

The trend of heavy wildlife use documented by Chintimini is also true for the Owens Farm location: beaver dams back the water up through multiple channels, creating deep pools that last well into the summer; waterfowl and blue heron use the flooded prairies; and kingfishers are sometimes heard in the riparian zone.

A Management Plan has been created for Owens Farm, and a list of Best Management Practices for this area can be found at the web address listed in the "Learn More..." section of this brochure.

STOP 4: JACKSON-FRAZIER WETLAND

Viewing Location: Park at the cul de sac at the north end of NE Lancaster St. off of NE Conifer Blvd.

Old maps show that the two streams ended at a "swamp," terminology indicative of how undervalued wetlands were in the past. Today, Jackson-Frazier Wetland is considered the crown jewel of this watershed and is one of the best local places to observe native wetland plants, as well as birds and wildlife. This unique urban wetland was never intensively farmed due to its wetland characteristics, like poorly drained soils, although it was grazed until the 1960s. The wetland provides an opportunity for the water to drop out its sediment and for the diverse life of the wetland and hydric soils to transform the water to a higher quality.

The site was slated for residential development until the Benton County Government and many organizations and individuals worked together to save it: an outcome of the Goal 5 planning process. (See Goal 5 on the map page.)



These wetlands are a picturesque place to view wildlife.

STOP 5: VILLAGE GREEN PARK

Viewing Location: From the wetland, turn left onto Conifer Blvd. and park along the street near the park and the school.

Village Green Creek, which drains the south end of the Jackson-Frazier Wetland, flows along the western and southern borders of Village Green Park. The creek receives stormwater runoff from the adjacent neighborhoods and impervious surfaces. The good quality water leaving Jackson-Frazier Wetland mixes in this channel with runoff from the storm drains. This runoff contains volatile organic

compounds (petroleum products), silt, and thousands of pollutants that are associated with urban development. The high level of impervious surface and low density of vegetation in the area result in increased water velocity, deeply incised streambanks and degraded stream habitat for aquatic life. However, many native species such as beaver, green heron, blue heron, and woodrats still thrive in this backyard stream. Village Green Creek is mentioned in the City of Corvallis Stormwater Master Plan as a prime candidate for projects to enhance stream and riparian health. Many such projects have been undertaken by students of nearby Cheldelin Middle School.



Stream Stewards are City of Corvallis volunteers who test stream water quality. FMI, visit www.corvallisoregon.gov/publicworks/page/stormwater-volunteer-opportunities.

Learn More About the Jackson-Frazier Watershed

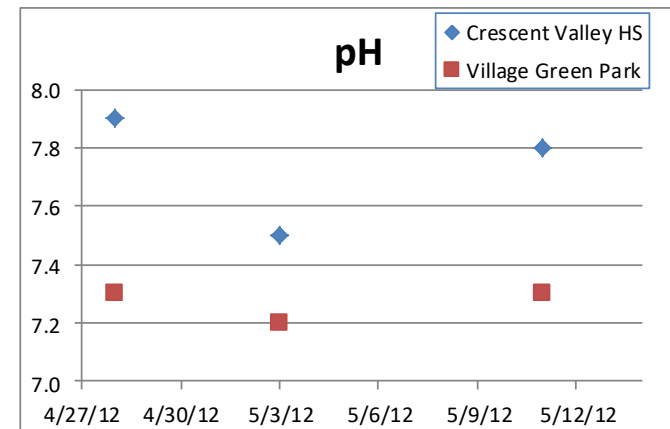
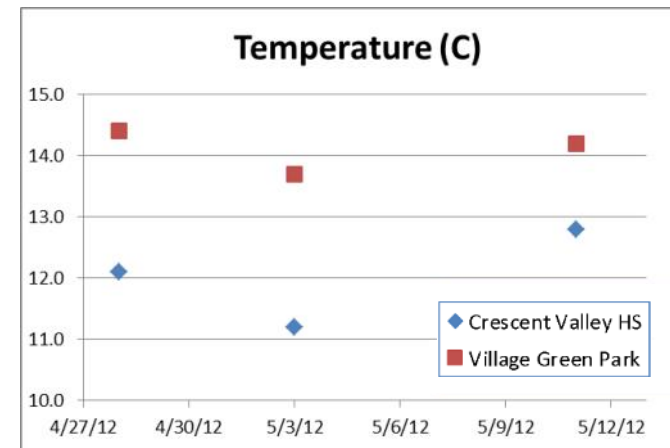
Benton County's Jackson-Frazier Wetland Management Plan - www.co.benton.or.us/parks/page/document-library

