



City of Portland, Oregon
RIVERS OFFICE
Office of Healthy Working Rivers



River News Digest: October 21, 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!...

NATURE IN OUR CITY (PARKS!)

ART SHOW AND BENEFIT

The Portland Parks & Recreation City Nature division's Willamette River stewardship program works to connect communities with natural area parks in Portland.

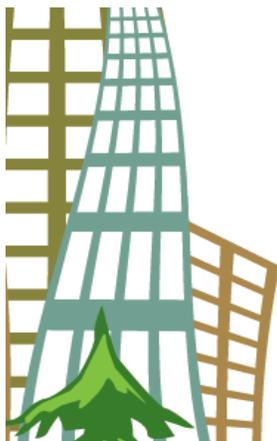
Proceeds from art sales will fund hands-on restoration and outdoor education field trips for local youth.

HELP US GET KIDS OUTSIDE!

Opening night:
Thursday, November 3rd
5:30pm-9pm

Portland City Hall (1221 SW 4th Avenue)

Live music, refreshments, and great art from local artists.
Show is **FREE** and will run until November 30th



National Prescription Drug Take Back Day--October 29: 10 am - 2 pm—a chance to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. 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*

1. News In Our River Neighborhood...

The Great Willamette River (& Beach) Clean-Up



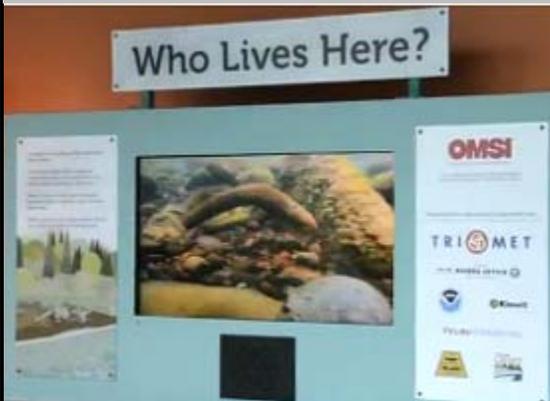
As part of [Willamette Riverkeeper's](#) Great Willamette Cleanup, on October 8th a small group joined forces at the "bowl" at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, and also directly across the river, to move rip-rap and pick-up trash to reveal more of an accessible beach. The City's Rivers Office and Portland Parks helped organize this clean-the-beach effort. Check out [WRK's facebook page](#) to see more—and note news items below describing other Clean Up efforts.

West Hayden Island

[Now On-line: Virtual Open House for West Hayden Island Concept Plan Alternatives.](#) "The [West Hayden Island Concept Plan Open House](#) is now online. You can view the staff presentation to City Council and the Port, see the Power Point, review the concept plan alternatives and give your feedback on the draft concept plan elements all from one page. Comments are due by Nov. 7." *City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, October 13*

[City Council and Port Commission consider West Hayden Island Concept Plan alternatives](#)—watch video presentation, take a survey. *City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, October 18*

[NEW! River & Bridge Exhibits at OMSI](#)



Check out [this YouTube video](#) from TriMet that showcases new interactive exhibits at OMSI.

BridgeView, Episode 4: Interactive Bridge Exhibits at OMSI, October 17

[Light-rail bridge construction in Portland Photo Essay.](#) *OregonLive.com, October 17*

[City digs for money to keep streetcar on track—Crossing TriMet's new bridge carries a \\$10 million connection.](#) "City transportation officials are scrambling to find \$10.5 million to complete the Portland Streetcar connections to the transit bridge TriMet is building across the Willamette River." *The Portland Tribune, October 13*

[Waud Bluff Trail starts to take shape in North Portland.](#) "Portland Parks and Recreation

has begun work on the Waud Bluff Trail in North Portland. The project will provide a link between the North Portland Greenway Trail and Willamette Boulevard and access to Swan Island from North Portland. The Waud Bluff Trail is scheduled to be finished in late summer or early fall of next year.” *OregonLive.com, October 14*



[City begins public process to design North Portland Greenway corridor.](#) “The City of Portland is ready to start the public process on the North Portland Willamette Greenway Trail, a shared-use path that will someday extend the Eastbank Esplanade 10 miles — all the way to the St. Johns Bridge.” *BikePortland.org, October 18*

[DEQ to approve Port of Portland request.](#) “The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality is set to approve the Port of Portland’s request to place 20,000 to 40,000 cubic yards of dredged material from the Columbia River onto west Hayden Island. ...The port is dredging the river near Terminal T-6 to maintain safe navigation of the Columbia River. ... DEQ...will hold an informational meeting [on] Monday, Oct. 24, at ... Jantzen Beach Center.” *DredgingToday.com, October 13*

[Columbia swimmers raise \\$76,000 for Providence Child Center.](#) “On Aug. 27, Karen Gaffney and 18 fellow swimmers took 90 minutes to cover six miles in the Columbia River, from the I-205 bridge to the I-5 bridge, raising \$76,000 for the aquatic therapy program at [Providence Center for Medically Fragile Children.](#)” *OregonLive.com, Oct. 7*

