

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

# Conservation at Every Scale

## 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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## Front Cover Photos



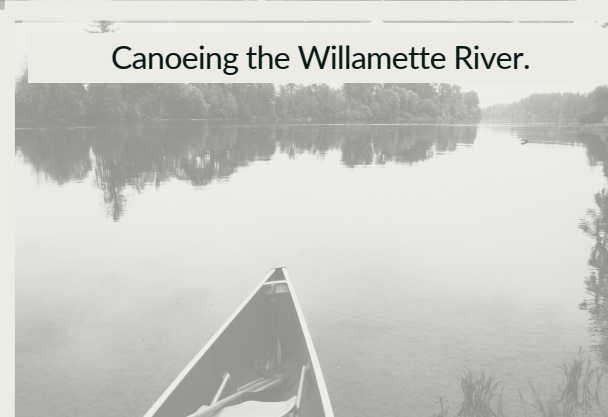
Bird's nest in strawberry field.



Urban farm at Pringle Creek Community.



View of the mid-Willamette Valley.



Canoeing the Willamette River.



Habitat snag



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# CONSERVATION AT EVERY SCALE

Brenda Sanchez, District Manager



This year's theme, Conservation at Every Scale, highlights that conservation efforts can make a meaningful difference at every level in our communities. Just as ecological scales range from soil aggregates teeming with microscopic life to vast landscapes of hills, forests, and waterways that sustain diverse wildlife, conservation actions can be impactful at any scale.

This theme reinforces that everyone can contribute, whether by creating wildlife-friendly backyard habitats, restoring rural streamside areas, or adopting sustainable farming practices. It is

essential to emphasize that conservation is inclusive and accessible, inviting everyone to take part, regardless of the scale of their efforts.

## **Charting a Path to Conservation: Strategic Growth and Community Impact**

Over the past year, we focused on the broadest scale of what our District can achieve by adopting the 2024-29 Strategic Plan, which outlines the path to fulfilling our vision and mission. We are also evaluating the impact of our grant programs by examining the individual practices implemented through the dedication of

landowners and reflecting on a decade of accomplishments. Additionally, the District launched the Little Habitat Project to foster resilient and sustainable ecosystem functions where wildlife and human communities intersect. This initiative aims to promote habitat connectivity, enhance biodiversity, and engage community members in conservation efforts. Thank you for the role you play in conserving the soil, water, and habitat resources that make Marion County a resilient, thriving place.



# A VIEW THROUGH TIME

Janice Calkins, Office Coordinator



Since 1971, the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District has been working with the people who reside within the district's boundaries to protect, conserve and enhance soil, water, and wildlife habitat. How does an organization comprised of only a handful of staff members do this? Through effective partnerships.

## A Range of Partners

Over the past 18 years that I have worked for this District, I've seen some amazing partnerships formed, and some great conservation projects completed.

Our partners range from individuals to federal agencies: private landowners, teachers and students, neighborhood associations, churches, schools, nonprofits, municipalities, and state and federal agencies. Could you be our next partner?

## Small to Large Scale Projects

The projects we've supported range in size from ivy removal in Waldo Park, one of the smallest parks in the world, to riparian revegetation and in-stream culvert replacements. Be it a new green roof installed on a garage, replacement of invasive blackberries with native plants, or installation of livestock heavy

use areas to reduce mud, the list of conservation projects we've helped with goes on and on.

## Expanding Who We Serve

When I first started working at Marion SWCD, our main focus was on providing grants to farmers for irrigation system improvements. Our current suite of programs serve urban and rural residents, elementary through college students, and natural resources professionals.

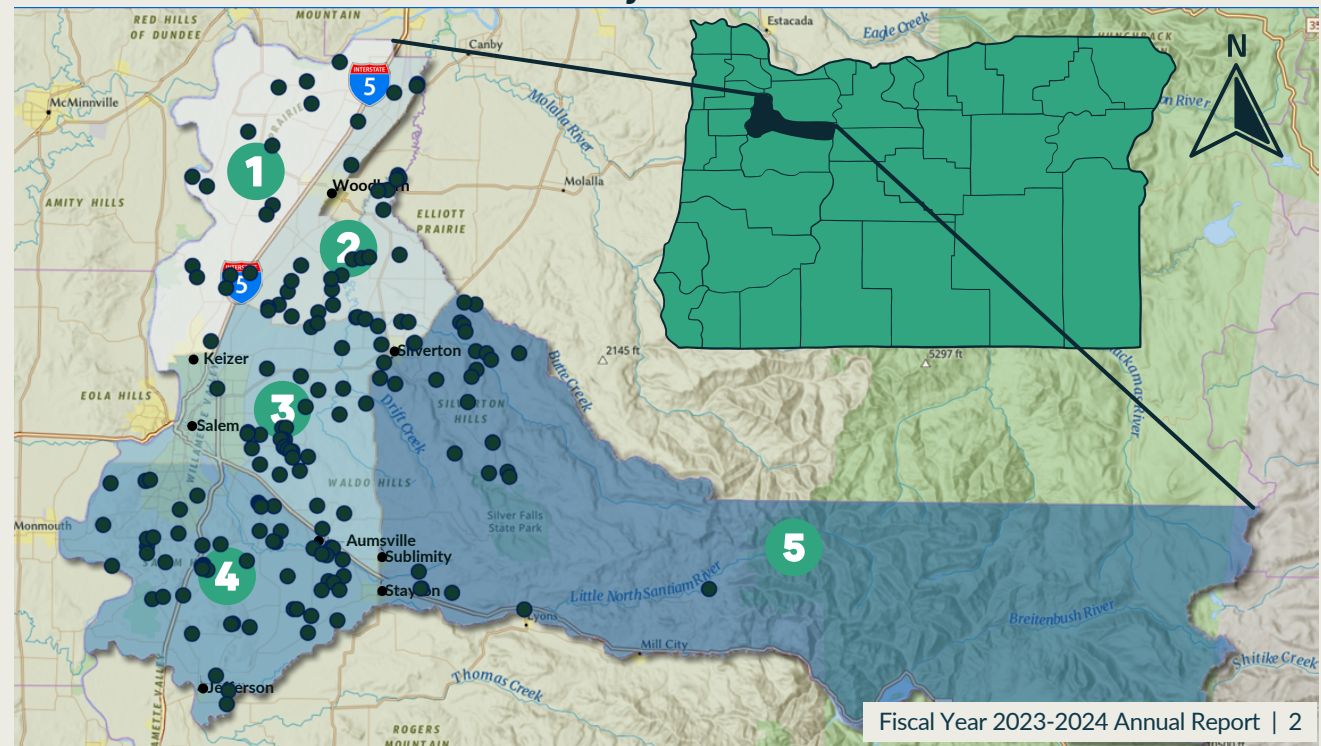
Now, we have added monthly webinars, an information-rich website, grants to support

