

River News Digest: March 4, 2011

Compiled by the City of Portland [Office of Healthy Working Rivers](#)

The River News Digest shares interesting items and announcements relating to rivers—with a focus on better understanding, enjoying, and caring for our local rivers, while touching on items from around the country and the world.

Please note that much of the information is from sources other than the City of Portland [like news media, non-profit organizations, and other government agencies]. The Rivers Office lists these items for information purposes only and is not responsible for their content.

1. In Our River Neighborhood...



International Expert on Urban Streams and Stormwater to Speak on March 14th

Dr. Derek Booth is an internationally recognized expert on urban streams and stormwater, especially the effects of runoff on channel form and function. As a member of the National Academy of Science's recent review of the nationwide NPDES stormwater permitting system, he co-authored the committee report, "*Urban Stormwater Management in the United States*". Dr. Booth comes to Portland to share his observations about stormwater, streams, and the challenges ahead.

March 14th

Noon to 1 pm

Portland Building Auditorium

1120 SW Fifth, 97204

Rivers As Classrooms

The number of school kids learning about—and getting out on—the Willamette has dropped dramatically. Why is this—and what challenges do we face in trying to get our kids connected to the River? A panel of experts recently held forth on the not-always-expected reasons and solutions for this important topic. [Click here to view the video.](#)

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Ever wanted to learn more about how to turn your yard or garden into a wildlife oasis? There's a new program in Portland that will make it easy to attract and support all sorts of creatures, including tiny pollinators like butterflies, songbirds making annual trips from the tropics, and lots more. [Click here to view the video.](#)

[Zidell Cleanup OK'd](#)

"Federal fish biologists have given the go ahead for one of the biggest Willamette River cleanup plans to date, endorsing barge builder Zidell's plan to revamp 3,000 feet of shoreline and cap contaminated river sediment." (OregonLive.com February 16, 2011)

[No-wake zone created in Holgate Channel of Willamette River near Ross Island](#)

(OregonLive.com, February 18, 2011)

[Saving the Oaks on Elk Rock Island](#)

"Portland Parks and Recreation owns and manages the Elk Rock Island Natural Area... The overriding goal is to improve the ecological health of all of the island's habitats, ...especially that of the Oregon white oak trees and underlying plants." (Portland Tribune, February 17, 2011)

[Plans Underway to Celebrate Esplanade's 10th Birthday](#) (PDX Bridge Festival)

[Willamette Futures—coming attraction video clip for upcoming documentary on the Willamette River](#)

(New video clip showcases future documentary on Willamette River)

[A Wintry View of the Willamette—from Above- and Underwater](#) (Willamette Riverkeeper)

[Going to the River Project](#)

“The Portland Bureau of Transportation was awarded \$2.96 million ... to fill in missing links in the sidewalk and bikeway network near Swan Island and in East Portland. ... The Going to the River project bundles bicycle, pedestrian, transit and transportation demand management to improve access to Swan Island in North Portland, which is one of the state's largest employment centers.” (City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement, February 17, 2011)

Environmental Services Releases 2 New Videos on Managing Your Home's Stormwater

[How to Build a Rain Garden](#)

[How to Disconnect a Downspout](#)

[City of Portland information on appeal of River Plan / North Reach](#)

(City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability)

[TriMet's \(Possibly\) Sonic Bridge](#) (Oregonian, February 21, 2011)

[First Willamette Spring Chinook Caught Feb. 2](#) (OregonLive.com, February 2, 2011)

2. Up the Willamette and Columbia...

[Willamette Water 2100](#)

“Concerns over the future of water in the American West have prompted scientists from three Oregon universities to join together to study how climate change, human population growth and economic growth will impact water availability and use in the coming decades.” (Columbia Basin Bulletin, February 25, 2011)

[Willamette Spring Chinook](#)

“...104,000 fish [are] headed back to the Willamette River ... The Willamette spring chinook return rebounded last year with an estimated return of 110,500 adult fish to the mouth of the Columbia, which was the seventh highest since 1970. Numbers had been low, ranging from 34,000 to 52,000 from 2003-2009.” (Columbia Basin Bulletin, January 28, 2011)

[New Fishing Dock in West Linn](#)

“The \$250,000 dock is state of the art for fishing platforms: Its 8-foot wide, 350-foot aluminum lattice decking has a non-skid grip for safe walking; the lattice lets light through into the water, discouraging predatory fish from ambushing passing baby salmon and steelhead.” (OregonLive.com, February 19, 2011)

[Riverside Streetcar from Portland to Lake Oswego gets committee OK](#)

“The proposed six-mile line, which would run along the Willamette River and link Portland's South Waterfront neighborhood to downtown Lake Oswego, passed its first hurdle by collecting support from a citizens advisory committee.” (Portland Business Journal, February 10, 2011)

[Blue Heron paper mill closes its historic rivefront business](#)

“When the mill turns out the lights, it will mark the first time since 1829 that the site has been lost to industrial use.” (OregonLive.com, February 23, 2011)

For more river news and information, visit the Rivers Office website:

www.portlandonline.com/river

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