

GREENBELT LAND TRUST LIVING WITH NATURE

Greenbelt Protects 221-acres along Evergreen Creek

The Greenbelt Land Trust is pleased to announce the acquisition of 'Evergreen Creek Wetland', a 221 acre property located south of Philomath along Evergreen Creek, in the Muddy Creek Watershed. Muddy Creek has been identified as a priority conservation area for riparian forests, wetlands, oak woodlands and savannas, and serves as habitat for several imperiled species and plant communities. Conservation work in Muddy Creek serves as a stepping stone to work being done at Finley Wildlife Refuge, and other conservation projects in the watershed. Greenbelt worked in conjunction with both the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the US Fish and Wildlife Services' North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to secure over \$700,000 in funding for this property.

In 2007, the Greenbelt was approached by the landowners to assist in protecting this property for the purpose of restoring native habitats and wildlife species. The landowners were particularly interested in having their property serve as a tool for creating working partnerships among agencies, as a demonstration project for landowners, and as a future educational space for local schools and organizations. "It is immensely appealing that students could have the opportunity to do ecology projects on this property. My own children were impacted tremendously by similar opportunities in the community, and the thought that this protected property could serve as a classroom is one of the main reasons that I chose to pursue this partnership with Greenbelt." Ann Marchant, landowner.

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Evergreen Creek Property



FALL 2009

Restoring Evergreen Creek

The Greenbelt is excited by the opportunity to lead restoration activities on this property, occurring over the next 15 years, during which time we will phase out agricultural production that has been preeminent on the land for at least half a century.

Initial plans call for controlling invasive species, enhancing existing wetlands and riparian vegetation, and restoring wetlands, upland prairie, and savanna to the farmed areas.

In coordination with our partners, a detailed management plan for the site will be developed, which will guide future restoration and agricultural activities.



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The Greenbelt Land Trust acts to conserve and protect in perpetuity native habitats, working lands and lands of natural beauty, which provide a connection to the natural world for the residents of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

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Greenbelt Protects Evergreen Creek

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The property contains high quality wetlands, wet prairie, and riparian zones along the 1½ miles of Evergreen Creek and tributaries, as well as opportunities to restore priority Willamette Valley habitats.

“It is rare to have the opportunity to manage a large parcel of property in order to create a mosaic of habitats.”

Conservation of the property will enhance regionally declining habitats important to red-legged frogs, Oregon chub, waterfowl and shore birds, white breasted nuthatch, streaked horned lark, western meadowlark, western gray squirrels and threatened or endangered native plants such as Kincaid’s lupine, Nelson’s, checkermallow, Bradshaw’s lomatium, Willamette daisy and other prairie species.

“The Evergreen Creek property provides another stepping stone to the complex of areas protected for a wide range of wildlife habitat values in Benton County. It is rare to have the opportunity to manage a large parcel of property in order to create a mosaic of habitats. It is a beautiful piece of property and will provide years of educational opportunities for the community and ecologists who will benefit from knowledge gained from the restoration efforts.” Donna Schmitz, Resource Conservationist for Benton Soil & Water Conservation District.

Evergreen Creek is the single largest property that Greenbelt has acquired throughout our 20 year history. With an extensive restoration plan including invasive species removal, native tree plantings prairie restoration and wetlands management, the costs for stewardship of the site are substantial. The landowners have agreed to donate to a Stewardship Fund for the property, but we are still in need of continued financial support to fund the extensive restoration projects that we will be initiating within the year. It is because of the generous contributions from our members that



Greenbelt has been able to actively protect and conserve open spaces and lands throughout the region.

The opportunities that this acquisition present are bountiful – from educational partnerships with local schools, to the potential of enhancing habitat for endangered species, Greenbelt looks forward to the future of Evergreen Creek and the partnerships that will be created through its management and restoration.

We encourage everyone to attend the open house tour of the Evergreen Creek property, being held Saturday, October 24th, from 9-12. For more information on this acquisition please contact the Greenbelt Office at (541) 752.9609. ❖

Engelbrecht Bequest

Rudi and Christel Engelbrecht were two of Greenbelt's most fervent supporters, being advocates of open spaces and the preservation of scenic vistas throughout the Willamette Valley. We were all saddened to hear of Rudi's passing on May 1st, 2009 and Christel's passing a few years ago. Rudi and Christel's dedication to protecting the lands around Corvallis is evidenced in their long-term involvement with the community and Greenbelt, and in the extremely generous gifts that have been bestowed upon our organization on their passing. The Greenbelt is one of the beneficiaries listed in Rudi's will and two life insurance policies. We truly appreciate the tremendous generosity of the Engelbrechts and their foresight to give these funds unrestricted, allowing the Greenbelt to use these gifts for the most critical needs of the organization. To date, all bequests received by the Greenbelt have been unrestricted by the donor(s), allowing us the utmost flexibility.



