



## Making Tracks for A New Name Contest

*“Joyfully Connecting Our Community with the Wonder of the Refuge”*

We need your help

**Making Tracks** has been our newsletter name for over 12 years and The Friends of Tualatin River

National Wildlife Complex are looking to relaunch our newsletter with a new look and a new name. We

need your help creating a clever new name that captures our new approach.

The Newsletter will have engaging categories:

- Conservation efforts at the refuge; outreach; special projects, etc., from the Board
- Nature component with a link to more in-depth information
- Advocacy: What’s happening at a national level
- Volunteer opportunities
- Membership Corner – including Calendar & Welcome to new members
- Coverage of recent Events at Refuge
- Store Updates
- Photography
- Note from Friends’ President and Refuge Staff

But the Newsletter needs a new Name . And we’d like you to create it!

Of course, there will be an exciting “prize” from the Friend’s Natures Overlook Store.

Time is short. The big launch is **July 15** for the revised newsletter. We need your suggestions no later than **June 28th**.

Submit your ideas to: Phyllis Millan, at [phyllmikey@frontier.com](mailto:phyllmikey@frontier.com)

JOIN

DONATE

RENEW

### UPCOMING EVENTS

[Puddle Stompers Live on ZOOM](#)

June 09, 2021 10:00 AM

[Puddle Stompers Live on ZOOM](#)

June 16, 2021 10:00 AM

[Board of Directors Meeting on ZOOM](#)

June 28, 2021 6:30 PM

#### **Friends Board Meeting**

Virtual Meeting Planned

June 28, 2021 6:30 PM

Contact by June 23, 2021

[Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsOfTualatinRefuge.org)

if you would like to receive an invitation to attend our ZOOM meeting. Subject line **Zoom**

**Invite to May Board Meeting**



SOCIAL MEDIA

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

**June 12<sup>th</sup> – Checker-mallow Census – 9:00 – 12:00 & 12:30 - 3:30**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – Checker-mallow Census – 9:00 -- 12:00 & 12:30- 3:30**

Nelson's Checker – mallow is a perennial herb species found in the Willamette Valley that is listed as threatened federally. Flowering can occur from mid-May to early September. We have several plots of planted Nelson's checker-mallow on the Refuge and our units, and we are conducting a census of these beautiful plants. Come out for one of these plant counts and you could see a different part of the Refuge that isn't open to the public!



**June 11<sup>th</sup> – Invasive Plant Removal – 9:00-12:00**

**June 18<sup>th</sup> – Invasive Plant Removal – 9:00 – 12:00**

Come out to the Refuge and help us give our native plant species a fighting chance to grow up big and strong!

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Placing w/ Trout Unlimited 9:00-12:30**

This will be our second year placing Christmas Trees in Chicken Creek with the help of Trout Unlimited! Woody debris in streams provide shelter for fish as well as shade which lowers the water's temperature. It also creates pockets of colder water for cold-loving fish species such as Salmon! This is a wonderful restoration project to be a part of, and as a bonus, you'll get to see areas of the Chicken Creek Restoration that are not open to the public.

\*All volunteers will need to read and agree to our COVID – 19 Job Hazard Analysis and review their volunteer forms to participate.

*Please contact Carly if you are interested in any of the above opportunities at [carly\\_hirschmann@fws.gov](mailto:carly_hirschmann@fws.gov)*



HELP THE FRIENDS  
WHILE YOU SHOP





Send an email to [tualatinriver@fws.gov](mailto:tualatinriver@fws.gov) with the subject line "Puddle Stompers" and indicate which day(s) you would like to attend. We will follow up with a Zoom link.



[www.BackyardBirdShop.com](http://www.BackyardBirdShop.com)



<https://bit.ly/2V1l6zP>

We have perfect gifts for Father's Day, graduation, or any other occasion (or a treat for yourself!). And if you remember something you've seen in our store before but don't find it on the website, contact us at 971-420-5989 and we'll find a way to sell it to you.





