



Learn About Your Creek!

Beaver Creek starts as a spring near Dodge Park Blvd, and flows through farms and nurseries. It passes by houses in Gresham and Troutdale where smaller creeks, like Kelly Creek, flow into it. The creek then empties into the Sandy River near Glenn Otto Park.

The Beaver Creek watershed is the area of land where rain water flows towards the creek. It is home to **salmon, salamanders, herons, eagles, otters, lamprey, people**, and much more.

Read more inside about the watershed, who lives in it, and what you can do to keep it healthy.

In the Water

Who Lives Here?

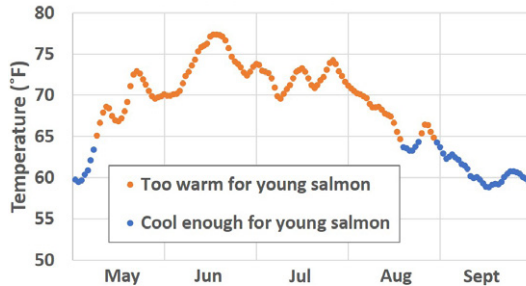


Endangered baby Coho salmon and rainbow trout live in the creek.

Did you know that salmon live in Beaver Creek? Coho and Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and 10 other native fish species live in the creek. Beaver also live throughout the creek. Their ponds make good hiding places for young fish.

Concerns

Salmon still spawn in the creek, but there are fewer than before. Today they face many threats to their survival. The water is too warm in summer. Fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and metals and oil from cars wash into the creek when it rains. Many road crossings block salmon from returning home to spawn.



Beaver Creek Water Temperature at Glenn Otto Park in the Summer of 2015

Getting Home



Top: Culvert blocks salmon trying to get home. Bottom: Bridge allows salmon to swim through.

Salmon are born in creeks and return to the same creek to lay their eggs after spending a few years in the ocean. **Small culverts block salmon from getting home.** Projects to replace small culverts will occur at Stark Street, Kane Road, and Cochran Road.

What You Can Do



Planting trees and shrubs along creeks helps fish.

» Plant native plants in your yard to reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides that may wash into the creek: emswcd.org/native-plant-database/

» Remove invasive weeds along creeks to make room for native trees that provide shade to cool the creek and lower vegetation that helps filter pollutants: emswcd.org/weeds

Illustrations by Jon Wagner



Beaver Creek Watershed

On the Land

Who Lives Here?



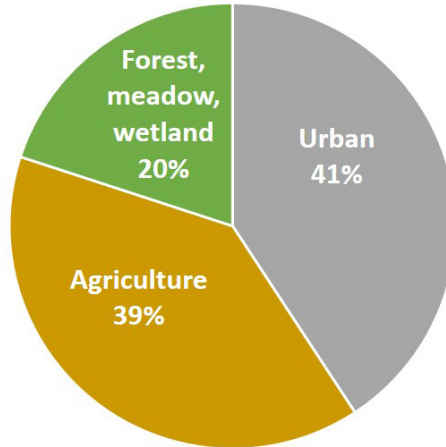
Caz Zyvatkauskas

Oregon Slender Salamander near Kelly Creek.

Spectacular animals live in the Beaver Creek watershed, such as the Oregon Slender Salamanders discovered here in 2012. This was surprising because they were not known outside of the Cascade Mountains. These rare animals live under leaves and logs, and may never move more than a few feet in their entire lives.

Concerns

The watershed still has habitat for animals in the form of forests, wetlands, and meadows, but 80% is now made up of cities and farms. The remaining habitats are smaller and not connected to each other. This makes it harder for animals to live in the watershed.



