



East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
MEDIA ALERT: StreamCare program reaches 500,000 trees and shrubs planted

For Immediate Release
February 4th, 2021

Contact: Chelsea White-Brainard
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MEDIA ALERT:
EMSWCD to plant half millionth plant on February 9th at Mainstem Farm

Join us as we plant the five hundred thousandth plant along Johnson Creek on February 9th, 10:30 AM at Mainstem Farm.

This February 9th at 10:30 AM, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) will plant its half millionth native plant through its StreamCare program, marking 12 years of planting natives to improve streams and help salmon throughout eastern Multnomah County. Please see attached press release for more details.

Date: February 9th, 2021

Location: 28765 SE Stone Road, Boring, OR 97009 ([link to map](#)) – follow signs for parking. Enter driveway, continue across creek, and park near the barn at the top of the hill.

Schedule:

- 10:30 AM – Greet guests, direct parking, set up photo equipment
- 10:40 AM – Welcome from Nancy Hamilton, EMSWCD Executive Director
- 10:45 AM – StreamCare background from Lucas Nipp, StreamCare Program Manager
- 10:50 AM – A few words from Lou Foltz, landowner who participated in StreamCare program
- 10:55 AM – Planting and photo opportunity

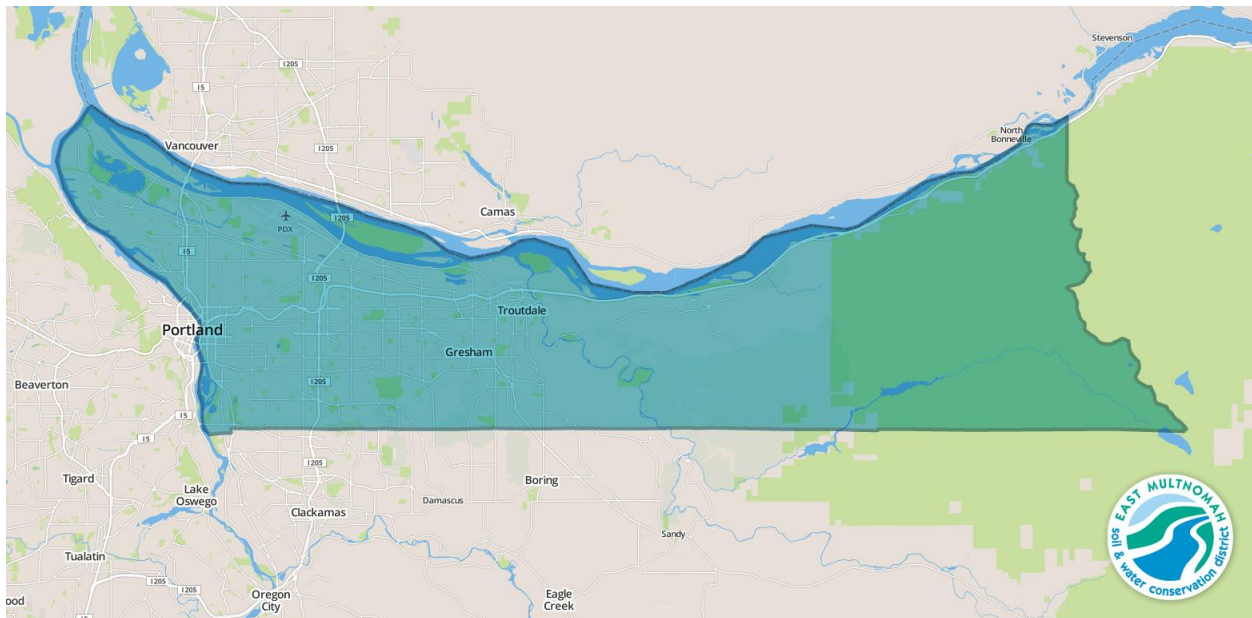
COVID-19 Safety: All visitors must wear a mask or face covering on the premises and maintain a distance of at least 6 ft. from other individuals. Appropriate wear for the location is also recommended, such as boots and a coat.



