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IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

AFTER 50 YEARS THE WILLAMETTE RIVER AND DELTA PONDS NATURAL AREA ARE RECONNECTED
IVY REMOVAL AT ALTON BAKER PARK MAKES ROOM FOR NATIVE PLANTS
EPARK LAUNCHES PARKING SURVEY FOR DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES
CITY HOME SHOW BOOTH PROMOTES FAMILY AND FOOD FRIENDLY LANDSCAPES

AROUND THE CITY

After 50 Years the Willamette River and Delta Ponds Natural Area are Reconnected

Over five decades ago, gravel mining cut off what is now the Delta Ponds natural area from the flow of water from the Willamette River. Today, after 10 years of planning and phased implementation, water is once again flowing from the Willamette through the Delta Ponds – creating 2.2 miles of valuable side-channel habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and a wide variety of other species.

To make this happen, the City of Eugene has led a large-scale effort over the past 10 years to remove barriers and create new paths for water to flow through the ponds. The primary goals of this floodplain restoration project are to provide backwater overwintering habitat for juvenile salmon, Western pond turtles, neotropical migratory song birds, native riparian plant communities, and other species. Now juvenile Chinook salmon can spend time growing in the safety of this side-channel before returning to the river.

The City has balanced these goals with risks of flooding and protection of roadways, utilities, and other infrastructure. To provide for public safety, the project was designed with gated culverts that can be closed if river flows reach levels high enough to cause potential damage. A large culvert installed under Goodpasture Island Road this summer provided the final connection.



Water flowing from Willamette River into Delta Ponds

Now that water is flowing through the system, City of Eugene staff are verifying pre-project hydraulic models to determine how best to operate the culverts in order to provide the maximum benefit for fish without causing any damage or flooding downstream. To monitor changes to water levels, staff installed several gauges in the ponds and sloughs and are using photo documentation to record water levels at each of the culverts and at various locations throughout the ponds so that they can better understand how changes to the flows through the culverts impact water levels throughout the pond system.

As Willamette River levels ebb and flow throughout the coming months, City staff will continue to make adjustments to how they operate the culverts based on the observed results. Over time staff will be able to learn how the hydrology of this new system functions and will be better able to meet the goals of providing fish and wildlife habitat without causing flooding or other damage to key infrastructure.

For more information, contact Natural Resource Enhancement Coordinator Lauri Holts at 541-682-4925 or lauri.j.holts@ci.eugene.or.us

Ivy Removal at Alton Baker Park Makes Room for Native Plants

The Public Works Parks and Open Space Division is employing a contractor to continue with the challenging task of hand-pulling English ivy along the Willamette River in portions of Alton Baker Park. English ivy is not native to this area, though it has become quite widespread in Western Oregon due to its frost hardiness, bird-dispersed seeds, and ability to “out compete” native vegetation and form a monoculture. Not only can this evergreen vine climb old buildings, but it also climbs – and eventually can topple – very tall trees.



Contracted crew pulls ivy along Willamette River

Currently, the ivy removal along the Willamette River is focused on the north bank near the Frohnmayer Bridge (formerly the Autzen Footbridge). This is an area of huge trees typical of a riparian forest in the area, including cottonwoods, maples and incense-cedars. The understory is a variety of native flowering shrubs and boasts a lush display of wildflowers in the spring. All of the vegetation and habitat in this area is being overgrown with English ivy, and if no actions were taken, most of this valuable community asset would be lost.

The Parks and Open Space Division has undertaken significant English ivy removal in other locations, such as Skinner Butte, Hendricks Park, and Wayne Morse Family Farm, and has

discovered that in the seasons immediately following removal, the native vegetation that had been suppressed by the blanket of ivy quickly recolonizes the area. This method of ivy removal has been the most efficient, cost effective, and safe way to reclaim these areas.

For more information, please contact Ryan Turner, natural resources maintenance specialist, at 541-682-4843.

Epark Launches Parking Survey for Downtown Businesses

The City of Eugene is seeking input from local business owners about how the expanded downtown free parking program is working. The City is partnering with the University of Oregon’s Community Planning Workshop to administer a series of business perception surveys during the two-year program. Postcards inviting businesses to participate will go out this week.



Downtown business owners in businesses in the on-street free parking program who are interested in providing feedback can register at www.Surveymonkey.com/s/EugeneParking. The Community Planning Workshop will send the registrant an online survey within a month.

Epark manages downtown, campus, and neighborhood parking, including the operation of off-street parking facilities, code enforcement, and Municipal Court services. For more information, please call 541-682-5729 or go to parking@ci.eugene.or.us.

City Home Show Booth Promotes Family and Food Friendly Landscapes

“Recipes for Healthy Living” is the focus of a City of Eugene information booth at this year’s Good Earth Home, Garden and Living Show, scheduled at the Lane County Fairgrounds, Jan. 21 - 23. Attendees who stop by booth 510 will find tips on how to create a healthy landscape for families, prepare backyard compost, grow vegetables and tend chickens in the urban environment, plus information on participating in the Climate Masters at Home Program.

Visitors who participate in a short survey can enter a drawing for practical prizes. Staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide handouts. The booth is a collaborative effort between the Public Works Stormwater Management Program and Planning and Development’s Waste Prevention and Green Building Program. For more information, contact Stormwater Information Specialist Kathy Eva, in Public Works Administration, at 541-682-2739 or kathy.a.eva@ci.eugene.or.us.



Dig in to your yard or patio as a place for fresh ingredients!

 City of Eugene Stormwater Management, and Waste Prevention and Green Building Program

NEXT WEEK

01/24	M	5:30pm	All	Joint CC/Lane Transit District Work Session	McNutt Room
01/24	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
01/26	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room

UPCOMING

FEBRUARY

02/02	W	5:30pm	All	Budget Committee Meeting	Bascom/Tykeson
02/09	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
02/14	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
02/14	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
02/16	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
02/16	W	5:30pm	All	Budget Committee Meeting	Bascom/Tykeson
02/22	Tu	7:30pm	All	Council Public Hearing	Council Chamber
02/23	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
02/24	Th	11:30am	All	Joint Elected Officials	Springfield Library
02/28	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
02/28	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber

MARCH

03/09	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
03/14	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
03/14	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
03/16	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room

COUNCIL BREAK: MARCH 17 – APRIL 11

APRIL

04/11	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
04/11	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
04/13	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
04/18	M	7:30pm	All	Council Public Hearing	Council Chamber
04/20	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
04/25	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
04/25	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
04/27	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
04/27	W	5:30pm	All	Budget Committee Meeting	B/T Room

MAY

05/09	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
05/09	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
05/11	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
05/16	M	7:30pm	All	Council Public Hearing	Council Chamber
05/18	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
05/23	M	5:30pm	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room
05/23	M	7:30pm	All	Council Meeting	Council Chamber
05/25	W	Noon	All	Council Work Session	McNutt Room