

The Oregonian

Portland salmon restoration project named finalist for global Bloomberg award

*By Everton Bailey
October 2, 2019*

Salmon restoration work in a Southeast Portland creek has landed the city on a shortlist for an international award given to cities that are taking steps to address climate change.

The city's effort to restore the Crystal Springs watershed near Reed College was named one of 26 finalist in this year's C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards, city officials announced Wednesday.

The city is a finalist in the resilience category alongside projects in Delhi, India; Medellín, Colombia; and Quezon City, Philippines.

The watershed restoration effort began in 2008 and still ongoing. It seeks to protect salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act by improving water quality and removing nine culverts and other blockades to allow fish to travel through Crystal Springs Creek to reach spawning and rearing habitats. The two-and-a-half mile long creek starts at a spring on the Reed campus and flows down through Westmoreland and Johnson Creek parks.

The restoration work led to the city declaring the creek a salmon sanctuary in 2017, which designates it an official resting, feeding and spawning area. Starting five years ago, wild coho salmon spawned in Crystal Springs after decades of absence. Ultimately, the effort led salmon to return and spawn in the entire creek, according to the city's environmental services bureau.

That bureau has led the project and partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other community and government groups.

"It's hard to overstate how important salmon are to our region," Portland Commissioner Nick Fish said during a City Council meeting Wednesday. "Salmon are a major part of our history, they're integral to the life and culture of local tribes and urban Indians and they're part of our collective future because salmon are a marker for how we treat our environment."

Fish, who oversees the environmental services bureau, said the city has since used the Crystal Springs work as a model for similar projects, such as replacing an old culvert to allow salmon access at the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge for the first time in more than 100 years and another planned culvert replacement project in the Tryon Creek Watershed.

The Crystal Springs project has cost more than \$16.5 million thus far with \$8.8 million from the Bureau of Environmental Services, about \$5.4 million from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and another more than \$2.5 million from TriMet, grants and other project partners, according to the environmental services bureau.

The agency said another \$2 million is estimated to be added for another potential effort to lower the temperature of Crystal Springs Lake.

Winners of the international climate action contest will be announced Oct. 10 in Copenhagen, Denmark at the C40 World Mayors Summit, which Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler plans to attend.

The city council on Wednesday authorized staff to begin a competitive process to purchase construction services for the Tryon Creek project. It's estimated to cost \$5.36 million and the funds are planned to come from the city's sewer system operating fund budget.

A public celebration of salmon at Johnson Creek Park is scheduled for Sunday.

The Portland Tribune

Applicants sought for Portland congestion pricing task force

*By Jim Redden
October 2, 2019*

The deadline for applying has been extended until Oct. 9 by the Portland Bureau of Transportation

The Portland Bureau of Transportation has extended the application deadline for the citizen committee that will advise the city on congestion pricing policies.

The deadline for applying to serve on the Pricing for Equitable Mobility Community Task Force is now 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9. The original deadline had been Friday, Oct. 4.

Congestion pricing means charges to drive on public roads that vary by time and traffic congestions. The charges are intended to reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, and to generate revenue for transportation-related projects. Issue to be addressed include how to reduce the cost for low-income households.

"As Portland faces growing challenges related to congestion, inequities in our transportation system and a rapidly changing climate, we are considering new strategies to solve these problems. Cities around the world have demonstrated that pricing policies can help reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips and can support more efficient, sustainable and equitable transportation modes," PBOT said about the task force, which will advise it and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.

PBOT is looking for up to 20 community members with a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise to serve on the task force, which will meet monthly in the evenings for approximately two-hours between October 2019 and March 2021. Pricing strategies to be considered may include, but are not limited to: parking pricing, area and time-based fees, fleet charges, road user charges, cordons, freeway pricing and more.

People who live, work, play, worship, conduct business or attend school in the City of Portland are invited to apply. More information and the application form are available [here](#).

You can read a previous Portland Tribune story on the issue [here](#).

The Skanner

Mayoral Candidate Sarah Iannarone Releases Climate Policy

October 2, 2019

On Tuesday, Portland mayoral candidate Sarah Iannarone released her plan to address the climate crisis.

Her ‘Green New Deal’ for Portland calls for implementing a climate action test for all new policy, and resetting citywide climate targets in line with the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and all subsequent IPCC Reports. She plans to convene an Intergenerational Climate Summit to develop a community-led plan to tackle climate change while addressing the pressing challenges of transit access, gentrification, and displacement, as well as Portland’s housing affordability crisis. She believes that these issues are interconnected.

“We can harness our resources and empower our communities into a formidable force for change,” she explains in her plan.

This policy comes just eleven days after Iannarone officially filed as a mayoral candidate-- on the same day as the Portland Climate Strike, where she signed the No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge and the Sunrise Movement Green New Deal Pledge. More about the climate policy can be found at sarah2020.com/greennewdeal.

OPB

Portland Named As A Finalist In Global Climate Action Awards

By Monica Samayoa

October 2, 2019

A salmon restoration project in Portland has been named a finalist for one of the world’s leading global climate action awards.

The C40 Cities Bloomberg Philanthropies Awards, which recognizes cities that are demonstrating climate action leadership, named the city’s Crystal Springs Creek Restoration Project as a finalist Wednesday.

The southeast Portland restoration project improved the creek’s water quality and removed culverts so salmon and other fish can swim up the Willamette River tributary.

City Commissioner Nick Fish said receiving international recognition highlights the importance of saving the Northwest’s endangered fish.

“When salmon and steelhead are doing well in Portland, then it’s a sign that we have healthier watersheds and when we have healthy watersheds people do better,” Fish said.

Restoration work is still ongoing on the 2.4 mile-long creek, but Fish said the primary goal of salmon spawning has been successful.

“Were we to win this award I think it would just be a further validation that we’re on the right step, we’re doing the right things and I think it would be an incredible compliment to the professionals that teamed up to make this happen,” Fish said.

Crystal Springs Restoration

The project was led by the Bureau of Environmental Services along with several different government agencies and community groups to protect salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The total cost of the Crystal Springs Creek Restoration project was \$16 million — with \$8.8 million coming from the Bureau of Environmental Services and \$5 million from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

Following the Crystal Springs Watershed Restoration project, the city of Portland and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a restoration project at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. The project included replacing an old culvert with a “salmon subway” that allowed fish to access the refuge for the first time in over 100 years. The city council just approved another culvert replacement project in the Tryon Creek watershed.

The Portland City Council will also proclaim Oct. 6 as “Salmon in Our City Day.” A public event will be held at Johnson Creek Park to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the restoration of Crystal Springs Creek.