partner organizations, and the Little Habitat Project for more developed areas.

## Some Things Don't Change

And in some ways, our work has not changed much since the beginning: you reach out to us and we help you bring your conservation dreams to fruition! I can proudly say Marion SWCD remains committed to the belief that good things come from working together to put conservation on the ground.

## Locations of District-funded Projects FY14-15 to FY23-24



# 10-YEAR TRENDS

Tom Wilson, Administrative Assistant



## Top 10 Practices

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has defined 175 conservation practices. Between 2014 and 2024, Marion SWCD funded 45 of those conservation practices. In total, we funded practices 362 times. Some practices were funded more times than others. The top ten practices Marion SWCD funded are:

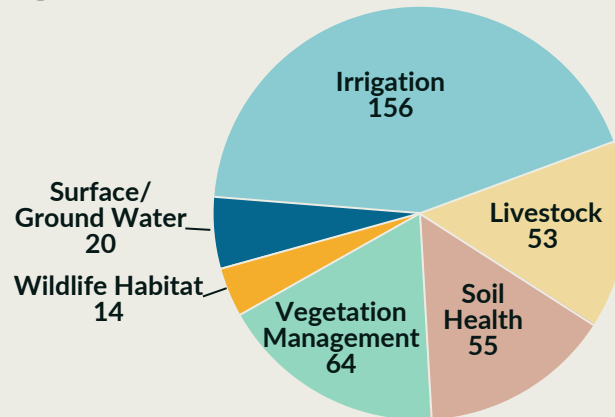
### NRCS Practice - # of times used

1. Micro-Irrigation - 91
2. Irrigation Water Management - 47
3. Brush Management - 37
4. Cover Crop - 25
5. Fencing - 16
6. Tree and Shrub Establishment - 16
7. Heavy Use Area Protection - 13
8. Sprinkler Irrigation System - 12
9. Access Road - 9
10. Roof Runoff Structure - 7

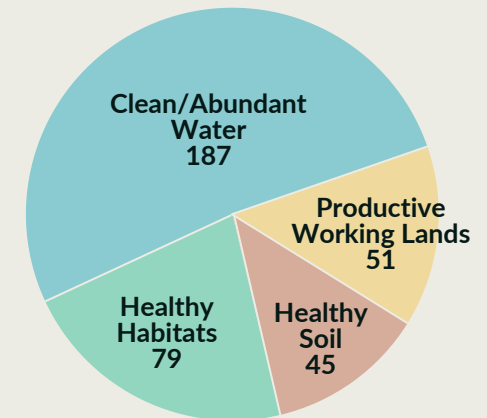
## Where We've Been Focusing 2014-2024

We grouped the NRCS practices into categories to help us better understand where we are focusing our work. These pie charts show how the practices we've funded correspond with (1) the project's main focus, (2) the strategic plan goal they align with, (3) the primary natural resource they address, and (4) the land use to which they are typically applied. In summary, about half the practices we've funded are water focused, with the rest split fairly evenly between livestock, soil, and habitat.

