Get Involved!

Protecting Ash Creek ensures a thriving ecosystem for future generations and supports clean water for our community.

Check out **Luckiamute Watershed Council** for local volunteer opportunities & **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**'s website for more information on water quality regulations.

LWC

Oregon DEQ

Thank you to our community partners!

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Friends of Gentle Woods

Ash Creek Water Control District

Monmouth Oregon — Where Great Things Grow

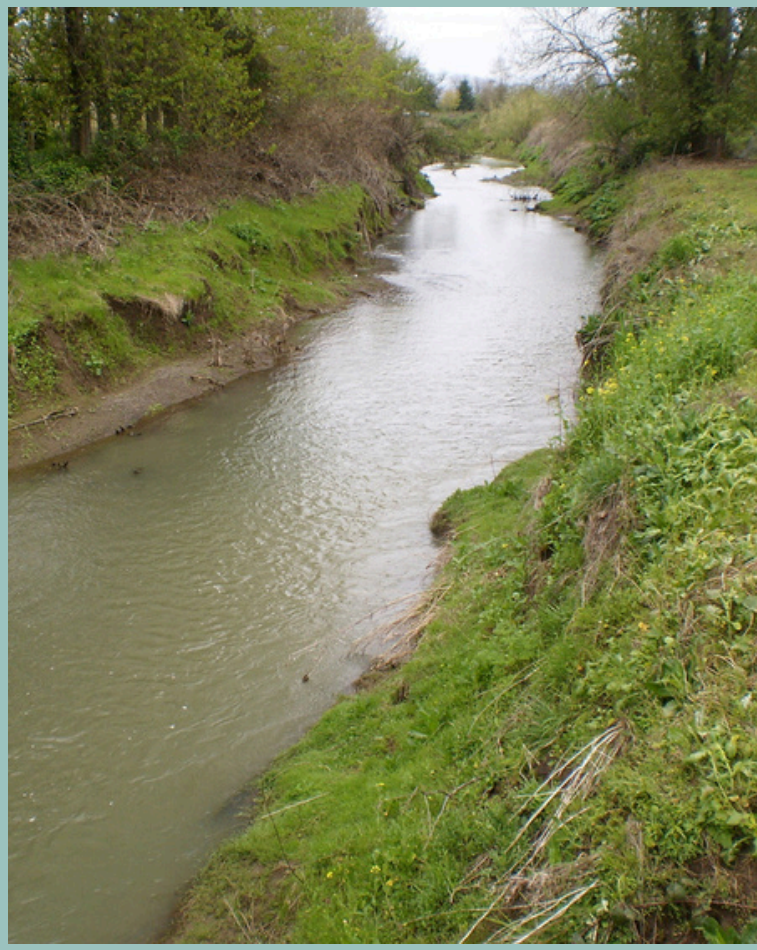
Falls City — End of the road, start of your adventure

City of Dallas Oregon — Come thrive with us, we invest in people and business

History of Ash Creek

The Ash Creek Watershed spans 36 square miles in Polk County, Oregon, nestled between the Rickreall Creek and Luckiamute River watersheds in Polk County, Oregon. Beginning in Dallas, it winds through Monmouth and Independence before flowing into the Willamette River by Riverview Park.

This watershed is home to diverse ecosystems, from forests and wetlands to farm fields and neighborhood parks. Its health is crucial for clean water, wildlife habitats, and the well-being of our local communities.



RESTORING ASH CREEK

A Vision for Revitalization & Community Action

WINTER 2025

Benefits of a Healthy Watershed

- Environmental Benefits: Healthy watersheds offer essential ecosystem services, such as water filtration, carbon storage, conserving biodiversity and flood control.
- Economic Benefits: Healthy watersheds increase property values and lower costs for water treatment, flood control, and restoration.
- Flood Prevention: Restoring wetlands and streambanks can help mitigate flood risks by absorbing excess water during heavy rains.
- Climate Resilience: Healthy watersheds are better equipped to withstand the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events.
- Recreational and Educational Opportunities: Healthy watersheds offer activities like fishing, canoeing, and more, enriching the local community's recreational and educational experiences.

Why is temperature a problem?

Temperature is critical to the health of our waterways, yet this pollutant is a growing concern in the many Willamette Valley rivers. When water temperatures rise, it can harm fish and other aquatic life. Warmer water holds less oxygen, making it harder for some fish to survive. It can also disrupt migration, damage habitats, and upset the ecosystem's balance.

Urban growth, agriculture, and stormwater runoff are key contributors to temperature pollution. As cities expand, riparian vegetation that once provided cooling shade is often removed. Agricultural practices, such as irrigation and clearing native plants along water edges, also impact stream temperatures.

What can we do?

- Plant trees & native plants
- Remove invasive vegetation
- Get involved with your local watershed council
- Homeowners: consider green home projects such as rain gardens, rain barrels, or permeable pavement
- Learn more about water quality & watersheds at www.LuckiamuteLWC.org

Ash Creek Restoration Project

Ash Creek has seen many changes over the years, yet it still holds a special place in the heart of the landscape. Though its course has been shaped by humans, this waterway and its surrounding floodplain continue to serve vital ecological roles. From storing floodwaters to providing essential habitats for fish and wildlife, Ash Creek remains a lifeline in the community's natural environment.

At the heart of the restoration efforts is the Luckiamute Watershed Council, working hand-in-hand with local landowners and local agencies. We are improving water quality, restoring the streamside area with native plants, and tackling invasive plants.

Our efforts go beyond planting and restoration; we are also fostering a sense of community stewardship. By involving neighbors and local organizations, we are ensuring that the health of this watershed remains strong for generations to come.