



Hawthorne Bowl, RiverFest 2011

## ***River News Digest: September 23, 2011***

*River News Digest is a compilation of 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 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*

### ***Coming Right Up!...***



**3rd Annual Great Willamette Cleanup: October 8<sup>th</sup>** (in most River Cities; 9<sup>th</sup> in Eugene), 9 am to noon: Willamette Riverkeeper invites volunteers to clean up trash along the Willamette from Eugene to Portland. Select sites will have canoes or kayaks available; at others, volunteers should bring their own. A few sites will be land-based, by foot or bike. All volunteers get the limited edition Great Willamette River Cleanup t-shirt. Portland and Eugene will host volunteer appreciation celebrations right after the cleanup. Stay current with event details by checking the [Riverkeeper website](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org).

**October 8<sup>th</sup>: Baltimore Woods Planting with SOLV:** Plant native trees and shrubs with SOLV in St. Johns/Cathedral Park on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. rain or shin. All tools, gloves and supplies provided. This planting will help lower stream temperatures and create an ecosystem that will filter polluted stormwater runoff, improve water quality, provide better habitat. [neighborhoodnotes.com](http://neighborhoodnotes.com), September 22

**In downtown Portland, city plans art show to benefit river stewardship program:** "Portland Parks & Recreation seeks local artists and artwork for an art show and fundraiser. The "Nature in our City (Parks!)" art show will open Thursday, Nov. 3 from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. in Portland City Hall and will run until November 30th. Artists who enter the show will be asked to donate at least 30 percent of sales to the [Willamette River Stewardship program](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org)." [OregonLive.com](http://OregonLive.com), August 31

The [Johnson Creek Watershed Council](#) is hosting a reception from **4-8pm**, on October 7 (4-8 pm, Spring Creek Coffee House, 10600 SE McLoughlin). The evening will feature purchasable artwork inspired by the Johnson Creek Watershed (proceeds help support the Council). Complimentary appetizers and music by the Johnson Creek Brass Band.



Raising  
Watershed  
Awareness  
+  
Building  
A Healthy  
Watershed  
Community

## Johnson Creek Art Show

October 1-31

Spring Creek Coffee House  
10600 SE McLoughlin Blvd • Milwaukie, OR 97222

**First Friday Reception, October 7 • 4-8pm**

Featuring artwork inspired by the Johnson Creek Watershed.  
Buy original art and help support the Council.  
Complimentary appetizers. Music by Johnson Creek Brass Band.

**Confluence Project Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Friday, October 7 • 5:30pm • Spring Creek Coffee House  
Walk from the Art Show to Milwaukie Riverfront Park.

Celebrate the newly-created salmon habitat at the mouth of Johnson Creek.

### 1. News In Our River Neighborhood...



[Rosie Splashes in Portland, Oregon](#): "The Willamette River was the scene ... for the launch of *Rosie*, the second [St Ayles Skiff](#) to hit the water in the US... The [all-woman team's] red scarves recall Rosie the Riveter, an icon from WWII celebrating the women whos manual labor kept the US economy alive while the men were fighting. This team of women are from the first class to build a boat in the newly formed, not-for-profit, [Wind and Oar Boat School](#) - the first boat for the School and the first boat for the women, most of whom had never built anything in their lives." To see DoryMan's video of the launch, [click here](#). *DoryMan blog, September 12*

[KINK Working Waterfront interview with Alan Sprott](#): KINK interviewed Alan Sprott, President of the Working Waterfront Coalition, and VP at Vigor Industrial. KINK notes: "Alan says we are at a unique crossroad. The harbor has been intentionally developed, and there's been significant alteration of the natural habitat along that portion of the river. It's been dredged and channelized in some areas. There was industrial development that required piers and wharves. But having said that, Alan says there's a significant amount of undeveloped natural habitat that remains" *KINK.fm, September 12*

[Think tank lends hand with regional export plan--Key parts of effort to create jobs by boosting exports will be unveiled Oct. 17 in Portland](#). "With help from a Washington, D.C., think tank, regional economic development leaders are laying the groundwork ... to create jobs and boost employment by increasing the region's exports.... A market assessment and a strategic plan, both written with help from the Brookings Institution... will be rolled out Oct. 17. The event is expected to be attended by the mayors of Portland and Vancouver, port representatives, and economic development officials." *The Columbian, September 22*

