working for clean rivers

AUGUST 2013 A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Message From The Director



The Portland Brownfield Program has released its annual report and it details some impressive accomplishments.

The Brownfield Program is part of our Pollution Prevention Services group and has worked with property owners to return contaminated properties to productive use for more than 15 years. The program provides direct technical assistance to dozens of property owners and prospective purchasers every year to help them redevelop brownfields.

There are hundreds of brownfield sites in the City of Portland. The Brownfields Program inventories contaminated properties, assesses brownfield sites and helps clean and redevelop them. That creates jobs, generates tax revenue and protects the public health. Cleaning brownfield sites and removing and disposing of contaminated soils also protects water quality in rivers, streams and groundwater.

The program began in 1998 as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's first Brownfield Showcase Communities. Since then, the Brownfield Program has successfully leveraged federal grant dollars for assessment and cleanup in Portland. A \$1 million EPA grant in 2011 established a Revolving Loan Fund as a long-term source of flexible loans and sub-grants to clean up contamination on privately-owned properties. This is important work. Congratulations to Brownfield Program Coordinator Jenn Bildersee for her role in revitalizing communities, strengthening the local economy and making our neighborhoods more livable.

You can read the annual report, watch the Brownfield Program video and get more information at **www.brownfield.org**.

Dean C Marris



The weather was perfect for the third annual Big Float on July 28.



Come On In

More people are enjoying the Willamette River this summer now that the city has controlled combined sewer overflows. On July 21, 77 swimmers participated in the annual Portland Bridge Swim, an 11-mile open water swim from the Sellwood Bridge to the St. Johns Bridge.

Even more people got in the water for the annual Big Float the following weekend. About 2,000 people floated across the Willamette at the Hawthorne Bridge and enjoyed an after-party in Waterfront Park. The Human Access Project organizes the annual event.



Next up is the popular Portland Triathlon on September 22. The event begins with a swim starting and ending at the Cathedral Park boat ramp before athletes move on to the bicycle course.





Deconstruction

The contractor working on the new SW 86th Avenue Pump Station has finished deconstructing the home on the pump station site. Workers dismantled the old home and recovered reusable and recyclable material for the Rebuilding Center and Habitat for Humanity. They recovered quite a bit of material for re-use, including:

- 11,485 linear feet of miscellaneous lumber
- 2,040 feet of cedar siding
- 510 feet of trim or molding
- 450 feet of wainscoting
- 39 windows
- 35 light fixtures
- 33 doors
- 24 cabinet doors

- 18 3'x3' marble tiles
- 15 cabinets
- 10 bi-fold doors
- 9 door frames
- 3 sinks
- 2 ceiling fans, and
- 1 garage door

Construction on the SW 86th Avenue will start this month.



One More Thing

Portland CSO construction programs won several awards before Environmental Services completed the work in November 2011. But the East Side CSO Tunnel Project will get one more moment in the spotlight next month when *Tunnel Business Magazine* honors the project with its **Tunnel Achievement Award for Project Excellence.** The award will be presented on September 19 during the Tunneling Short Course at the Colorado School of Mines.



2013 Stewardship Grants

The Portland City Council has approved Community Watershed Stewardship Program (CWSP) grants totaling \$95,000 to 12 community groups. CWSP provides stewardship grants of up to \$10,000 to engage volunteers in stormwater management and watershed restoration projects.

CWSP grants will fund these projects this year:

- Surfrider Foundation Rain Garden at Peninsula School (\$9,950)
- King Neighborhood
 Association Parking Lot
 Retrofit (\$10,000)





Our Happy Block, 2011-2012 project

- Muslim Community Center of Portland – Community Garden and Education (\$8,000)
- Tryon Creek Watershed Council Stream Restoration Mentors (\$7,660)
- St. Mary Ethiopian Orthodox Church Parking Lot Retrofit (\$10,000)
- Metropolitan Family Service SUN Community Garden at David Douglas High School (\$5,500)
- Groundwork Portland Green Team Youth Projects (\$5,000)
- Outgrowing Hunger East Portland Garden (\$7,990)
- Wisdom of the Elders, Inc Native Youth Stewardship & Traditional Education (\$6,000)
- Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon Irvington Covenant Rain Garden and Art (\$8,900)
- Faith Community Church/Russian Speaking Network of Oregon Naturescaping (\$8,000)
- Humboldt Neighborhood Association Albina Tree Initiative (\$8,000)

CWSP is a partnership between Environmental Services and Portland State University. Since it began in 1995, the program has granted more than \$867,000 for watershed projects and helped generate more than \$3.3 million dollars in volunteer time and other in-kind contributions.

