

# Education/Outreach DRAFT Report and Implementation Activities– October 2024

## ***Stream Smart (TMDL and Stormwater Education, Volunteer Programs, Public Involvement and Participation)***

- *Activities Update/Accomplishments since July*
  - ***Bear Creek Salmon Festival at North Mountain Park – October 12<sup>th</sup>*** (297 booth visitors)



- ***Bear Creek Clean-up (September 21<sup>st</sup>)***
  - 98 volunteers
  - Removed approximately 1,500 pounds of trash
  - Treated 33,780 square feet of Himalayan Blackberry, Yellow Star Thistle, and other invasive weeds during the event
  - More involvement from Stream Smart in coordinating this event for the fall due to the main coordinator absence.
- ***Salmon Watch***
  - Training on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (Open house/Introduction and mock field day).
  - Program in full swing. 19 scheduled field days from September 17<sup>th</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup> (1 cancellation).
    - McGregor Park
    - Tou Velle State Park
    - Reinhart Volunteer Park
    - North Mountain Park
    - Cantrall Buckley
    - Blue Heron (Spring)
    - Scenic Middle School (Spring)
  - December 14<sup>th</sup> Program – Hybrid Salmon Watch and Salmon Release
  - Spring Program
    - Talent Middle School (2 days)
    - Scenic Middle School (8 days)

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- *Salmon Watch Traveling Road Show (RVCOG, RVSS, and APWC)*
  - *Prospect - June 26<sup>th</sup> (12 attendees)*
  - *Ashland – July 2<sup>nd</sup> (31 attendees)*
  - *Central Point – July 20<sup>th</sup> (4 attendees)*
  - *Ruch – July 20<sup>th</sup> (2 attendees)*
  - *Gold Hill – July 23<sup>rd</sup>*
  - *Shady Cove – July 25<sup>th</sup> (9 attendees)*
  - *Medford – August 8<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Butte Falls – August 13<sup>th</sup>*
  - *White City, Eagle Point, and Applegate -August 15th*
- **RAIN Outreach**
  - Target Audience Outfitters (River Guides)
  - Stream Smart QR Code on stickers and other outreach materials (links to RAIN Page).
  - Parrot Feather and Ludwigia



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- **Volunteer Programs**
  - Covered with Salmon Watch and Clean-up activities
- **Articles, Press, Blogs, and Presentations**
  - **Water Quality Press Releases**
  - **Bear Creek Clean-up Blog**
  - **Adopt-A-Street Blog**

## NPDES Phase II

- Annual reports completed and posted online. Final updates posted 10/16/24.
- Documented inspection of storm drains monitored under the TMDL program completed on 7/10/24.
- Incorporated the stormwater pollutants activity into the water quality portion of the traveling road show, into the Salmon Watch Program and trainings days, and for events (Salmon Festival).
- Annual work plan updated.
- Web – working updates/updates
  - Stormwater programs on Stream Smart
    - Link to MS4 preferred location
    - List of contact(s)
  - Stormwater 101 (RVCOG)
    - Updated (brochures)
    - SWAT General Information
- Brochure and other items distribution ongoing
  - Event driven, front counters, libraries
- Ongoing tracking of implementation activities using survey 1-2-3 and spreadsheets
  - Survey for features (LID and BMP)
    - <https://rvcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=018eec42042b4216b7812956b974593f>
  - Activities map (TMDL and Phase II)
    - <https://rvcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=d8fb1ae656254f8a92d78dff3545782d>

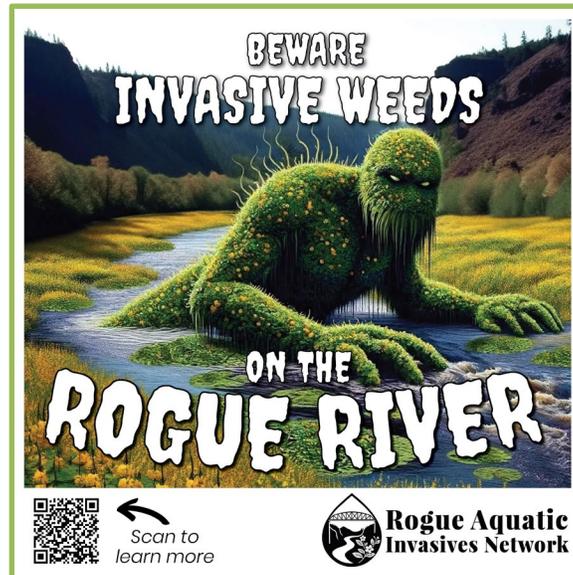
## TMDL- Regional Implementation Actions

