

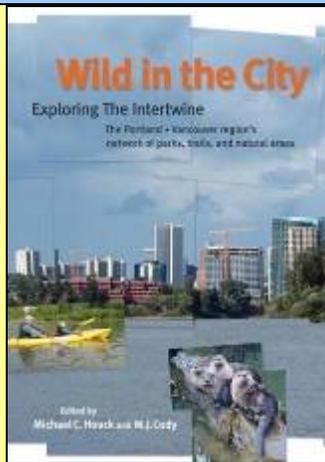


Photo: Heidi Berg

## ***River News Digest: November 4, 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!...**



**River in Focus Brownbag**  
**Tuesday, November 15**  
**Noon to 1 pm, Portland Building Auditorium**  
**Wild in the City—Exploring the Intertwine**

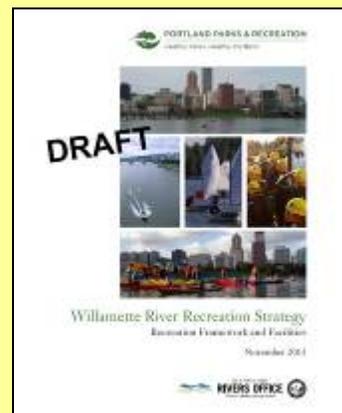
**Mike Houck**, Executive Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute, and **Bob Sallinger**, Conservation Director for Portland Audubon, will unveil the newest edition of [Wild in the City](#)—the indispensable guide to our region's natural areas and natural history—featuring over 90 site guides, natural history essays and nature rambles by foot, bike and boat.

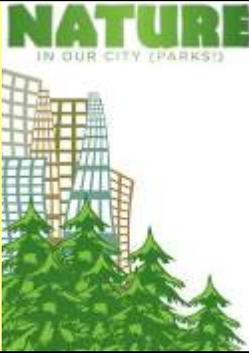
The City of Portland's draft Willamette River Recreation Strategy is now available for comment! ([click here](#)) ...

...And hold the date for:

*Willamette River Recreation Strategy Workshop*  
*Thursday, November 17*  
*5:30 pm to 7:30 pm*  
*Mercy Corps Action Center—Aceh Room*  
*28 SW First Ave ([click here for map](#))*  
*Light refreshments will be served.*

This new document establishes a vision for river recreation, offers recreation policy guidance, and identifies actions for how the public realm should meet growing river recreation needs over the next 15 years





### [Art Show and Benefit!](#)

Through November 30<sup>th</sup>: The Portland Parks & Recreation City Nature division's Willamette River stewardship program connects communities with natural area parks in Portland. Proceeds from art sales will fund hands-on restoration and outdoor education field trips for local youth.

[Willamette Riverkeeper Portland Bridge Paddle](#): Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 2 pm. “Beginning at the Portland Boathouse, we will paddle 7 miles downstream, passing under eight bridges (including the Hawthorne, Morrison, Burnside, Steel, Broadway, Fremont, Union Pacific Railroad, and St. Johns Bridges) and end our trip at Cathedral Park in St Johns. Participants should be comfortable paddling for over three hours, possibly in wind and some current. To register contact [kate@willametteriverkeeper.org](mailto:kate@willametteriverkeeper.org) or call 503-223-6418”.

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

[Canoe landing and procession kick off Native American convention as participants embrace rain](#). “More than 250 Native Americans from around the Pacific Northwest gathered at the waterfront in downtown Portland for the ceremonial landing of four canoes carrying members of the Grande Ronde, Warm Springs and Cowlitz tribes as a kick-off for the 68<sup>th</sup> annual Northwest Congress of American Indians ... The canoeists launched into the Willamette River ... and landed on a small beach near the Hawthorne Bridge as spectators climbed down the rocky hill to greet them. ... Portland city Commissioner Amanda Fritz told those gathered after the procession that the city is committed to its relationship with the native community and to working with its members to protect the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.” *OregonLive.com, October 30*

[Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine Now Available](#). “Audubon is happy to announce that Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine is now available at the Audubon Society Bookstore and will soon be available everywhere. This guide to the natural areas and natural history of the Portland-Vancouver Metro Region is a complete rewrite of the original Wild in the City published over a decade ago. Over 100 authors and artists contributed to the effort.” *Audubon Society of Portland*

[Portland Airport Begins Testing on Expanded Deicing System](#). “Following two years of construction, Portland International Airport has begun testing on its newly expanded deicing stormwater collection system. The expanded system increases the existing storage capacity for concentrated and dilute runoff, and allows treatment of a portion of the runoff prior to discharge to the Columbia River or the sanitary sewer system in compliance with permit requirements” *Aviation News Today, October 27*

