



# Neighbor News

Your Connection to Land Trust Preserves

## Willow Springs Preserve Restoration

The next phase of the Willow Springs Preserve stream restoration has begun. The Land Trust has been working with our restoration partners at the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to restore the portion of Whychus Creek that runs through the Preserve to a healthy, biologically diverse condition. The first phase of the restoration was completed in 2022, and crews will be returning this year to launch the next phase.

Here is what you can expect as we continue work to transform the creek from a human-manipulated single channel into a more natural braided series of channels that spread out across the valley floor:

- In March-April, crews were on site staging 500 whole trees from local thinning projects. These trees will be used to build the natural structures that will be used in the restoration.
- In July, we expect crews to be on site constructing restoration structures. Many of these will look like log jams in the stream. These will be used to shift the flow of the creek in certain directions. Smaller dam-like structures will also be built on side channels to imitate beaver dams, create pools, and help connect Whychus Creek to the surrounding meadow. Finally, a new type of structure will be built that will look like log jams or piles of branches and logs in the stream. These structures are intended to slow flows, collect sediment, and promote some of the side-to-side movement that a properly functioning creek would do naturally over time.

Although Willow Springs Preserve is closed to the public, we encourage you to register for one of our guided walks (details at right) to learn more about the project. We appreciate your patience as we work to make Whychus Creek healthier for us all!

Stay up-to-date on Preserve news: [deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news)



## Tour the Willow Springs Preserve Restoration

Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Willow Springs Preserve! See the new structures that will have been added to Whychus Creek, and learn more about this multi-year project to improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

Learn more:  
[deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)

### Did you know?

We have 20 miles of trails at our Sisters and Camp Sherman Preserves! With a variety of distances, surfaces, and scenery, there are so many ways to explore. Take some time today!



**20**  
Miles of trails



## Indian Ford Meadow Preserve Update

Indian Ford Meadow Preserve was the Land Trust's first conservation project in Central Oregon, protected in 1995. Since then, this beautiful meadow Preserve has undergone habitat restoration projects, seen new trails and facilities built, and continues to provide a haven for native plants and animals. This year, we are giving Indian Ford Meadow Preserve some much needed attention and will be updating the viewing platform at the end of the Preserve's Founder's Trail. Improvements include:

- Building a new viewing platform base. The original platform was built in 2005 and will be replaced with new stone pavers that should hold up better to Central Oregon winters.
- Updating interpretive signs. The current signs have been in place since 2007 and will be replaced later this summer with an updated look and new natural history.
- Adding a new viewing scope. The Land Trust will be installing a new viewfinding scope see to our beautiful mountains up close. This scope will be dedicated to the memory of Cal Allen. Cal was a neighbor of Indian Ford Meadow Preserve who initially helped conserve the property, and then went on to serve on the Land Trust's Board of Directors and was a dedicated volunteer and supporter. Many thanks to the Allen Family, the Asplund Family, and Indian Meadow Water Company for helping honor Cal!

We expect the platform improvements to be complete by late May with signs installed later this summer. Preserve trails will remain open during construction, with brief interruptions to viewing platform access. In the meantime, thanks for your patience as we help build a better Preserve for our community.

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## Pile Burn Update

The Land Trust still has a few piles to burn from recent thinning projects at Aspen Hollow Preserve. We hope to burn these this fall.

Many thanks to all our neighbors of our Sisters-area Preserves for your support and patience as we completed recent forest restoration projects. Together we are helping reduce fire danger in your neighborhood while also restoring habitat for native plants and animals!



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