

## GILLS CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

### **Our Mission:**

The Gills Creek Watershed Association works to restore Gills Creek, educate the communities within its watershed, and advocate for the protection and preservation of Gills Creek's resources, beauty, and environmental sustainability.

### **Our Vision:**

A vibrant, restored Gills Creek that is protected, valued, and enjoyed by its watershed communities.

### **Our Strategies:**

**TO RESTORE:** by reducing pollution that enters Gills Creek and restoring stream structure to create cleaner, flourishing water and a healthy environment.

1. We will implement sound conceptual planning based on knowledge and understanding of the watershed's environment and resources.
  - a. The Watershed Management Plan of 2009 will be updated to account for changes, such as those resulting from continuing development, significant environmental impacts, and severe weather events, like the extreme flooding of 2015.
  - b. Work with local government agencies and regulatory offices will continue to establish cooperative projects and infrastructure that promote restoration and best practices.
2. We will continue and extend major restoration and enhancement projects that reduce input of dissolved pollutants and sediments and reconfigure banks or basins to optimize natural purification processes.
  - a. A major stream enhancement program will be completed and serve as a high visibility model for restoring creek structure and health, while creating an attractive and healthy space for community enjoyment.
  - b. Additional impaired locations in the watershed will be identified for restoration, and plans will be developed and funds secured.
  - c. Work to control litter pollution in the Gills Creek watershed will continue, such as through expansion of organized, volunteer-based litter pick-ups.

3. We will continue floodplain preservation and restoration as a fundamental, long-term goal, and will seek additional mechanisms for protection of undeveloped land or restoration of previously developed or degraded floodplain.

**TO EDUCATE:** by expanding the public's awareness of the value of clean water and of their role in protecting the watershed.

1. We will continue to take information directly to the public through events and interactive programs
  - a. Public lectures and school programs will be used to inform the community about creek-related issues and physically engage them with the Gills Creek Watershed Association and its mission.
  - b. Expanded activities will directly engage residents and volunteers in on-the-ground activities, particularly the Adopt-a-Stream program for gaining valuable monitoring data on Gills Creek water quality.
2. We will continue to provide timely and valuable information on watershed conditions, issues, needs, and events to our many community constituencies – public citizens, businesses, and government.
3. We will continue to promote citizens' understanding of their impact on the watershed through a range of community events, public presentations, and participation in public meetings.

**TO ADVOCATE:** for the health and vitality of the Watershed by providing a collective voice for its citizens.

1. We will increase our participation in local government and community meetings to share knowledge and understanding of impacts of government activities or proposals affecting the watershed.
2. We, the board member and staff of the Gills Creek Watershed Association, will continue to readily listen and respond to concerns and issues voiced by the public.