- General TMDL
  - Annual report materials drafted and online. All DMAs will need to submit a cover letter and the short matrix with a reference to the online materials. Each DMA will need to make an official submittal.
    - Bear Creek DMAs - <https://rvcog.org/what-we-do/natural-resources/clean-water-act-tmdl/bear-creek-tmdl/>
    - Grants Pass - <https://rvcog.org/grants-pass-tmdl/>

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- Coordinating the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) covering Jackson and Josephine Counties
  - Meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Newsletter (every other month)
  - Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) Invasive Species Education and Outreach Grant
  - RAIN (Rogue Aquatic Invasive Weed Network)

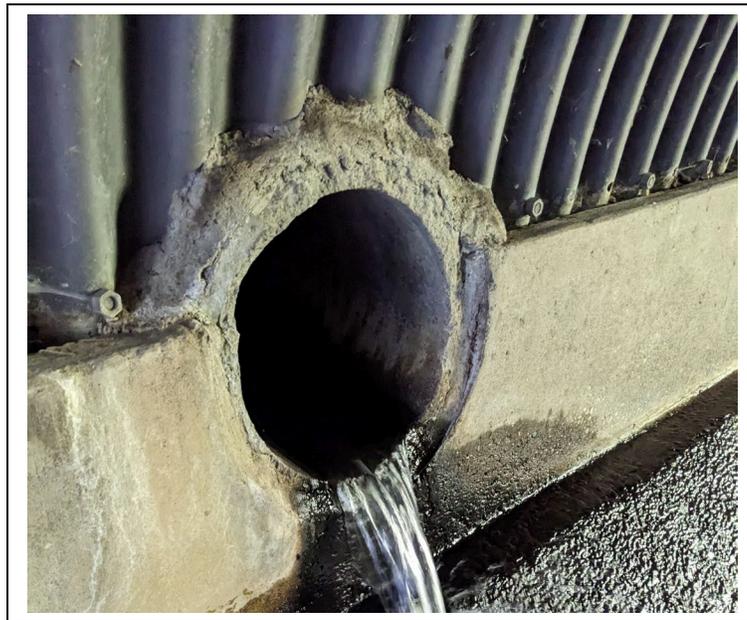


- Bear Creek Restoration Initiative (BCRI) – Restoration Activities
  - General Coordination of advisory team
  - TMDL restoration needs and activities included in the program (restoration, outreach)
  - Updated maps on BCRI activity ([story maps](#))
    - Restoration
    - Invasive Species work (completed, ongoing, planned)
    - General Riparian Conditions (Future)
    - Priorities and other general information
  - AC Meetings (first Wednesday) – Previous one held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Next one November 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Wings Across America Funding focused on native pollinator species (\$25,000)
    - Ongoing maintenance (success story)
    - Restoration of habitat (ongoing through 2025)
  - Pollinator working group meeting
  - Working with local school on a project.
  - Working groups – restoration, pollinators, stakeholder engagement, work force

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- Other Activities
  - Press Releases (Memorial Day through Labor Day)
  - Implementation Tracking Maps
    - <https://rvcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=d8fb1ae656254f8a92d78dff3545782d>
  - Website updates (TMDL 101)
  - Regional Project Updates/Other Meetings
    - BCRI Technical Team Meetings – July and September
      - Next Meeting – November 6<sup>th</sup>
    - Aquatic Trash Prevention Partnership – August 29<sup>th</sup>
      - Looking for grant funding for 2 “trash trout” devices (~\$30,000)
- Monitoring/Monitoring Related
  - Monthly TMDL runs
    - Phosphorus analysis (April-Oct)
  - Storm drains (3 times per year)
    - July 10<sup>th</sup> Dry Weather Storm Drain run
    - Storm drain inspection (Survey 1-2-3) in dry weather in addition to sample collection (dry)



- Revised noticing protocol to be consistent with dry level screening protocol and water quality standards.
- DEQ Split Sampling (external QA/QC)
  - July 16<sup>th</sup>
  - September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Hot spot