# Summertime Shopping Spree!

Use this link to shop our Online Store!  
<https://bit.ly/2V1I6zP>



Treat yourself to summertime shopping, or pick up something for your friends and family at our Online Store!



Each purchase supports the Friends' mission!



Our Online Nature Store Includes: Jewelry, Nature Books and Toys for Children, Puzzles, Hats, Socks, and more!



Contact-free merchandise pickup will be available curbside, outside the Visitor Center at the Refuge, during limited hours or by appointment. See our website for more information!

Donations to help us continue our work to support the TRNWRC are more important than ever as our Natures Overlook Store is closed.

Consider a donation to the Friends or Shopping our Online Store

[www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](http://www.FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org)

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### *Chicken Creek Restoration Project Update and Visitor Information*

Work on our Chicken Creek restoration project will resume later this summer; due to the active construction work that will take place, visitors can expect trail closures that will impact the seasonal trail loop. We have not yet implemented any trail closures, but when we do, we will continue to update our [Refuge 2020 website](#) where the most up-to-date information on the trail closures can be found. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we undergo the last leg of our restoration project; while we know that trail closures create a temporary inconvenience, please understand that this short term disruption will ultimately result in an improved visitor experience and much improved habitat for wildlife.

Be on the lookout for  
Purple Martins starting in  
Mid-June



Woody debris at the Chicken Creek restoration site







U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Chicken Creek Restoration at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

### Returning to a Natural System

At Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, we actively restore and maintain healthy native habitats for the benefit of wildlife, while offering people the opportunity to experience native plant and wildlife species close to home. One of the primary habitats you'll see when visiting, are the wetlands of the Refuge's Atfalat'i Unit. While attractive to people and wildlife alike, these wetlands are far from the natural system that once occurred here. In fact, they've been intensively managed by Refuge staff since the Refuge's creation in 1992.

Chicken Creek once followed a sinuous (curvy) path before connecting to the Tualatin River. It was diverted to a straight channel when the land we now call the Refuge was converted for agricultural use throughout most of the 20th century. Through the Chicken Creek Restoration Project, we will restore the historic curves of the Creek, welcoming a greater variety of native plant and wildlife species while benefiting visitors and the surrounding communities with cleaner water and new trail experiences.



### Benefits for Wildlife and People

A restored Chicken Creek means increased and improved wetland and riparian habitat (vegetation along rivers) - and that means more diverse wildlife. Those that particularly stand to benefit are aquatic species like Western brook lamprey and cutthroat trout, as the slower flow of the Creek provides resting and rearing opportunities. These species will also benefit from an increase in Creek habitat, from 1/2 mile currently, to 2 miles once the project is complete, as well as access to areas upstream of the Refuge.

A slower flow also means more sediment stays in the Creek and out of the Tualatin River, helping to improve its water quality. Visitors will also enjoy a new section of seasonal trail and more diverse wildlife viewing.



©Pat Gaines

### Chicken Creek Restoration Project Details

- The project will create a 280-acre connected, naturally functioning wetland system on the Refuge's Atfalat'i Unit.
- Chicken Creek will be reoriented to a sinuous (curving) flow, replacing the straight channel that was created when the land was converted for agricultural use over a century ago.
- The construction portion of the project began in July 2019 and is estimated to conclude by Fall 2021.
- Reconfiguration of the Wetland Seasonal Trail has increased its length by 1/2 mile.
- Increased beaver activity, resulting in the ponding of water, will lead to more plant and wildlife diversity.



©Ed Bustya

*While aquatic species enjoy additional resting and rearing space in the Creek, other wildlife, like birds and mammals, will find more hunting, nesting, and protection opportunities among the riparian vegetation and open waters of the 280-acre wetland.*

### How will restoring Chicken Creek impact the Refuge?

- **Short Term:** Starting July 2019, heavy equipment, like excavators, has been visible in the wetlands, digging the Chicken Creek channel. New native vegetation will continue to be planted along the channel. A section of the current Wetland Seasonal Trail has been re-routed. This has increased the overall trail length by 1/2 mile.
- **Medium Term:** Connected wetland cells will allow water to flow more freely, especially during the winter rainy season. Beaver will come into the site, building dams that will pond water in the continuous 280-acre wetland.
- **Long Term:** Native wetland and riparian vegetation will take hold and flourish, attracting a more diverse collection of wildlife. As vegetation matures, visitors will enjoy summer walks immersed in dynamic habitat.