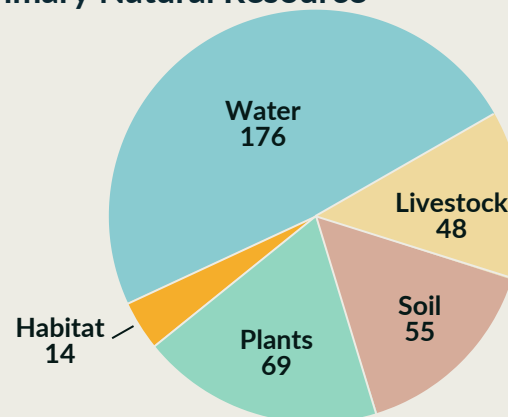
### 1 Project's Main Focus



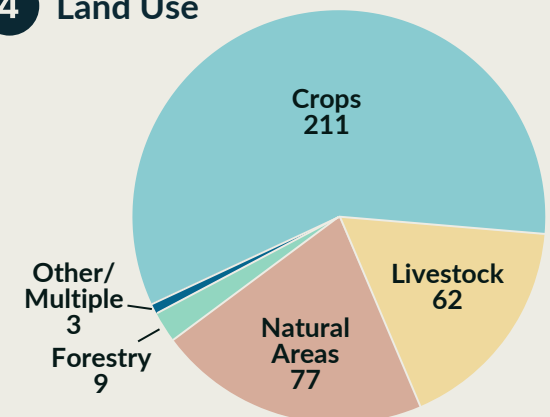
### 2 Strategic Plan Goal Addressed



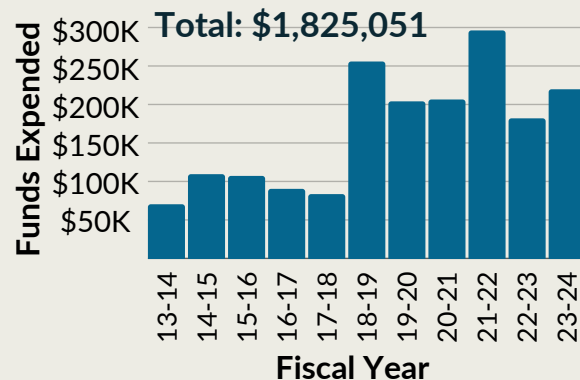
### 3 Primary Natural Resource



### 4 Land Use



## Investments in Conservation Grants



# CONSERVATION GRANTS FY 23-24

Susan Ortiz, Grants Coordinator



## Conservation Assistance Grants (CAG)

The Conservation Assistance Grants (CAG) is a core conservation program for Marion SWCD; the program allows for the installation of conservation practices on properties throughout the county. The CAG enables landowners to implement conservation projects via a 50% cost share in which Marion SWCD pays half of the project cost, up to \$7,500, and cooperators are required to provide remaining project funds using labor (i.e., sweat equity), materials, and/or cash.

Projects must address a specific natural resource issue based on concerns that have been identified by the Marion SWCD Board of Directors and are synchronized with the state-wide priorities defined by the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan (AgWQMP).

## Thirty-Four Projects Funded

The District offered three grant application periods and funded 34 applications in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, in the total amount of \$259,550.

During the 2023-2024 fiscal year there were 26 CAG projects completed, which resulted in \$196,285 in grant assistance provided from District funds; this amount was matched by \$664,650 in landowner contributions, placing a total of \$860,935 in conservation dollars on the ground on 482 acres!

## Special Projects Grant (SPG)

The Special Projects Grant (SPG) program provides financial assistance to demonstrate innovative and sustainable conservation projects and speed the development and availability of new and effective conservation practices in the District. Projects require a 50% cost share in which Marion SWCD pays half of the project cost, up to \$7,500, and cooperators are required to provide remaining project funds using labor (i.e., sweat equity), materials, and/or cash. The District consulted with potential applicants regarding SPG program during the 2023-2024 fiscal year, and shifted the application to our online grant platform. Previously funded projects have included an integrated rainwater catchment system, an

**Combined these programs placed 1,290 acres of conservation on the ground in Marion County.**

urban rain garden, hydroponic fodder feeder, innovative geotextile streambank repair, and a precision GPS guided planter.

## Cover Crop Program

The Cover Crop Program was established as a regular funding program of the District in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The Cover Crop Program provided financial incentive to land operators to plant a winter cover crop to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion. Projects received the incentive on a flat rate per acre basis, up to \$7,500 per cooperator. There were 9 applications received, with 7 funded in a total amount of \$23,455, putting cover crop on 808 acres of otherwise bare ground for the winter of 2023-2024.

## Marion SWCD Conservation Grant Programs

	CAG/LAP	SPG	Cover Crop	Totals
Projects Completed	26	0	7	33
Grant Assistance Provided	\$196,285	\$0	\$23,455	\$219,740
Landowner Contributions	\$664,650	\$0	NA	\$664,650

# COVER CROP BENEFITS

Becky Pineda, Agriculture Conservation Planner – Pasture & Livestock



## Soil Retention

From small- to larger-scale farms, planting cover crops provides multiple benefits. Preventing soil movement off the profile is a main benefit of planting a cover crop. We often see fields bare during winter months between cropping systems or orchard floors that are bare to assist with harvest. But with the heavy winter rains of our region we can also see that soil washing away. Planting cover crops can also build soil health and aid in the retention of soil moisture.

## Cover Crop Assistance

Marion SWCD offers the Cover Crop Grant Assistance program to promote and provide funding for farms to cover bare ground during harsh winter months. The program has grown in recent years and we are looking for more acres in Marion County to enroll in the program.

## Different Techniques

One cover crop farmer continues to plant a multi-species mix in the fall and terminate the crop each spring. He and his father are both enrolled in the program. They see benefits of building soil health and keeping their soil in place on slightly sloped fields. Another farmer chose to switch from a yearly cover crop

to a permanent conservation cover for their hazelnut orchard. Both techniques have great benefits for their farms.

Jay Thompson utilizes cover crops in his hazelnut orchard and led a tour at his farm as part of our Cover Crop Field Day in conjunction with Chemeketa Ag Program. We were able to see cover crops in action and share the benefits with farmers, scientists, and service providers.

