaron Shaw

Steve Strand

### **Rural Conservation Program**

Nicole Ruggiero

Tatiana Taylor

### **Urban Conservation Program**

Maura Olivos

Briita Pajunas

### **Forest Conservation Program**

Brandy Saffell

### **Habitat Conservation Program**

Mike Conroy

Bethany Lund

Trevor Norman

Sam Sharka

### **Invasive Species Program**

Olivia Hurd

Tyler Pedersen

Eli Staggs

### **Conservation Education**

Annie Bronez

Andrew Felton

Adriana Lovell

Kristina Peterson

### **Grants & Partnerships**

Jen Shih

Charlotte Trowbridge

### **Board of Directors**

Jerry Ward – *Zone 1*

Eldon Jossi – *Zone 2*

Thomas Dierickx – *Zone 3*

Olivia Duren – *Zone 4*

Luke Vanderzanden – *Zone 5*

Steve VanGrunsven – *At-Large*

Dean Moberg - *At-Large*

Kieran Sikdar – *Associate Director*

Jayson Hoffman – *Associate Director*

Sally Krahmer – *Associate Director*

# Operations

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## Program Overview

The Operations Program manages finances and human resources, maintains office infrastructure, and manages our work as a public entity. The Operations team ensures compliance with fiduciary responsibilities in using public monies and complies with all applicable state and federal laws. The Operations team ensures Tualatin SWCD's employees and board members have the knowledge, tools, and support needed to do their jobs.

## Major Accomplishments

- Completed a new Strategic Plan for the next five fiscal years (FY24-FY28). The process was facilitated by a local consulting firm, Jensen Strategies, LLC. Tualatin SWCD's [new Strategic Plan](#) includes ten goal areas to guide our work, based on our conservation priorities and organizational values:
  - Water Quality and Conservation
  - Healthy Soil
  - Habitat
  - Vegetation
  - Energy Conservation
  - Working Farms, Forests, and Community Food
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Community Engagement and Education
  - Partnerships
  - Organizational Health
- Hired a new Operations Assistant following the retirement of a long-term employee.
- Hired an Information Systems Coordinator to focus on data management systems related to customer relations, project planning and management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and custom data-centric projects. Accomplishments in this fiscal year include:
  - Continued development of our custom-built project management software program, ACORN. Improvements included expansion of the budget system, bug fixes, and advanced reporting.
  - Continued customizing and refining processes within a Customer Relationship Management software program, Insightly.
  - Upgraded our network server to accommodate needs.
  - Completed data analysis projects for Natural Resources Programs, including building a model for wildfire risk prioritization, creating a database with custom ordering application for seed, and building a custom GIS web application for the Watershed Navigator website.

## Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continued to support the operations of the [Tualatin River Watershed Council](#) by providing direct funding and administrative assistance. Our staff participate on a variety of the council's committees, including the Executive Committee, Restoration Committee, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Committee.
- We continued to participate in the [Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network](#), alongside representatives from other conservation districts. We provided planning support for the annual CONNECT conference. Kelly Dawes served as Treasurer for the organization.
- We continued to provide assistance to the non-profit organization, [Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve](#). Lacey Townsend served as Chair of the organization.
- We participated on the Lower Willamette West regional team of the [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Small Grant Program](#).
- We participated in OSU Extension's Regional Extension Community Advisory Network.
- We participated on a planning committee with [Tree for All](#) partners to explore how to prioritize Tree for All's actions and focus available resources in the future.

## Rural Conservation Program

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### Program Overview

We provide services for people living or working on rural lands, including small farms, rural residential areas, and agriculture operations. Our rural lands provide important space for natural resources and produce agricultural products that we use and depend on. We support healthy lands and viable agriculture in Washington County by promoting natural resource conservation on farms, providing resources for succession planning, supporting programs for new and beginning farmers, and holding agricultural conservation easements to preserve farmland.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

The Rural Conservation team continued to support residents through technical and financial assistance. We prioritized financial assistance to protect water quality, improve soil health, and conserve water use on farms.