## PRE-PROJECT



The Refuge previously managed six independent wetlands on the Atlatlat'i Unit. This had been done with water control structures operated and maintained by staff.

By the end of the project, a previous section of the Wetland Seasonal Trail will be removed (the line above #5).

## RESULTS



At the end of the construction portion of the project, the Atlatlat'i Unit will contain one 280-acre connected floodplain and only three managed wetlands.

A portion of the Wetland Seasonal Trail has been re-routed to a section of trail that was previously a closed area of the Refuge (between #4 and #6). The overall trail length has increased by 1/2 mile.



Left: Expected beaver activity will cause water to pond, leading to a lush, diverse wetland and riparian habitat along Chicken Creek.



Right: Aquatic species, like the cutthroat trout, will see expanded and improved resting and rearing habitat in the realigned Chicken Creek.

©John Goetz, CWS

Photo by NPS

### The Power of Partnership

From research, to know-how, to financial support, a project of this size could only happen by working closely with community partners:

Clean Water Services

Willamette Water Supply  
Our Reliable Water

North American Wetland Conservation Act  
NAWCA

FRIENDS  
REFUGE

OREGON  
Fish & Wildlife

DUCKS  
UNLIMITED

Tualatin Soil & Water  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

For more information about this project, visit:

Web: [www.Refuge2020.info](http://www.Refuge2020.info)

Facebook:  
Portland-Vancouver National  
Wildlife Refuges

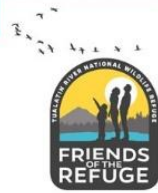
Phone: (503) 625-5944

Email: [tualatinriver@fws.gov](mailto:tualatinriver@fws.gov)



The Friends are working towards becoming a truly inclusive organization that rejects racism in all its forms and embraces cultural and economic diversity. The Board of Directors for the Friends of Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge is keenly aware that despite undergoing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training, we have much progress to make for our organization to reflect the diversity of our urban area. We further seek to give equal value to all voices in helping to articulate our mission, vision, policies and best practices. Although we are directing our outreach to better reflect diversity, equity and inclusion, we understand we need to continue to improve and commit to examining all activities through a DEI perspective. We invite your ideas. We want all to feel welcome and safe to visit the Refuge. We need the quiet, the beauty and the peace that nature and wildlife bring to our souls. It is imperative people of all colors and ethnicities are aware of this sanctuary and comfortable in searching solace.

## Friends of Tualatin River NWR Statement on Racism



Notification on wearing a mask on Federal Land (land under executive branch control- such as the Refuge) 1/20/2021 Executive Order

For Refuge updates, please visit the [FWS.gov website](https://www.fws.gov).

When you visit the Refuge, please know that all facility buildings are closed. Port-a-johns are available and the parking lot is partially open. Pets are not permitted on the Refuge, and please use social distancing when walking the trail. See this helpful graphic from our partners at Metro







### **New Refuge Phone System**

The Refuge has new phones and a new phone system. Now when you call the main Refuge number you will get an automated menu with options for: a directory, hours of operation, trail status, and getting re-routed to the state Fish & Wildlife office for injured wildlife calls. To reach someone at the Refuge, you can either wait and listen through the menu or use the first option of the directory to be connected to a specific person. If anyone was in the habit of using previous extensions, they now have '15' added to the beginning of the number (e.g. Friends office extension is now 15227). Please note- the Friends' Office phone is not being monitored during the pandemic. Please contact us via email at [Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org](mailto:Info@FriendsofTualatinRefuge.org)

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### **CONTACT US**

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