## Additional Practices May Qualify

Marion SWCD's Cover Crop Grant Assistance program is currently working to increase the types of conservation practices that qualify for funding and to streamline the application and funding process, which will bring even more bare ground under cover in years to come. New practices could include permanent conservation cover, field borders, and filter strips.

## Large-Scale Erosion Prevention

Our hope is that we can band together many small to large-scale farms in our cover crop program to make a large-scale difference in soil health and erosion prevention.

*Tour attendees examine the soil health improvements created by a cover crop.*





# PARTNER GRANTS LAUNCH



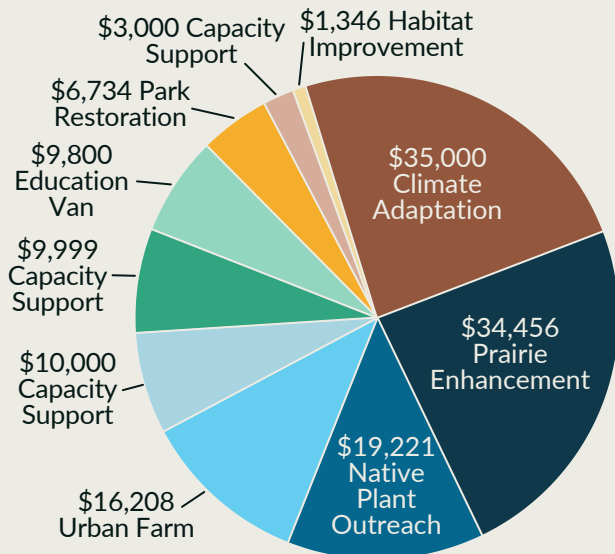
Susan Ortiz, Grants Coordinator  
and Kassi Roosth, Urban Conservation Planner

## Partner Grants Pilot

Marion SWCD embarked on a three-year pilot program, beginning in the 2023-2024FY to offer grant funding to eligible partner entities to address project implementation, conservation education, outreach, technical assistance, and capacity support within our district. The district set-aside \$255,000 for the 2023-2024FY and has budgeted \$255,000 for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

In our first year, ten applications were received from a diverse pool of partner entities. The district awarded \$145,763 in grant funds, with awards ranging from

### 2023-2024 Partner Grants



\$1,346 to \$35,000. Applicant projects featured everything from restoration of native habitat with a walking path to the purchase of a vehicle to transport youth to outdoor program locations.

## Partner Grant Spotlight

The Pringle Creek Sustainable Living Center received a Partner Grant to revitalize the outdoor section of the Urban Farm in the Pringle Creek Community. The project began with a cleanup to remove the old beds, regrade the area, and install in-ground irrigation lines. Then twenty durable cinder block and metal stock tank raised garden beds, each with its own irrigation control, were constructed (Image 1). The irrigation system helps conserve water and the harvest from the gardens beds will be distributed to the community. Finally, a pollinator hedgerow was planted along the garden bed pathway.

This project took the dedication of 29 volunteers who contributed over 300 hours,



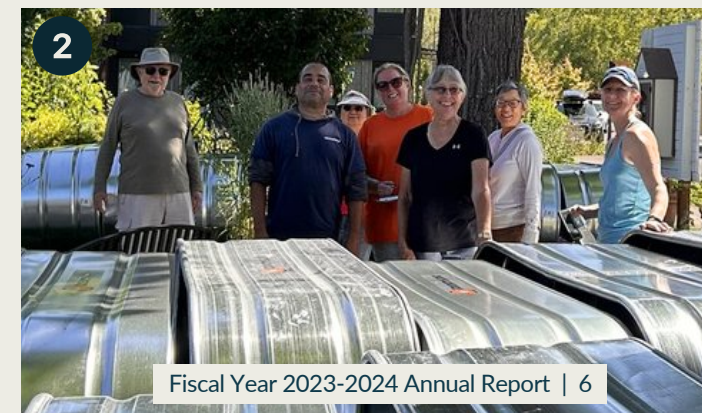
highlighting the importance of collaboration in advancing conservation efforts (Image 2).

## Small Scale Sustainability

This Partner Grant project demonstrates that sustainable agriculture is achievable even in small urban settings. By transforming this area, the Pringle Creek Community now supports food production and inspires community involvement. It facilitates educational programs on starting plants, garden maintenance, irrigation and organic pest control. The garden managers plan to engage the broader Salem community in sustainable living, gardening, and conservation practices.

## Sustainable Living Center Blog

- Plants and a Pathway: [bit.ly/SLC-plants-and-path](https://bit.ly/SLC-plants-and-path)
- Summer Farm Improvements: [bit.ly/SLC-summer](https://bit.ly/SLC-summer)



# PESTICIDE STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIP

Cesar Zamora, Agriculture Conservation Planner - Crops and Soils



## A Plan for Stewardship

In late 2023 Marion Soil and Water Conservation District began working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), Oregon State University, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, and the Oregon Association of Nurseries to develop a strategic plan.

The strategic plan will help focus and guide our outreach efforts within the Pudding River basin. Currently the strategic plan is being reviewed by the Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (WQPMT), a joint team consisting of experts from ODA, ODEQ, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Health Authority. Once the WQPMT has finished its review and accepted the strategic plan Marion SWCD will begin outreach efforts.