[Oil spill, fish kill at Port of Portland terminal under investigation](#). “The Coast Guard and state regulators are investigating an oil spill at a Port of Portland soda ash export terminal last week and the subsequent death of some 300 fish. The Port says the fish killed in slip 3 of the Port's [Terminal 4](#) were bass and panfish -- not salmon and steelhead on the endangered species list. ... Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife says it's the biggest fish kill in the lower Willamette River basin since 2002.” *OregonLive.com, October 25*

[Federal judge fines ship owners \\$750,000 after probe of oil spill at Port of Portland](#). “A federal judge today convicted the owners and operators of the Cyprus flagship Arion SB of felony environmental crimes that came to light about two weeks after a mysterious oil spill in the Port of Portland. U.S. District Judge Michael H. Simon hit A.E. Nomikos Shipping Inv. Ltd., of Greece, and Lounia Shipping Co. Ltd., of Cyprus, with a joint penalty of \$750,000 for failing to maintain proper records of oil residue disposals and

doctoring records of its onboard waste-oil incinerator. Half the money will go to the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment." *OregonLive.com, November 3*

[County signs off on Sellwood Bridge "60% Design Elements"](#) "Progress was made in October on the project to rebuild the Sellwood Bridge — in two areas: Approval of the current design elements, and testing before sinking the "shoofly" detour bridge support pilings." *The Bee, November 2* [below: conceptual image from Mult. Co.]



[Century-old building under Sellwood Bridge vanishes--Delicately Dismantled](#). "... the century-old Mela Building at 380 S.E. Spokane Street is now gone. This structure, the unique building that had an east-side Sellwood Bridge pier running down through it, was purchased by Multnomah County to demolish, to make way for rebuilding the bridge." *The Bee, November 2*

[Bicycling the Interstate Bridge in North Portland: ODOT says new signs will help with 'Interstate pretzel'](#). "The labyrinthine route of paths, ramps, streets, levees and tunnels leading bicyclists on and off the Interstate Bridge ... has been called the 'Interstate pretzel.' Last week, the Oregon Department of Transportation said it planned to remove unapproved home-made signs, maps and stenciled markings ... But on Monday, [ODOT] said it plans to replace the clandestine signage with 31 "way-finding signs" ... An estimated 370 bicyclists ... use the Interstate Bridge's narrow bike path daily. The Columbia River Crossing's environmental impact statement estimates up to 6,000 cyclists a day might cross the river by 2030 if a new span is built." *OregonLive.com, October 31*

[Portland opens new cycle track along Southwest Moody Avenue near South Waterfront District](#). "Thursday was the official opening day of the \$66 million "Moody Multimodal Project." Crews raised Moody Avenue along the Willamette River near the Aerial Tram by 14 feet. Between River Parkway and Gibbs Street, the project included three new traffic lanes, dual streetcar tracks and the 16-foot-wide separated path for bike and foot traffic. ... Moody is the main access point for the waterfront's so-called "Innovation Quadrant," a 120-acre area targeted for mixed-use redevelopment." *OregonLive.com, November 3*

[Woodstock resident helps install a "healing garden" near Ross Island Bridge](#). "On Earth Day of this year, Woodstock resident Dr. Glen Nagel saw his dream fulfilled, when an 11,000-square-foot "healing garden" was planted ... at the west end of the Ross Island Bridge. ... Called the "Min Zidell Healing Garden", the ugly parking lot has been transformed into a botanical, teaching, meditation and healing garden. ... The garden was funded with \$150,000 from the Zidell family and is named after the 87-year-old family matriarch Min Zidell, a philanthropist and longtime patient of naturopathic medicine." *The Bee, November 2*

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



[Albany's Talking Water Gardens garners awards.](#)

"Talking Water Gardens, the artificial wetlands near the Albany sewage treatment plant, continues to reap awards. The \$13 million project is a joint venture by Albany, Millersburg and ATI Wah Chang. The array of waterfalls and plant-filled ponds was constructed to filter already-treated wastewater from the cities and Wah Chang before it is discharged into the Willamette River." *democratherald.com, October 28*

[Tree Tipping on the McKenzie River—Crews bring down forest giants to create a better place for fish to spawn.](#)

"To a chorus of snapping and popping, steel cables and a truck-mounted winch bring a 200-foot-tall grand fir crashing down, momentarily shattering the silence of the untamed riverbank. ... These big trees are not destined to be ... turned into lumber. They're going to stay put and help the fish. ... [They] will slow the water's flow, allowing the pools to grow and gravel to accumulate in places along the riverbed. Next summer, the gravel-filled riverbed created in this 3-mile river side channel will constitute perfect spawning grounds for Chinook salmon, while the deep pools will be an ideal rearing habitat for both the salmon and bull trout, fisheries experts say." *registerguard.com, October 29*

