working for clean rivers

MARCH 2013 A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



This is a busy time for the BES Watershed Revegetation Group. And they started the 2013 planting season in a big way. Over three days starting on January 31, Reveg and contract workers planted over 17,000 native trees and shrubs on more than 32 acres of natural area in Mt. Tabor Park. That is the largest single planting effort in the Mt. Tabor Invasive Plant Control and Revegetation Project that began in 2010.

Mt. Tabor Park was being overrun by English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, English hawthorn and other non-native, invasive vegetation. The marathon planting effort restored native big-leaf maple, Madrone, Douglas-fir, cascara, vine maple, Indian-plum, snowberry, trailing blackberry, red and blue elderberry, and thimbleberry. As the native plants mature, they will reduce stormwater runoff and erosion, provide quality habitat for birds and other wildlife, and reduce park maintenance costs.

This effort is part of the larger Tabor to the River Program. The Mt. Tabor project is enhancing natural area stormwater management just as Tabor to the River green streets do in urban areas.

Since the Mt. Tabor project started in 2010, our Revegetation group has cut and treated invasive plants on 61 acres and planted 23,150 native plants on 44 acres. And since 2010, our partners the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors have hand-pulled invasives from six acres and planted over 1,700 native plants on two acres.



Ken Finney (second from left) with the Watershed Reveg team, works with a tree planting crew.

The participation of volunteers, school students and our partner agencies is what is making the Mt. Tabor project successful. Working with Portland Parks & Recreation, the Portland Water Bureau, the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors, the East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, the Audubon Society of Portland, numerous community volunteers, and students from schools throughout the Tabor to the River program area, we are winning the fight against invasives in Mt. Tabor Park.



Tree planting crews fan out in Mt. Tabor Park.

You can see photos of the ongoing work, a project schedule and project background at *www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/mttabor*. And if you want to be part of the effort, the Weed Warriors would love to hear from you. Go to *www.taborfriends.org* to learn about volunteer opportunities.



Portland Hosts World Environment Day

Every year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) invites a city in the US or Canada to host World Environment Day (WED) for North America. This year Portland will be the host on June 5. UNEP chose Portland because of our consistently high rankings as one of the nation's greenest cities.

The city and UNEP are asking community groups, businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals to organize and participate in public events from Earth Day on April 22 to World Environment Day on June 5. Events will celebrate the environment and this year's World Environment Day theme "Reduce your Foodprint," aimed at reducing food waste.

Activities on June 5 will include an exhibition of the International Children's Painting Competition sponsored by Bayer Corporation, and an interactive environmental workshop for high school students led by Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the nation's first female African-American astronaut.





City Council accepts UN invitation to host World Environment Day; from left, Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Steve Novick; Lauren Trocano, Bayer Corporation; Mayor Charlie Hales; Elisabeth Guilbaud-Cox, UN Environment Programme; Commissioner Dan Saltzman; Anne Nelson; Dean Marriott; Commissioner Nick Fish.

You can find more information and a growing calendar of events at www.portlandoregon.gov/WED.

The UN General Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972. Today, it is celebrated in more than 120 nations and focuses international attention on environmental issues.

Mason Flats

New native plants are popping at Mason Flats, the site of a wetland enhancement project last summer. The wetland is near the Columbia Slough in the Big Four Corners Natural area. With invasive vegetation gone, the native willow cuttings, grasses and shrubs planted last year are coming in and looking good.

The Mason Flats wetland treats stormwater runoff from more than 600 acres of upland development and roads and feeds cold spring water into the slough. The area also provides habitat for red-legged frogs and other sensitive wildlife species.

The project included placing standing logs, root wads, and rocks to enhance habitat. More shrubs will benefit willow flycatchers and yellow warblers. Beavers are active on the site and beaver dam construction provides additional benefits in the wetland. Two long south-facing slopes and mounds of gravelly soil also provide new nesting habitat for Western painted turtles that use ponds at Mason Flats.





New standing logs and root wads at Mason Flats



Loo to Alaska

The rush is on. Ketchikan, Alaska has purchased a Portland Loo. The city of 15,000 is Portland's second loo customer. The City of Victoria, British Columbia purchased what is now known as the Langley Street Loo in 2011.

