

working for clean rivers

CLARIFIER

OCTOBER
2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



I recently paddled a canoe from Willamette Park to Ross Island and back on a fine late summer/early autumn evening. The river was beautiful. But it reminded me that these warm, sunny days will soon give way to another rainy season.

That was once the time of year when stormwater routinely filled our combined sewers to the point that they overflowed into the Willamette on a fairly regular basis. But as you know, those days are gone and the Willamette River CSO Tunnel system has made CSOs to the river a rarity.

Apparently conventional wisdom about some things will take time to change. The current Portland Monthly Magazine asked Portlanders if they would swim in the Willamette near the waterfront and 90% said no. That's despite the fact that the river is cleaner than it's been in decades and *e. coli* bacteria levels are consistently low. And a story in this edition of the Clarifier about the Portland Triathlon shows that some people have no qualms whatsoever about taking a dip in the Willamette.

But many people still think of the Willamette as badly polluted even though that's not the case anymore. Yes, sediments downstream of the Fremont Bridge are the subject of much discussion regarding the Portland Harbor Superfund...but the water quality is fine.

We've invested a lot of public money to clean up the river. One challenge that remains is to eventually change public perceptions about the river. But they will change and when they do people will want more river access. Just imagine a warm summer day not too many years from now when there will be several places along the Willamette River in downtown where people of all ages will be taking a swim. It's a pretty exciting prospect.

Dean C. Mauris

2012 Blue Herons



Environmental Services presented the annual Blue Heron awards on September 19. Congratulations to individual Blue Heron award winner Dave Helzer and group Blue Heron award winner the Stephens Creek Stormwater System Plan Team.



Individual award winner Dave Helzer

David Helzer

"Dave constantly strives to provide the highest quality scientific information on behalf of the Bureau. He works closely with outside stakeholders, internally with members of his own group and those in the Science Fish and Wildlife Group. He has been called upon to provide expert recommendations to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability on high profile projects such as Airport Futures and the annexation of West Hayden Island. Dave went above and beyond what was expected of him and created a mitigation assessment framework used to develop the City's mitigation requirements for the proposed annexation and marine terminal development. He exemplifies a high degree of professionalism and expertise on behalf of the City and the Bureau of Environmental Services."

-Text from Dave's nomination



From left: Brett Hulstrom (Recognition Committee), Marc Peters, Dan Ashney, Greg Savage, Binhong Wu, Kristen Acock, Naomi Tsurumi, Yarrow Murphy, John Burns, Dawn Uchiyama, Dean Marriott (not pictured: Alicia Lanier, Arnel Mandilag, Mary Bushman, Dave Whitaker)

Stephens Creek Stormwater System Plan—

Dawn Uchiyama, Alicia Lanier, Naomi Tsurumi, Arnel Mandilag, John Burns, Kristen Acock, Mary Bushman, Greg Savage, Yarrow Murphy, Dan Ashney, Dave Whitaker

"Since 2008, the bureau has been investigating methods to integrate system planning and watershed health goals in a meaningful way, building on proven system planning tools, nationally recognized innovative stormwater management approaches and a strong record of watershed improvement projects and programs. In 2011, the Stephens Creek System Plan was re-launched as a pilot effort to create a new path for stormwater infrastructure and watershed health planning for the separated storm sewer system. The pilot was built on past work to define stormwater levels of service and existing Stephens Creek Subwatershed Improvement Strategy. It was a tall order to create a single plan that addressed stormwater system deficiencies, conveyance needs, impacts to property, streams and rivers, and related opportunities to improve watershed health. Under Dawn Uchiyama's outstanding leadership and project management, an inter-disciplinary, cross-group project team worked together to deliver a timely, comprehensive and strategic plan not only for Stephens Creek, but for stormwater system planning as a whole."

-Text from the Stephens Creek team's nomination

2012 Blue Herons

Congratulations also to all of this year's nominees.

