

SUMMER 2023 News

Supporting Low Impact Recreation

Hidden Treasure: Portland's most popular river float

The Clackamas Water Trail covers the 22-mile undammed lower portion of the Clackamas River in Oregon, with dozens of class I riffles and a few class II rapids. The river is home to endangered salmon, drinking water for over 300,000 Oregonians, and a recreational outlet for thousands.

Go to the Website to go to the River

As you look forward to floating a section of the Clackamas Water Trail this summer - picnicking or swimming at one of its parks, or fishing, canoeing, kayaking or drift boating its relatively gentle waters - visit the Clackamas Water Trail website (www.clackamaswatertrail.org) to help you plan your trip. Use it to explore a new section (and perhaps avoid the overcrowded Barton to Carver section) or learn more about the river you have known your whole life.

Created last year through a collaboration of local agencies and nonprofits (managed by the nonprofit [We Love Clean Rivers](http://www.welovecleanrivers.org), and the Clackamas River Water Providers), the **Clackamas Water Trail** website provides river trip itineraries, safety tips, and general information of the natural history of the river and its watershed. It also highlights local outfitters and other information to safely and comfortably float the river.

Interactive Map

Most importantly, the website features an interactive map that shows key locations on the Clackamas Water Trail of public boat launches, local and state parks, ongoing river restoration sites, restrooms, all 72 named riffles and rapids, and river section distances with estimated float times. It's also fun to explore and learn more about the region around the river.

The online map and website sprung out of experiences with [River Ambassador](#) volunteers in 2019 to 2021, who noticed a lack of an informational website for the entire lower Clackamas and few river maps at the launches (and none for the entire 22 miles).

New Map Sign at Riverside Park

With the online map live for one year, the first outdoor map sign at a launch on the **Clackamas Water Trail** has been installed at Riverside Park. Built with native juniper posts and framed with western red cedar, the map sign is located in the prime gathering area at the top of the Riverside Park boat launch. It will also allow for *Stash the Trash* bags and loaner life jackets to hang from the structure.

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Conservation: July is 'Smart Irrigation' Month

Smart Irrigation Month is an annual outreach campaign promoted by the [Irrigation Association](#) each July. The campaign highlights best practices and efficient technologies for outdoor watering. Throughout the month of July, each Monday, the CRWP will post on our [Facebook page](#) about ways to water smart using all kinds of technology – from smart controllers to garden hoses

Here are three ways that you can participate: 1. Sign up for the Regional Water Providers [Weekly Watering Number](#) – and receive a smart watering tip via email and on [regionalH2O.org](#) each week. 2. Make good use of our Facebook content on the importance of watering smart this summer. 3. Check out our website's [Conservation page](#) to find out more about outdoor rebates, audits, and other services offered by the CRWP.

Low Impact Recreation *continued*

The map design was created by award-winning cartographer, Dave Imus, and the rustic sign kiosk was designed by *We Love Clean Rivers* and built by volunteers. The thematic map design highlights the same attributes of the online map, and also shows the entirety of the 22-mile *Clackamas Water Trail* at a large scale and provides perspective for visitors.

While the website can provide real-time data about river conditions, the physical map can reinforce important landmarks for safety and learning (rapid names, bridges, parks, river miles, etc.). It also shows the proximity of the river to Oregon City, Portland (9 miles as the crow flies from map corner), and other towns in the vicinity.

The goal is to install these 4' X 3' metal map signs at each of the 7 boat launches and at 3 of the popular public access parks along the Clackamas Water Trail. Some will go with existing park signage; others will need their own new kiosk.

Visit the *Clackamas Water Trail*: Come soon to Riverside Park to see the map sign and kiosk. Whether you are bank fishing, picnicking, watching a baseball game, swimming or paddling, we welcome your feedback on the project.

And visit the *Clackamas Water Trail* anytime online at www.clackamaswatertrail.org and on-the-water when conditions are right. Either way we want to help you safely enjoy and steward the Clackamas River!

