

Our Watershed

A watershed is the area of land that is drained by a particular waterway. The Willamette River watershed (also called the Willamette Basin) is the largest in Oregon. It covers over 11,000 square miles and 100 cities in the Willamette Valley. Over 16,000 miles of streams contribute to the Willamette River.

Keizer is part of the Willamette River watershed; Claggett Creek and Labish Ditch both contribute flow to the river. There are also a few large *stormwater outfalls that discharge stormwater runoff from neighborhoods directly to the river.

Keizer Waterways



*See inside panel for info on stormwater.

Precious Resources

A healthy watershed provides numerous benefits to its residents.



Clean rivers and streams provide recreational activities such as fishing, boating, swimming, wildlife watching, and relaxing. These stress-relieving activities are good for your physical and mental health!



The buffers of native trees and plants along waterways in a healthy watershed benefit the waterway—and you. According to the USDA, one acre of forest absorbs 6 tons of carbon dioxide and releases 4 tons of oxygen.



Healthy watersheds are vital to sport fishing, which is vital to the economy. Americans spent \$41.8 BILLION on sport fishing in 2011.



Homebuyers value healthy waterways. Even in lean economic times, property values tend to be much higher near clean waterways and areas with access to nature.



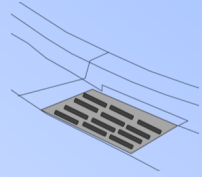
Clean Water: A Matter of Choice

Information brought to you by
the City of Keizer Public Works:
Stormwater Division

503-390-3700



Stormwater and You



In an urban environment like Keizer, stormwater runoff must be managed. Due to impervious surfaces such as roads, rooftops, driveways, and parking lots, water can't soak into the ground the way it does in undeveloped areas. Without a publicly-supported system of drains, pipes, ditches, and infiltration systems, the city would experience serious problems such as localized flooding and poor sanitation.

Most of the stormwater runoff that is collected is discharged directly to our local waterways — untreated. To protect water quality, we must all do our part to keep pollutants out of the stormwater system.

Read on to find out how you can help keep our waterways healthy for wildlife and people.



What Have You Done For Your River Lately?

The river does a lot for us. Give something back!

Choose one of the following ways of protecting water quality, and stick to it!



Plant a tree! Add native vegetation to your property (or retain what's there), especially along waterways. Plants help keep the water cool, filter pollutants, hold the bank in place, absorb carbon dioxide, and produce oxygen!



Bacteria and parasites in pet waste can contaminate waterways and make people sick. Always clean up after your pet—even in your own backyard.



Take care of yourself AND the environment! Whenever you can, choose walking or riding a bike instead of driving.



Help keep waste out of the water by recycling what you can and properly disposing of what you can't.



In landscaping and gardening, take care to keep soil on the site. Excess dirt in our waterways clogs fish gills and buries important underwater habitat.



Grease, grime, and soap suds don't belong in the storm drain. Wash your car on your lawn or consider going to a commercial carwash -- they reuse the water!