Colin Kambak	Kelly Butler	Blair Bean
Kim Cox	Scott Clement	Tammy Cleys
Dawn Uchiyama	Terry Tice	Chuck Schadt
Rolly Ramos	Sara Gardner	

REVENUE PROGRAMS

Andi Hodge, Bob Fraley, Yvette Gayomali

EAST WILLAMETTE DESIGN SECTION

Colleen Harold, Jill Hutchinson, Ayda Forouzan

TABOR TO THE RIVER

Bill Owen, Anne Nelson, Josh Robben, Brandon Wilson, Naomi Tsurumi, Fahim Rahman, Rhetta Drennan, Brian Wethington, Dave Whitaker, Ruben Gonzalez-Baird, Todd Gunther, Marie Wright, Tammy Cleys, Debbie Caselton, Ivy Dunlap, Amber Clayton, Jim Brown, Michael Sisler, Erik Durshpek

PORTLAND AREA WATERSHED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Randy Belston, Jeremiah Bawden, Andy Arnsberg, Peter Abrams, Colin Kambak, Jason Law, Aaron Wieting, Beth Hiscott, Chris Prescott, Melissa Brown, Chad Smith, Ronda Fast, Cynthia Butler, Renee Chauvin, Jennifer Shackelford

Longevity Certificates

Environmental Services also presented the following employees with longevity certificates for their service to the City of Portland:

20 Years

Wendy Butcher-Pegenua	Bill Ryan
Duane Carlson	Lynn Sandretzky
Debbie Douglas	John Thompson
Jim Hagerman	Terry Tice
Dawn Hottenroth	Don Wilson
Rick Komraus	
Patty Nelson	
Angela Peschke	
Dave Remillard	

25 Years

Shawn Anderly
Jeanna Borisch
Neil Bruesch
Duane Linnertz
Tom Liptan
John Lupo
John McGregor
Mike Reiner
Lloyd Stauning
Gary Taylor

30 Years

Donna Bandeen
Dick Brixby

Get more information about the winners and nominees at www.portlandonline.com/bes/blueheron



Portland Triathlon



Triathlon swimmers take the plunge at Cathedral Park.

PHOTO BY JEREMY BITTNER

The water was fine in the Willamette River for the sixth annual Portland Triathlon on September 23. Hundreds of swimmers plunged into the river at Cathedral Park, swam upstream then returned to the park to begin the bike leg. Anne Peterson and Jeremy Bittner of Environmental Services set up a booth near the boat dock and handed out information about bureau programs.

check it out



Bright Idea

The Bright Ideas Program at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government has named the Portland Loo and 110 other innovative government initiatives from around the country as Bright Ideas. This is the third year of the Bright Ideas initiative, which is part of the Innovations in American Government program.

Portland Loos are compact, modular, flush toilet kiosks in public areas. The loos are free to use and accessible 24 hours a day. There are six loos in Portland and the city markets them to other jurisdictions. More information about the Portland Loo is available at www.portlandonline.com/bes/portlandloo.

[Click here for more about the Bright Ideas program.](#)



New Regulations

On October 17, the Portland City Council will consider Nonconforming Sewer Conversion Program changes recommended by a Citizen Advisory Committee. The regulations include changing city code and adopting new administrative rules for the main program and a temporary rule to provide for reimbursements over the next six months. The new regulations change residential sewer conversion charges and requirements for the city to adopt private pipes in the public right-of-way. There is more information about upcoming Nonconforming Sewer Program changes at www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=58822.

Environmental Services is also accepting public comment until October 12 for the replacement City Code 17.36 that regulates sewer user charges. Program changes have been tacked on to the existing chapter for years and the new code is a major cleanup. The proposal includes format and minor policy changes to Extra Strength rules and User Charge rules. More information is at www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=59373.

Please contact Dawn Hottenroth at 3-7767 with any comments or questions.



