DEAR RESIDENT,

If you live or own property along to the McKenzie, you undoubtedly have a special connection to the river. Maybe you enjoy boating, rafting, fishing, or swimming. Perhaps you like to hike along the beautiful McKenzie River Trail. Or maybe you prefer to just sit back and take in the McKenzie's amazing sights and sounds from the comfort of your deck. Regardless of how you enjoy the river, land owners and residents like you understand and appreciate the many important functions that the river plays for things like wildlife habitat, recreation, and clean drinking water. Land owners and residents like you are often the river’s strongest advocates and most effective stewards. This is why Lane County Public Works, in partnership with the McKenzie Watershed Council, The McKenzie River Trust, The Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District and Eugene Water & Electric Board, is reaching out to you.

There are a number of programs, incentives and regulations that are in place to help protect the McKenzie for the use and enjoyment of current and future Lane County residents. The purpose of this letter is to share these resources with you.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR LAND OWNERS OR RESIDENTS:

PURE WATER PARTNERS
The Pure Water Partners (PWP) program is designed to reward McKenzie Watershed landowners who protect high quality land along the river, assisting EWEB and other watershed partners in protecting water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The program provides both financial incentives and technical assistance to landowners and helps connect landowners who wish to engage in restoration projects on their land with funding assistance.

The PWP Naturescaping program is for smaller landowners next to the river. Landowners can receive technical assistance with removing invasive species and suggestions for planting native species to reduce water use, reduce erosion, and protect water quality while producing a landscape that meets the needs of landowners and is easy to maintain.


MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST
Since 1989, the McKenzie River Trust has worked with landowners who are interested in pursuing permanent conservation options for their property. Learn more at [www.mckenzierriver.org](http://www.mckenzierriver.org).
MCKENZIE WATERSHED COUNCIL
The McKenzie Watershed Council works with private landowners, public agencies, and other non-profit organizations to develop and carry out voluntary and collaborative watershed protection, restoration, and education activities. Learn more at www.mckenziewc.org

THE UPPER WILLAMETTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MCKENZIE WATERSHED
The Upper Willamette SWCD helps property owners restore and enhance riparian vegetation, which is essential for water quality and healthy fish. District staff will work with you to develop a plan that includes removal of invasive species and installation of native trees and shrubs that provide shade for cooling water temperatures and habitat for insects for fish nutrition. The District staff will also work to find funding opportunities for projects to reduce the financial costs associated with your project. Learn more at www.uwswwcd.org

LANE COUNTY LAND MANAGEMENT - CODE ENFORCEMENT
The Lane County Land Management Division is responsible for enforcing riparian zone regulations to protect trees and other vegetation\(^1\) adjacent to the river. These regulations require either a 50 or 100 foot buffer from the ordinary high-water mark of the McKenzie, where development and vegetation removal is limited.

In the last year, Lane County has received a record number of code enforcement complaints regarding the removal of riparian vegetation along the McKenzie. Staff investigate these complaints and determine if violations have occurred. While many of these violations can be resolved through voluntary cooperation, costs associated with corrective action such as restoration work and permits can be several thousands of dollars. When in doubt, call the Lane County Land Management Division before you clear vegetation within riparian areas. The number is 541-682-3577.

To report vegetation removal or other unpermitted development within a riparian area, contact the Lane County Code Enforcement Program. Please be able to explain where the alleged violation is occurring. Evidence, such as photos documenting the violations are also extremely useful. Code Enforcement staff can be reached at 541-682-3724.

\(^1\) Healthy riparian vegetation provides a number of important functions including filtering and purification for drinking water; soil stabilization that can help prevent erosion, habitat for many endangered and threatened species; reductions in downstream flooding and shade, which helps to lower water temperatures.