

LWC Mission:

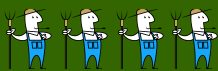
To engage landowners and communities in the voluntary protection, restoration and enhancement of the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

What we are:

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is a volunteer, nongovernmental, advisory group composed of stakeholders living or working in the Luckiamute and Ash Creek watersheds.

Council meetings:

Held the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., Visit our website at: www.LuckiamuteLWC.org for location and details. Meetings are open to the public. Please join us!



Events:

Attention Yamhill and Polk County growers! Bring your old and unwanted pesticides and pesticide containers to a free Agricultural Waste Collection Event on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8am to 2pm, at the Whiteson Wilco. Turn to page 2 for more details and registration info.

Luckiamute Watershed Council

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org



Ash Creek Restoration Project in Progress



Ash Creek (Stewardship Reach), Summer 2014

Can you smell it in the air? Autumn has arrived, and the first rains of the season have already fallen. The maples are revealing their hidden colors, and the fields are being prepared for a long winter's sleep.

In the communities of Independence and Monmouth, the hustle and bustle of the Fall is underway as children re-adjust to school schedules and preparations for the holidays begin to come to the forefront of our to-do lists. Yet even in our busy urban landscape, nature's own preparations for the changing season are evident all around us.

Ash Creek, our own urban waterway, quietly meanders through our community — hidden behind our backyard gardens, flowing past our childrens' playgrounds, and trickling beneath our roadways. Sometimes we even forget that our watery neighbor is present unless it rises up dramatically after heavy rainfall, or playfully discharges a family of otters beside our back porch.

Two hundred years ago, this entire area resembled a boggy, "braided" marsh with many small creeks spilling into Ash Creek and eventually the Willamette River. Although logging, farming and development have significantly altered the stream channel and riparian landscape over the years, this waterway and its floodplain continue to provide important ecological functions such as floodwater storage, fish and wildlife habitat, as well as recreational and educational opportunities for residents.

In 2013, the LWC was awarded a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to restore the ecological health of Ash Creek. In partnership with the City of Independence, the City of Monmouth, Central School District and the Ash Creek Water Control District, the LWC is working hand-in-hand with local landowners to remove invasive species that have taken over much of the riparian area, and replant streamside areas with native vegetation. Already, our project manager, Jean-Paul Zagarola, has conducted surveys to pinpoint where restoration efforts are most needed, and we are about to start cutting and treating invasive English ivy that is choking the riparian vegetation along much of Ash Creek.

We have divided the project into two sections -- "Revegetation Reach" and "Stewardship Reach" -- which each have different restoration goals (see map be-

Let's Pull Together! Volunteer Ivy Pull a Success

On September 6, a small but motivated group of volunteers met at Riverview Park in Independence, to help rid the banks of Ash Creek and the Willamette River of invasive English ivy. Just three hours later, 28 trees were released from the stranglehold of hundreds of twining English ivy vines. Thanks to the City of Independence Public Works, the two massive piles of ivy vines left on the site have been cleared away and properly disposed of. Why are we so focused on the removal of this species? English Ivy was brought over to North America from Europe by early settlers as an ornamental plant. However, left to its own devices, English ivy can choke and kill the trees that shade our streams and provide food and shelter to many native wildlife species. What looks like a benign little green plant can end up strangling trees, accelerating rot, pulling off bark, attracting mosquitoes and causing mature trees to fall during storms. Ivy vines can grow as thick as a man's arm and once they reach the tree canopy, they can block sunlight from the trees' leaves. If you have concerns about English ivy or any other invasive species growing on your property, please contact us and we'll be happy to share some of the best treatment and removal methods with you.

Are you interested in learning more about being an LWC volunteer? Visit our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org to sign up as a volunteer, or you can keep an eye on our [calendar](#) for the next community volunteer opportunity!



LWC volunteers are ready to tackle English Ivy! (from L to R - Steve DeGoey, Jay Teller, Suzanne Teller, Kristen Larson, and our youngest volunteers, Oliver and Jayson)

Agricultural Waste Collection Event for Polk and Yamhill Counties

Saturday, December 6 from 8:00am to 2:00pm
Wilco Agriculture Center in Whiteson

Free disposal of old and unwanted pesticides and pesticide containers for Polk & Yamhill County growers.

