



City of Eugene
 125 East 8th Avenue, 2nd Floor
 Eugene, Oregon 97401
 (541) 682-5010
 (541) 682-5414 (FAX)
www.eugene-or.gov

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Grant Will Help Improve Ridgeline Parks

The Parks and Open Space Division, in partnership with the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), has been awarded a \$123,500 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to reduce hazardous fuels and restore oak habitat in two Ridgeline parks – Wild Iris Ridge and Murray Hill. This grant provides an excellent opportunity to leverage existing City operating funds to bring additional revenue to City parkland.



Reducing fuel loads minimizes the risk of wildfire and improves oak habitat in the Ridgeline

The grant will add \$3 for every \$1 invested by the City. The City has pledged approximately \$41,000 in match money, which includes some donations from neighbors living near the natural areas. The LTWC will also provide about \$3,000 in matching funds. The project will invest a total of \$167,000 toward reducing fuel loads and improving habitat quality in the Ridgeline, identified as high-priority efforts in the City's 2008 Wild Iris Ridge Management Plan and the 2008 Ridgeline Area Open Space Vision and Action Plan. The grant is officially awarded to, and will be administered by, the LTWC under a partnership agreement with the City.

OWEB's watershed restoration grant program provides state funds to improve conditions in natural areas, rivers, and wetlands, to support its mission of protecting and restoring healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies. The public-private partnership between the City and the LTWC has successfully garnered three similar, prior grants from OWEB, bringing \$147,000 to the City of Eugene's Ridgeline parks since 2006. The award of a fourth grant by OWEB demonstrates the high regard OWEB has for the City and the LTWC, as well as the Rivers to Ridges Partnership. This project will make a significant, long-term contribution to the ecological health of the Ridgeline, and improve the public's opportunities to recreate and experience nature close to home. Work is expected to begin in 2014.

For more information, please contact Restoration Ecologist Emily Steel at emily.c.steel@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4874.

Future Santa Clara Community Park Expands to 35 Acres

Following a 10-year effort that involved many twists and turns, the City last week purchased a key 16-acre addition to the Santa Clara Community Park site. The newly acquired parcel is immediately east of Madison Middle School at the corner of Wilkes Drive and River Loop 1. Together with four previously acquired parcels that front on River Loop 2, the total area of City-owned land for the future community park is now 35 acres. The parcel was purchased for \$375,000 and funded by the 2006 PROS Bond.

The site has been leased for farming uses for a number of years, and is bordered on the east and west by small creek channels. The PROS Project and Priority Plan (2006) calls for the site to ultimately be developed as a community park with lighted ball fields. Funding to design, develop and maintain a community park at this location has not been identified; however, a donation of \$600,000 associated with the acquisition of Suzanne Arlie Park in 2011, was earmarked by the council to help fund the future development. In the interim, the new parcel will be planted with grass so that it can be efficiently maintained with periodic mowing.



The newest 16-acre addition to Santa Clara Community Park

For more information, contact Parks Planning Manager Neil Björklund at 541-682-4909.

Neighborhood Matching Grant Cycle Opens

The City of Eugene Neighborhood Matching Grants cycle is now open with \$30,000 available for neighborhood improvement and community-building projects. Community involvement and building relationships are key components and are encouraged by requiring that the project budget include a match amount equal to, or greater than, the grant request. Demonstrating responsible stewardship of community assets while balancing the community's social and environmental values are additional components of any project proposal submitted.



Grant guidelines and application materials are available on the City's website at www.eugene-or.gov/matchinggrants, at the Permit and Information Center located at 99 West 10th, or by calling Cindy Clarke at 541-682-5272.

All projects must undergo a pre-review by Nov. 1, 2013. This review for consistency with grant guidelines and existing plans and policies of the City and other partner agencies allows for the applicant to submit a robust and complete application for this competitive process. Final

applications are due on Jan. 14, 2014. Awards will be announced in April 2014.

For more information about the Neighborhood Matching Grants Program, contact Cindy Clarke, Neighborhood Services, 541-682-5272 or cindy.j.clarke@ci.eugene.or.us.

