

CASE STUDY

Tanner Creek Prairie



Restoring Upland Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species

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THE 15-ACRE TANNER CREEK PRAIRIE PROJECT is located upslope from Hagg Lake in Gaston. In 2011, Fender's blue butterfly, an endangered species endemic to Oregon's Willamette Valley, was discovered in nearby prairie. Two vital elements of the butterfly's habitat, host plants for larvae and nectar plants for adult butterflies, are present on the Tanner Creek Prairie site.

Two tributaries of Tanner Creek flow within the project boundary. Stream restoration is a priority for one, alongside restoration of the remnant prairie habitat. Although Fender's blue butterflies are not presently found on the project site, the existence of Kincaid's Lupine, a threatened species, itself, signifies that the site has the potential to support Fender's blue butterflies in the future.



Tree for All engages communities large and small in conservation projects throughout the Tualatin River Watershed in Oregon.

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The Site

SIZE 15.3 acres

FIRST PLANTING 2020

STREAM LENGTH 1174 feet

PLANT COMMUNITIES Riparian Forest, Upland Forest, Upland Prairie, Emergent Wetlands



Keystone Species



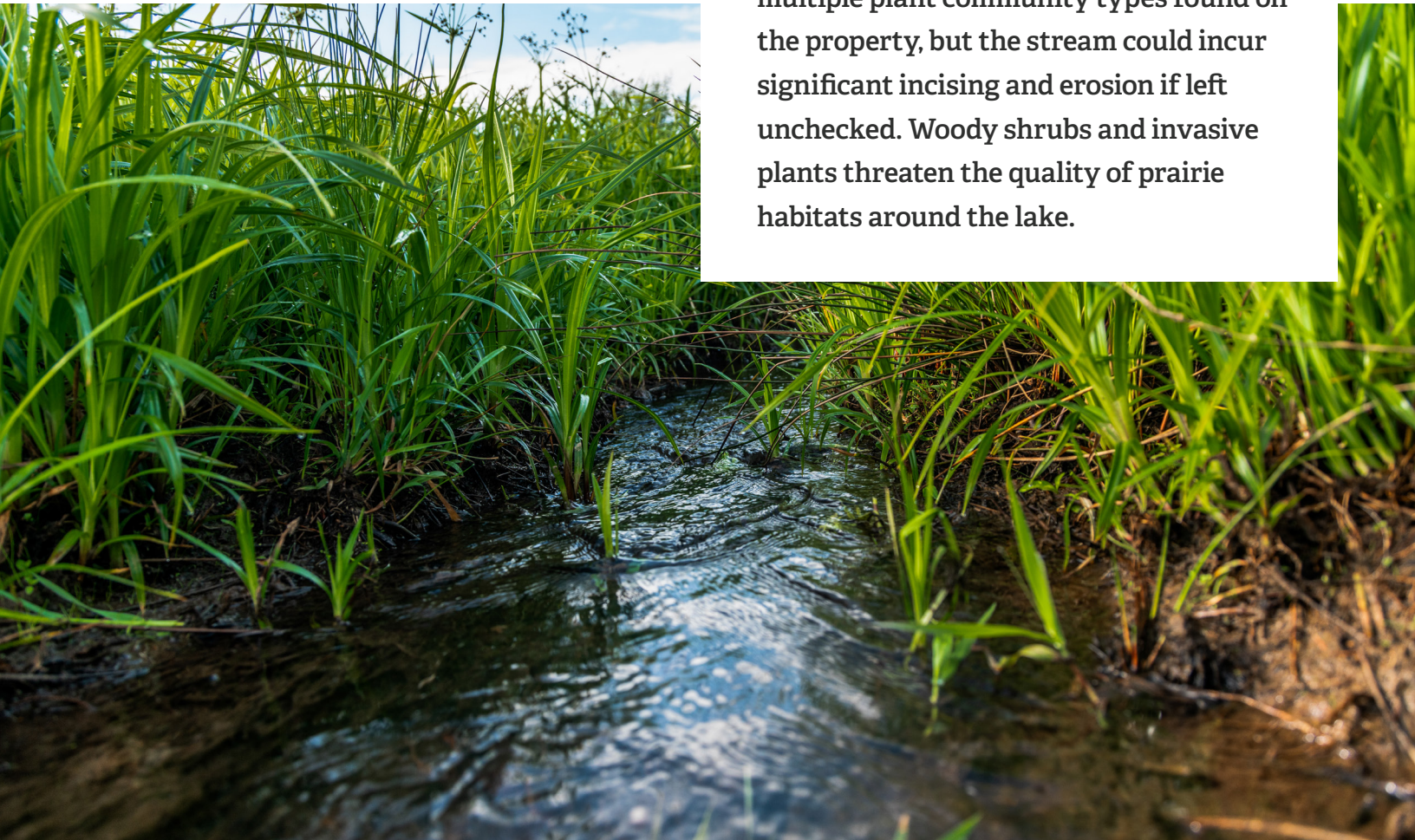
Habitat Connectivity



Protects Water Quality

The Challenge

Restoring the easternmost tributary to Tanner Creek will require attention to detail and thoughtful plantings due to the multiple plant community types found on the property, but the stream could incur significant incising and erosion if left unchecked. Woody shrubs and invasive plants threaten the quality of prairie habitats around the lake.





By restoring resilient native plant communities, the site will have more resources to offer the Fender's blue butterfly.

The Transformation

Tree for All partners are working to restore this site and one adjacent, creating additional opportunities to cool the stream by planting a dense riparian buffer. In the future, a segment of the stream will be returned to a more natural alignment and the riparian area of the stream will be planted.

Activities will conserve and enhance the native prairie habitat, reduce the number of invasive plant species, and further shade the creeks. By restoring resilient native plant communities, the site will have more resources to offer the Fender's blue butterfly and the numerous other species that depend on upland prairie habitats. Further development of the Stutz site may also create opportunities for community education and engagement in endangered species and native, rare habitat conservation.



Together, more than 35 partners are achieving what none of us could alone.

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Collaboration among community, municipal, and conservation organizations makes large-scale change and long-term stewardship possible. Public-private partnerships within Washington County improve water quality, sustain native species and support diverse and complex habitats. The result? Better outcomes for human health, ecology and the economy.

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Since 2005, Tree for All partners have restored and managed more than 25,000 acres for watershed health.

Learn more about Tanner Creek Prairie
www.jointreeforall.org/tanner-creek-prairie

Key Partners