[ODFW Recommends \\$2.5 Million In BPA Funding For Seven Willamette Basin Wildlife Projects.](#) "The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has recommended seven projects to the Bonneville Power Administration for funding in 2012 under terms of the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement regarding wildlife habitat protection and enhancement." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, November 4*

[Ugly little riverboat drew laughs — at first.](#) "In the summer of 1874, the executives of Oregon's two big steamboat companies were watching Uriah B. Scott's progress on [the Ohio,] the riverboat he was building — watching and laughing. ... The secret of the Ohio's success was that wide, flat, ugly hull. It could float on nine inches of water when it was empty, and with 100 tons of wheat on board, 18. There are stories of boys out wading in the river having to be shooed out of the way so the ugly little steamboat could get through. ..." *Yamhill Valley News Register, November 2*

[What bald eagles are telling us about the Columbia.](#) "...bald eagle eggs are still revealing new information to scientists today — particularly about the Columbia River. ... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service researchers collected new eagle egg samples from various places in the river basin last year. ... the eggs offered at least four key insights about toxins in the Columbia River..." *OPB.org, October 27*

[Lower Columbia sturgeon continue to decline.](#) "The sturgeon population in the lower Columbia River continues to dwindle and state officials have started talks on how to tweak back sport-fishing seasons for 2012." *The Columbian, November 2*

[NOAA protects threatened West Coast smelt in rivers, but not the ocean.](#) "When the Obama Administration set aside "critical habitat" for smelt last week it included the Columbia River and many of its tributaries near Portland. It didn't include smelt-heavy sections of the ocean, where the small but significant "forage fish" spend 95 percent of their lives. ... Pacific smelt, or eulachon, once swarmed from the ocean up the Columbia, Cowlitz, Lewis and Sandy rivers in massive spring migrations. But their numbers are at or near historical lows." *OregonLive.com, October 24 (image:NOAA)*



[NOAA Fisheries Designates Critical Habitat For ESA-Listed Pacific Smelt; Most Within Lower Columbia.](#) *Columbia Basin Bulletin, October 21*

[States, Tribes Sea Lion Report Urges Removal Efforts; Says Non-Lethal Deterrents](#)

[Ineffective.](#) "Predation on salmon was reduced through the removal of 40 California sea lions from the lower Columbia River during 2008-2010, but a renewed and strengthened effort is needed to protect fish stocks that are listed under the Endangered Species Act, according to [an Oct. 4 report](#) produced by the states of Oregon and Washington and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, October 21*

[Rise Of The Humpies: Ocean Conditions Now Good For Pinks While Chinook, Coho Abundance Declines?](#) "...the overall abundance of pink salmon may be contributing to the newfound wealth in the Columbia River. 'Maybe we're starting to see some strays that are poking into the Columbia, starting to colonize,' according to Lisa Seeb, a research professor in the University of Washington ... The record annual pink count at Bonneville had been established at 637 in 2003. ... But that record was surpassed this year with a total count through Wednesday of 3,827 adult pink salmon." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, October 21*

[Pikeminnow Anglers Earn Big Dollars and Save Salmon.](#) "Anglers participating in a special reward program this year caught more than 155,000 northern pikeminnow, saving an estimated 4 million young salmon and steelhead from getting eaten by the hungry predators. The ... Program pays cash for catching and removing the voracious fish from the Columbia and Snake rivers ... The top angler in 2011 earned \$66,478 during the six-month season. ... Anglers also caught 156 pikeminnow that were specially tagged and worth up to \$500 each." *Salem-News.com, October 26*

[Judge Upholds Restrictions, Buffer Zones For Pesticides Used Near West Coast Salmon Habitat.](#) "A Maryland-based U.S. District Court judge on Monday upheld a 2008 NOAA Fisheries Service "biological opinion" that says the federal registration of the three pesticides without recently imposed restrictions would jeopardize 27 West Coast salmon and steelhead species that are protected under the Endangered Species Act." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, November 4*

[Winter Forecast Conference: Below Normal Temperatures, Above Average Precipitation?](#) "Each used a different combination of tools, climate indices and calculations, but all five meteorologists offering forecasts during a conference Oct. 29 in Portland agreed that "La Nina" could well influence what sort of upcoming winter the Northwest and other parts of the globe will experience." *Columbia Basin Bulletin, November 4*

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