We continue to expand our [Conservation Easement Program](#) to protect working farms, forests, and wildlife habitat in Washington County. We hold two easements to date and are actively working with landowners on several others.

## Major Accomplishments

- Provided technical assistance to over 60 residents and implemented seven new financial assistance projects, totaling \$294,100 in awarded funds. Projects included managing mud and manure, improving pasture management, and installing a water catchment system.
- Updated our Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan which outlines the rules and practices to prevent water pollution from agricultural activities in the Tualatin River watershed and is enforced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- Continued offering an [Equipment Rental program](#) and rented out our manure compost spreader and no-till seed drill several times.
- Collaborated with Conservation Education staff to reach a broad public audience through mailings, workshops, and presentations. Highlights include a free soil testing program, an Agricultural Drainage Ditch Maintenance workshop, and the Land Stewards program.

## Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continue to be active in partnerships related to farming and conservation. We represent Tualatin SWCD as an associate member of the [Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts](#) and a member of the [Oregon Community Food Systems Network](#).
- We collaborated with Washington County Farm Bureau and [Oregon Aglink](#) to create and distribute rural road safety signs.

## Urban Conservation Program

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### Program Overview

We provide technical and financial support for people living and working inside the Urban Growth Boundary in Washington County. We connect landowners, renters, and members of communities, such as schools, churches, and cultural centers, with information and resources to improve soil, water, and wildlife habitat. We serve a growing, vibrant, and diverse community within the boundaries of thirteen cities and unincorporated Washington County. We provide educational opportunities to

help people better steward private lands, urban greenspaces, parks, and shared waterways.

## Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

The Urban Conservation Program saw increased interest in financial assistance programs and enrolled many new sites into our Direct Financial Assistance and Habitat Conservation funding programs. We oversaw completion of several projects that were enrolled in the early years of these funding programs and enjoyed sharing them with new interested applicants as demonstration sites showcasing examples of naturescaping, rainwater harvesting, and meadowscapes.

We enjoyed connecting with hundreds of community members through presentations, work parties, and technical assistance site visits at multiple Homeowners Associations in Beaverton and Hillsboro, including currently enrolled project sites at Jackson School HOA, Deline and Cross Creek HOAs and potential project sites including Edwards Meadows, Orenco Station, and Oak Hills HOAs.

We served as connectors, assisting many community members in urban areas struggling with community gardening, natural landscaping, and forest pest management challenges. We shared relevant resources, helped develop educational programming, and connected residents with funding opportunities to work towards solutions.

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the [Watershed Navigator](#) website that launched in June 2022. This interactive and fun educational resource provides fresh and accessible information about natural resources within the Tualatin River watershed. We made progress this year in translating all website content to Spanish, to make this resource more accessible and relevant to our urban community in Washington County.

## Major Accomplishments

- Provided technical assistance to over 130 residents and completed approximately 60 site visits. We provided guidance related to beaver and urban wildlife management, the emergence of the invasive emerald ash borer, pollinator habitat creation, invasive plant control, localized flooding and ponding, rainwater harvesting, and naturescaping, among other topics.
- Completed conservation planning and contracting for sixteen new financial assistance projects, totaling over \$100,000 in awarded funds. We expended all available funding within the first two quarterly enrollment periods, due to higher than ever interest in naturescaping, rain gardens, rainwater harvest systems, and wildlife habitat projects at urban residential sites.

- Initiated two new streamside corridor projects, enrolling seven neighboring streamside properties along Turner Creek in Hillsboro, and eight neighboring streamside properties along Fanno Creek in unincorporated Washington County. In addition, two new sites were added to the existing Glencoe Swale Habitat Conservation Project and a single 3.6-acre upland forest and riparian property along Golf Creek enrolled into the Urban HCP program this year. Through these project enrollments, we allocated \$174,820 towards on-the-ground riparian habitat enhancement and water quality improvement goals over the next five years.
- Made progress on Spanish translation of the [Watershed Navigator](#) website. The project team completed nine launch presentations, reaching 155 community members and natural resource service providers to build awareness of this new resource. In its first year, the website was accessed by 6,321 users and received 18,030 page views.
- Began collaborating with the City of Hillsboro and consultants to develop new guidelines for downspout disconnection to help residents interested in pursuing projects to improve water conservation and water quality. The guidelines will help the City and Tualatin SWCD reach milestones laid out in the [Hillsboro 2035 Community Plan](#) and help inform future guideline development in other Washington County municipalities.

### Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continue to be active participants in local and regional partnerships focused on delivering educational information and resources to urban residents. We are active members of the Tualatin Basin Public Awareness Committee, and the [Tualatin River Watershed Council](#).
- We established a new working group, the Pollinator Corridors Team, to identify opportunities for pollinator project implementation within powerline corridors. We facilitate monthly meetings and field tours for representatives from Metro, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation Department, Bonneville Power Administration, and Tualatin Valley Beekeepers Association.
- We developed new partnerships with Centro Cultural, OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Audubon Society focused on emerald ash borer education and management plan development led by youth interning with the Climate Youth Justice Leadership Program. We developed a series of workshops to implement in FY23-FY24. Youth are developing their own EAB preparedness management plan for the community as a final deliverable of this multi-year partnership.



# Forest Conservation Program

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## Program Overview

We work with small woodland owners, farmers, and residential landowners to promote long-term forest health and sustainability. We assist residents with improving the health of local woodlands, reducing wildfire risk, and managing forests to benefit both people and wildlife. We prioritize and specialize in providing guidance for new woodland managers, planning for forest resilience in a changing climate, and balancing wildlife habitat enhancement with economic management objectives.

## Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

The Forest Conservation Program continued to deliver comprehensive woodland management guidance, forest stewardship plans, project management, and education programs to residents of Washington County. Program staff assisted more residents than in any prior fiscal year. We completed a three-year project to identify service gaps, evaluate partner and community needs, and establish criteria to define priority areas for financial assistance programs. These priority areas demonstrate a need to address forest vulnerability to climate change and wildfire. We began to collaborate with partners to increase outreach and assistance in priority communities. Outreach efforts were expanded to reach more beginner woodland managers by developing relationships with local realtors that primarily represent clients in rural areas. We offered educational opportunities including the Oregon State University Land Steward Course, an introduction to woodland management class at Tree School, and we distributed forest-related educational materials to residents and partner organizations.

## Major Accomplishments

- Provided technical assistance related to forest health concerns, weed management, planting recommendations, and forest stewardship planning to over 50 residents.
- Wrote forest stewardship plans for two residents, covering 89 acres of forestland.
- Enrolled two new financial assistance projects, totaling \$57,737.67 in awarded funds. Continued management of six projects and completed two projects enrolled in previous years.
- Assisted with planning and enrolling three forest stewardship projects in partner financial assistance programs.

- Reached 64 beginner woodland managers with educational programs and distributed approximately 280 packets with introductory woodland management information to residents and partner organizations.

### Relationship Building & Partnerships

- In response to the introduction of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) to Washington County, we partnered with Clean Water Services to offer two field workshops for local land managers and contractors. We initiated the local EAB working group to develop best management practices and education materials for Washington County residents.
- Collaborated closely with the Oregon Department of Forestry, OSU Extension, Oregon State Fire Marshal, and other partners to organize a wildfire preparedness outreach event for small woodland managers at Hagg Lake (to be held in spring 2024).
- Partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry to launch a local working group to document best forest management practices for climate, wildfire, and landslide resilience in Washington County.

## Habitat Conservation Program

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### Program Overview

Washington County is home to a variety of important habitat types, including streams, wetlands, oak woodlands, and prairies. We provide financial support, project planning and management to private landowners who are interested in improving the quality of habitat on their property. These restoration projects result in increased habitat for fish and wildlife, cleaner water, and healthier soil.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

The Habitat Conservation Program continued adding streamside restoration projects while expanding outreach to properties that are well-suited for Oregon white oak conservation projects. The increase in intentional outreach has resulted in more requests for site visits with landowners. During site visits, we provided technical assistance and identified opportunities for project enrollment or for connecting landowners with partner programs. In partnership with Clean Water Services (CWS) and the Tualatin River Watershed Council (TRWC), we evaluated opportunities for aquatic restoration projects. These projects focus on water quality and fish passage, as well as expanding and restoring habitat suitable for aquatic species.

