



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

Neighbor News

Your Connection to Paulina Creek Preserve

First Phase of Forest Restoration Complete

The Land Trust completed the first phase of our forest restoration efforts at Paulina Creek Preserve this winter. Crews were at the Preserve in February and March working to thin dense forest sections near the southern border of the Preserve.

We thinned 30 acres of fire-prone lodgepole pine to help create a fuel break for neighboring homes. This included removing hundreds of trees from dense stands of small-diameter lodgepole pines, while leaving the ponderosa pines to thrive. The end result is a healthier and more open forest, improved conditions for native bunchgrasses and wildflowers, better habitat for wildlife, and increased fire protection for our neighbors.

The thinning was completed in the winter to ensure that soils and plants in the thinned areas were protected as much as possible. Crews used a machine that cuts and gathers trees (watch our video via the link below), and then hauled the thinned material to pre-existing landings/staging areas. Eventually, these thinned trees will be used in the restoration of Paulina Creek to provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

As we mentioned in past newsletters, one of the goals we have for Paulina Creek Preserve is to restore the forests at the Preserve to improve forest health and reduce the risk of fire danger. The Preserve has 578 acres of predominately ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine forests. Past forest management at the Preserve, including fire suppression and a lack of thinning, have changed the character of the forest over time. Tree composition has shifted to favor the shorter-lived and more fire-prone lodgepole pine with fewer older ponderosa pines that are important to wildlife. Restoration will help change that dynamic.

We encourage you to join us for a guided walk to learn more about the restoration.

Learn more: 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

146,538
Milkweed Seeds

Thanks to our partners at U.S. Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Forest Service, the Land Trust has given away 146,538 showy milkweed seeds to help boost Western monarch butterfly habitat! Get your seeds today: deschuteslandtrust.org/milkweed



Community Connections

Since establishing Paulina Creek Preserve in late 2022, the Land Trust has been thrilled by the community support for this special place! Whether it's volunteers stepping up to help with cleanups or restoration, community members visiting on guided tours, or kids learning about nature through our Nature Kids program, the Preserve is truly becoming a hub of activity. **Here are some highlights:**

- **Service Projects:** From local banks to clubs to school groups, volunteer groups have donated 519 hours to the Preserve since 2023. One highlight was students from La Pine High School Natural Resources Club who helped rescue fish from one of the ponds at the Preserve that were trapped and not able to reach Paulina Creek. Major thanks to all these groups for their efforts!
- **Volunteer Stewards:** Thanks as well go out to our Paulina Creek Preserve Site Stewards! These awesome volunteers walk the Preserve regularly to report wildlife sightings and help be our eyes and ears on the ground. Site Stewards have donated 228 hours since 2023!
- **Guided Tours:** The Land Trust has welcomed more than 250 community members on guided tours at the Preserve since 2023. Thanks to dedicated volunteer hike leaders, attendees have enjoyed exploring the Preserve while learning more about the natural history of our region.



Although Paulina Creek Preserve remains closed to the public, we encourage you to join us for a guided walk or volunteer opportunity! **Learn more:** deschuteslandtrust.org



Join Us for Nature Kids!

Join the Land Trust for Nature Kids at Paulina Creek Preserve! Get outside and explore the nature of Central Oregon on guided family nature walks just for kids ages 5-10. Kids and their families can explore, imagine, and grow through hands-on activities and experiences outside!

Details:

deschuteslandtrust.org/hikes



CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

CONSERVATION. COMMUNITY. CARING FOR THE LAND.

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