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District - www.bentonswcd.org

City of Corvallis Stormwater Master Plan Chapter 8 - www.corvallisoregon.gov/publicworks/page/stormwater-master-plan-swmp

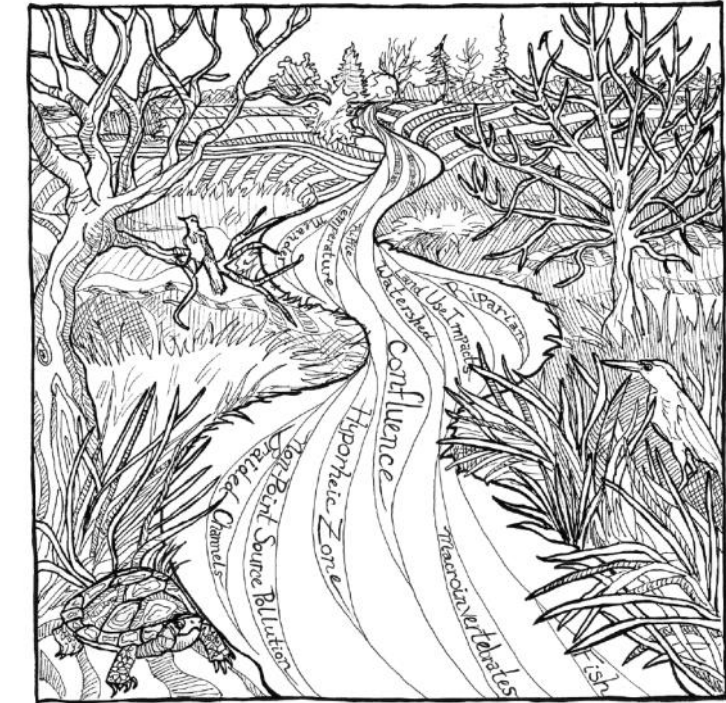
Greenbelt Land Trust's Management Plan for Owens Farm - greenbeltlandtrust.org/conserving-land/owens-farm/

STREAM STEWARDS DATA FOR JACKSON FRAZIER LOCATIONS



JACKSON FRAZIER CREEKS

stream of consciousness tour



5th Annual Urban Creek Tour

Explore Jackson & Frazier Creeks.

Visit five fascinating locations to see how we can protect our streams and wetlands and provide wildlife habitat for everyone to enjoy as this beautiful landscape becomes increasingly urbanized.

Special thanks to all of our tour presenters!

Brochure Contributors: Iris Benson, Jeff Baker, David Eckert, Liz Habley Graham, Heath Keirstead, Steve Lilly, Jeff Picton, Donna Schmitz, and Taylor Williams