Summer Quiz:

Answers - Can be found on page 6

1. The Clackamas Water Trail website offers:

- A. Trip Itineraries
- B. Safety Tips
- C. A History of the River
- D. All of the Above

2. *Smart Irrigation Month* is the month of:

- A. August
- B. July
- C. November
- D. May

3. Water use in our communities more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Each year the CRWP hosts a tour of the Clackamas Watershed in which month?

- A. October
- B. September
- C. August
- D. June

How Water Systems Work

Water Quality & Testing

Clackamas River Water member's drinking water is closely regulated by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Water Provider staff and testing experts conduct more than a thousand tests every month in our source water, drinking water treatment plants, and in our distribution systems. This continuous monitoring of quality and safety, ensures that our drinking water more than meets strict federal and state drinking water standards.

A few examples of required water quality testing are:

- Coliform Bacteria.
- Inorganic Compounds & Radionuclides - Nitrates, manganese, other simple chemicals/minerals, and radium.
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) - Solvents, cleaners, pesticides, and other man-made contaminants.
- Disinfection Byproducts.

You can find a detailed report on our water quality monitoring process by looking at your water provider's Annual Water Quality Report online.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Act: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/index.cfm>
- State Of Oregon Drinking Water Program: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater>

Annual CRWP Watershed Tours

Each year the first Saturday in October the Clackamas River Water Providers host a tour of the Clackamas Watershed for elected officials from CRWP member agencies, interested citizens, and the citizens in CPO's and Neighborhood Associations in the CRWP service area. The purpose of these tours is to connect our citizens and policy makers with direct experience in the watershed (our source of drinking water), and to introduce them to some of the CRWP partners and stakeholders.

The 2022 tour consisted of floating the Clackamas River from Carver Park to Clackamette Park. Tour participants saw bald eagles, blue herons, stormwater outfalls, two of Clackamas River Basin Council's restoration projects, lower river tributaries flowing into the Clackamas, and all four of our lower river drinking water intake structures.

These tours are a great way to see where our drinking



water comes from and how we are working with our basin stakeholders. If you would like to receive an invitation for this year's tour (we will be touring the upper portion of the watershed) please contact Kim Swan at kims@clackamasproviders.org.

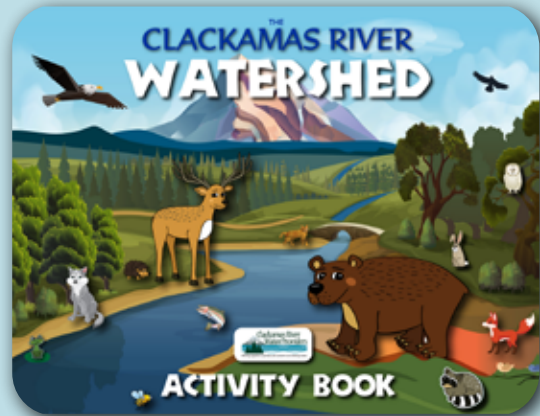
To find out more about how the CRWP is working to protect its source water and works with stakeholders please see the [CRWP Annual Report FY 2021-22 FINAL](#) and our CRWP Drinking Water Protection Plan <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/>



Water Conservation: Something we all should practice.

The CRWP offers an **Activity Book** that teachers can use to help inform students about the importance and value of clean water, and how to protect this precious resource. It includes many cool games, puzzles, and activities to become more familiar with the Clackamas River Watershed where we get our high quality drinking water.

The more water we save, the more water we can leave in the Clackamas River for fish!



Name five ways you use water:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Name five ways you can save water:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

(Take a look at the words on this page, and you will see some clues. Pick the ones you think are the most important.)



Help Save Water and Money, Get a FREE Landscape Water Audit

The Clackamas River Water Providers offer free landscape water audits during the watering season (May-October) to the following member service areas: City of Estacada, Clackamas River Water, Sunrise Water Authority (City of Happy Valley and Damascus), City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, and South Fork Water Board (Oregon City and West Linn).

Water use in our communities more than doubles during the summer months due to outdoor watering. Higher than normal outdoor water use is often the sign of inefficient use of water in our yards or an irrigation system that needs repair and/or scheduling adjustments. A landscape water audit is a way to get your irrigation system and landscape on track and running right.

