



Hi neighbor! I'm Lily, the Pacific chorus frog and mascot of the City of Eugene's Stormwater Education Program. My family and friends live in wetlands areas in the northwest—some as close as your back yard!

The talents of **Victoria Machado** brought Lily, the Pacific chorus frog, to life over eleven years ago. Since then, Lily has made countless classroom visits and public appearances as an ambassador for the stormwater program. She has hugged thousands of children and been a favorite of many. After so much hopping around, Lily's City friends noticed that she was starting to get a little weary and worn around the edges.

This summer, Victoria and Lily were reunited. Resourceful as ever, Victoria skillfully "refreshed" our mascot. Today, Lily has bright, new colors and an even softer feel.

Thanks Victoria, for breathing new life into Lily, and for the time you generously donated!



## What is *your* ecological address?

When someone asks where you live, you may answer with the number and street name of your house or apartment. But what if you needed to give an address to a bird or fish friend? They would only be able to find you if you could tell them your place in the world of rivers, trees and hills that surround us. This is your "ecological address"—your place in the natural world—and you can be either a good or bad neighbor to your friends in the natural community.

From Eugene to Portland, we are all part of a very large natural community known as the Willamette River Basin. This basin includes all of the land on either side of the Willamette River, from the Coast Range to the Cascades, where water flows, percolates or dribbles into the river—more than 11,400 square miles of land in all.

Sources of water for the Willamette include rain and snow, groundwater, wetlands, streams, run-off from hard surfaces (roofs and streets) and the wastewater from our homes. Since the Willamette is so long (187 miles) and so many people live in this watershed (70 percent of Oregon's population), our actions—good and bad—make a big difference to the health of our river.

### Is your address a "dump" or a "castle"?

We're not talking about the size or shape of your dwelling, but the additions you and your family are making to your natural neighborhood. Between the time the rain falls on your roof and makes its way to your local stream, many of the following harmful things may be flowing with the rainwater into your environment:

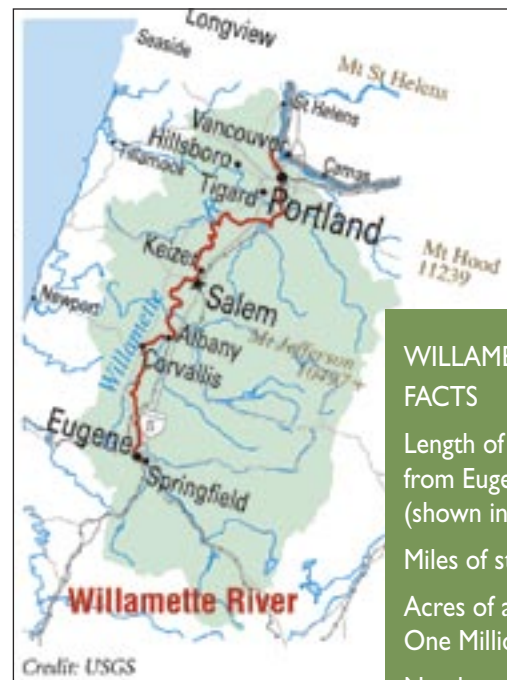
- Pesticides and herbicides on lawns and roofs (these kill the good bugs and plants along with the bad).
- Toxic cleaning products in our wastewater and storm drains.
- Concentrated fertilizers in gardens (these also feed the algae in the river that rob oxygen from the water).
- Paint, solvents and automotive fluids in the street (destroy the natural chemistry of feathers, fins and skin).
- Lawn clippings and leaves (if not properly disposed of, they clog small waterways and are actually a natural pollutant).
- Dirt and mud (loose soil from construction sites and clear cuts also plug up our waterways).

Don't be a dumper—and if you see nasty spills like paint or motor oil on your street be sure to tell an adult. They can call for help in cleaning it up the *right* way (*don't* hose it down the storm drain!).

Good ecological neighbors live in a place where:

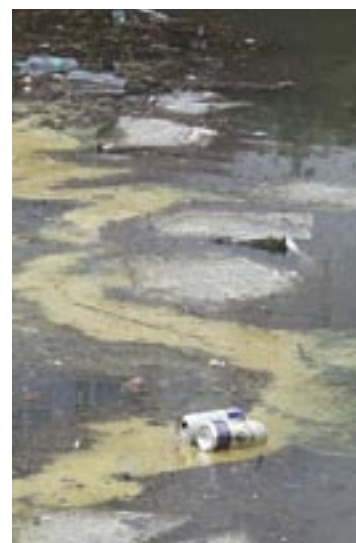
- Natural alternatives are used for pest and weed control.
- Gentle, bio-degradable cleaners and soaps are used.
- Fertilizers are applied carefully to the lawn and garden.
- Solvents, automotive fluids and batteries are disposed of properly or dropped off at collection centers.

*Keeping your home, yard and street healthy will make your address one that you and **all** of your neighbors can enjoy!*



### WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN FACTS

- Length of Willamette River from Eugene to Columbia River (shown in red): 187 miles
- Miles of streams: 16,000
- Acres of agricultural land: One Million
- Number of native fish species: 31
- Number of exotic or introduced fish species: 29



### What kind of environmental neighbor are you?



**Teachers:** For more information about SPLASH! Stormwater Learn and Share, and Salmon and the Ecosystem, call 682-8482.