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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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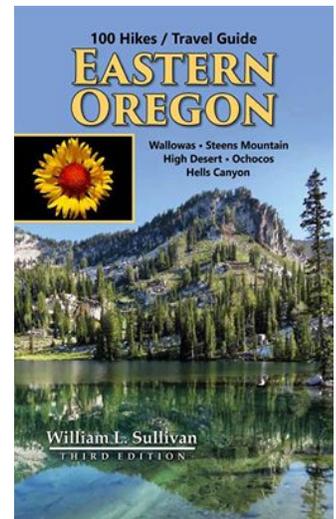
AROUND THE CITY

Hiking Talks at Eugene Public Libraries

Coming up at the Downtown Eugene Public Library, the Library will host two illustrated talks about the great Oregon outdoors.

On Wednesday, Apr. 22, at 6 p.m., join hiking guru William Sullivan for a "slide show tour" about new trails he discovered while researching the third edition of his book "100 Hikes/Travel Guide: Eastern Oregon." Discover a colorful badlands on the Owyhee River, a wilderness with cactus flowers on the John Day, and a viewpoint hike to a ranch at the east end of the Columbia Gorge - plus a half-dozen little-known hot springs. As always, Sullivan spices his illustrated talk with notes on the geology, wildlife, and history of the land.

Writer and photographer Adam Sawyer will focus on "Hiking Waterfalls in Oregon," on Saturday, May 2, at 3 p.m., based on his guidebook of the same name. His informative and humorous presentation of some of the state's most beautiful spots is "intended to entertain and inspire everyone to get out and explore in all seasons." Some of the featured waterfalls are remote while others are just a short hike from the trailhead. Some are gentle trickles and others are roaring giants. "Yet all of them," Sawyer points out, "offer a peaceful escape and are worth seeking out."



Admission is free. For more information, please contact the Eugene Public Library at 541-682-5450 or www.eugene-or.gov/library.

Newsletter Highlights Healthy Product Choices, Pet-Friendly Gardens

Selecting products that are safe for people and the environment can be a daunting task. The current issue of *Clean Water Connections* points readers to two prominent organizations – the American Association of Poison Control Centers and the National Pesticide Information Center – that have teamed up to focus on pesticide education and safety. A quick guide for understanding signal words on product labels provides tips for safe use in homes and storage areas.



A pet-friendly garden article provides recommendations for plant choices that are safe for dogs and cats, considerations for landscape design and an emergency phone number – just in case. Some vegetables and flowers such as onions, lilies, and foxglove can present danger to pets, while others like wheat grass and rose hips are good for pets.

Read about a restoration project for Amazon Creek that has helped stabilize eroding creek banks. Large boulders, sloping banks and over 14,000 native plants now work together along the creek to provide flood protection and an active wildlife habitat. Other informative topics include safer controls for slugs, a sustainable landscaping workshop for homeowners, and thoughtful

steps to a healthy yard. Find out more about two upcoming events in May – Bark in the Park on May 16 and Public Works Day on May 21.

The focus of the *Clean Water Connections* is educating and informing community members about stormwater pollution and ways to protect the local waterways. Articles typically address seasonal or current issues and include one page of interest for younger residents.

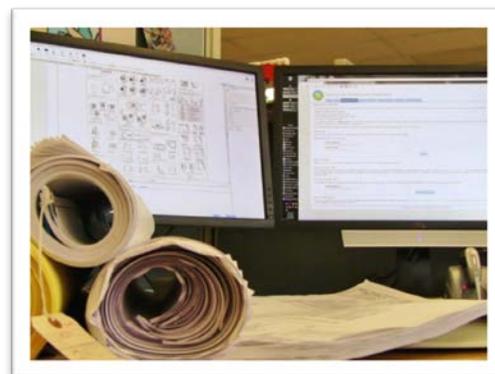
Copies of the newsletter are now available electronically at www.eugene-or.gov/happyrivers. Eugene residents can also expect to receive the newsletter in the mail next week. Those interested in receiving the short monthly e-newsletter, *Raindrop to River*, can subscribe in the [Stay Connected](#) section of the City's website. For more information, contact Public Information Specialist Kathy Eva, Stormwater Management Program, at 541-682-2739 or Kathy.a.eva@ci.eugene.or.us.

City Launches Online Building Plan Review and Permitting

The City of Eugene is launching eBuild, a new online plan review and permitting program that allows customers to submit their plans electronically to be reviewed and approved online. The new online system will save customers time and money with fewer trips to the Permit and Information Center, reduced printing costs, and increased efficiency.

eBuild is an internet-based plan review system developed by the City of Eugene that allows customers to:

- Submit building permit applications and construction documents electronically;
- View plan review and inspection results online in real time;
- Pay permit fees online; and
- Schedule inspections for projects once they are ready.



Two open house events to introduce people to eBuild, answer questions and provide tips on using the program, will be held this month. The open house sessions will be on Apr. 30 in the Sloat Conference Room of the Atrium Building at 99 West 10th Avenue. The first session will be from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., and another will be held from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. The sessions are free and open to anyone who wants to learn more about eBuild. Local architects, contractors, engineers, and designers are encouraged to attend.

The use of online technology aligns with Eugene's on-going efforts to support local businesses by providing easy, streamlined access to City services. Providing quicker and easier access to building services also promotes the safety, livability, and economic vitality of the community. Learn more at www.eugene-or.gov/eBuild.

City of Eugene Park Ambassador Program Launched

The Parks and Open Space Division is launching a park ambassador pilot program focused on creating a welcoming user experience in Eugene's most visited park area: the over 700-acre riverfront park system which features 12 miles of paved path, four miles of running trails, the RiverPlay destination playground, the Cuthbert Amphitheater and much more. Situated next to the system is the new WJ Skatepark + Urban Plaza, which is drawing all ages and offers a variety of outdoor sports.



Park ambassadors will help enrich the experience of park users by providing information around park amenities, recreational activities, history, rentals, rules, hours and more. In addition, they will help park staff identify and mitigate hazardous conditions and provide social service information to park patrons as needed. The two ambassadors will work together Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. They will cover the riverfront corridor from Maurie Jacobs Park to the I-5 bridge, as well as the WJ Skatepark.

The pilot program will run Jun. 1 through Sept. 8, and complements the three-year-old park watch program in the goal of creating a welcoming and safe park environment for park users. For more information, please contact Parks and Open Space Marketing and Outreach Manager Kelly Darnell at kelly.a.darnell@ci.eugene.or.us or 541-682-4901.