To be contacted when pre-registration is ready,
 contact Luke Westphal of the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council at 503-474-1047 or director@yamhillwatershedcouncil.org.

About the LWC

The Luckiamute Watershed Council is comprised of volunteer watershed residents who care about the health of the watershed. Current members represent interests ranging from farming and forestry to education and water resources.

The Council is recruiting new board members and seeks individuals who work, live, or play in the watershed—you are a watershed stakeholder.

We also welcome donations to support the work of the council, an Oregon non-profit organization. Please send checks to: [226 S. Main St. Suite L, Independence, OR 97351](#)

Thank you!

Upcoming Council Meetings

Join us for Council Monthly Meetings, held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Our meetings are always open to the public and discussion topics include local watershed issues and actions. For details, please visit our web site at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.

November 13, 2014: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth.

****There will be no Council meeting in December****

January 13, 2015: Volunteer Hall, Monmouth.

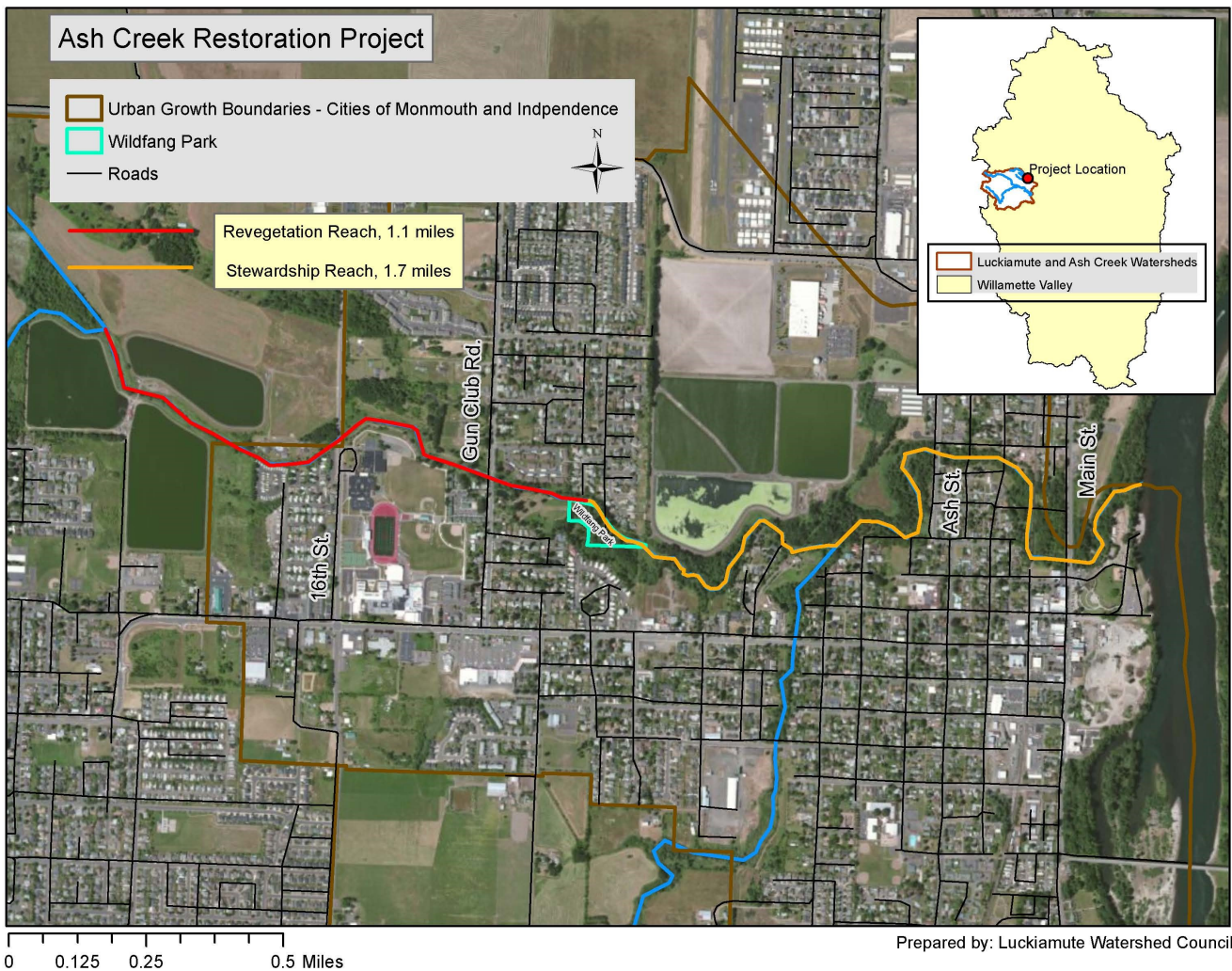
Ash Creek Restoration Project, *continued from page 1*