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- Part of the TMDL program.
- Serve as contact for water quality concerns.
- Follow up and investigate. Collect samples and track.
- Report as needed.
- Continue to Inventory and map.
- Alameda Fire Monitoring – Reporting
- White City Patrols (MWC)
- Meetings
  - Rogue Drinking Water Partnership Meeting – July 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - RAIN field visit – Whitehorse Park – October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Additional Volunteer and Educational Activities
  - Online TMDL restoration maps created (ArcGIS and searchable app)
  - Blogs and Articles
    - Reported under Stream Smart
- Hot Spots/Calls of Concern/investigations
  - Wagner Creek Bacteria concerns (additional samples collected)
  - Burning of PVC materials in Sams Valley
  - Storm drain outfall – potential abnormal flow (causing pooling on the greenway) – referred to local contact.



The Rogue Basin Salmon Watch Program Presents:  
**Salmon Watch Traveling Roadshow**

**Thursday, August 8th, 2024**  
**1:00 to 2:00 p.m**

**Jackson County Library Services - Medford**  
**205 S. Central Avenue**  
**Medford, Oregon 97501**





# BEAR CREEK STEWARDSHIP DAY

**Volunteer!**  
**Saturday**  
**September 21st**  
**9am–12pm**

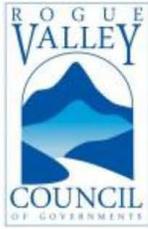


*Sign up here*

**BEAR CREEK STEWARDS** 

**Join us in Central Point, Medford, Phoenix, Talent, or Ashland.**  
*Find the event closest to you at*  
**[bearcreekstewards.org](http://bearcreekstewards.org)**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Rogue Valley Council of Governments,  
Natural Resources Department

**CREEK SAFETY WATCH**  
**Bear Creek Watershed – Jackson County**  
**August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**



***Important Note: This information is for select creeks in the Bear Creek Basin only – IT DOES NOT COVER ALL CREEKS IN JACKSON COUNTY OR ALL CREEKS IN THE BEAR CREEK WATERSHED.*** If you have questions about a specific creek, please call RVCOG (see contact information below).

Routine, monthly water quality testing results indicate that the following creeks have exceeded state bacteria standards for contact recreation (swimming, wading, etc.). Residents are asked to use caution when in contact with any waterways and especially to avoid ingestion (which may cause illness) and contact with open wounds (which may cause infection). Very young children should be fully supervised when playing in the water to avoid swallowing the water. It is important to note that contact with any water body – creeks, rivers, lakes, or swimming pools – carries some level of risk.

**Possible causes of high levels of bacteria in the creeks include:** 1) pet waste, 2) livestock waste, 3) wild animals, 4) leaking septic systems, 5) illegal dumping from portable toilets or RVs, or 6) any other activity that results in the discharge of fecal matter directly into creeks or through storm drains.

Citizens are asked to notify the appropriate agency of any concerns. Failing septic systems and other pollutants discharged into streams should be reported to the Department of Environmental Quality. Complaints can be reported to the complaint hotline at 1-888-997-7888 or online at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/rep.htm>. If you are unsure of whom to call or have questions regarding which creeks are tested, please call Amie Siedlecki (541-423-1371) or Greg Stabach (541-423-1370) from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments' (RVCOG) Natural Resources Department, or visit <http://rvcog.org/what-we-do/natural-resources/>.

**What you can do:** 1) pick up after your pets, 2) keep manure, cat litter, and other waste material away from creeks and storm drains, 3) have your septic system inspected and repaired if failing, and 4) put toddlers in swim diapers.

More information is available from RVCOG's Natural Resources Department (<http://rvcog.org/what-we-do/natural-resources/>), Stream Smart's Monitoring Water Quality in the Rogue Basin webpage (<http://www.stream-smart.com/monitoring-water-quality-in-the-rogue-basin/>), the Oregon Department of Human Services ([www.egov.oregon.gov/DHS](http://www.egov.oregon.gov/DHS)), and the Environmental Protection Agency (<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/humanhealth/>).

**The following creeks have exceeded state bacteria standards for contact recreation (swimming, wading etc.):**

Walker Creek near Dead Indian Memorial Road (Ashland)
Bear Creek near Suncrest Road (Talent)
Jackson Creek from W. Ross Lane to Dean Creek Road (Jacksonville/Central Point)

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