Saving water and saving money is what a landscape water audit is all about. Our Landscape auditor will assess your lawn and garden areas, irrigation system and more. Residential landscape water audits often include but are not limited to;

- A walk through your yard and gardens including all lawn areas.
- Making note of existing soil types, plant material, naturally available water, and sun exposure.
- Locating the water meter, noting any existing leaks from the meter throughout the irrigation system.
- Locating the irrigation controller, making note of the make/model as well as the current schedule. Each zone will



be ran separately recording gallons per minute used for each zone.

When the audit is complete you will receive a detailed report with all recommendations recorded such as irrigation and controller schedule adjustments for better water efficiency, and maintenance of existing plant material giving you the tools you need to better manage your outdoor water use.

The audits are available on a first come first serve basis. The audits will be approximately 1.5 hours, please be available to do the walk through with the auditor.

For more information about our free landscape water audit program and to apply online, visit our website at <https://www.clackamasproviders.org/landscape-water-audits/>.

FREE
RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE
AUDITS



Macroinvertebrate Sampling

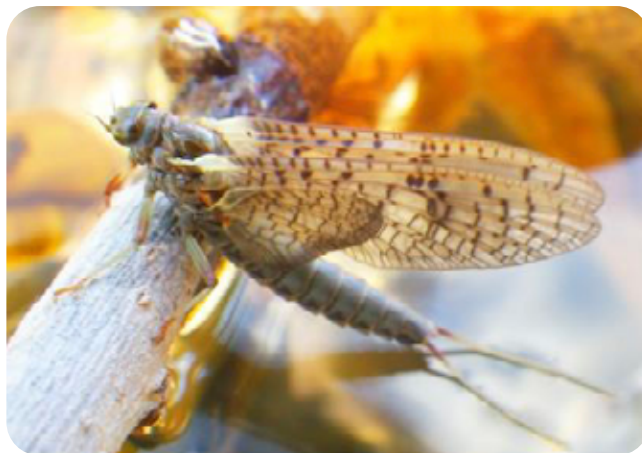
Biological monitoring of rivers and streams is widely recognized as an effective tool for measuring and monitoring overall ecological integrity of these systems. Macroinvertebrate communities lend particularly well to biomonitoring because they are diverse, they range widely in sensitivity to water pollution and other perturbations, and they are easy to collect. Macroinvertebrate communities simultaneously integrate the effects of multiple stressors and therefore provide an index of the aggregate effects of all pollutants and other stressors in a system. For these reasons, macroinvertebrate assessment and monitoring are widely used by water resource management agencies for assessing conditions of rivers and streams.

In 2013, recognizing the value of biomonitoring to help inform water quality conditions and trends, the CRWP with *Cole Ecological* developed a long-term macroinvertebrate monitoring plan for the lower Clackamas River and its tributaries. This plan recommends routine (annual or biannual) sampling from the lower mainstem Clackamas River which over time would produce a robust dataset necessary to identify changes in biological conditions when they occur.

During the summer of 2022 the CRWP conducted another round of macro sampling from five sites in the lower Clackamas River between river miles 0.5 and 20 (21.8 in 2022). Sampling was performed using standard field methods, and samples were processed using standard laboratory methods. Data were analyzed using macroinvertebrate community metrics known to be responsive to disturbance in western Oregon rivers and streams.

While the lack of a standard or reference condition for larger rivers in the region precludes an assignment of a condition class to these results, the presence of numerous mayfly, stonefly, and caddisfly (EPT) species throughout the lower river suggests that current water quality and habitat conditions are generally suitable for maintenance of diverse native aquatic communities. Community conditions measured in 2022 were generally similar to the range of conditions measured from 2013 to 2019.

