Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District's Willamette Basin Water Quality Management Area Plan

Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load Annual Report for June 30,2024-July 1, 2025

Submitted by:

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Background

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) establishes water quality to protect people from high levels of mercury exposure when eating fish. The Willamette River and many of its tributaries, including the Tualatin, do not currently meet water quality standards for mercury and are included on Oregon's list of impaired waters under Clean Water Act §303(d). It requires a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to be developed for waters that are on the 303(d) list. A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant, in this case mercury, that can be present in a waterway and still meet water quality standards. Partners across the region will implement plans to reduce mercury entering streams to the degree that will be necessary for the eventual attainment of the mercury criterion.

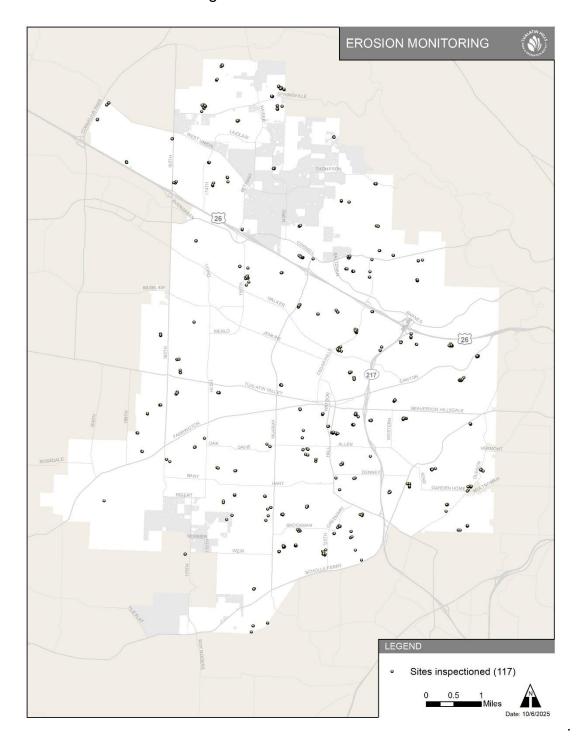
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is responsible for managing approximately 2,000 acres of natural and recreational land in Washington County. Our service area spans the City of Beaverton and many unincorporated areas of eastern Washington County. Although the district manages many green spaces, they are primarily embedded in a suburban residential and commercial matrix.

Each year THPRD takes measures to manage soils to prevent transmission of mercury from terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems. This report summarizes activities taken from June 30,2024 to July 1, 2025.

Activities

Park & Trail Monitoring

Staff monitored developed amenities as well as paved and soft-surface trails in parks and natural areas for signs of erosion. They noted any unintended movement of soil greater than 20 gallons of soil. 117 inspections were made. No instances of erosion were noted that met the 20 gallon criteria.



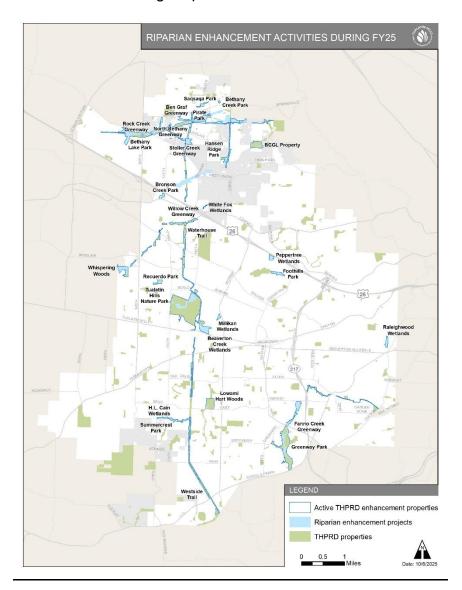
Best Practices

Staff continued to implement best practices:

- 1. Exposed soils.
- 2. Water quality facility maintenance.

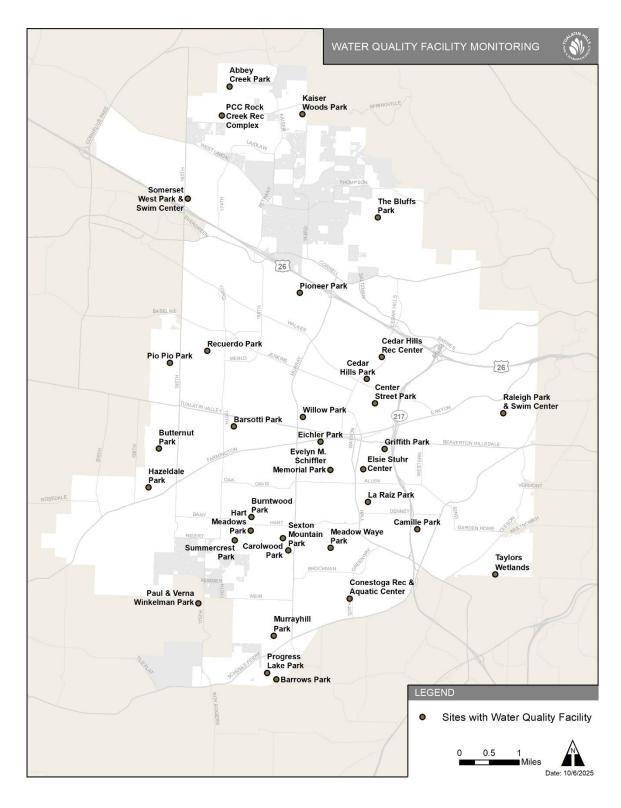
Riparian Restoration

Staff started or continued to conduct riparian restoration activities on 396 acres at 30 individual park sites. This is the same number as last year. These activities included non-native plant control or removal, planting trees, shrubs or herbs, and monitoring. Partners included Clean Water Services and Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District. The following map shows locations of work:



Water Quality Facilities

Staff made 194 routine inspections of 36 water quality facilities. Most facilities were found to be fair or good condition- five required immediate action beyond routine maintenance.



Education

Staff completed the designs for new outdoor maps and directional signs for our paved regional trails which allow people to travel using their feet, bicycles or mobility devices instead of using motorized vehicles to reduce pollution. These trails connect to community destinations like libraries, parks, shopping, and other cities. The signs were sent to a fabricator and are expected to be installed in the next reporting year.