Adult Services Helps Low-Income Seniors Get Energy Assistance

More than 500 low-income seniors called the Recreation Division's Adult Services program on Oct. 1 to see if they qualify for energy assistance. Each fall and winter, the staff at Campbell Center administer an energy assistance program for Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) utility customers who are 60 and older, and on a limited income. If they qualify, they may apply for a one-time electricity subsidy of \$200.

Campbell Center Staff also administer the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, (LIHEAP). This program, designed to help low-income households with home heating costs is funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is for low-income seniors 60 and over who are customers of other utilities in Lane County. They may apply for a one-time subsidy of \$150 - \$500. To find out if they qualify, seniors should call 541-682-5354 after 8:30 a.m., beginning Nov. 1.



Those who received LIHEAP assistance in 2012, do not need to call; an application will be mailed to them in November. Those who have moved should call on or after Nov. 1. For more information, call Recreation Program Coordinator Dahlia Garza at 541-682-5318.

ePAF Program Developed for Internal Efficiencies

In 2009, the City of Eugene embarked on an important software development project designed to automate the paper-intensive process around Personnel Action Forms (PAFs). PAFs are processed every time there is a change made to an employee's payroll or job information. With over 1,400 regular, plus temporary employees, this process can become inefficient and labor-intensive for staff who produce, review and process the data for entry into the master database, PeopleSoft.

After nearly four years of dedicated and focused work by a cross-departmental team, including staff from Human Resources, Information Services Division Corporate Team and Benefits and Payroll, this complex and sophisticated system went "live" on Sept. 3. The results have been impressive. In the first two weeks of use, over 185 electronic PAFs were produced with no serious challenges - since the ePAF system was doing exactly what it was designed to do! ePAF is significantly reducing the City's use of paper; plus, each PAF is now produced in a fraction of the time needed to produce a manual PAF. The system completes most of the information on the form after entries are made in just a few fields and includes an automated workflow for approvals. Staff report that incorrect PAFs have been reduced by more than 95 percent compared to using manual methods.

The rollout of this system was nearly seamless to the organization. Very few issues have been identified owing to the design and in-depth testing by team members. It is a tribute to the work of the design and testing teams that many users are describing the system as "intuitive and easy to use." These are not words used often with a new technology system rollout. ePAF is taking critical Human Resources, Benefits and Payroll processes to a new efficient and sustainable level. Thanks are due to all who invested their time and innovation in this project.

For more information and resources connected to PAFs, see the [ceshare](#) ePAF resource site or contact Prudence Cannata, Human Resources, at 541-682-8824.

Eugene Public Library: We Want Your Opinions!

The Eugene Public Library invites people of all ages to share their views in a brief, anonymous survey in order to help Library staff make informed decisions that best serve the community.

Complete the survey at the Library's website www.eugene-or.gov/library or on computers at all three Library locations: Downtown, Bethel, and Sheldon. The survey is offered in English and Spanish. Paper copies are available in both languages by request.

For more information, ask at any Library service desk, visit www.eugene-or.gov/library, or call the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450.



Hult Center and SHO Announce Programming Change

Due to a shift in program focus and funding, Support Hult Operations (SHO), the volunteer organization for the Hult Center and presenter of the SHOcase Concert Series, has elected to discontinue the SHOcase series and commit resources towards another program. The free series was formerly programmed on the first and third Thursday of each month, October through May in the Hult Center Lobby.

In order to address some of the funding challenges area schools are facing with youth arts programming and participation, SHO is committing resources towards enabling more area youth to attend educational offerings at the Hult Center. The center is pleased to partner with SHO to provide further outreach to schools and area arts organizations, and to give elementary through high school students the educational and unforgettable experience of live performing arts.

This program change complements SHO's existing youth-oriented programs: Bus Safety Services which assists large numbers of students in safely crossing the busy streets of downtown Eugene in order to attend Hult Center youth-education events; and the Performing Arts Student of the Month program designed to recognize achievements of performing arts students at the high school level.

For more information, contact Libby Tower, marketing and public relations manager, Hult Center for the Performing Arts, at 541-682-8380 or libby.j.tower@ci.eugene.or.us.