

The Dalles Watershed Council

Spotlight on Lower Mill Creek

The urban portion of Mill Creek has been a special focus of The Dalles Watershed Council since 2008. Mill Creek projects address the three key elements of Watershed Council work: **monitoring, education, and restoration.**

Monitoring:

The Dalles Watershed Council monitors Mill Creek water quality for potential pollutants such as pesticides, *E. coli*, and sediment.

Education:

The Council has taught watershed lessons to students of all ages, and has engaged students in hands-on monitoring and restoration projects. The Council also hosts educational workshops, tours, and presentations to teach residents about local water resources and how to protect them.

Restoration:

One of The Dalles Watershed Council's work sites is located upstream of 6th Street on property that Barbara Bailey donated to the City of The Dalles. Watershed Council volunteers have worked to clean up noxious weeds and trash and re-establish native vegetation along the creek. Since 2008, many student and adult volunteers have helped improve the riparian (stream-side) habitat along lower Mill Creek. Future restoration activities may include in-stream habitat enhancement, side-channel restoration, and floodplain improvements. Inter-Fluve, Inc., a professional river restoration firm, recently designed two future Mill Creek restoration projects for the Watershed Council. The Watershed Council is currently seeking grant funding to implement the restoration designs.