In addition to planning and managing over 100 active restoration projects, we sourced 42,000 native plants and more than 1,400 pounds of seed for use on habitat enhancement projects. In collaboration with the Grants & Enrollment Specialist, we updated enrollment and contracting processes to improve client experience and internal data management.

### Major Accomplishments

- Enrolled four new streamside planting projects in the Vegetated Buffer Areas for Conservation (VEGBAC) program. These new projects totaled 101.93 acres of riparian habitat.
- Re-enrolled one older streamside planting project in conservation programs. This continuing project totals 11 acres of habitat. Two existing projects were transferred to new landowners.
- Enrolled three new projects in the Habitat Conservation Funding Program, totaling 36 acres of oak and wetland habitat.
- Planted more than 140,000 trees and shrubs across riparian, oak, and wetland projects.
- Received an NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to remove fish passage barriers in the Gales Creek basin. The partnership with CWS and TRWC intends to complete five projects over the grant period. Design and engineering were completed for the first project to replace failing culverts in a tributary to upper Gales Creek, opening over four miles of stream habitat.

### Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continue to collaborate with [Clean Water Services](#), [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), and [Farm Service Agency](#) to identify and enroll streamside planting projects in priority areas of the Tualatin River watershed.
- We worked closely with [TRWC](#) and [CWS](#) to continue identifying and prioritizing opportunities for aquatic enhancement projects.
- In collaboration with CWS and Institute for Applied Ecology, we continued implementing research on assisted plant migration to identify tree and shrub species that will thrive in future climate scenarios predicted for Washington County. The project began in 2020; in FY23 we launched the seed collection phase with seed collectors spread throughout southwest Oregon and northern California.

- We completed a basin-wide modeling effort in partnership with TRWC. Using NetMap desktop GIS modeling software, we identified priority stream reaches for aquatic and riparian habitat enhancement. The partnership collaborated with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to develop reach prioritization for steelhead habitat restoration and beaver coexistence and riparian projects. The steelhead analysis was completed in 2023.

## Invasive Species Program

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### Program Overview

We identify and treat invasive plants and animals that pose a threat to our communities and watershed. Working with our partners and the dedicated communities of Washington County, our staff locates new infestations and works quickly to keep them from expanding. We provide advice and tools to help people manage invasive species on their property.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

The Invasive Species Program has been busy slowing the spread of priority invasive species throughout the Tualatin River watershed. This year we expanded our invasive turtle monitoring efforts to include large sections of Fanno Creek. We also supported efforts to respond to the arrival of the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) by installing EAB traps and assisting with the state's Slowing Ash Mortality (SLAM) program.

We continued to coordinate surveys and on-the-ground treatments of invasive weeds and continued to expand the number of invasive species we address across Washington County.

We resumed in-person Weed Watcher Workshops for local municipalities and community members. Additionally, an updated version of the Weed Watcher Guide is being drafted and will soon be printed and distributed. We collaborated with other programs to develop a strategy for conducting outreach and awareness-raising to assist community members in managing common weeds.

The combination of education and on-the-ground work has allowed us to identify and control species before they get out of hand.

## Major Accomplishments

- Completed 202 property visits to survey and treat invasive weeds.
- Provided technical assistance to 67 people related to weed identification and control.
- Received 262 signed *Permit of Entry* letters allowing treatment of invasive species on private properties.
- Trained 147 community members as Weed Watchers via three webinars and five in-person workshops.
- Treated 20.64 acres of Early Detection/Rapid Response weeds, including (but not limited to):
  - 14.53 acres of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
  - 2.89 acres of knotweed (*Polygonum* species)
  - 1.5 acres of goatsrue (*Galega officinalis*)
  - 28,750 square feet of false brome (*Brachypodium sylvaticum*)
  - 20,909 square feet of Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*)
- Received 15,780 page views on the website's [Weed and Pest Directory](#).
- Loaned weed wrenches to 12 landowners.

## Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continued our partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to assist with trapping and removing invasive turtles. Traps were deployed along Fanno Creek and Summer Lake.
- We formed a Technical Advisory Group of local partners and hired a consultant to begin drafting a Tualatin Basin Weed Management Plan.
- We maintained a close working relationship with the [4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area](#) (CWMA) partners to manage priority weeds throughout the Portland Metro Area. We continued to work with partners on standardizing the 4-County CWMA areas' data collection methods to improve the regional database of weed observations.
- We coordinated with landowners to support the EAB SLAM effort around Forest Grove. Also, we have been monitoring EAB traps throughout Washington County.
- We partnered with Clackamas SWCD to treat 1.5 acres of goatsrue near our county boundaries.

## Conservation Education Program

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### Program Overview

Community awareness and involvement are essential to conserving our natural resources. The Conservation Education Program engages with and educates the community through educational workshops, informative digital media and print resources, and direct outreach to increase the community's knowledge of natural resource conservation and to promote awareness of Tualatin SWCD programs. Our goal is to empower residents to pursue conservation projects and actions in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

This year marked the return to regularly hosting in-person events, allowing us to engage with more community members face-to-face. We continued to provide virtual education opportunities given the high number of individuals engaging through that format. We developed new offerings, including a workshop about managing common weeds, an event providing free oak seedlings and planting instructions, and an informational session about managing agricultural drainage channels. We focused on expanding our library of resources by developing new graphics, imagery, video content, fact sheets, and more. We actively participated in a variety of local working groups to collaborate on messaging and outreach approaches across the region.

Our program dedicated substantial time to establishing outreach strategies for a variety of conservation projects and initiatives, including neighborhood-scale stream restoration projects, outreach to new woodland owners, recruitment for riparian planting and oak conservation projects, invasive species management, and water quality initiatives on rural lands. As we move into the next fiscal year, we will be working to implement and expand on all these initiatives.

### Major Accomplishments

- Hosted 37 educational events, including virtual and in-person workshops, presentations to community groups, and conservation-focused activities. These offerings reached over 840 people and amounted to over 80 hours of educational content. Workshop topics included naturescaping, weed management, rainwater harvesting, soil health, and land stewardship. Events included an oak seedling giveaway and a pesticide collection event, where over 16,000 pounds of chemicals were collected.
- Conducted outreach at 24 community events, reaching over 2,170 people with information about Tualatin SWCD and natural resource conservation.
- Increased our communications reach by developing digital content, maintaining engaging social media channels, earning media placements, and

expanding our email contact list. Communications highlights from the past year include:

- Received over 95,500 page views from over 44,000 viewers on the [Tualatin SWCD](#) website.
- Increased our following across all social media platforms. Our YouTube following grew by 22%, and viewers engaged with our video content for over 900 hours.
- Increased e-newsletter subscriptions by 28%, now reaching over 4,000 recipients.
- Earned 13 article placements in local news outlets.
- Developed new outreach materials to educate the community about Tualatin SWCD programs, natural resource topics, and conservation projects, including:
  - Six videos providing tutorials on conservation practices and examples of conservation projects.
  - Fourteen blog posts educating about conservation topics and telling stories of local conservation efforts.
  - Graphic publications describing Tualatin SWCD offerings and educating about our natural resource priorities, including conserving Oregon white oak habitat, and restoring stream sides.
  - A map of agricultural commodities grown in Washington County.
  - A series of fact sheets describing best management practices for managing invasive species.
  - Further development of the Watershed Navigator website.
- Launched a new soil testing program to connect with rural residents and offer resources for understanding the importance of soil health.
- Conducted direct outreach to over 1,100 residents through mailings about restoring riparian areas, conserving oak habitat, improving water quality, and creating backyard habitat.
- Distributed over 15 pounds of native plant seed to 350 residents to boost pollinator habitat, and more than 80 boot brushes to encourage best practices for minimizing the spread of invasive species.
- Initiated a curriculum kit loan program offering six place-based environmental education lessons for elementary students. Loaned kits to 13 classrooms, reaching over 675 students.
- Collaborated with Washington County Parks to plan a native plant demonstration garden at Metzger Park in Tigard.

## Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We continued facilitating the regional Conservation Education & Outreach group to foster collaboration and information-sharing with educators from neighboring SWCDs.
- As a part of the [4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area](#) (CWMA), we helped host the 2023 Pull Together event which brought together over 200 participants to discuss regional invasive species management and education.
- We participated in outreach initiatives for the Clean Rivers Coalition's Follow the Water campaign and contributed content to their website's blog.
- We provided support to the Five Oaks Museum as they developed the *Replenish the Root* exhibition to highlight the importance of Oregon white oak habitat.
- We participated in regional and local work groups to develop communications plans and outreach materials to educate the community about the arrival of the invasive emerald ash borer.
- We contributed to youth education initiatives by providing staff support at the statewide Envirothon event and leading field trips for the Fish Eggs to Fry program.

## Grants & Partnerships Program

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### Program Overview

We provide a variety of funding options to support conservation projects, research, education, and events in Washington County. Through grants and funded partnerships, we support the important work of other organizations and groups focused on natural resource conservation and education. Our grants and partnerships allow us to leverage funding and expand our impact through the capacity and expertise of other entities.

We administer four grant programs: Tualatin River Environmental Enhancement Grant (TREE), Tualatin Watershed Improvement Grant (TWIG), Conservation Education Grant (CONE), and Farmers Market Grant. In addition, we provide sponsorships to support mission-aligned organizations, programs, and events.

### Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Summary

We reached an impressive milestone for our grant programs this fiscal year, surpassing \$3 million in total awarded grant funds since our grant offerings were



established in 2018. Awards made in FY23 totaled over \$660,000. In addition, we provided over \$318,000 in organizational sponsorships.

We experienced a burst of growth in our Conservation Education Grant program, receiving and awarding more applications than any previous year. Awards made in the past fiscal year account for over one half of all awarded dollars since the Conservation Education Grant program started in 2020.

We explored several new avenues this fiscal year, including establishing a sponsorship program for farmer training programs, conducting a survey of previous and potential community garden grantees, and laying the groundwork for expanding our TWIG program to provide even more support for school and community gardens.

### Major Accomplishments

- Awarded \$75,000 to ten Washington County farmers markets through the Farmers Market Grant Program. Funds supported activities that increase market participation and improve access to fresh, local food. Projects included providing matching funds for nutrition assistance programs, offering children's programming, and supporting emerging vendors.
- Awarded \$207,380 to five applicants through the TREE Grant Program. Awardees included two non-profit organizations, one municipality, and two local businesses. Projects included two habitat restoration projects and three research projects.
- Awarded \$284,479 to sixteen applicants through the Conservation Education Grant Program. Grantees included thirteen non-profit organizations, and three educational institutions. The funding will support field-based education initiatives, curriculum development and delivery, farmer training programs, and a watershed-focused art installation.
- Awarded \$76,074 to seventeen applicants through the TWIG Grant Program. Awards were provided to six schools, four homeowners associations, two municipalities, four non-profit organizations, and one local business. Projects included creating or improving gardens at schools and community spaces, installing native landscaping in neighborhood common areas, and improving wildlife habitat.
- Established a new program to provide financial support for established farmer training programs. Awarded \$20,000 to two eligible entities.
- Provided \$318,746 in organizational and event sponsorships. Our four major organizational sponsorships are detailed below.

- Closed out twenty-two grant projects awarded in previous fiscal years.

### Relationship Building & Partnerships

- We provided a seventh year of financial support for [Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom](#) to continue expanding programming in Washington County. Highlights from FY23 include reaching over 2,700 students with the annual Agricultural Literacy Project, and over 3,900 students with virtual farm field trips.
- We continued to provide funding to the [Backyard Habitat Certification Program](#) to support program growth and expansion into Washington County.
- We continued our partnership with [Oregon State University Extension's Master Naturalist Program](#). Our funding allowed this program to return to Washington County and expand its reach.
- We continued our partnership with the [Tualatin River Watershed Council](#). Funding to the Council assisted with organizational capacity.