## Water Quality Monitoring

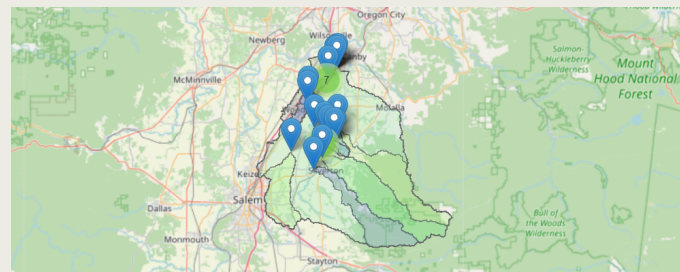
During this same time Marion SWCD has been monitoring water quality on Mill Creek, which is a south to north flowing creek that starts in Woodburn and ends in Aurora where it meets the Pudding River. Marion SWCD collects water samples eight times a year on a schedule determined by ODEQ. Through our work

33 chemicals have been detected, four of which are statewide pesticides of high concern, having been detected in multiple watersheds throughout the state.

## Outreach in 2025

Marion SWCD expects to begin conducting outreach efforts towards landowners within the Pudding River Pesticide Stewardship Partnership management area in the winter of 2024. This initial run of outreach activities will be implemented through to the end of 2025. At which point Marion SWCD and its partners will evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts and adjust the strategic plan towards outreach for the next five years.

## View ODEQ's PSP Data Viewer



This map **does not** locate the source of the pesticides. Detections are influenced by the entire upstream watershed. This tool is **not** intended to determine a singular source of contamination. Explore the map at [bit.ly/psp-data-viewer](https://bit.ly/psp-data-viewer).

*Cesar Zamora collects a water quality monitoring sample for the PSP.*

## Pesticide Tips for Homeowners



Identify the pest of concern. Try Ask Extension or National Pesticide Information Center.



Read and follow the label before you begin mixing chemicals.



Calibrate your sprayer using water applied to a pre-measured area.



Use a coarse nozzle to avoid drift. Don't spray before a rain; don't spray on very hot days.



Dispose unused chemicals properly at Salem/Keizer Transfer Station on scheduled dates.



Protect yourself and your environment: Wear PPE and don't spray near waterways.



# EMERALD ASH BORER IS HERE

Sarah Hamilton, Native & Invasive Plants Specialist  
and Chelsea Blank, Natural Areas Planner



## Infestations Discovered

In 2024, significant infestations of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) were detected in Marion County near Mt. Angel and Woodburn. EAB poses a serious threat to riparian ecosystems because it kills all infested ash trees, which are vital providers of shade along rivers and streams.

## Prepare for Ash Decline

Landowners should prepare for the decline of their ash trees. Lists of replacement trees and shrubs are available for planting now and as the ash

trees die, with all live ash trees expected to disappear within 20 years, except some Asian ash species.

## Strategies for Mitigation

Despite the potential devastation, Oregon is better positioned than the Northeastern U.S., where EAB was first introduced. By leveraging 30 years of research and expertise, Oregon communities can collaborate on education, outreach, and protective practices to mitigate impacts and protect natural areas.

Natural resource professionals are developing strategies to slow its spread. A quarantine restricts the movement of ash, white fringe,

and olive trees from affected counties, with exceptions for certain wood products. Biocontrols using parasitoid wasps have been released, and unhealthy ash trees are being used as traps to capture pests.

## Learn more

- Marion SWCD Blog Post: [www.marionswcd.net/eab/](http://www.marionswcd.net/eab/)
- OSU Extension: [bit.ly/EAB-EXT](http://bit.ly/EAB-EXT)
- EAB Info Network: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)
- OR Department of Agriculture: [bit.ly/EAB-ODA](http://bit.ly/EAB-ODA)

D-shaped exit hole



S-shaped galleries



Galleries on dead tree



Exit hole and gallery



Debarking reveals galleries



Dead canopy branches



# RIPARIAN RESTORATION

Chelsea Blank, Natural Areas Planner



## Conservation Club Tour

In June 2024, Marion SWCD organized a Conservation Club event focused on riparian restoration along the North Santiam River. Participants explored various management practices at both large and small sites while engaging directly with landowners dedicated to restoring these vital ecosystems. Riparian zones, the interfaces between land and flowing water, play a critical role in maintaining watershed health by improving water quality, preventing erosion, and providing habitats for numerous species, including endangered salmonids and amphibians.

## Large Scale Restoration

The tour highlighted two significant restoration efforts. The first was at the Chahalpam site, owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, which is rich in cultural and ecological history. Historically home to the Santiam band of the Kalapuya, the 462 acre property is being transformed back to its native habitat following years of agricultural use that degraded the land.

Through a collaborative effort, the Tribes have implemented a restoration plan that includes invasive weed removal and planting native species, supported by grants and conservation easements to ensure long-term recovery.

## Small Scale Recovery

The second site visited was the Hebing family's property, which suffered devastating damage from the 2020 Labor Day wildfires. Despite the loss of prior conservation efforts, the Hebing family remains committed to restoring their land. Mike Hebing leveraged his professional experience in land clearing to undertake a restoration project that involved removing debris, controlling invasive Scotch broom, and planting native species in this 5 acre project area. His resourcefulness in acquiring free plants and accessing grant funds helped mitigate the financial strain following the disaster.



