

July 2006, Happy Independence Day!!!!

Moonshadow Messenger

A partnership publication of Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District and the Tualatin River Watershed Council

So you know what's happening in Moonshadow Park...



A Great Year of Restoration!

Neighbors have been especially involved with all aspects of the restoration work, including calling and emailing the neighborhood about upcoming volunteer parties, providing a place to store salvaged plants between the volunteer events, and, of course, providing good old elbow grease to help with pulling weeds and replanting.

The Tualatin River Watershed Council received a grant to do much of the current restoration work through Spring 2007. With the grant money, the Council hired Franco Reforestation to sweep the park with a chainsaw crew on June 22nd and remove the majority of the remaining large patches of weeds. This sets the stage for the next phase of the restoration that will occur over the coming year, including selective herbicide application to keep the blackberries and other weeds down, replanting the area with thousands more native trees and shrubs, and doing ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the work already accomplished.

Over the last winter over 50 workers have helped during several projects to continue the restoration work in Moonshadow Park.

Neighbors have been especially involved with



Red-flowering currant alongside the Moonshadow trail



A Forest of Blackberries before the Franco Crew came through.



Ready for planting after the Franco Crew finished up!

Upcoming Restoration Events COME OUT AND JOIN US!

- **August 5, 2006 Summer Riparian Restoration!** 9 to noon. We'll be digging out blackberry roots from the riparian area that was just cleared by the Franco Crew. The soils are (usually) still wet enough to dig out those pesky roots...it may even be muddy! Bring heavy work gloves (leather is best), wear long pants, and shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Tools and equipment provided by THPRD and the Watershed Council. Coffee, water, and goodies will be available.
- **October 2006: Washington County Clean and Green** 9 AM to 1 PM. Come out and join us for the County-wide SOLV project day. We'll be pulling ivy and planting native shrubs and trees in the newly cleared areas of the park. Bring gloves and wear long pants. Tools and equipment provided by THPRD and the Watershed Council. Coffee, water, and goodies will be available.

After the slope was cleared on the northern edge of the park, several sheets of metal roofing were discovered under the blackberry brambles. In addition, the remains of the old chain link fence that bisected the park are now free of the blackberries, but still pose a travel barrier to the animals that use the forest. A **local Eagle Scout candidate** is looking into removing the roofing debris, the fence, as well as pulling ivy in the same area.

He'll be doing his project in the fall and will need volunteers like you! Stay tuned for more details.





We're on the Web at www.thprd.org

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Clean Water Services to upgrade stormwater outflow from neighborhood.

In the coming months, a crew from Clean Water Services will be cleaning out the stormwater drainage that flows into the north-central section of Moonshadow Park. They will also be upgrading it to meet the needs of neighborhood expansion to the north of the park, as well as removing invasive species in the area and replanting areas of the slope with native plants.

The project should take only a few weeks and will be completed by the end of Summer 2006, with planting to follow during the winter '06-'07. For questions or comments, please contact Doug Gates at 503-681-3600.



We're on the Web at www.trwc.org

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- MOONSHADOW FACTOIDS:**
- Ash Creek flows 2000 feet through Moonshadow Park.
 - The paved trail is 1200 feet long.
 - That huge Douglas-fir is 5.5 feet in diameter and 17.2 feet in circumference.
 - Over 125 plant species have been identified within the park.



**Do you know of a group that wants to do a project together?
 We can help!! Give us a call and we'll help tailor a project to your
 group's needs. Please contact Melissa Higgins, Volunteer
 Coordinator, at 503-629-6305 x2953 or mhiggins@thprd.org.**