

*working for clean rivers*

# CLARIFIER

JUNE  
2013

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

## Message From The Director



Portland is in the spotlight this week as the North American host city for the United Nations Environment Programme's annual World Environment Day event on June 5th. Portland follows six other North American cities in hosting the event. They include Chicago, Toronto, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. Internationally, Portland joins Nairobi, Bahrain, Bangkok and Panama City in hosting regional World Environment Day celebrations.

The City of Portland, the city's many partners, local agencies and citizens all contribute to making Portland a leader in protecting the environment. This event showcases their hard work. It shows that Portland's innovations and commitment to sustainability and environmental protection don't go unnoticed.

There are many events this week to celebrate World Environment Day. Entries in a children's painting competition go on display at the PSU Native American Student and Community Center. Former astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison will lead a student interactive workshop with Portland high school students. UNEP and the World Resources Institute will release a global report on food waste. And the Rose Festival Association will hold a family event in the RoZone in honor of World Environment Days. These and many more events are detailed at <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/wed/>.

As far as the Bureau of Environmental Services is concerned, I'm proud of our work expanding green streets, ecoroofs, and other green infrastructure to manage stormwater more naturally, enhance neighborhoods and replenish groundwater. I'm proud of our work with our many partners to protect sensitive natural areas that manage stormwater naturally and provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat. And I'm proud of our accomplishments in controlling combined sewer overflows and making the Willamette River safe and accessible once again. Congratulations on your role in bringing World Environment Day to Portland.

*Dean C Mann*



## Legislative Update

If you follow the local news, you'll know that the big issue in the Oregon Legislature this year is the budget. But, although they don't get as much attention in the press, there have also been bills introduced that could have an impact on our work. Here is a list of some of the bills that have passed both the State House and Senate and are set to become law:

**HB2032** – Modifies requirements of the Oregon Removal-Fill Mitigation Fund so that contribution amounts are closer to the costs of off-site compensatory mitigation.

**HB2212** – Increases the maximum amount for directly selecting goods and services from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

**HB2247** – Imposes state civil penalties for non-compliance with Oregon's noxious weed laws; cleans up language in the statute.

**HB2396** – Requires a Division of State Lands permit for removal of large woody debris from streams, but contains very broad exemptions.

In addition, we are still working with the City's Government Relations office on a number of bills as they make their way through the session. There was a May 31st deadline to be through both chambers, but there is an exception for bills that are in the Joint Ways and Means Committee. Most of the bills listed below are in Ways and Means:

**HB2048** – Extends the paint stewardship pilot program.

**HB2642** – Requires non-monetary assistance to small businesses that commit to hiring new employees.

**HB2727** – Establishes a State Apprenticeship Education and Training Fund with payments made by contracting agencies.

**HB3030** – Provides financial assistance to owners of brownfields to assess need for environmental action.

**HB3040** – Study on conflicts between farm and nonfarm uses on agricultural land; wetlands and wildlife habitat included as a "conflict."

**HB3337** – Adds ecosystem services to principles guiding state land use program; sets up structure of voluntary compensatory mitigation.

**SB246** – Establishes Oregon Industrial Site Readiness Program to provide tax reimbursements for site preparation costs.

**SB837** – Allows certificate for installation of in-conduit hydroelectric power to submit annual payments to subaccount in lieu of installing fish passage.

There were also many bills that have died over the weeks as deadlines were not met to keep them going. But the legislature is always unpredictable, so we won't really know until the final gavel. If you have any question about legislation or the legislative process, please call the bureau's Legislative Liaison Alice Brawley-Chesworth at 3-4913.



## Roosevelt Students Visit the WPCL

Last month, the staff at the Water Pollution Control Laboratory hosted students from Roosevelt High School and provided them with some valuable hands-on career experiences during several field trips and a classroom presentation. The program shows students about the city's work and careers in protecting rivers and streams and promoting watershed health. Students participated in activities and demonstrations related to careers at the Water Pollution Control Laboratory.