# NATIVE PLANT SALES

Sarah Hamilton, Native & Invasive Plant Specialist



## Ripples of Impact

Our native plant sales make ripples of positive impact from the individual to the global scale. With few local nurseries selling them, our sales increase access to native plants. Each year, we provide thousands of native plants to gardeners, farmers, and restoration practitioners. These plants play an important role for individuals, communities, the region, and the world.

## Reduces Costs for Gardeners

Plant sale customers contribute to biodiversity. By choosing native species, homeowners create wildlife-friendly habitats that support pollinators and birds. Native plants help gardeners reduce water usage and maintenance costs, as they are typically more drought-tolerant and adapted to local conditions.

## Brings People Together

The plant sales build community through volunteer and learning opportunities. When customers pick up their orders, they meet neighbors who are similarly invested in caring for the natural world. We aren't just growing plants, we're growing a community of conservationists!

## Supports Ecosystem Services

Regionally, our plant sales support ecosystem restoration projects, such as reforestation and wetland restoration, improving regional biodiversity and ecosystem services. Our sales contribute to the local economy by supporting local nursery businesses. Many native plants hold cultural significance for local tribes and others in the community. Promoting their sale can support traditional practices and indigenous knowledge related to plant uses for food, medicine, and cultural heritage.

## Increases Resilience

On a global scale, native plants play a role in addressing climate resilience by enhancing carbon sequestration. They also help to preserve biodiversity now and into the future.



## We're Glad to Help!

In summary, our plant sales foster ecological health, economic vitality, community engagement, and cultural heritage. Marion SWCD is proud to serve such an important role!

## 2023-2024 Sales Report



**535+**  
total orders



**6,620**  
native plants



**5,300**  
seeds' sq ft coverage



**\$8,700**  
for Stan Vistica scholarships



**211**  
plants donated



**89**  
volunteer hours

# THE LITTLE HABITAT PROJECT

Kassi Roosth, Urban Conservation Planner



## Small Scale Wildlife Habitat

Conservation can be implemented on any scale; effective practices can benefit both wildlife and local communities, even in small, developed settings. The Little Habitat Project launched in October 2023 to engage residents in urban and residential areas of Marion County in conservation efforts, enhance biodiversity and food webs, and create resilient landscapes. This certification program recognizes homes and community spaces with managers who are taking steps to provide wildlife habitat. Participants receive yard signs, coupons, and other great incentives.

## Building Community & Corridors

Do you manage a private garden, community park, HOA common area, place of worship, schoolyard, a balcony or patio garden?

The Little Habitat Project can help you use your space to support wildlife from birds to beneficial insects. Time spent outside benefits people, too! By fostering habitat connectivity and community involvement, the program aims to protect and enhance our local environment for all.

Certification includes five components: soil, water, plants, infrastructure, and education.



## Incentives to Grow as You Go

Depending on the depth of habitat's wildlife support, an applicant can qualify for one of three levels of achievement: acorn, sapling, and oak tree. Use the program checklist to set goals and continue to enhance your habitat.



Since its pilot launch, community response has been encouraging, with 58 habitat sites enrolled and 21 certified.

Interested in participating? Learn more and enroll at [www.marionswcd.net/little-habitat-project/](http://www.marionswcd.net/little-habitat-project/). Because no effort is too small to make a difference in conservation!



# EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENTS



Heath Keirstead, Communications and Education Specialist, and Cesar Zamora, Agriculture Conservation Planner - Soils

We work with partners to provide conservation learning opportunities. We've had a busy year! Here are some highlights.

## New! Soil Field Studies Program Bin

Our new Soil Bin allows anyone to practice soil science. The bin has everything you need to collect samples, perform tests based on NRCS survey methods, and make determinations about your soil's health. The lesson plan guides you to determine a soil's texture, observe its structure, explore how soils filter water, and discover the critters that live within and on its surfaces. Visit [www.marionswcd.net/bins/](http://www.marionswcd.net/bins/) to reserve the Soil Field Studies Bin and discover the amazing world just beneath our feet.



## Events by the Numbers

### # Students

**60** Down by the Riverside  
Lesson: Water Quality Testing

**106** Water Festival  
Lesson: Aquatic Macros

**135** Envirothon  
Lesson: Aquatic Ecology

**140** Forest Inquiry Trips  
Lesson: Aquatic Ecology

**167** Outdoor School  
Lesson: Nature Explorations

**250** Spring Homeschool Day  
Theme: Plants & Pollinators

**315** Ag Fest School Day  
Lesson: Erosion and Infiltration

**600** Fall Homeschool Day  
Theme: Pollinators & Stormwater

**785** Salmon Watch  
Theme: Salmon Habitat

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**2558** Students Reached

## Website Views

### Top 5 pages viewed by unique users

# Viewers	Web Page
352	grow-a-bird-house
307	mason-bees
247	backyard-renovation-with-native-plants
243	employment
216	invasive plants

### Top 5 events viewed by unique users

# Viewers	Event
259	Santiam Summerfest
172	1st Friday: Mud & Manure
171	1st Friday: Regen. Landscaping
161	Our River: Learn to Fish
149	Earth Day Celebration

## CLEAR Grants 2023-2024

- 18 applications funded
- \$28,592.48 disbursed

# EVERYONE CAN SUPPORT POLLINATORS

Heath Keirstead, Communications and Education Specialist



## Plants and Pollinators Day

On June 11, 14 organizations and 20 volunteers came together to put on an event for homeschoolers focused on plants and pollinators at Ankeny Hill Nature Center. The event was attended by at least 250 people, who engaged in hands-on learning and discovered the many ways to support pollinators.