Cover Art by Kathleen Hill

Modified 2021 and 2013 for the electronic version and the Self Guided Creek Tour

This tour sponsored by



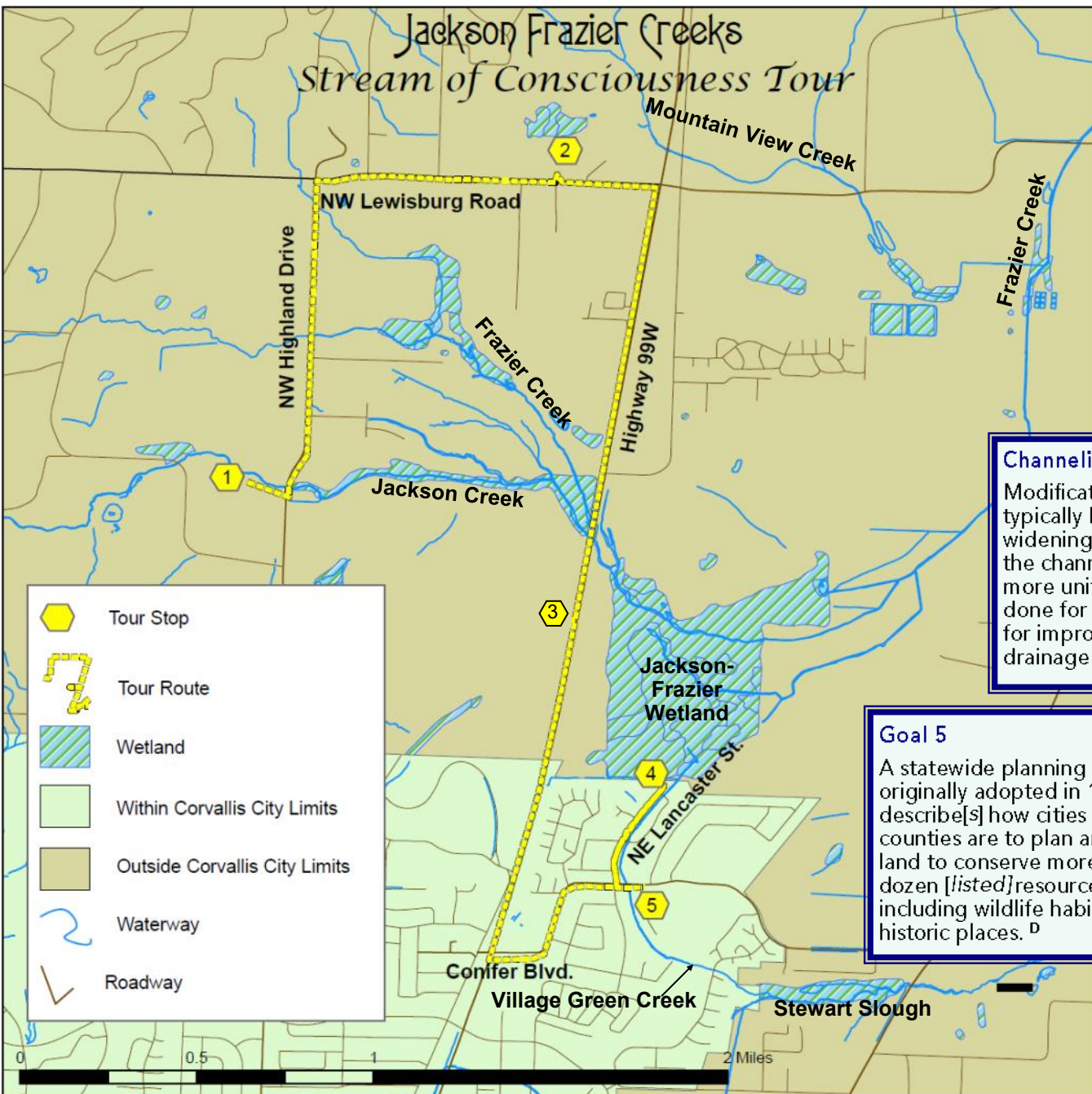
Introduction to the Jackson and Frazier Creeks

Flowing from McDonald Forest through undeveloped land and low-density residential developments, Jackson and Frazier Creeks drain a combined 3,700 acres. Jackson Creek originates near Dimple Hill; Frazier begins near Lewisburg Saddle.^A The two creeks join paths at Owens Farm along Highway 99W, then enter the Jackson-Frazier Wetland, where they fan out and create a shallow body of gently flowing and sometimes stagnant water. These creeks connect only indirectly to the Willamette, crossing farmland and entering Bowers Slough to the north of the wetland. This northern outflow was the watershed's only drainage to exist before the 1930s when the "major ditch"^B known as Village Green Creek was excavated. Village Green Creek joins up with Sequoia Creek and then Stewart Slough before reaching the Willamette.

For thousands of years, the land drained by the Jackson and Frazier Creeks was periodically burned by the local Kalapuya tribes to maintain oak savannas and other desirable habitats. In the late 1800s, the Jackson and Frazier families gained control of the land for farming and grazing. This change in management significantly altered the dominant flora and fauna of the area, and the creeks became deeper and more *channelized*^B. By the beginning of the 20th century, the number of landowners increased, causing further simplification of the stream channels (loss of tributaries) and limiting the diversity of plants and wildlife. As we enter the 21st century, two forces are at work: the population in this watershed is growing and so are efforts to restore the landscape. We will see evidence of both forces along this tour; a journey that represents our changing awareness of and relationship to the land...a journey down our collective stream of consciousness.

Tour stops correspond to numbers on the map below.
Sites 2 and 4 are on school grounds and should only be accessed on weekends or outside of regular school hours.

See Stop Descriptions for detailed driving directions.



- Sources**
- A. City of Corvallis Stormwater Master Plan
 - B. Jackson-Frazier Wetland Management Plan
 - C. www.merriam-webster.com/
 - D. www.oregon.gov/lcd/OP/Pages/Goal-5.aspx

Channelization
Modification of a stream, typically by deepening, widening or straightening the channel, to provide more uniform flow; often done for flood control or for improved agricultural drainage or irrigation.^C

Goal 5
A statewide planning goal, originally adopted in 1974, that describe[s] how cities and counties are to plan and zone land to conserve more than a dozen [listed] resources, including wildlife habitats, [and] historic places.^D

STOP 1: CRESCENT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Viewing Location: This site is located on school grounds and should only be accessed on weekends or outside regular school hours. Park at the west side of the Crescent Valley High School parking lot.