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

Great Willamette River Clean-Up—Eugene

[Crews Clean Up Willamette River:](#) The Willamette River is now protected from several tons of garbage thanks to a group of volunteers cleaning it Sunday. The Great Willamette River Clean Up 2011 stretched from Springfield to Portland. *KEZI.com, October 9*

[Riverside renewal: Eugene area volunteers clean up the Willamette at a growing annual event.](#) “REI Eugene has led a river cleanup effort in Eugene and Springfield for the past five years, organizing volunteers to pick up trash along the Willamette... Willamette Riverkeeper launched the Great Willamette Clean Up last year as a paddling event to clean up sections of the river in Portland. This year the two events merged, said REI’s Michelle Emmons, and may expand next year to include nearly 200 miles of river from the Middle Fork Willamette southeast of Eugene all the way to the Portland metropolis.” *The Register-Guard, October 10*

[Ducks And Bucks: Annual race down the river raises \\$322,850 for charity.](#) “... 64,570 yellow rubber duckies [bobbed] along the Willamette River from the Autzen Footbridge to the DeFazio Bike Bridge in the Great Rotary Duck Race, a fundraiser staged each year... Now in its 24th year, the all-volunteer event — and the largest raffle in Oregon — raised \$322,850 this year. The proceeds, which come from \$5 raffle tickets, will be split among five local agencies that help strengthen families and prevent child abuse.” *The Register-Guard, October 9*

[Downtown Corvallis linked to Willamette River by Riverfront Commemorative Park.](#) “Small towns like Bend, Hood River and Ashland get all the attention in Oregon, but Corvallis is worth getting to know. A good place to start is the downtown [Riverfront Commemorative Park](#), with its statues and fountain. The park connects the Willamette River with downtown...” *OregonLive.com, October 13*



[Transplanted Bull Trout Spawning In Clackamas River Tributary, First Time In Over 50 Years.](#) “Scientists last week observed bull trout spawning in the Clackamas River basin for the first time in more than 50 years. ... This is the first time bull trout have been seen spawning in the basin since the population was extirpated from the Clackamas River in the early 1960s. Listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, bull trout were reintroduced into the Clackamas on June 30, 2011, in hopes of re-establishing a naturally reproducing, self-sustaining population.” *Columbia River Bulletin, October 14*

[WES bids on Blue Heron property in West Linn--Residents could benefit with lower water bills and waterfront property.](#) “In a rare opportunity to gain valuable waterfront access, Water Environment Services (WES) is making a bid for 39 acres of property in West Linn owned by the former Blue Heron Paper Company. If WES secures the property, the city of West Linn may develop and restore the property as parkland. ... The districts would use just a small portion, about five acres, of the property to pump and discharge cleaned water from the Tri-City Plant in Oregon City. ... The remaining acreage would be left up to West Linn to use. ... Compared to other options of cooling the water, such as refrigeration or pumping the water miles upriver, using the Blue Heron property would save the water districts and its customers money.” *West Linn Tidings, October 20*

[USFWS Releases Lamprey Assessment, Template For Restoring 'Priority Species' In Columbia Basin.](#) “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this week released its “Pacific Lamprey Assessment and Template for Conservation Measures,” the first phase of a broader initiative to conserve and restore the species throughout its range. One of the oldest fish on Earth, the species is found across much of the Pacific Northwest and California.” *Columbia River Bulletin, October 14*

[Hundreds of ferries once served Oregonians; now there are just three.](#) “At one time or another throughout Oregon's early days, more than 500 of the craft plied its rivers and other bodies of water. Now there are just three. Steamboats? Good guess. But the answer is ferries. ... Reminders of those pioneer travel essentials linger in Southwest Portland in the form of Boones Ferry and Taylors Ferry roads.” *OregonLive.com, Oct. 15*

[EPA signs off on new Oregon water quality rules -- strictest in the nation.](#) “The Environmental Protection Agency has approved Oregon's new standards for toxic water pollution, the strictest in the United States. The new standards, [approved Monday by the EPA's Seattle office](#), are designed to protect tribal members and others who eat large amounts of contaminated fish. ... The change dramatically tightens Oregon's human health criteria for a host of pollutants, including mercury, flame retardants, PCBs, dioxins, plasticizers and pesticides.” *OregonLive.com, October 18*

[Report: ESA-Protected Steller Sea Lions Show Increased Presence, Salmon Take In Lower Columbia.](#) “The good news for salmon advocates was that California sea lions' consumption of fish below the Columbia River's Bonneville Dam was down in the spring of 2011 after steady increases each year since 2004. But the bad news may be that Steller sea lions were snapping up more spring chinook salmon and steelhead than ever before...” *Columbia River Bulletin, October 14*

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