Healthy Purchasing

Environmental Services is the city's pilot bureau for Commissioner Dan Saltzman's Healthy Purchasing Initiative. Commissioner Saltzman worked with Multnomah County to develop the initiative, which both the City Council and County Commission approved in September.

The program will ask contractors and manufacturers to reveal the chemical ingredients of building materials during the procurement negotiation process to hopefully curtail the use of materials with dangerous chemical content.

The city will pilot the initiative with two Environmental Services projects. One will ask potential contractors to disclose the content of pipe material for a sewer project. The other will ask for the content of building materials for a construction project at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Get Ready to ShakeOut

The 2012 Great ShakeOut is coming on October 18. An estimated 10 million people around the world will take part in the earthquake drill.

The drill only takes about 90 seconds, just enough time to drop, cover and hold on. During the drill, or during an earthquake, if you're in a building don't move more than a few steps. Drop to the ground, take cover under a table or desk and hold on until the shaking stops.

Get more information about Oregon ShakeOut activities at www.shakeout.org/oregon.



▲ **BEFORE:** The old railroad culvert on Crystal Springs Creek

◀ **AFTER:** The new, fish-friendly culvert

Railroad Culvert Celebration

Environmental Services worked with Union Pacific Railroad and TriMet over the summer to replace a 122-foot long culvert on Crystal Springs Creek under railroad tracks near the Eastmoreland Golf Course. Representatives from the partner agencies gathered last month to celebrate.

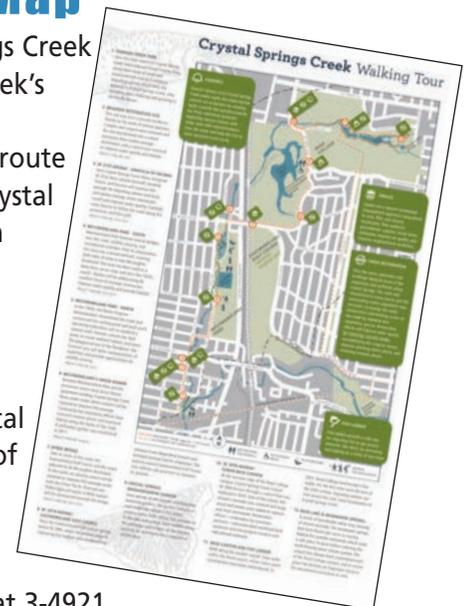
The project required Union Pacific to remove 50 feet of track to provide access to the old culvert and replace it with a six-foot by 10-foot, 150-foot long culvert that allows salmon passage. The project site is also where TriMet's Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Transit Project will cross Crystal Springs. The culvert would have been inaccessible without help from TriMet and Union Pacific.

The culvert replacement was part of an Environmental Services project to replace nine culverts that restrict fish access to prime salmon habitat on Crystal Springs Creek.

Crystal Springs Walking Tour Map

The Crystal Springs Partnership has released a Crystal Springs Creek Walking Tour map tracing a 2.5-mile route between the creek's source in springs above the Reed College campus and its confluence with Johnson Creek in Johnson Creek Park. The route takes walkers past Reed Lake and the nearby fish ladder, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Westmoreland and Johnson Creek parks, and the new Brannen Restoration Site.

The Crystal Springs Partnership is a group of community members, nonprofit organizations, and several agencies, including Environmental Services, that work to restore Crystal Springs Creek in southeast Portland. The tour passes many of the sites of restoration projects designed to help native salmon return to the creek.



For more information or to get a map, contact Ronda Fast at 3-4921.



Baltimore Burn

Environmental Services worked with Portland Fire & Rescue and Portland Parks last month on successful controlled burns at Baltimore Woods and Elk Rock Island. The two-acre burn at the Baltimore Woods Natural Area in St. Johns destroyed flammable invasive vegetation including blackberry, reed canarygrass and Scot's broom.

Controlled burns improve wildlife habitat and help native vegetation regain a foothold. They also create firefighter training opportunities.



Firefighters torch invasives in Baltimore Woods.