MEDIA ALERT: EMSWCD to plant half millionth plant on February 9th
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

The East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) is a unit of local government whose mission is to help people care for land and water. The EMSWCD is led by an elected board of five directors and works entirely on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis with landowners, land managers, and other residents east of the Willamette River centerline in Multnomah County. All of the EMSWCD's work is geared toward keeping water clean, conserving water and keeping soil healthy.

Contact **Chelsea White-Brainard**, our Senior Rural Outreach & Education Specialist, with any questions at Chelsea@emswcd.org or (971) 400-0786 Learn more about us at <https://emswcd.org>



Map of EMSWCD District area, which is all Multnomah County East of the Willamette River.

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Streamside planting program to reach half a million trees and shrubs planted in February

Join us as we plant the five hundred thousandth plant along Johnson Creek on February 9th, 10:30 AM at Mainstem Farm.

StreamCare is a little-known program of the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) that has a big impact. Most people haven't heard of StreamCare, but it's been plugging away planting native trees and shrubs along streams in Gresham, Corbett, and Troutdale since 2009. And to more than 200 landowners in eastern Multnomah County that have voluntarily enrolled in the program, it's a pretty big deal. Why have so many folks opted in? "Well, for one thing, it's free. And we have found that once landowners understand the benefits for their land, they're excited to participate," says Nancy Hamilton, Executive Director of the East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD), adding, "our crews are able to transform stream fronts from a blackberry bramble to a thriving native forest that attract wildlife, protect water quality, and build more resilient communities."

The main goal, however, is shade. As the trees mature, they cast their shadows over the stream, lowering the temperature of the water. "It's mostly to benefit salmon," says Lucas Nipp, StreamCare Program Manager. "Salmon need cool water. Most of the streams in our area are far too warm for healthy salmon." Nipp is referring to local streams that have been home to runs of coho, steelhead, chinook, and chum salmon, or feed into rivers that do.

Many streamside forests have been removed to make way for our homes, farms, and businesses. This leads to much more direct sun hitting our local streams, which creates warmer stream temperatures. "Add to that the impacts of a warming climate and we have a bit of a crisis on our hands." Says Nipp. "Basically, we're putting back what was there before it got removed."



StreamCare program to reach half a million trees and shrubs planted in February

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

To that end, StreamCare will plant its 500,000th plant this winter. That's half a million trees and shrubs shading creeks and reducing stream temperatures. They are planted across more than 780 acres along streams in eastern Multnomah County.

But the benefits don't stop there. Streamside forests filter the water running through them, removing pollutants before they reach the creek. As the forest returns to its natural state, wildlife that rely on it for home, food, and shelter from predators also begin to return. As the trees grow old and fall in the creek or drop their branches, the fallen debris creates deep pools that salmon are drawn to for the cool water and hiding spots. The fallen leaves are also food for bugs, which in turn provide food for fish, and so on up the food chain. Streamside forests also make our communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including mitigating the impacts of both flooding and drought.

Finally, the StreamCare work being done by EMSWCD is not only good for our region's environmental health, it's also providing work for people. Since its inception in 2009, StreamCare has provided over 38,000 hours of work and counting for field crews. This has been even more important during these last several months when COVID-19 has impacted employment. "Having clients that understand that we have to modify our workflow and protocols to ensure the safety of our employees has been key to keeping the work going through COVID. EMSWCD has worked with us as we continue to do great ecological work together," says Alex Staunch with Mosaic Ecology, a contractor of EMSWCD.

The program is free for landowners along Johnson, Beaver, Smith, Buck, and Big Creeks, as well as Bonnie Brook. Call, text, or email Lucas Nipp with questions or for more information: (503) 539-5764, lucas@emswcd.org.

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