Students also learned about water quality from a drinking water perspective on Bull Run field trips with the Water Bureau on May 9th and 10th. Students came away with a better understanding of the city's water cycle and our city's infrastructure...from Forest to Faucet to Rivers and Streams.

Thanks to Randy Belston, Megan Hanson and all the WPCL and Water Bureau staff who made this experience possible for Roosevelt High School students.



## Legacy Award

The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs gave Environmental Services a Public Agency Legacy Award on May 9th at the 25th annual OAME Tradeshow and Luncheon. The award recognizes the bureau for outstanding commitment to helping minority businesses over the past 25 years. Mark Hutchinson accepted the award on behalf of Environmental Services. City of Portland Procurement Services and the Portland Development Commission also received legacy awards. OAME named Multnomah County its Public Agency of the Year.



*From left: Jorge Guerra, OAME; Mark Hutchinson, BES; Christine Moody, Procurement; Patrick Quinton, PDC; Sam Brooks, OAME*



## Sunday Parkways

For the second consecutive year, the Foster Floodplain Natural Area was one of the East Portland Sunday Parkways stops on May 12th. More than 500 people visited Environmental Services staff to pick up fish hats, dine on food from Mixteca, Caribbean Kookpot, and Scoop Handmade Ice Cream and listened to music from "Worn Out Shoes." Check out event photos at



*Fish hats*



*Sunday Parkways event at the Foster Floodplain Natural Area*

[www.facebook.com/CityGreenPortland](http://www.facebook.com/CityGreenPortland).



## Digester Ecoroof

Here's proof that ecoroofs can look great while effectively managing stormwater. These photos are of the ecoroof installed as part of the digester expansion project at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant. The roof was planted last spring and these photos were taken last month.



## Green Roof Recognition

The International Green Roof Association presented its Green Roof Leadership Award to the City of Portland at the third annual Green Roof Congress in Hamburg, Germany last month. Past Leadership Award winners include Copenhagen, Denmark, Düsseldorf, Germany and Friends of the Highline in New York.

Green roofs replace conventional roofing materials with soil and vegetation. They manage stormwater onsite and provide many other human health and environmental benefits. Portland has more than 500 green roofs covering more than 1.5 million square feet of rooftop.



## Whitaker Ponds on Video

Staff from the city and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council appear in a video called "Whitaker Ponds: A Forest Among Factories" by Dave McFarland of Portland. Dave's son was one of the thousands of school students who visit Whitaker Ponds on field trips. His son was so enthusiastic about his visit that Dave went to take a look and was inspired to make the film, which you can watch at <https://vimeo.com/64096315>.



*Lynn Barlow from Portland Parks took this photo of a hummingbird nest this spring at Whitaker Ponds. Watch for another shot of a hummingbird nest in the Whitaker Ponds video.*



## Explorando Volunteers

The annual Explorando el Columbia Slough festival is coming up on Saturday, June 22nd. This will be the 12th year that the Columbia Slough Watershed Council has presented this free, bilingual, family-friendly event at Whitaker Ponds Nature Park.

The watershed council could use volunteers to help with translation, canoe trips, hands-on games, arts and crafts, face painting, food and the welcome tent. Proficiency in speaking both English and Spanish is good, but English-only speakers are okay too. Go to <http://bit.ly/explorando> to sign up for a volunteer shift or contact Nathan Barrett at 503-281-1132 or [nathan.barrett@columbiaslough.org](mailto:nathan.barrett@columbiaslough.org) for more information. Volunteers get a free t-shirt and snacks.



## **Wellness Tip**

If you experience anxiousness or troubled sleep but don't want to use prescription or over-the-counter sedatives, consider jasmine. Researchers have found that the scent of jasmine is as effective as Valium and similar drugs for relieving anxiety, promoting more peaceful sleep, and reducing anxiety upon waking. Use jasmine-scented soaps before bedtime, or place a diffuser containing jasmine in your bedroom.

## **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](http://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](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes)  
Nick Fish, Commissioner • Dean Marriott, Director

Produced electronically OD 2013