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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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IN THIS EDITION

CITY RECEIVES COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION IN RIDGELINE ROAD REPAIR SEASON HITS HALFWAY MARK

AROUND THE CITY

City Receives Community Assistance Grant for Wildfire Prevention in Ridgeline

The Parks and Open Space Division (POS) and the Eugene Springfield Fire Department (ESFD) have been collaborating for years to proactively seek grant funding to reduce the risk of wildfire in the community. This spring, those efforts were successful in bringing a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Community Assistance Grant to POS, thanks in part to a long history of collaboration with BLM's Eugene District office. The BLM Community Assistance Grant, totaling \$308,557, represents the most significant infusion of funding received to-date for reducing wildfire risk in Eugene.



Nearly 20 BLM fuels management professionals from Oregon and around the country toured the fuels reduction project in June.

The funds will be used to reduce fuel loads on City-owned land in the Ridgeline Park system by removing dense thickets of invasive vegetation and overstocked trees from forestland. Heavy fuel loads, combined with steep and inaccessible areas, make this area vulnerable to wildfire and pose challenges to fire suppression and response. A fire at the wildland-urban interface in Eugene is a significant hazard and could cause substantial harm to over 10,000 residents and over 4,000 homes, businesses, critical communication towers, transmission power lines, other electric utilities, and water reservoirs.

The other major component of this BLM grant is a community outreach campaign, designed to provide Eugene residents with tools and resources to reduce wildfire risk around their homes and to plan for their protection in the event of a wildfire.

Residents will receive postcard mailers, signs will be installed at trailhead kiosks, ESFD will oversee radio and television public service announcements, and a website, www.eugene-or.gov/teamup4firesafety, will connect residents to vetted national fire prevention programs. Project activities began in May and will stretch through September.

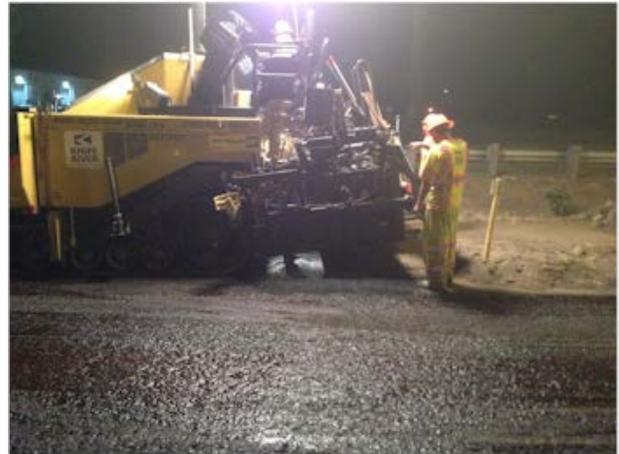
For more information, contact Emily Steel, ecologist, at 541-682-4874 or emily.c.steel@ci.eugene.or.us.

Road Repair Season Hits Halfway Mark

Eugene's 2015 road repair season is reaching the halfway point, with nearly a dozen streets completed or nearing completion and more than 20 streets scheduled for construction after July 1. Advance planning and favorable weather have been major factors in getting an early start on roadwork projects. The first project – repairs to Garden Way, Mahlon Avenue and Willakenzie Road – got under way in early April, and some Public Works paving crews were doing concrete paving work as early as February.

“We knew we had a lot of projects going into 2015, and fortunately the weather has cooperated with our paving schedule,” said Jenifer Willer, manager of Eugene’s pavement preservation program.

Other street repairs that have been substantially completed include portions of 25th Avenue, Timberline Drive and City View Street. Work is continuing on Division Avenue, 39th and 40th avenues and Brae Burn and Donald streets. Projects with start dates after July 1 include portions of Valley River Way, 19th and 22nd avenues, Fillmore and Friendly streets, 18th Avenue (Josh Street to Bertelsen Road), East 15th and 17th avenues, Avalon (west of Echo Hollow), Cascade, Elizabeth and Juhl streets, and Knoop Avenue. Traffic improvements and a test restriping of Willamette Street from 24th to 32nd avenues is planned to begin in early August. In addition, slurry seal treatments are scheduled in early August on 20 residential streets, and six streets – Bertelson Road (18th Avenue to Bailey Hill Road), Four Oaks Grange, Concord Street, Avalon Street (east of Echo Hollow), Pattison Street and Central Boulevard – will receive maintenance overlays.



Recent night work on Division Avenue

In total, the 2015 paving work represents an investment of more than \$10 million in the City’s transportation infrastructure, with nearly 35 lane-miles of streets receiving some form of pavement preservation treatment. Primary sources of funding for the repair work include the voter-approved 2012 bond measure to fix streets, the City’s five-cent-per-gallon local gas tax, federal funding (for the work on 18th Avenue), and Eugene’s share of the state gas tax.

For more information, contact Pavement Preservation Program Manager Jenifer Willer at 541-501-0376.