Rudi & Christel Engelbrecht

"I met with Christel and Rudi several times over the years to talk about their love of Corvallis, and of their interest

for conservation of significant lands in our community. They were wonderful people who led interesting lives filled with a passion for the outdoors, and we offer our condolences to their families." Karlene McCabe, Executive Director for Greenbelt Land Trust.

In 1994, the Engelbrechts committed to donating **\$130,000 over several years** to Greenbelt, in order to protect hilltop vistas in Corvallis. Rudi and Christel intended for the funds to be exclusively applied to Greenbelt's land acquisition fund. To honor their wishes, the Greenbelt created the Engelbrecht Open Space Hillside Fund. Rudi and Christel truly loved the views of the green hills surrounding their home in Corvallis. Their love for the land is generously passed to others with their donations so others can enjoy the beauty of the natural landscape that surrounds Corvallis. The Engelbrechts are two of the latest Greenbelt members that have left a legacy for all to enjoy and further

the conservation work that our wonderful supporters have promoted for the past 20 years.

Monthly Tours

We are initiating a program that will offer a tour of one of the Greenbelt's properties each month. Each tour will be held on the 4th Saturday of the month.

We plan to visit sites at different times of the year to provide an opportunity to view habitats in various seasons and to feature recent restoration activities.

We hope you'll join us!

The Greenbelt will lead a tour of Evergreen Creek in October (10/24), and Lone Star Ranch in November (11/28).

Check out the calendar of events for additional information on the Tours.

Welcome

New Development Coordinator

The Greenbelt Land Trust welcomed Jessica McDonald to the staff in May as the Development Coordinator. Jessica has extensive experience working in the non-profit world, with positions ranging from grant-writer, researcher, and operations manager with organizations across the country. A native Oregonian, Jessica is delighted to have relocated back to the Northwest from northern New Mexico ... back to multiple shades of green, the Cascades, good coffee and the ocean. When not in the office, Jessica is most likely to be found re-connecting with the hiking trails she relished during undergraduate work at OSU ... from Mary's Peak to Rooster Rock.



"I am delighted to be a part of this inspired organization, and to work with our supporters as Greenbelt continues to protect the lands that I grew up with in the Willamette Valley."



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Get into Nature Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 24th, 9 am - 12 pm, Evergreen Creek Tour, South of Philomath

Join the Greenbelt for a tour of our most recent acquisition. The 'Evergreen Creek Wetland' property is 221 acres of wetlands, riparian zones, and farmland located south of Philomath along Evergreen Creek, in the Muddy Creek watershed. With its gently sloping topography and over 40 acres of wetlands, this property provides a great opportunity to tour rare Willamette Valley habitats that benefit a variety of fish, plant and wildlife species. Meet us at the Greenbelt office at 9 am for departure. We are located at 101 SW Western Ave. Please dress appropriately. MUCK BOOTS or appropriate water resistant footwear is highly recommended!

Saturday, October 31st, 9 am - 12 pm, Timberhill Open Space Workday, Corvallis

We wish you will join us for a festive day of gathering Scotch broom from its hallowed ground. Wear your ghoulish costume to our workday and enjoy some creepy concoctions and simmering stew after the work is complete at noon. Tools, stew and brew provided. Meet us at the end of 29th Street near the Timberhill Open Space sign. Look for the Greenbelt canopy and banner.

Saturday, November 7th, 9 am - 1 pm, Greenbelt Volunteer Partnership Workday with OSU College of Forestry, Corvallis

If you're interested in removing blackberries, here's your chance. Let's help our collegiate friends remove blackberries along the trail sides at Peavy Arboretum as part of a volunteer collaboration with the Greenbelt. Gloves and tools will be provided. Please bring a hat, water, boots and a long-sleeved shirt. Meet at the Peavy Arboretum Research Office at 9 am. For more information please contact OSU's Recreation Manager Chris Jackson at 737-6702.

Saturday, November 28th, 9 am - 12 pm, Lone Star Ranch Tour, Philomath

Join the Greenbelt for a tour of the 199 acres of high quality upland prairie and oak woodland in Philomath. Meet us at the Greenbelt office at 9 am for departure. We are located at 101 SW Western Ave. Please dress appropriately. MUCK BOOTS or appropriate water resistant footwear is highly recommended!

*Please RSVP for each event to Steve Lilly at
steve@greenbeltlandtrust.org or his cell: (541) 207-5529.*