



DESCHUTES  
LAND  
TRUST

MATT OLIPHANT

# Neighbor News

Your Connection to Paulina Creek Preserve

## Planning for the future of Paulina Creek Preserve

The Land Trust is deep into planning for the next phase of the future of Paulina Creek Preserve. We recently received a grant to help fund the creation of a comprehensive restoration and community access plan for the Preserve. The plan will help meet goals established in our community visioning process for protecting and caring for habitat at the Preserve, as well as providing safe and accessible access for the local community.

Goals for restoration at the Preserve include:

- Designing new diverse flow paths for Paulina Creek to achieve a more natural condition. This includes connecting the creek to its floodplain and developing wetland areas and slower water sections where birds, frogs, and other wildlife can rest and find food.
- Restoring stream, wetland, and meadow plants, including adding more pollinator plant habitat.
- Improving wildlife corridors at the Preserve by providing more cover and forage for wildlife and connecting the Preserve to surrounding Forest Service and BLM land.
- Restoring forests at the Preserve and using harvested trees in the stream restoration. This work will help reduce fire danger and improve forest health.

We hope to complete our restoration and access plan by summer 2025 with the goal of beginning restoration work in 2026. Planning will be led by a team of individuals from the Land Trust, Klamath Tribes, natural resource agencies, and community partners. Implementation will be phased over several years, so stay tuned for lots more details. Read more about access planning for the Preserve on the back of this newsletter.

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



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## Volunteer!

Help prepare Paulina Creek Preserve for restoration! Volunteer for a Preserve work party or get involved with community science. Together, we can restore our streams and forests, ensure we have clean air and water, and provide habitat so wildlife can thrive.

Learn more:

[deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/volunteer)

## Did you know?

Volunteers donated 628 hours of their time at Paulina Creek Preserve in 2023. That's a huge accomplishment for the new Preserve. Thank you for your time and energy!



**628**  
Volunteer hours



## Public Access at Paulina Creek Preserve

As we mentioned on the front side of this newsletter, the Land Trust is building plans for the next phase of the future of Paulina Creek Preserve. We hope to complete a community access plan in conjunction with our restoration plan by the summer of 2025. Our goal, as established in our community visioning process, is to provide safe and accessible access for the local community. This includes providing interpretive and trail elements that will allow for public access while also protecting newly restored habitats at the Preserve.

One major part of access at the Preserve will be a transfer of ownership of a portion of the Preserve. The Land Trust was able to work with our partners at the Deschutes National Forest to secure critical funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to permanently conserve the portion of the Preserve east of Newberry Road (~366 acres) by transferring these acres to the Forest Service. This transfer will allow us to achieve our shared goals, including community access and restoration of Paulina Creek. The Land Trust will retain ownership of the remaining western portion of the Preserve (~734 acres). Our hope is that this transfer will be complete by the end of 2026.

In the meantime, we will be working very closely with our partners at Deschutes National Forest to plan for access at the Preserve. Major elements of access planning include:

- parking and trailhead locations
- accessible trails and connections to nearby trails (i.e. Peter Skene Ogden Trail)
- interpretive opportunities

Trail and facility construction will follow restoration activities and is dependent on funding. Although Paulina Creek Preserve remains closed to the public, we encourage you join us for a guided walk (details at right). We appreciate your patience as we work to build a new Preserve for our future! **Learn more:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/neighbor-news)



### Visit Paulina Creek Preserve!

Join the Land Trust on a guided tour of Paulina Creek Preserve! Each year volunteers lead free walks and hikes at Land Trust Preserves, including Paulina Creek Preserve.

Whether it's a bird walk, geology hike, or general tour, you are guaranteed to learn a little more about your backyard!

**Details:** [deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes](https://deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes)



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DESCHUTESLANDTRUST.ORG | 210 NW IRVING AVENUE, SUITE 102, BEND, OREGON 97703

PHONE: (541) 330-0017

