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National Recognition for Public Works - Wastewater Division

The Public Works Wastewater Division received national recognition by way of a Platinum Peak Performance Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The platinum award recognized the City of Eugene Wastewater Division for exemplary performance for five consecutive years of 100 percent compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The award was announced at the NACWA Awards Ceremony in Philadelphia on July 16. This was the third platinum award for the Wastewater Division. Previous platinum awards were received in 1999 and 2007.



The Public Works Wastewater Division operates the Eugene/Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility as a partner in the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission. For more information, contact Wastewater Division Director Michelle Cahill at 541-682-8606.

Northwest Community Credit Union Spruces Up Alton Baker Park

In partnership with Eugene Park Stewards, Northwest Community Credit Union combined its annual picnic with a community project on Aug. 4 at Alton Baker Park. In a mere three hours, and on the hottest day of the year, 250 volunteers completed a huge variety of maintenance projects. These hard-working volunteers were provided event T-shirts; the sea of bright green throughout the park was a truly impressive sight. Their accomplishments were equally impressive:



Hot but still smiling: volunteers tend to the rock garden in Alton Baker Park.

- Roving crews abated graffiti, cleaned lamp posts, and picked up trash with the help of Nearby Nature staff.
- Volunteers teamed up with the Science Factory to remove blackberries around the entry ponds.
- The community garden was mowed and pathways hand-weeded.
- The Native Plant Nursery's boundaries were expanded into the neighboring filbert orchard, and volunteers removed ivy and blackberries in this area so it can be used as a propagation area.
- Hays Tree Garden had a large group of 70 volunteers who tended 56 tree wells. They utilized a sustainable method of weed control called "sheet mulching" where sheets of cardboard are laid prior to the mulching to help smother the weeds for a longer amount of time.
- The dog park project was no small task. Volunteers spread close to 40 tons of gravel, repaired a dilapidated doggie-washing station, resurfaced several of the pathways and spread woodchips in seating areas.

- Several gardens near the main Day Island Road entryway received complete makeovers. Volunteers removed vegetation and leveled the gravel on the east side duck pond, weeded the Ken Neilson Memorial Garden and the Rock Garden, and cleared out vegetation under the DeFazio Bridge to improve safety and open a nice view of the Willamette River.

After a hot and sweaty job well done, members and volunteers celebrated with a picnic in the main shelter with plenty of water, barbecue, salads and desserts, courtesy of Northwest Community Credit Union. For more information, or to volunteer with Eugene Park Stewards, contact Emily Aune at Emily.r.aune@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4831.

Recreation Hits the Bull's Eye

Archery has become very popular since the release of the movie, "The Hunger Games" in which the heroine is an archer. As usual, Recreation staff was ahead of that trend, offering archery more than a year ago. This summer, Recreation has offered archery camps, an archery club, and on Aug. 18, there will be an archery competition for youth ages 10 – 18, of all experience levels, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Petersen Barn Center.



Participants may use City equipment or their own. Shooters will be divided into classes based on age and equipment. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of each class. For more information, call Anya Samora at 541-682-5521.

Kids and Teens Show "Eugene's Got Talent!" at Eugene Library

The Downtown Eugene Public Library will host "Eugene's Got Talent!," a free variety show performed by youth, on Thursday, Aug.16, at 5 p.m.

Auditions for the show will be held on Wednesday, Aug.15, at 4 p.m. Sign-up for a limited number of audition spots will begin at 3:30 p.m. To audition, prepare a solo, duo, or group act that lasts three minutes or less, and includes at least one person age 7 to 17. Bring any equipment needed. For more information, contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-8316 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Salawa Meadow Acquired by City

With triple the benefits for partners involved, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently transferred 32 acres of west Eugene wetlands to the City of Eugene.

ODOT originally purchased the property for wetland mitigation related to the West Eugene Parkway project. Soon after ODOT completed its restoration, the West Eugene Parkway project was abandoned and ODOT was preparing the surplus wetland property for sale. ODOT then found itself in need of offsetting the impacts related to the I-5 Willamette River Bridge replacement project to Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) property owned by Willamalane Parks and Recreation District. The City of Eugene partnered with ODOT and Willamalane to identify this parcel as an appropriate mitigation site to offset those impacts. This creative solution truly provided benefits for everyone involved:

- Willamalane benefited from the transfer because it provided a quick way to clear the park district of LWCF violations and allow the district to receive a valuable acquisition grant that it was at risk of losing if the violation persisted.
- ODOT benefited by finding a relatively easy mitigation of its current project's impact, using surplus lands with little economic resale value since the land could not be developed.
- The City of Eugene benefited by permanently protecting this high quality wetland site to provide valuable recreation and education opportunities and important ecosystem services and habitat values for the community.



Lyre-tipped spreadwing, one of many species of dragonflies that can be found at Salawa Meadow.

The site is known as Salawa Meadow, which is a Kalapuya word for tarweed, an important food and ceremonial plant for native peoples historically living in the area. During production of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Willamette Valley: A Beginners Guide* (2005), authors Gordon and Kerst noted that this site had the highest dragonfly diversity among wetlands they visited. The parcel is adjacent to the Bertelsen Nature Park, owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in west Eugene. The City will work closely with the BLM to ensure that recreation, education and ecological benefits are coordinated across the larger landscape. This acquisition serves as an excellent example of how partnering together can lead to efficiencies and solutions with multiple benefits for the community.

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