

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

April 12, 2012



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AROUND THE CITY

Delta Ponds Project Receives Award from State Land Board

Earlier this week, the City of Eugene's Delta Ponds Enhancement Project was honored to receive a State Land Board "Stream Project Award," which recognizes responsible, sustainable stewardship of Oregon's natural resources, as well as partnerships that advance the work of the board. The award was presented by Governor John Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Kate Brown, and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler at a ceremony in Salem. City partners on the project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center joined the City at the ceremony.

Treasurer Ted Wheeler congratulated the City on connecting 2.2 miles of side-channel habitat to the Willamette River, which now provides critical rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. "This is an impressive project that serves as a regional model for other organizations seeking to improve the environment along the Willamette," he said.

As part of the Delta Ponds project, the City and its various partners and volunteers:

- Created seven acres of riparian habitat and emergent wetlands through converting 1.5 miles of steep, rocky banks created by former gravel mining operations.
- Removed nearly 60 acres of invasive species such as Scotch broom and English ivy.
- Planted 75,000 native trees and shrubs.
- Constructed trails and interpretive facilities for public enjoyment of the area.



The project involved a wide variety of partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA, who were major funders at \$5 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Lane County, local schools and nonprofits, and many community volunteers.

For more information about the Delta Ponds project and the award, please contact Natural Resources Coordinator Lauri Holts at 541-682-4925 or lauri.j.holts@ci.eugene.or.us.

2011 Toxics Program Data Now Available

With Eugene's Toxics Right-to-Know Program now in its 16th year, 2011 Materials Balance Reports have been filed electronically by all 31 businesses that are required to report. Data from the 2011 Toxics Reports are now available on the Toxics Program's website at www.eugene-or.gov/toxics, and in printed form at the Eugene Public Library as required by the City Charter.



For more information on the Eugene Toxics Right-to-Know Program, please contact Jo Eppli at 541-682-7118 or joann.c.eppli@ci.eugene.or.us.

Summer Virtual Guide Is Here

Some 12,000 Recreation patrons received an email this week letting them know that the virtual Summer Recreation Guide is now available for their perusing at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/recguide> – a full week before the paper guide will be published. Both the virtual and the paper guides include all Recreation activities from June 1 – Aug. 30, but the virtual guide has more color and includes hot links to RecEnroll, making registration a breeze.



The new 96-page guide includes listings for more than 100 summer camps, a variety of outdoor activities, water fitness classes, family activities, art opportunities, adult sports leagues, adaptive programs, and presentations on topics ranging from how to use a smart phone to veterans' health benefits.

To ensure that those who do not have a computer still have access to its programs, Recreation prints about 19,000 guides with each edition. That includes 8,000 Rec Guides that are mailed to patrons who either don't have email, don't want to receive emails or who have specifically requested a paper guide, and another 11,000 paper guides that are available for pickup at many public offices around town.

The total number of guides now printed is about a fourth of the 73,000 guides that Recreation printed before implementing the new distribution plan, and that's helping the City reach its sustainability goals. For more information, contact Kathy Madison at 541-682-6342.

Forums to Gather Ideas for Community Gang Symposium

The Eugene Police Department is partnering with local public safety community outreach groups, youth programs and local school districts to hold a gang symposium in October of 2012 to address the increase that the Eugene area has seen in criminal gang activities.

The increase in criminal gangs has sparked concern throughout the community about growing violence associated with this trend along with an interest in preventing youth involvement in gangs. In preparing for a community gang symposium in October, a group of concerned individuals from a variety of agencies and organizations will hold three public forums to gather community input about what challenges and opportunities exist in addressing the gang problem and also what topics might be helpful to discuss at the symposium in the fall. The topics are the same at each of the meetings, but they are offered at different times for the public's convenience:

- Saturday, Apr. 14, noon -1:30 p.m., McNutt Room, City Hall
- Tuesday, Apr. 17, noon -1:30 p.m., Singer Room, Eugene Public Library
- Tuesday, Apr. 17, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Singer Room, Eugene Public Library

For more information, contact Melinda McLaughlin at 541-682-5124 or Melinda.V.McLaughlin@ci.eugene.or.us.