Land Use in the Beaver Creek Watershed

Getting Greener



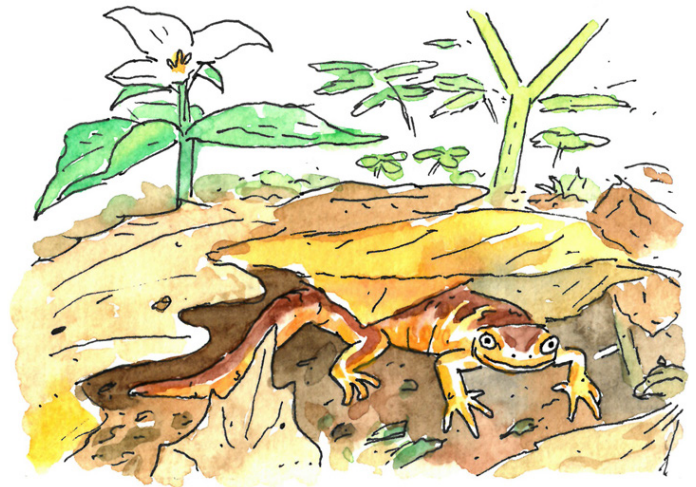
Volunteers planting native trees.

StreamCare is a free program that replaces weeds along creeks with native plants. This improves creek-side habitat that is home to insects, birds, and wildlife. The plants help prevent erosion and increase shade to cool the creek for fish. 35% of landowners along Beaver Creek have already participated in StreamCare!

Learn more: emswcd.org/streamcare



What You Can Do



You can help connect habitat patches in your yard and in your community.

- » Keep some leaves on the ground in the fall for salamanders and other critters.
 - » Plant native flowers and berries to attract butterflies and birds to your yard.
 - » Install nesting boxes for bats and birds to bring wildlife to your area.
 - » Become a volunteer with the Sandy River Watershed Council to help Beaver Creek!
- sandyriver.org

In Our Community

Who Lives Here?

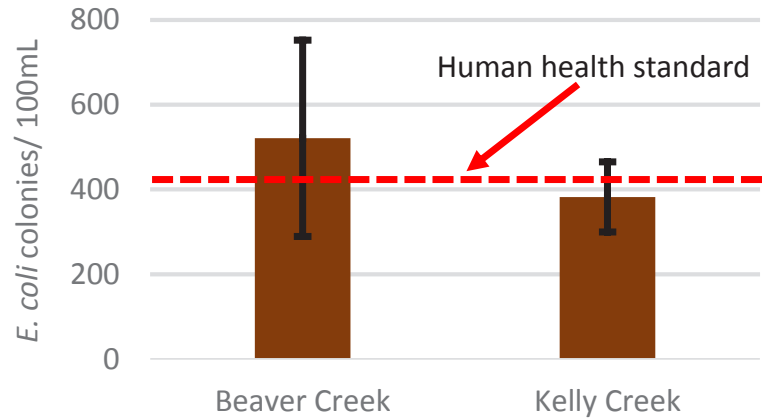


Students learn about Beaver Creek where it joins with Kelly Creek.

People have been part of the ecology of Beaver Creek since Native Americans first fished, hunted, and foraged along the creek. Today about 65,000 people from many cultures live in the watershed. The Sandy River Watershed Council works to improve watershed health and helps you connect with your creek!

Follow them on Facebook and Instagram @sandywatershed

Concerns



Average bacteria levels in Beaver and Kelly Creek 2012-2017

Too much bacteria in creeks can make people sick if they drink it. It can also cause skin rashes with contact. Wastes from wildlife are natural sources of bacteria. In forests and meadows, rain soaks into the soil before reaching the creek, filtering bacteria. Rain washing off sidewalks and streets carries bacteria directly into the creek. Always pick up after your pet, maintain your septic tank, and manage farm animal waste to reduce harmful sources of bacteria.

Getting Cleaner



Left: Depave volunteers remove pavement from parking lot. Right: They replaced it with plants that filter pollutants out of rain as it runs off the lot.

Local groups are working hard to improve Beaver Creek's health. Cities build rain gardens on streets to capture and filter pollution from cars. This cleans runoff before it enters the creek. Mt. Hood Community College is working on a campus improvement project to install rain gardens. This will help the 57-acre campus maintain their Salmon Safe certification.

What You Can Do



Get to know your local creek!

- » Take and share nature pictures, #beavercreeksandy
- » Walk along the greenway trail (across from Weedin Park) or the Mt. Hood Community College trail (from the pond)
- » View salmon from the bridge at Glenn Otto Park
- » Visit the interpretive sign at College Nature Park
- » Learn how to access the creek: sandyriver.org/beavercreek

