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River News Digest: October 7, 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!...

[October 13th: Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center – Parks as Outdoor Classroom: Building Healthier Kids, Stronger Communities and Sustainable Living.](#) Hear the inspirational story of how a group of neighbors in Milwaukee did the "impossible" by converting a crime ridden "problem" park into an outdoor classroom, research station and environmental community center. Noon to 1:30 at Metro.



[October 18th: The Willamette—A Special Investment.](#) Ken Bierly, Deputy Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will describe how the State sees restoring natural river processes in the Willamette as an outstanding value. Noon to 1 pm at the Portland Building.

[West Hayden Island concept plan Open Houses: October 12 and 15.](#) [Draft concept plan alternatives](#) describing options for marine industrial development and open space are now available for public review and comment. (Also—see articles below.)

[National Prescription Drug Take Back Day--October 29:](#) DEA has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2011, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. to provide a venue for persons who want to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. Will be accepted: Prescription and over-the-counter solid dosage medications, i.e., tablets and capsules. Will NOT be accepted: Intra-venous solutions, injectables, and needles. This is an anonymous process that makes for safer homes—and cleaner streams. Portland collection sites include the Central, North, and East precincts of the Portland Police Bureau and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. [Check out site locations here.](#) U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

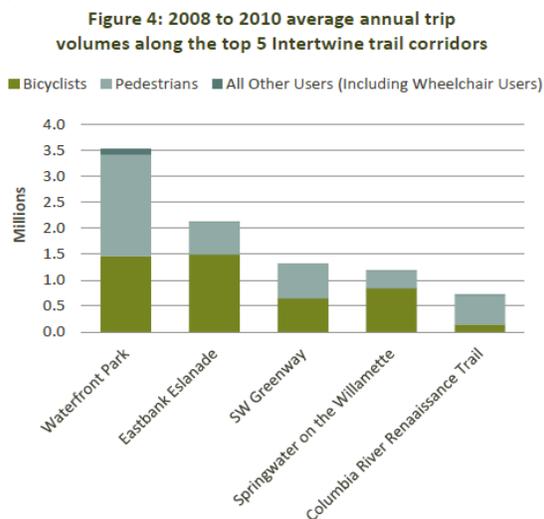
1. News In Our River Neighborhood...



[West Hayden Island Concept Plans Released for Public Review](#): “Another step in the much-discussed fate of West Hayden Island is complete, as the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability unveils two concept plans detailing alternative ideas for the possible development of a Port of Portland deep-water marine terminal. Both draft concepts... include 300 acres of industrial marine development complimented by 500 acres of open space.... [This is] not a proposal to build anything. This is not necessarily what eventually the plan would look like,’ Eden Dabbs, communications/public affairs for BPS, stressed at a recent media briefing, calling the two draft concepts ‘a point a reference.’” *neighborhoodnotes.com, September 28*

[Draft Concepts for West Hayden Island ready for public review](#): In July 2010, the Portland City Council directed the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to look into a proposal for West Hayden Island that would accommodate at least 500 acres of open space and no more than 300 acres for a deep water port facility. [Draft concept plan alternatives](#) are now available for public review and comment. Neither the city nor the Port intend to use this concept plan as a blueprint for immediate development; rather, it will assist the City in understanding future options, to inform the creation of zoning and code language to guide future potential development.

[City Of Portland Releases Ideas For Developing West Hayden Island](#): “Planners from the City of Portland unveiled their ideas for West Hayden Island Monday. One of the biggest surprises is that a proposed port and rail yard could fit on 300 acres”. *OPB.org, Sept. 26*



[NEW! Intertwine Trail Use Report](#): “After three years of counting bicyclists and pedestrians using trails across the region, we’ve got a comprehensive report summarizing the data from the [National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project](#). The report includes individual 11-page sections on each trail corridor - providing a quick snapshot of regional trails...” Major riverside trails covered in the *Intertwine Trail Use Snapshot* include: Columbia River Renaissance Trail, Eastbank Esplanade, Interstate Bridge Trail, Marine Drive Trail, Willamette Greenway, Springwater on the Willamette, Tonquin Trail, Tualatin River Greenway Trail, Waterfront Park Trail. *Intertwine Alliance, September 27*

[First legal challenge filed against proposed Columbia River Crossing](#): “In the first of possibly multiple legal challenges, opponents of the proposed Columbia River Crossing have thrown the first punch. The Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods and the Coalition for a Livable Future contend the Metro Council on Aug. 11 inappropriately used a light rail siting statute and gave the go-ahead for what is predominantly a freeway project.” *OregonLive.com, September 27*

[Not feeling groovy: TriMet pulls plug on 'sonic bike path' idea for Portland bridge](#): “For Portland bicycle commuters hoping that TriMet would build a “sonic bike path” connecting to the nation’s largest car-free bridge, Thursday was the day the music died.”
OregonLive.com, October 6

[Portland bridges likely to fail in major earthquake](#): “Scientists say that the Pacific Northwest is due to experience a significant earthquake within the next few decades. Such an event could devastate Portland, particularly if its bridges were to fail. ... ‘A majority of the bridges ... were built prior to scientists’ current understanding of the regional seismic threat and prior to the engineers’ current understanding of effective seismic design,’ said Peter Dusicka, a Portland State University civil and environmental engineering professor.”
DJCoregon.com, Sept. 21