Storytime Stars at Eugene Public Library

Eugene Public Library's storytimes for babies through preschoolers help local families get children "reading ready" with skill-building fun at the Library and take-home tips for parents. On occasion, storytimes also provide an opportunity for kids to meet special guest readers, often in partnership with community organizations. This month, an Olympic runner and a violinist will be the celebrities to read at the Library's storytimes.



In collaboration with TrackTown 2012, the local organizing committee for the upcoming U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials, Olympic runner Nicole Teter-Downin will read at storytimes on

Wednesday, Apr. 18, at 10:15 and 11:00 a.m. at the Downtown Library. Violinist Midori will read and play for young children and their adults on Wednesday, Apr. 25, at 11 a.m., at the Downtown Library as part of her residency with the Eugene Symphony. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Eugene Named Gold-Level, Walk Friendly Community

The city of Eugene has been designated as a gold-level "Walk Friendly Community (WFC)" for its walkability initiatives and programs.

The national Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center announced the prestigious recognition from its headquarters at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

"We are excited to designate Eugene as a Walk Friendly Community," said WFC Program Manager Carl Sundstrom. "The clear support from elected officials for creating 20-minute neighborhoods, the level of sophistication in the planning documents and code requirements of the city, the public transportation options and the extensive trail network were quite impressive achievements. Eugene is a model for communities across the United States."

Eugene is among four communities recognized in the latest round of WFC to be announced. To-date, 24 communities in the U.S. have been designated, eight of them at the gold level. In Oregon, Corvallis has earned gold-level and Wilsonville has earned bronze-level recognition.

Other reasons cited for Eugene's recognition: the 2011 Pedestrian Safety Summit; the number of accessibility features such as crossings, ramps and signals; 42 miles of paths and five footbridges in Eugene's trail system; and successful events such as the Business Commute Challenge, SmartTrips program, and Sunday Streets, which all promote health benefits and the fact that walking is good for business.

"Not only did we receive this great honor, but we also got some excellent suggestions on things we could do better," said Lee Shoemaker, the City's bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. Among those ideas: create a special focus group to bring engineering, planning, transit and enforcement staff together; increase the number of sidewalks in the city; emphasize pedestrian connectivity between destinations; reduce the number of accidents involving pedestrians, and strive to increase the number of people who choose to walk for business and pleasure.

For more information, contact Lee Shoemaker at 541-682-5471.

Another Busy Road Repair Season Under Way in Eugene

Another busy road repair season is under way in Eugene, with nearly 100 streets scheduled for major paving or sealing work. In total, approximately \$15 million will be spent to fix more than 42 lane-miles of city streets. Repair work will range from full road reconstruction, to four-inch curb-to-curb overlays, to a surface treatment called slurry sealing.

Primary sources of repair funding include an estimated \$7.8 million from the voter-approved street repair bond measure, \$6.3 million in local gas tax revenues, and funding from local transportation system development charges and federal and state grants.

The list of major repair projects in 2012 includes Coburg Road (Beltline to Willakenzie), Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (I-5 to Centennial Loop), Green Acres Road (Norkenzie to Delta Highway), Goodpasture Island Road (Kingsley to new bike bridge), downtown intersections on Washington and Jefferson streets, and Royal Avenue (Highway 99 to Waite Street). This summer's repair work also includes several area shared-use paths, including portions of the North Bank and West Bank paths and a section of Fern Ridge Path from Chambers to Arthur streets. Work already has begun on Jefferson Street (19th to 28th avenues) and 24th Avenue (Jefferson to Chambers streets). Meanwhile, crews from Eugene Water & Electric Board, NW Natural and other utilities are working at numerous locations to take care of underground lines before paving work starts. City staff has also been coordinating the busy construction schedule with schools, businesses and neighborhood groups.



Repairs have already begun on Jefferson between 19th and 28th

"It's important for the City to do as much pavement preservation as possible each year because we have a backlog of almost \$120 million in needed roadwork projects," said City Engineer Mark Schoening. "The City's goal is to fix streets before they fail because this is the most cost-effective way to spend pavement preservation funds."

Residents wishing to learn more about specific projects planned for 2012 can visit www.eugene-or.gov/pwprojects. For more information, contact Mark Schoening at 541-682-5243.