It's hard to believe that in 2050, beautiful Crescent Valley is slated to house 20,000 more residents than live here today because it is within Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary. Urban development significantly impacts surface water quality. At this location, the increased intensity of pavement, buildings, exposed soils and treated turf causes a concomitant increase in turbidity and runoff chemicals, although the water is generally high in oxygen content and a thin buffer of trees (Ash, Alder and Big Leaf Maple) line some of the stream banks.

For Jackson and Frazier Creeks to maintain their present character, protection needs to start now. One way to protect these streams is by providing a buffer of native vegetation, exemplified by the multi-school Native Arboretum project. Crescent Valley High School is the first of a series of schools to host a native arboretum, which is located adjacent to the stream on the west side of the school, and affords students an opportunity to study the creek and surrounding riparian area while simultaneously providing residents of the area with a beautiful example of how they can protect creek health on their own land.



This lamprey, found in Jackson Creek at Crescent Valley High School, is a good sign for creek health.

STOP 2: CHINTIMINI WILDLIFE CENTER (CWC)

Viewing Location: Please call in advance to make an appointment to view this location. 541-745-5324

The water flowing across Chintimini consists of two seasonal creeks, an ash swale wetland, and an upland prairie wetland. These creeks drain a large area of Vineyard Mountain and eventually tie into Mountain View Creek, which then flows into the Jackson-Frazier Wetland system. Drainage from surrounding farmland comes together in the ash swale wetland where it is filtered before entering the creeks.

In accordance with their mission to educate the public about living with wildlife, Chintimini is managed to benefit native wildlife by providing a diversity of habitat types. Over the years, the Center has been reclaiming the wetland without the use of chemicals by manually removing invasive plants. CWC has replanted more than

2,500 natives, with a special focus along fence rows and the edges of the wetland to provide edge effect and travel corridors for wildlife.

The Wildlife Center has documented the following number of species on the property: 55 plants, 62 birds, 24 mammals, 9 herps, and an estimated 2,000 invertebrates.



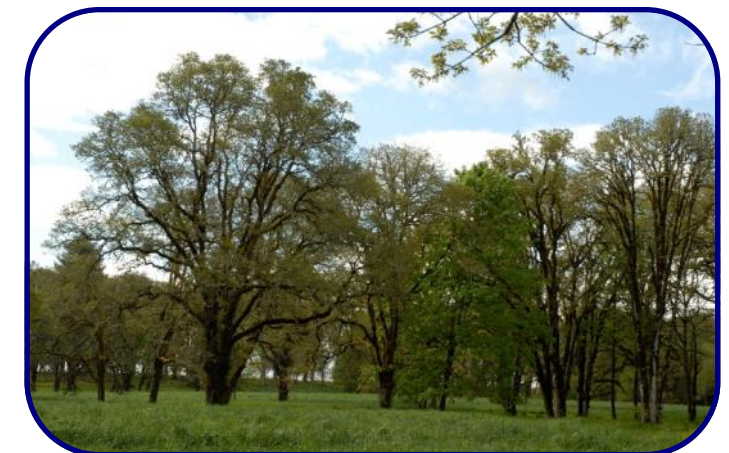
This education bird is one of Chintimini's permanent residents.

STOP 3: OWENS FARM

Viewing Location: This location is not open to the public, please view from Hwy 99. From Lewisburg Rd, head south on Hwy 99W. Owens Farm will be on your right.

This site was farmed by the Owens family since the 1800s, and its preservation as a farm and the restoration of the creeks is owed to the caring and dedication of the Owens family and the work of Greenbelt Land Trust. The confluence of Jackson and Frazier Creeks lies on the Owens Farm on land owned by the Greenbelt Land Trust and is protected from subdivision and development in perpetuity.

A mix of rare Willamette Valley oak woodlands and oak savanna, wet prairie, wetlands and difficult-to-penetrate riparian woodlands surround the creeks. Wet prairies harbor many native species including the threatened Nelson's checkermallow. Some of the site's wetlands have been identified by the Corvallis Natural Features Inventory as locally significant wetlands.



An example of oak savanna at Owens Farm.