## Take-Home Mini-Habitats

One activity showcased the power of partnership. The planning team dreamed up the Mini-Habitat station to encourage pollinator habitat creation at a small scale. Stephanie Hazen, Nicole VanDerheyden, Lynda Boyer, and Sarah Hamilton donated hundreds of native plants. Our friends at Highway Fuel contributed five yards of soil. For the containers, 4-H youth provided used feedbags and Stephanie Hazen donated fabric pots. Heath Keirstead designed field journals for students to track pollinator visitors.

## Fantastic Partners

We extend a special thanks to the event planning team: Sam Bartling of US Fish & Wildlife, Bobbie Allaire of Ankeny Hill Nature Center, Master Gardener Stephanie Hazen, and Laurie Aguirre of Salem Environmental Education, who worked with Marion SWCD to make this event possible!

**“Excellent event, kids loved learning about pollination. They really liked choosing plants to take home.”**

## Activities provided by:

- Ankeny Hill Nature Center
- The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Natural Resources Department
- Marion Soil & Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Program
- The Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- OSU Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences
- OSU Extension Marion County 4-H
- OSU Extension Marion County Master Gardeners
- Salem Audubon Society
- Salem Environmental Education
- US Fish & Wildlife Service Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex
- Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN)
- Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation





# THANK YOU, CONSERVATION COMMUNITY!



Working for a Conservation District provides daily reminders of the value of community. We couldn't do this work without all of your support! Whether you contribute through your tax dollars, attending our events, browsing our website, volunteering, or partnering with us, we thank you!

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors sets the direction for Marion SWCD through strategic planning and fiscal oversight. Our elected Directors donate their time - up to multiple days each month - to the smooth operation of our organization. Associate Directors do not vote on board decisions

but they augment the board's knowledge and serve on committees. If you are interested in serving as an Elected or Associate Director, learn more at [www.marionswcd.net/directors/](http://www.marionswcd.net/directors/).

## Budget Committee

The Budget Committee consists of Directors and local registered voters appointed by the Board for three-year terms. Some members of the Budget Committee have been serving for decades! Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 so the Budget Committee meets in April or May to review the proposed budget submitted by the Budget Officer and approve it as proposed or modify it. If you would like to serve on Marion SWCD's Budget Committee, visit [marionswcd.net/budget-committee/](http://marionswcd.net/budget-committee/).

## Partners

Our partners help us provide the programs, workshops, tours, webinars, and other events that Marion SWCD is known for. Partners, we appreciate your dedication! Meet our wonderful partners at [www.marionswcd.net/partners/](http://www.marionswcd.net/partners/).

## Volunteers

Volunteers are instrumental in helping us implement many of our public events. We couldn't hold the Salmon Watch field trips or Native Plant Sale without our friendly, enthusiastic volunteers!

## Volunteer with us!

[www.marionswcd.net/volunteer/](http://www.marionswcd.net/volunteer/)



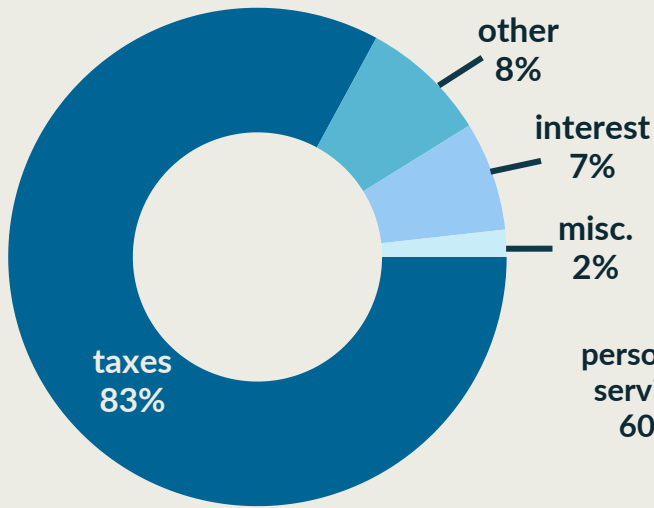
# FINANCIAL REPORT

audited numbers from Fiscal Year 2023-2024

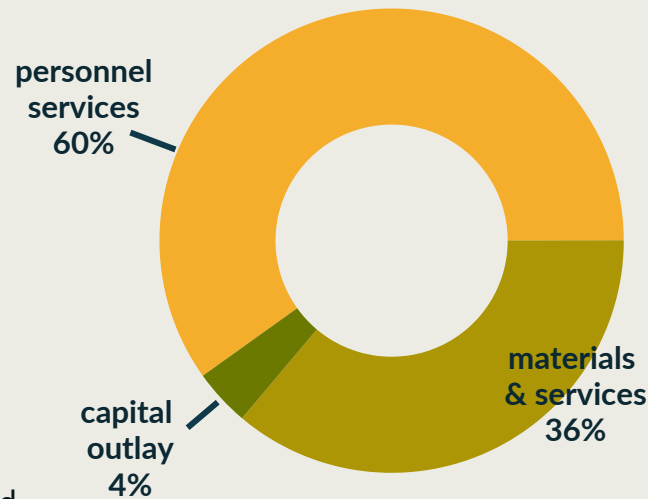
Linda Lovett, Financial Administrator



## General Fund Revenues



## General Fund Expenditures



## Reserve Funds

Fiscal Year 2023-24 audit was prepared by Jarrard, Seibert, Pollard & Co. The District has two reserve funds: a Multi-Purpose Reserve Fund created in 2012 and a Building Reserve Fund established in 2020-2021, both of which receive interest income. The FY 23-24 ending cash balance for the Multi-Purpose Reserve Fund was \$338,543 and \$238,389 in the Building Reserve Fund.