[China: Oregon Business Delegation Visits Tianjin Port](#): "Here in China, where big is normal, Tianjin Port stands out for its size. The 107-square-kilometer port, a sister port of the Port of Portland, grew from the sixth largest port in the world last year to fifth... The port operates more than 200 cranes, compared to 12 at the Port of Portland, has a workforce of 40,000, compared to 750 at Portland. It is built on 600 million cubic yards of dredged material that it has moved over the last six years. That compares to 300 cubic yards of material the Port of Portland has moved since it started dredging the Columbia River in 1891. The port, which is planning to continue to expand, could be a vital facility for Oregon exports if the state can gain authority to test its products for Chinese food safety protocols." *DredgingToday.com, September 21*

[A man, a barge, a bucket and the struggle to get derelict vessels off the Columbia River:](#) "Vigilance over the Northwest's substantial stock of neglected vessels has spiked since January, when the rusty, oil-filled barge Davy Crockett cracked in half off Washougal, polluting the Columbia and eventually costing \$20 million to clean up. An alphabet soup of agencies ...has established a task force to inventory and monitor a growing list of 30 such large vessels across the Northwest ... The number of those vessels is likely to rise, regulators say..." *OregonLive.com, September 20*

[Self-proclaimed "river rat" sits by as his home sinks in the Willamette:](#) "A man who was living aboard an old boat on the Willamette River is going to need to find another home for himself and his cats. His 1946, 40-foot boat is slowly sinking to the bottom of the Willamette River beneath the St. Johns Bridge after a submerged piling poked a hole in it last week." *KPTV.com, September 19*

[In Our View: Progress By CRC](#)—"The Columbia River Crossing is one of the most — if not THE most — complicated bridge projects in the United States..." *The Columbian, September 12*

[Columbia River Crossing finances offers a September surprise: \\$147 million more from Oregon, Washington.](#) The Columbia River Crossing's just-released final [environmental impact](#) statement has a \$147 million surprise for residents of Oregon and Washington. ... a CRC spokeswoman...added that the state contributions called for in the final EIS are a 'proposal' that will be subject to negotiation with the states. 'We're working on a proposal for both Legislatures to consider.' " *OregonLive.com, September 15*

[Sellwood Bridge now has two 'plan B' options](#) (Note: registration required): "The stage is set for the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners to next month approve a plan to replace the Sellwood Bridge. Unfortunately, because of a lack of money, that plan may not be one the board actually wants. The project's cost has dropped to \$268.8 million, but a \$22.7 million shortfall still exists." *DJCOregon.com, September 13*

[Footbridge over I-5 to be completed by March](#) (access required): The Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge will connect residents west of I-5 with South Waterfront and the river. According to the DJC article, "The project to construct the Gibbs Street Pedestrian Bridge requires a lot of coordination, which could be expected for a 700-foot-wide bridge being built over Interstate 5." *DJCOregon.com, September 9*

[Westmoreland Duck and Geese Round-up a Giant Honking Success—helps restore Crystal Springs:](#) "... 21 domestic ducks and 8 domestic geese were captured at Westmoreland Park [and] transported to permanent homes...The round-up is part of a much larger, long-term effort to restore Crystal Springs Creek ...In 2012 the manmade pond at Westmoreland Pond will be removed and Crystal Springs Creek will be restored to a more natural state." *Parks and Recreation Media Release, September 20*

[Stormwater Project Underway in Willamette Park:](#) The City of Portland's Bureau of Parks & Recreation and Bureau of Environmental Services are collaborating on a project to help reduce and treat stormwater flowing into one of Oregon's natural treasures, the Willamette River. The work will improve water quality by pre-treating rain runoff from the boat ramp parking lot in Willamette Park before it enters the Willamette. *Parks and Recreation Media Release, September 20*