Eugene Celebrates Arbor Day

Last Saturday, Apr. 7, over 120 community members came out to celebrate Arbor Day in Eugene by planting 115 trees. This infusion of new trees was particularly timely following the recent storm event that brought down and damaged hundreds of street trees across the city. The day kicked off with Mayor Kitty Piercy receiving Eugene's 33rd consecutive Tree City USA award from the Oregon Department of Forestry. The National Arbor Day Foundation award recognizes cities that have developed programs that plant and care for trees.

The event held at Jefferson Park was led by the City of Eugene Park Stewards Program and the nonprofit Friends of Trees and included volunteers from the Friends of Awbrey Park, Eugene Water & Electric Board, NW Natural, Lane County Fairgrounds, Jefferson Westside Neighbors, and the University of Oregon's Outdoor Program and Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. In addition to putting trees in the ground, a lot of work went into transporting the trees, soil, and mulch by bicycle trailers to reduce the carbon footprint of the event. At the end of the planting, volunteers enjoyed a BBQ lunch put on by NW Natural.



The celebration of Arbor Day is part of the national Arbor Week celebration which takes place the first full week of April each year. Throughout Arbor Week, local volunteers also planted street trees on Antelope Way and Frontier Drive, fruit trees in Lafferty Park, and native trees in Awbrey Park. Since 1872, Arbor Day has been celebrated as America's national tree holiday, a day set aside to plant ceremonial trees, educate children about the importance of trees and honor the important role trees play in the daily lives of people in communities across the country.

For more information about the event, contact City of Eugene Urban Forester Mark Snyder at 541-682-4819 or mark.r.snyder@ci.eugene.or.us

Newsletter Highlights Plantapalooza and Earth-Friendly Activities and Events

Here are some of the highlights from the latest edition of Stormwater Connections, due out next week via mail:

- What's happening in the world of plants? Gardeners and plant enthusiasts will have lots of options to choose from at Plantapalooza on May 12. The celebration of plants features a plant sale, tours, hands-on activities and more.
- Learn more about the local Earth Day Celebration at the Eugene Water & Electric Board River Plaza on Saturday, Apr. 21, or about free vehicle emission testing on Apr. 21 and 22.

There's plenty more to learn. Gardeners can find out about collective compost bins or upcoming how-to workshops. Homeowners getting ready to take on painting projects can learn some eco-friendly steps to take to minimize paint waste and what to do with leftover paint. Non-profit groups planning a car wash benefit will find contact information on borrowing a stormwater-friendly car wash kit. Looking to lend a hand or get involved with improving water quality or helping to spruce up a local park? Find out how, through the Eugene Parks Stewards program.

Articles in Stormwater Connections typically address seasonal or current issues and cover at least one subject of interest to younger citizens. Copies of the newsletter have been placed in the City Manager's Office.



For more information or additional copies of the newsletter, contact Public Information Specialist for the Stormwater Management Program Kathy Eva at 541-682-2739.

Eugene Hosts American Public Works Association Chapter Conference

The cities of Eugene and Springfield have teamed up to host the Spring 2012 conference of the Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The conference will be held at Valley River Inn, Apr. 17 - 20. Eugene staff members Katie Blair-Terrazas and Peggy Keppler assisted in this year's planning. Other staff members are providing their expertise in presenting technical sessions:

- Telecommunications Program Manager Pam Berrian developed a panel called "Keeping the Public in Rights of Way Management" which includes Eugene's Utility Permit Supervisor Ginger Perales.
- Assistant City Attorney Kathryn Brotherton will provide an update on the recent "Transportation Planning Rule" changes.
- Water Resources Manager Therese Walch will present her insights and experience in "How to Survive an EPA Audit."

The Oregon chapter is an association of more than 800 professional engineers, technicians, operations staff, directors, business people, contractors, consultants and many others in the field of public works who join together to exchange ideas and information, promote education and training, and work as a team to meet professional and community needs. Nationally, APWA represents almost 30,000 public works professionals and offers excellent professional development programs and member services.

More information about the conference is at www.oregonapwa.org or call Peggy Keppler at 541-682-2869.