These six years of data collectively suggest that changes have largely not occurred to macroinvertebrate community conditions in the lower Clackamas River since 2013; the only potential change indicated by these data occurs as CLKRM11, where a number of community metrics, as well as multi-metric scores, suggest improving ecological conditions. A copy of this final report can be found by going to https://www.clackamasproviders.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/22-128_2022_CRWP_Macros_Rpt_4-11-23-1.pdf



Spring Quiz:

Answers

Question 1 - Answer is D
Question 2 - Answer is B

Question 3 - Answer is A
Question 4 - Answer is A

Tips to Help You Save Water This Summer

- Check all indoor/outdoor faucets for drips. Do a routine check every three months.
- Regularly check the pool area for leaks. Swimming pools can waste 1,000 gallons or more per day.
- Use a pool/spa cover to cut down on water loss caused by evaporation. Evaporation in swimming pools can be as high as 3" weekly in the hottest part of the summer.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator so you don't have to run the tap until the water gets cold enough to drink.
- Walk around your yard weekly looking for spongy or mushy ground where broken pipes might be hidden.
- Sign up for the Weekly Watering Number and find out exactly how much you should be watering each week?
- Water lawns and gardens during the coolest times of the day, before 10 am or after 8 pm.
- Water deeper and less often.
- Add a layer of mulch to your flower beds and gardens to retain soil moisture.
- Sweep instead of washing driveways, sidewalks, and steps.

To help you save water around the house we provide free low-flow hose nozzles, faucets, aerators/shower heads, and several indoor/outdoor water rebates. For more water saving information visit the [Water Conservation page](#) on our website.

Want to Water Smarter? Get Your Weekly Watering Number

Everyone wants a beautiful Lawn and Garden – however, we also need to think about conserving water. The good news is that landscapes can be maintained with far less water than you think. Want to know exactly how much you should be watering each week? By using the Weekly Watering Number, you can do just that. This number is available each year April – September. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to sign up for your Weekly Watering Number today.

**Water wisely
this summer**

**with the Weekly
Watering Number!**

1.5

1

0.5



Annual Summer Watering Campaign Coming Soon ... Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done!



In addition to providing drinking water to over 300,000 people in Clackamas and Washington counties the Clackamas River is home to threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead virtually year-round. Most of the year there is plenty of water in the river, however in the later summer and early fall when the fall fish migration begins the Clackamas River is flowing at its lowest levels and we get the least amount of rain fall.

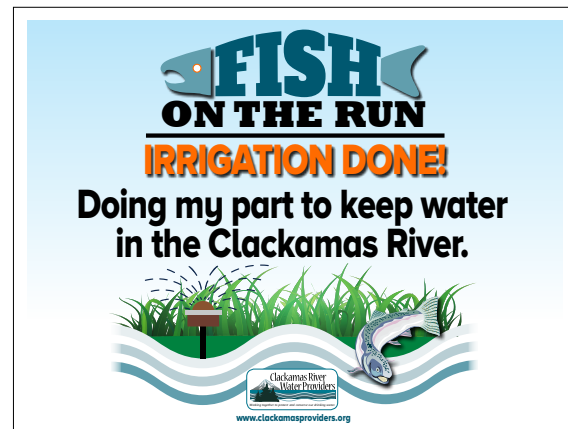
In August, the CRWP will launch our 2023 campaign, with a special E-newsletter and specific pages on our website providing tools, resources, and information to help customers prepare for reducing or shutting-off outdoor watering by September.

Take the Pledge

Take the “Fish On the Run, Irrigation Done!” online pledge and receive a free yard sign to let your neighbors know you’re saving water for fish in the Clackamas River.

The more water we can conserve the easier this journey will be for these threatened and endangered salmon species.

For more information contact Christine Hollenbeck at (503)723-3511 or via email at: christine@clackamasproviders.org.



Receive a yard sign to show your support.

