

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 9, 2010



## City of Eugene

777 Pearl Street, Room 105  
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793  
(541) 682-5010  
(541) 682-5414 (FAX)  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

## IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

**ECOLOGICAL BURNS TO BENEFIT ENDANGERED SPECIES AND RESTORATION RESEARCH  
AVIATION EXCELLENCE AWARD RECOGNIZES EUGENE AIRPORT EMPLOYEE  
DEDICATION EVENT SATURDAY GIVES PUBLIC A PREVIEW OF NEW DELTA PONDS BRIDGE**

## AROUND THE CITY

### **Ecological Burns to Benefit Endangered Species and Restoration Research**

This fall, the Rivers to Ridges partners will be undertaking ecological burns at several West Eugene wetlands sites. The City of Eugene's Natural Resources team, with the assistance of the Eugene Fire and EMS Department (EFD), has planned two small ecological burns at the City's Coyote Prairie site.



City of Eugene and Oregon Department of Forestry crews monitor an ecological burn.

These two burns will be very small, totaling only 1.5 acres in size, but each has an important purpose. One will remove competing vegetation from around a population of Bradshaw's lomatium, a federally listed endangered plant. This species benefits from open ground following ecological burns, and the population at Coyote Prairie increased by over 50 percent following a 2008 burn. The second ecological burn will focus on research plots that are part of a multi-year study funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to research methods for improving native species diversity and abundance in restored Willamette Valley prairies.

The Rivers to Ridges Partnership (formerly known as the West Eugene Wetlands Partnership) relies on ecological burning as a restoration tool to protect valuable biological diversity in prairie and savanna ecosystems. Removal of standing dead vegetation also benefits the community by

decreasing the chances of uncontrolled wildfire at the wildland-urban interface. City staff works hard to make sure the community is protected from potential negative impacts of fire. EFD and the City's Natural Resources staff carefully assess weather conditions and burn only on days when the wind will blow smoke away from residential areas. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency reviews the prescribed burn plans each year, issuing a permit and conditions under which burns may proceed.

Additional burns may be performed by Rivers to Ridges partner agencies on their own lands, including the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Together these efforts will result in the enhancement and protection of many of the important natural areas enjoyed by the community.

For more information, contact Natural Area Restoration Supervisor Trevor Taylor at [trevor.h.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:trevor.h.taylor@ci.eugene.or.us), or 541-682-4888.

### **Aviation Excellence Award Recognizes Eugene Airport Employee**

Eugene Airport Director of Communication and Development Cathryn Stephens has been awarded the 2010 Aviation Excellence Award by the Northwest Chapter of American Association of Airport Executives (NWAAAE).

“This is a well-deserved honor. Cathryn’s work has had a tremendous impact on both customer service and positive community relations at the Eugene Airport (EUG),” said Eugene Airport Director Tim Doll, A.A.E. “One example is her use of social media which earned EUG a spot in the top four of Forbes Magazine’s ranking of airports using both Twitter and Facebook.”

According to NWAAAE, “The Aviation Excellence Award is intended to recognize those airport management professionals, other than the person having primary responsibility for the airport, who have gone out of their way and given substantial extra effort to ensure the promotion, operations, maintenance or development of aviation and/or the airport. The recipient should be a person of exceptional qualities who may perform management, supervisory, operational, engineering, planning, or maintenance functions in the second or other level of the airport organization.”

Stephens took the position at the Eugene Airport in 2007. She is a certified member of the AAAE and is currently working toward accreditation in the organization.

NWAAAE includes the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, and the Northwest Territory, and the countries of Asia.

For more information, contact Eugene Airport Director Tim Doll at [tim.m.doll@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:tim.m.doll@ci.eugene.or.us) or 541-682-5430.

### **Dedication Event Saturday Gives Public a Preview of New Delta Ponds Bridge**

After more than a year of construction, the Delta Ponds Bridge is ready for a public preview. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy and members of the community will formally dedicate the new bridge on Saturday, September 11, at 11 a.m.



Artistic rendering shows how the new bridge will look at night with the lights on.

After the formal dedication, a short parade led by the One More Time Marching Band will give pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles an opportunity to cross the new bridge. Local residents are also invited to have fun at a community festival from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 900 Robin Hood Avenue, at the east end of the new bridge. “All Paths Lead to the Crossing” will feature food, music and lots of family-oriented activities. Admission is free.

While the dedication marks the substantial completion of the \$5.6 million bridge project, the work isn’t completely done. Once the fun is over on Saturday, the contractor will reclose the bridge and finish installing permanent hand rails and putting up

specialty lighting, including cable lights on the top-most cables and the edge of the bridge deck. For more information about the dedication event or the bridge project, contact Project Manager Patrick Cox at 541-682-6854.