low). The Revegetation Reach stretches about a mile, from Monmouth Public Works at Hogan Road to Wildfang Park. The streambank along this section of Ash Creek has been significantly degraded, with many areas having almost no vegetation. Here, we will be both eradicating invasive species and planting native trees and shrubs within the riparian zone with participating landowners. Streamside trees and vegetation are important because they provide natural protection against flood damage and bank erosion, trap sediment that would otherwise wash into the waterway, and keep water temperatures cool.

At a little over one-and-a-half miles, the Stewardship Reach is slightly longer, extending from Wildfang Park to the confluence with the Willamette. This section of Ash Creek has a vegetated riparian area that is fairly healthy.

Along this stretch of the creek, we will be focusing our efforts on removing high-priority invasive weeds along the streambanks. Some of the invasive species identified along Ash Creek are Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, American holly, poison hemlock, and vinca.

If you suspect that you may have one or more of these species on your property, don't hesitate to give us a call at 503-837-0237 or email info@LuckiamuteLWC.org to find out how to remove these invasive plants and learn about some excellent native plant varieties to replace them. Also, you can stay informed about what we are doing along Ash Creek to restore and revitalize this small but ecologically important urban waterway, by visiting our website at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org.



Coordinator's Corner: The Business Side of the LWC

I often take time in this section to talk about progress on a project or celebrate a funding award that will initiate or continue a project. I have neglected to celebrate a very important part of the Luckiamute Watershed Council—the business side.

The LWC is an Oregon state-incorporated non-profit entity. We operate with a volunteer Board of Directors, technical advisors, staff, project management contractor, and volunteer help. Stepping back and thinking about what we get done with this capacity, it's quite impressive. I greatly appreciate the Board, technical advisors, and volunteers who make this work possible.

The LWC has made great strides on its business side. In 2014, we:

- Revised our geographic work area to include “orphaned” areas—areas with no local watershed council to work with. It's a small area, but it was a logical step to include the areas between the Luckiamute hydrographic boundary and the Willamette River and meet the boundaries of our neighbors to the south.
- Began offering health insurance to full-time staff for the first time (currently only the Coordinator position).
- Updated our mission statement, by-laws, operating policies and procedures, and personnel policy.
- Initiated a facilitated strategic planning process to develop and adopt the LWC's first strategic plan.
- Increased our fundraising activities, with plans for more in the future.



LWC staff with some of the volunteer Board members, 2014

- Transitioned to a new fiscal sponsor, the Marys River Watershed Council. We are excited to work with our neighbor to the south and build on this foundation for future collaborations.

I invite you to understand more about our business side. The LWC meets the second Thursday of every month and welcomes people interested in just attending meetings or serving on the Board or a committee. Feel free to contact me with any questions or see our website:

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org/become-a-member.html

Burgerville Fundraiser a Success!

Thank you to all who came by the Monmouth Burgerville for our August Fundraiser. Thanks to you, we raised almost \$250 to help us achieve our goals for the upcoming year. If you missed us, don't worry—we will be back at Burgerville for another fundraiser on October 22, from 5 to 8 pm. Sign up to receive our email alerts at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org, or connect with us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest LWC events!



*Helping people help
their watershed*

www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

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