## 2. Up the Willamette and Columbia...and more



[Metro considers tapping natural-areas fund to buy industrialized Oregon City site:](#) "Metro councilors are considering an unprecedented real-estate deal -- tapping a fund intended

for natural areas to buy the Blue Heron industrial site in Oregon City. The multimillion-dollar purchase of the 23-acre paper mill would be the first time Metro used such funds to acquire a developed property. Those close to the deal say bold action is justified: Blue Heron is beyond a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The dramatic setting next to roaring Willamette Falls was private property years before the first wagon traveled the Oregon Trail." *OregonLive.com, September 21*

[Public auction will sell off assets of Oregon City's 100-year-old Blue Heron paper mill:](#) "The assets of Oregon City's historic Blue Heron Paper Mill will be auctioned off this week in a three-day public sale. The mill [closed earlier this year after more than a century of operation](#) at the base of Willamette Falls, putting 175 employees out of work and leaving more than 2,600 auction items up for grabs. ... The 23-acre Oregon City mill site as well as another 39 acres of property owned in West Linn [are also up for bid](#), with offers being accepted until Oct. 19. ... " *OregonLive.com, September 18*

[Public input sought at September 29 meeting on future of Highway 43:](#) 'In an effort to shape West Linn's future growth and design, the city is seeking community input on how it sees the Highway 43/Willamette Falls Drive corridor developing in the next 20 to 30 years. ... Some of the questions the city is asking on its website include: 'Should the property along the Willamette River between Bolton and Willamette be retained for industrial use or eventually redeveloped? Do you want to see a historic interpretive center with shops, restaurants and a hotel? A resident development?...' " *West Linn Tidings, September 22*

[Salem Museum Donates Special Canoe To Confederated Tribes:](#) "Officials at a Salem museum say they've donated the oldest existing Kalapuya river canoe in the Willamette Valley to the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. ... the canoe -- known as a shovel-nose -- is thought to be carved out of red cedar. But unlike ocean-going canoes, this vessel is both shorter and shallower, designed to maneuver the slow-moving bayous and lakes surrounding the Willamette River." *OPB.org, September 21*

[Paddling into autumn—drift from Corvallis to Albany a chance to relax, watch wildlife.](#) *democratherald.com, September 18*

[OSU to dedicate new boathouse:](#) "OSU has one of the oldest rowing programs on the West Coast. ... On the east bank of the Willamette River, the team's main training facility for decades has been housed in a rickety, drafty barn built in 1907. ... The new facility includes locker rooms for the men's and women's Beaver rowing teams, small boats storage and meeting space and cost an estimated \$1.5 million that was paid for by individual donors and the OSU athletic department." *gazettetimes.com, September 20*

[Harrisburg mulls getting drinking water from the Willamette:](#) Harrisburg residents are "looking forward to a robust discussion about whether to wean Harrisburg from the unfiltered water it pulls from the city's five wells and start drinking from the Willamette River, now that the state Department of Water Resources has approved a permit to do just that." *RegisterGuard.com, September 14*

[Pulse of the Columbia River:](#) "What do you know about the Columbia River and the 258,000 square miles of land that it drains? .... only a drop in the bucket? [The Water Resources Education Center has] put together a good starting place to assess information from federal, state, and local agencies and other groups who monitor, study, and use the watershed. ..." *City of Vancouver, Water Resources Education Center.*

[NW Power And Conservation Council Seeks Comments On Draft 'State Of the Columbia Basin' Report:](#) The draft report ... provides an overview of the Council's planning activities regarding electricity in the Pacific Northwest and fish and wildlife in the Columbia River basin in fiscal year 2011, as well as information about salmon and steelhead returns to the basin in calendar year 2010 ..." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, September 16*

[A Record-Breaking Oddity: Why Are Pink Salmon \(Humpies\) Heading Up The Columbia River?:](#) "The number of pink salmon -- called humpback or humpies because spawning males develop humped backs -- surging up the Columbia River this late summer is small,

in a relative sense, yet huge in a historical sense.” *Columbia Basin Bulletin*, September 16

[NOAA Says La Nina Is Back; Colder, Wetter Than Normal Conditions For the Northwest:](#)

“La Niña, which contributed to extreme weather around the globe during the first half of 2011, has re-emerged in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is forecast to gradually strengthen and continue into winter. ... “La Niña also often brings colder winters to the Pacific Northwest and the northern Plains, and warmer temperatures to the southern states.’” *Columbia Basin Bulletin*, September 16

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