



Public Works

Monthly Report

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Airport

Cathryn Stephens, Appointed EUG Airport Director and Receives Multiple Awards

Cathryn has been appointed EUG Airport Director after serving as the AIC Airport Director since March 2020, taking on this leadership role at a time of incredible uncertainty for the EUG team, our community and the aviation industry. For the past 18 months she has led an amazing EUG team through one of the most dynamic periods in commercial aviation history, working to adapt to severe reductions in people flying in 2020, administration of Federal CARES and Corona Virus Response Grants, working to rapidly readjust to travel demand, landing three new airlines at EUG and constructing the associated buildouts to accommodate them, and much more.

Cathryn joined the City of Eugene after a 16 year career in journalism and has worked as part of the EUG team for the past 14 years as the Communications and Development Director, Deputy Airport Director, and Assistant Airport Director before she moved into the AIC Airport Director role. Since joining the EUG team Cathryn has worked diligently to become a high performing, nationally recognized Airport Executive serving as a National Director for the American Association of Airport Executives and current chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. In her spare time she recently graduated from University of Oregon with a Master's of Science in Applied Information Management.

In addition, Cathryn was recently presented the 2021 President's Award of Distinction, which recognizes members of the Northwest Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives who have served the association and/or promoted aviation with uncommon dedication. Cathryn, who is a past NWAAAE president, was recognized for her continued leadership roles in the organization and at her airport.

Cathryn was also recognized as the 2021 Airport Manager of the Year by the Oregon Airport Management Association. This prestigious award was presented to her during the association's fall conference by Jerry Brienza, President of OAMA, and is recognition of her accomplishments at the Eugene Airport and her ongoing involvement with the aviation industry in the State of Oregon.

Cathryn would truly be a top candidate for any Airport Director position in the country and we are incredibly lucky that she has chosen team EUG.



Wastewater

Resiliency Preparedness Featured at Water Environment Federation Conference

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission's resiliency improvement work was presented in the technical program at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference in Chicago.



The MWMC assessed performance of wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities for two catastrophic natural disasters: the Cascadia Subduction Zone seismic event and catastrophic 500-year flood event. Performance was assessed with respect to achieving post disaster recovery goals set forth in the Oregon Resiliency Plan. As part of the assessment MWMC identified and assessed critical dependencies that could substantially impact the ability to respond and recover from the natural disasters. The most critical dependencies were identified through collaborative staff engagement. The presentation focused on the top ten dependencies and actions that would help better prepare for any disaster event and minimize the potential for cascading failures.

The joint presentation, Assessment of Critical Dependencies for Rapid Disaster Recovery, was given by Dave Breitenstein, Wastewater Division Director, and Wayne Gresh, the consulting engineer project manager.

2021 Biocycle Farm Season – Biosolids Application and Poplar Harvest

Along with land applying 2,652 dry tons of biosolids to 533 acres of local ryegrass fields and trees, staff harvested trees from the Biocycle Farm. The Biocycle Farm includes 400 acres of poplar trees on agricultural land. It provides sustainable soil and wetlands management, resource recovery, carbon cycling, and phytoremediation – the use of trees for pollution reduction. Poplar trees grow rapidly by consuming nutrients in biosolids, making the Biocycle Farm a preferred method for recycling this byproduct of the wastewater treatment process.



The trees are managed as an agricultural crop, with a growth period of up to 12 years, then harvested and sold in the marketplace to offset operating costs, as well as provide a renewable resource for our community. This year's harvest was a bit different from past harvests in that staff worked with partners to pilot production of biochar. Biochar is a carbon rich soil amendment created by burning organic material with little oxygen present. Poplar slash was burned in a large circular kiln, designed to suck the smoke back in, so that the smoke burned rather than being released into the air. Biochar offers many environmental benefits, including nutrient retention in soil and habitat provision for microorganisms.

Finance and Administrative Manager Position Filled

James McClendon was hired as the Finance and Administrative Manager. James joined the Wastewater Division in May 2015, supporting wastewater service business functions as a Management Analyst and he also served as AIC Finance and Administrative Manager for the past 18 months. James is certified as a professional asset management planner and was a major contributor to the development of the regional wastewater asset management plan. James' duties will include management of our division's financial operations, asset management planning, office management, and oversight of storeroom operations. He is an excellent match for the position and is a great asset to our team and our regional wastewater service partners.



Parks & Open Space

Winterizing the Parks

Park Operations has been hard at work winterizing the park system this past month. To protect plumbing and pipes from freezing temperatures, staff turn off drinking fountains and close seasonal restrooms.

Due to the size and complexity of the park system, this work can take several weeks but we always aim to finish by October 15.

Our drinking fountains and seasonal restrooms will come out of hibernation in the spring by April 15. And, spray and water play will be back by Memorial Day weekend.

Amazon Prairie Restoration

The first phase of the Amazon Prairie restoration is well underway.

Phase one of the project covers 148 acres of the 329-acre site. Work already completed includes excavation of seasonal pools, distribution of 500 pounds of native seed, placement of 90 habitat logs for wildlife, and installing 2,800 feet of wildlife friendly fencing.

In the coming years, Amazon Prairie will transform into wetlands, upland prairie and riparian habitat enhanced to support a wide range of plants and animals.