Year-round Incentives

Environmental Services started accepting Ecoroof Incentive applications again on October 1. From now on, the bureau will accept applications at any time instead of only during twice a year cycles. Incentives will be available through 2013 to spur ecoroof construction in Portland. There are application materials and more information at www.portlandonline.com/bes/ecoroofincentive.

The incentive pays \$5 per square foot for new ecoroof projects in the city. Industrial, residential, commercial and mixed-use projects are eligible.

Since the incentive program began in 2008, the city has approved \$1.9 million for 170 projects, resulting in nine acres of new ecoroof. There are currently 363 ecoroofs in Portland covering nearly 18 acres.



Warriors Have Portland Spirit

The Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors have the Spirit of Portland. The volunteer group has won the Sandy Diedrich Environmental Stewardship award and will be among the groups and individuals honored at the **2012 Spirit of Portland** awards event on October 29.

The Weed Warriors have been fighting invasive plants for years to preserve the native woodland on Mt. Tabor. They are also important partners in the city's Mt. Tabor Invasive Plant Control and Revegetation Project (www.portlandonline.com/bes/mttabor). The project is removing invasive plants and restoring native vegetation on 66.5 acres of Mt. Tabor Park natural area. The Weed Warriors have been working on six acres where invasives have to be removed by hand to preserve existing native plants.

New Stars



The Environmental Services Recognition Committee circulates eight Shining Star Awards throughout the bureau. Employees give them to co-workers to recognize outstanding achievement and notable performance on the job. Recipients display the Shining Star on their desk for two months, then pass it on.

The Shining Star acknowledges achievements and good work that might otherwise go unnoticed in a bureau as large as BES. When it's time to pass on your Shining Star, consider employees in all groups, as well as your own work team or group.

Here is a list of new Shining Stars.

Ed Leontiev	Shining Star # 1	to Dennis Duffey
Sara Culp	Shining Star # 2	to Kristan Burkert
James Hyatt	Shining Star # 3	to Dan Berge
Suzanne Lindstrom	Shining Star # 4	to Susan Aldrich
Kristen Acock	Shining Star # 5	to Anne Nelson
Lori Foster	Shining Star # 6	to Debbie Caselton
Fred MacGregor	Shining Star # 7	to Bethany Nabhan
Brandon Wilson Baird	Shining Star # 8	to Bill Owen

Read more about this awards program at www.portlandonline.com/bes/stars.

+ Wellness Tip

Get flu shots at BES facilities this month. They're free for city employees and \$15 for dependents on your plan. The shots protect against the three most common flu strains expected this season. No appointment is necessary. Just walk in at one of these locations:

Tuesday, October 2
6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Columbia Boulevard
Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Headworks

Wednesday, October 3
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Portland Building, Room C

Thursday, October 4
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Columbia Boulevard
Wastewater Treatment Plant,
Mt. Hood Room

Thursday, October 11
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Water Pollution Control Lab,
Bybee Lake Room

Wednesday, October 24
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Materials Testing Lab, 1405 N River Street

? Learn more about your coworkers on the BES intranet at TEAM BES.

Read about your teammates and review past profiles on the BES intranet at www.portlandonline.com/bes/teambes.



Contact your PEERs

PEERs are specially trained Environmental Services staff volunteers who are available to offer bureau employees support, guidance and referral. Click here to learn more or to contact a PEER volunteer.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



Our Mission

Environmental Services serves the Portland community by protecting public health, water quality and the environment.

We provide sewage and stormwater collection and treatment services to accommodate Portland's current and future needs.

We protect the quality of surface and ground waters and conduct activities that plan and promote healthy ecosystems in our watersheds.

Our Vision

To be recognized as a trusted service provider and innovative environmental leader through a demonstrated commitment to clean rivers, healthy watersheds and our community.

Environmental Services: www.portlandoregon.gov/bes
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner Dean Marriott, Director

Produced electronically OD 2012