[Sellwood’s new sewers nearly ready for winter’s rain](#): “For the first time since Portland emerged from primordial forestland, it looks like combined rainwater and sewage won’t be flowing into the Willamette River from Sellwood outfalls — or any other outfalls in the city — starting this winter.” *The Bee, October 4*

[Willamette Greenway Trail north of Steel Bridge re-opens](#): “A portion of the Willamette River Greenway Trail that closed back in July 2010 has now been re-opened.”
BikePortland.org, October 4th

[Marine Board Recognizes Multnomah County Marine Deputies for Life Saving Efforts](#): “ ‘Thanks to the rapid response of Deputy Lort and Deputy Tyrus, this victim survived the near-fatal fall from the I-5 Bridge,’ said Marty Law, Boating Safety Manager for the Marine Board. ‘Had they not been there, this man would not have survived.’ “ *Oregon State Marine Board media release, October 5*

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

[Lake Oswego’s Foothills district: Big investment, bigger return](#): “Redeveloping the largely industrial Foothills area could generate millions of dollars ...[T]he project...aims to revitalize the 107-acre area between State Street and the Willamette River ... To compensate for ... fill ... consultants recommend completing a restoration project along Tryon Creek. Another suggestion is to create a fee program allowing applicants to pay into a mitigation bank to fund floodplain restoration work. ... Energy could be produced by taking heated water ... from Portland’s Tryon Creek wastewater plant and [using] it ... to help with building heating and cooling needs while reducing the amount of warm water sent from the plant into the Willamette River. ... But the plan hinges on the creation of a streetcar line along the Willamette River from Portland.” *The Lake Oswego Review, Oct. 6*

[Metro agrees to make offer on mill using open space money](#): “Metro councilors made a leap into the unknown Tuesday and agreed to make an offer on former Blue Heron paper mill in Oregon City. ... Metro and other public agencies see Blue Heron as a unique opportunity to open riverfront -- and access to Willamette Falls to the public. The property has been in industrial use since 1829, three decades before Oregon became a state.”
OregonLive.com, October 04

[Concordia University eyes Oregon City waterfront](#): “After long delays for a proposed \$185 million waterfront development in Oregon City, a new potential suitor has emerged for the 92-acre Clackamette Cove site.” *DJCoregon.com, September 29*

[205 years after Lewis and Clark expedition stole canoe from Chinook, descendants make amends](#): A wrong, 205 years old, was righted Saturday along the banks of the Columbia River. Under swaying alder trees and in the smoke of cooking salmon, a private ceremony of forgiveness was held between a nation and a family. *Tacoma News Tribune, Sept. 25*

[Tribe receives oldest Kalapuya river canoe](#): “The oldest Kalapuya Indian river canoe in the Willamette Valley is now back in the hands of its people. The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill (WHC) recently donated the canoe and its accompanying exhibit case to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.” *StatesmanJournal.com, Oct. 1*

[Aircraft carrier could become museum in Fairview](#): “[A non-profit] group is working to bring

the USS Ranger – a former naval ship that, at 1,046 feet, is longer than three football fields – to a mooring spot in Fairview. The USS Ranger Foundation is seeking... to not only convert the Ranger into the world's largest floating museum, but also into community space, educational space and even an emergency preparedness center. ... the group is now focused on raising money and securing the regulatory permits required for the project." *DJCoregon.com, September 26*

[West Linn electrical malfunction causes 300,000 gallons of raw sewage to spill into Willamette River:](#) "Approximately 300,000 gallons of sewage spilled into the Willamette River on Sunday after an electrical problem caused a pump station in West Linn to fail. The pump station is ... located in the historic Willamette neighborhood near the aeration lagoon of the now-bankrupt Blue Heron Paper Co." *OregonLive.com, October 3*

[Albany aims to prevent winter overflow:](#) "A contractor for the city of Albany has been spending the last few weeks cleaning out a main sewer interceptor, partly to prevent overflows to the Willamette River during the coming winter." *Democrat-Herald, October 3*

[Rubbish On The River:](#) "A floating island of discarded branches, logs, square plywood boards and plant trimmings in the shallows of the Willamette River caught the attention of two avid fishermen ... they saw a man dump some yard debris into the waterway from a privately owned riverbank south of downtown Springfield ... Depositing "trash, rubbish, debris or litter on land within 100 yards of any of the waters of the state" is illegal under state law. ...". *The Register-Guard, October 4*

['Davy Crockett' barge owner indicted for Columbia River oil spill:](#) "The owner of the "Davy Crockett" barge, which broke apart during a salvage operation and leaked oil into the Columbia River, has been indicted on charges that he violated environmental laws, the U.S. Attorney's Office reported... The charges follow a seven-month clean-up effort that cost nearly \$20 million." *SeattlePI.COM, September 29*

[Coast Guard continues Operation Make Way:](#) The Coast Guard continues to actively enforce boating safety laws as part of Operation Make Way on the Columbia River this fall fishing season. Operation Make Way is a joint recreational boater education and enforcement campaign designed to help boaters understand the need to give way and stay clear of commercial deep draft vessels on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. *The Daily Astorian, September 24*

[U.S., Canada ponder new terms for shared Columbia River:](#) "Canada lays claim to around \$300 million worth of hydropower annually under the terms of a 50-year-old treaty. In return, the Canadians manage the upper Columbia River to prevent downstream flooding and to optimize power production. The Columbia River Treaty can be renegotiated soon and there are voices on both sides of the border clamoring for a better deal." *KPLU.org, September 28*

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