Sign-up for Public Alerts

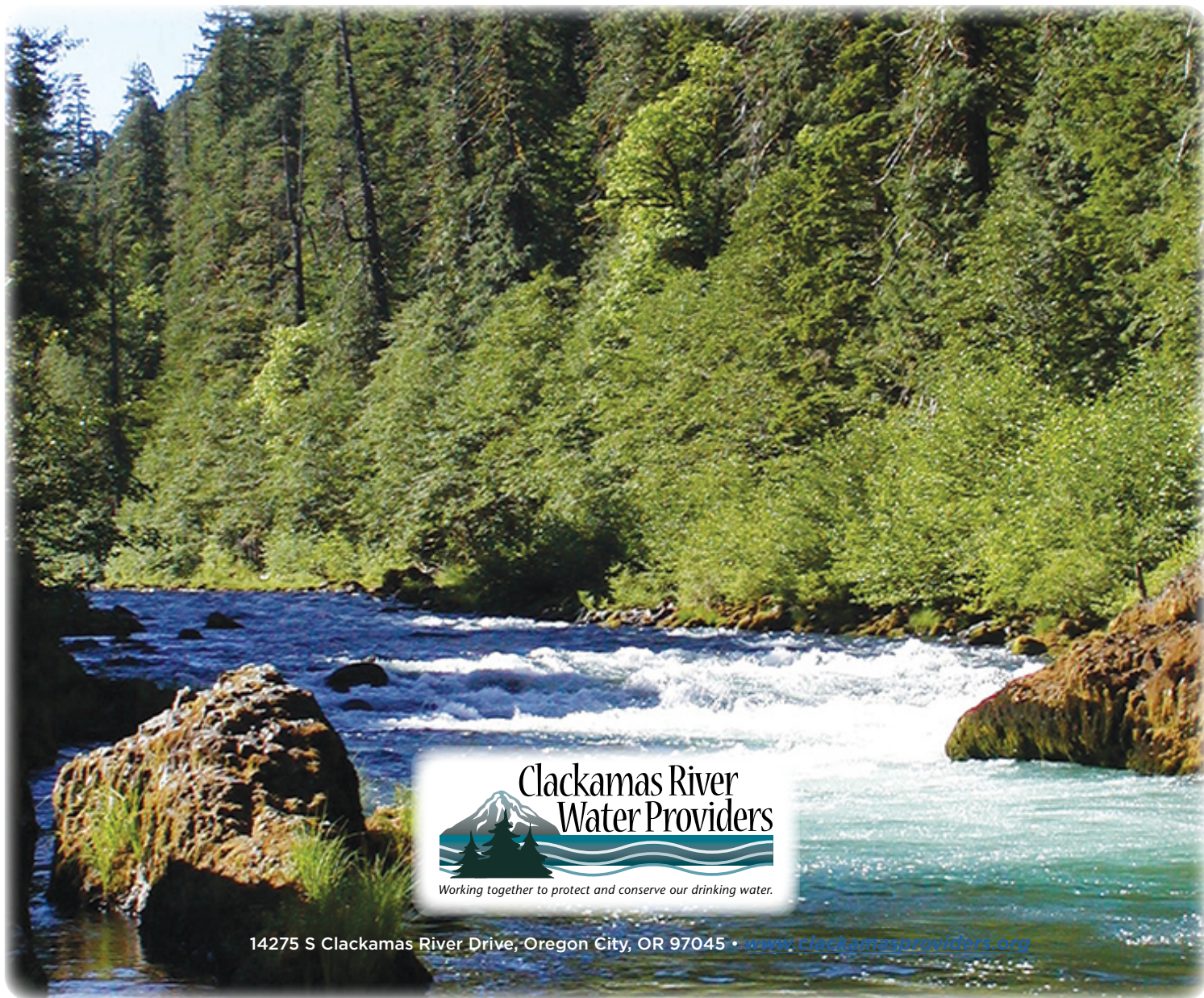
By providing your contact information as a county resident you can opt-in to receive critical emergency messaging via email, phone call and text during times of disaster. Important messages that could be relayed include notices to evacuate, shelter-in-place, shelter locations and other extremely important information. To learn more and sign up [click here](#).

By signing up you can receive emergency notifications for your home or other address (such

#ClackCo PublicAlerts

as business). You will only be contacted when the associated address is affected by an emergency.

If the call is picked up by an answering machine, it will leave a message and not call back. If the number is busy or there is no answer, the system will try contacting your other contact methods. Once you have acknowledged receipt of a message on one



Our Members:



www.cwater.com



www.cityofestacada.org



www.ci.gladstone.or.us



www.ci.oswego.or.us



www.oaklodgewaterservices.org



www.sfwb.org



www.sunrisewater.com



www.tigard-or.gov

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