There's also some discussion of Portland Loos in Burnaby, BC, just east of Vancouver. Burnaby city officials are urging local transit authority TransLink to consider installing loos along the commuter train line, SkyTrain.



Environmental Services assumed responsibility last year for marketing loos to other jurisdictions and maintaining Portland's loos. The city has installed six loos around Portland and a seventh opens soon in the new Fields Park in northwest Portland.



Code Clean-up

The Environmental Policy Division is looking for messy City Code to clean up. This summer, the division will be re-working code and rules language with incorrect cross references or inaccurate language, or language that needs editing to improve clarity. So far, the task list includes re-working the UIC definition, adding other permits to SDC rules language, fixing odd language in the complex conversion charge wording for nonconforming sewers, and cleaning up wording for stormwater discharge permits.

If you know of any other changes needed in code or administrative rules, please contact Dawn Hottenroth by April 1, 2013. This is an annual effort, so please forward any items to Dawn during the year as you come across them.



East Lents to Foster Floodplain

Environmental Services completed construction on the East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project in January and the second planting phase last month. In addition to the nearly 25,000 native trees and shrubs planted last year, the second phase added more than 24,000 native tree and shrub seedlings and over 5,000 live pole cuttings of willow, dogwood, and ninebark. Still to come are the planting of native wetland plants this spring and 16,000 more trees and shrubs next winter.

With construction done, the 70-acre site will now be known as the Foster Floodplain Natural Area and Portland Parks & Recreation takes over management.





Photos from February of the Foster Floodplain Natural Area



PI Form Online

The BES Public Involvement Request Form is now available on the bureau intranet at *www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/PIR*. Project managers use the form to request public involvement services beginning in the pre-design phase of a project. There is also a copy of the Public Involvement Service Request Form in Outlook public folders at BES Public Folders/Forms. For more information, please contact Public Affairs Manager Megan Callahan at 3-4759.

2013 BES Public Involvement Request Form How to Use the Public Involvement Service Request Form - This Request Form is Word consensus - This Request Form is Word content This Request Form is the requested information. You may dear this work with the Republic Movement Request form The Request Form is Republic Republic Republic Involvement Republic Republi
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Project Schedule/Timele



Value Award Time

The annual Value Awards are back. Each year, BES employees nominate co-workers who exemplify bureau values in their work. The bureau Recognition Committee is accepting 2013 Value Award nominations. You can download a nomination form, review Value Award guidelines and see past winners at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/valueawards. The deadline to nominate a co-worker is Friday, April 26, 2013.

When considering a nomination for a co-worker, please remember that:

- Staff and supervisors may nominate any BES employee.
- Contractors and interns are not eligible to receive Value Awards.
- These awards are for individuals, not groups.
- You should submit a separate nomination form for each employee nominated.

Environmental Services will announce 2013 Value Award winners at these events in May:

Downtown

Tuesday, May 21 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Portland Building Auditorium

Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant Wednesday, May 22 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. CBWTP, Mt. Hood Room

Water Pollution Control Laboratory Wednesday, May 22 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. WPCL, Smith and Bybee Lakes Rooms

BES Values

The employees of the Bureau of Environmental Services:

- Value our natural environment
- Practice environmental sustainability in our work
- Promote environmental equity
- Are proud of our work and accountable for our actions
- Respect and honor the diversity and contributions of our co-workers
- Help and encourage each other to succeed individually and as part of a team
- Explore both traditional and innovative ways to achieve intended results
- Provide responsive, cost effective and reliable services to our customers
- Value and promote the equitable development and use of minority, women and emerging small businesses
- Work in partnership with the community
- Promote a safe and healthy workplace

🛨 Wellness Tip

Add exercise five days a week as a strategy to help prevent a late-winter cold. Recent research shows that people who do regular physical activity at least five days a week spent 43 percent fewer days suffering from colds, and had reduced severity and symptoms compared to people who exercised just once a week. Most likely these reductions in colds are linked to the increased immune system activity that occurs during aerobic exercise.



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.



The 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.



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 Charlie Hales, Mayor I Dean Marriott, Director

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