## Volunteer for Budget Committee!



- Are you business-minded?
- 1-2 meetings/yr, 3-yr term.
- To join contact District Manager: [Brenda.Sanchez@marionswcd.net](mailto:Brenda.Sanchez@marionswcd.net)

General Fund (\$)	06-30-24	06-30-23
<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>2,023,743</b>	<b>1,613,552</b>
<b>General Fund Revenues (\$)</b>		
Marion Co. taxes	1,431,951	1,379,773
Other income	142,430	166,133
Interest income	122,308	57,040
Miscellaneous	30,370	26,953
<b>Total resources</b>	<b>1,727,059</b>	<b>1,629,899</b>
<b>General Fund Expenditures (\$)</b>		
Personnel services	913,756	712,277
Materials & services	552,079	504,611
Capital outlay	60,745	2,820
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>1,526,580</b>	<b>1,219,708</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>2,224,222</b>	<b>2,023,743</b>

Reserve Funds (\$)	06-30-24	06-30-23
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>561,829</b>	<b>544,837</b>
Revenues - Interest	15,093	17,002
Expenditures - Capital outlay	--	--
Net transfers out	--	--
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>576,932</b>	<b>561,839</b>

# STAFF UPDATE

Heath Keirstead, Communications and Education Specialist



## 2023-2024 Staff

**Brenda Sanchez**

District Manager

**Linda Lovett**

Financial Administrator

**Janice Calkins**

Office Coordinator

**Susan Ortiz**

Grants Coordinator

**Tom Wilson**

Administrative Assistant

**Heath Keirstead**

Communications and  
Education Specialist

**Sarah Hamilton**

Native and Invasive  
Plants Specialist

**Kassi Roosth**

Urban Conservation  
Planner

**Becky Pineda**

Ag. Conservation Planner  
Livestock & Pasture

**Cesar Zamora**

Ag. Conservation Planner  
Crops and Soils

**Chelsea Blank**

Natural Areas  
Conservation Planner

**Rachel Kato**

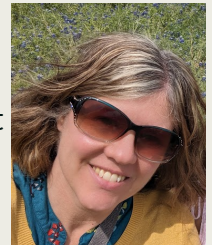
Riparian Technician

[office@marionswcd.net](mailto:office@marionswcd.net)

503-391-9927

## Farewell from Heath Keirstead & Job Announcement

I began working for Marion SWCD in January, 2022. Amy Boyd was the District Manager and everyone was still wearing masks in the office. In my first year with the District we had enormous staff turnover. It was tumultuous, but the team that formed is strong and I'm grateful for the time we've worked together. Over the last 3 years, we collaborated to build an information-rich website, launched the Little Habitat Project, increased the number of students who attended Salmon Watch from ~350 in 2021 to over 800 in 2024, initiated new events like Plants and Pollinators Homeschool Day and the Stream Celebration, and produced a new 5-year Strategic Plan. It's been my honor and privilege to work side by side with all of the conservation professionals listed above and with the many wonderful partners and volunteers who are dedicated to conservation in the mid-Willamette Valley. This year I made the difficult decision to move with my husband and children to North Carolina to be closer to our extended family. I will miss you, Conservation Community! If you'd like to keep in touch with me, please reach out to Brenda for my contact info. And if you are interested in joining this special team, please check our employment webpage for two postings coming soon - an education specialist and a separate communications position.



**Join Our Team!** Check the website for two job announcements in early 2025.  
[www.marionswcd.net/employment/](http://www.marionswcd.net/employment/)



# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

408 North Third Avenue  
PO Box 537  
Stayton, OR 97383

www.marionswcd.net  
@MarionConservationDistrict  
503-391-9927



## 2023-2024 Directors

Board Position	Associates
<b>1</b> Vacant No Role	Leland Hardy
<b>2</b> Vacant No Role	Mark Fields
<b>3</b> Darin Olson Chair	Angela Plowhead
<b>4</b> Dave Budeau Secretary/Treasurer	
<b>5</b> Rochelle Koch Vice-Chair	
<b>At Large 1</b> Peggy Hart	
<b>At Large 2</b> Scott Walker	

## 2024-2025 Directors

Board Position	Associates
<b>1</b> Vacant	Leland Hardy
<b>2</b> Nik Ovchinnikov	
<b>3</b> Darin Olson	
<b>4</b> Angela Plowhead	
<b>5</b> Rochelle Koch	
<b>At Large 1</b> Peggy Hart	
<b>At Large 2</b> Scott Walker	



**Volunteer!** Support the natural world and our community by volunteering as a Director, Budget Committee Member, plant sale, Salmon Watch, or outreach volunteer. [www.marionswcd.net/volunteer/](http://www.marionswcd.net/volunteer/)