Meet Your PEERs

PEER Resource volunteers are available to all Environmental Services employees to listen and offer support about problems in the workplace. PEER volunteers take special training in listening and communication skills, legal, labor, and employee assistance issues. They are available at the Columbia Boulevard Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Water Pollution Control Laboratory, the Portland Building, Pioneer Tower and the Guilds Lake office. Alice Coker is the PEER Resource Program coordinator. Contact Alice Coker for more information at 3-7914 or alice.coker@portlandoregon.gov.

The PEER Program recently recruited new volunteers, and some current volunteers renewed their commitment. In the next few Clarifiers, we'll get to know your PEER volunteers.



Taryn Meyer

Taryn joined BES in January 2005 and works in the Coordinated Site Analysis Group under Pollution Prevention. Previously, she worked in the fishing industry as a Surimi Tech (food science) in Argentina and Alaska for 12 years. She has worked in very diverse and challenging atmospheres and feels very strongly about people having someone to talk to confidentially when it is needed. Taryn likes helping someone through a problem by listening and working with them to reach their own satisfying conclusions. You can reach Taryn at 3-5861 and she is located in the Pioneer Tower downtown.



Alicia Gruber

Alicia has worked with the Construction Group since 2007 and became a PEER volunteer in 2013. She became interested in the PEER program because of a past PEER and seeing the resources that are available if people just knew about them. Outside of work, Alicia supports her alma mater, Oregon State, and she loves watching the Portland Trail Blazers. Alicia is a native Oregonian and has lived in Oregon all but 9 months of her life while studying abroad in New Zealand. You can reach her at 3-7638.



Sherri Peterson

Sherri works in the Stormwater group on the second floor of the Water Pollution Control Lab. She provides guidance on maintaining privately owned swales, vaults and the like. She also manages inspection information via databases and mapping tools. Previously, Sherri was an environmental planner, compliance officer, and policy analyst for Native American Tribes. Outside of work, she's an avid soccer player, enjoys biking and music shows, and baking and doing homework with her girls. You can reach Sherri at 3-7383.



BES Employees Honored

Jennifer Devlin, Matt Krueger, Lea Wilson and Cameron Herrington of Environmental Services were among the recipients of "We Are Portland" Awards at a ceremony on July 26. The Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights award program honors civic activists and city employees who have worked to further the City of Portland's immigrant integration initiatives.



New on the BES Intranet

The BES Environmental Policy Division has a new page on the bureau intranet with some useful information. There's a lot of material there, including:

- Standard BES templates for policy problem statements, administrative rules, and the new policy position white papers that are the support documents for the bureau's policy development process.
- Policy development projects list and materials including the BES Enforcement Program work and the rewrite of PCC 17.32, and the BES permitting code chapter.
- Past policy project list and materials including replacing the BES Sewer User Charges Chapter (PCC 17.36) and revising the nonconforming sewer conversion rules.
- Comment letters to federal, and state agencies, and other city bureaus.
- Semi-annual BLT briefings summarizing completed and upcoming work.

Check out the new page at www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/60324. If you have guestions or suggestions for materials that should be added to the site, please contact Dawn Hottenroth. Division staff will update the site quarterly.



+ Wellness Tip

Walking is an ideal way to get daily exercise – it strengthens almost every major organ in the body, promotes optimal bone density, and boosts the immune system. But how you walk can have an impact on how beneficial walking is for you. Use good posture with your head erect, back straight and shoulders level. Look ahead and train your sight 10 to 20 feet ahead of you. Bend and swing your arms at waist level. Take shorter steps to keep balance, striking on your heel and pushing off with your toes.



Learn more about your co-workers 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 Nick Fish, Commissioner • Dean Marriott, Director

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