

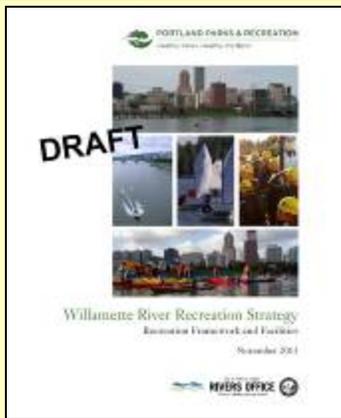


Heidi Berg photo

## ***River News Digest: November 18, 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!...**



### **Willamette River Recreation Strategy**

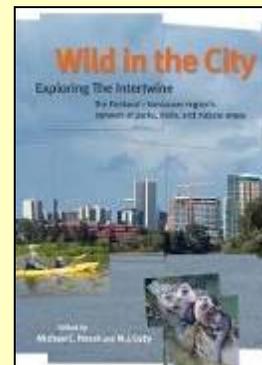
The City of Portland's draft Willamette River Recreation Strategy is now available for comment!

[Click here](#) to take a look—and let us know what you think by taking a [quick on-line survey!](#)

The Strategy establishes a new vision for river recreation and identifies actions to meet growing river recreation needs, including repairing and expanding boating facilities. (Comments welcome through **December 9<sup>th</sup>**).

### **New Nature Guide Now Available / Wild Arts Festival**

[Wild in the City—Exploring the Intertwine](#) is 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. Meet the editors and authors at Audubon's [Wild Arts Festival](#), November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. [Click here](#) to see a video of the "WIC" presentation given at the most recent River In Focus talk by Mike Houck, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon.



[Willamette Riverkeeper Portland Bridge Paddle](#): **Saturday, December 10th**, 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...

[At Rose City Rowing Club, coach Nick Haley teaches rowers about life on and off the water.](#)



“Haley ... has made many good things happen both on and off the water for nearly 1,000 young lives in Portland through his rowing program. ... Middle- and high-school boys and girls of every physical ability and size may join [Rose City Rowing Club]. Haley has never turned anyone away. One hundred and sixty rowers from the Portland area participate currently, the most the club has ever had. Scholarships are available for the needy. But otherwise, each pays a fee from \$270 to \$420, depending on the season, plus costs for traveling to and competing in regattas.” [Watch Oregonian video here](#). *OregonLive.com, November 12*

[Portland has ripe opportunity for ferry transit on Willamette—Boats more efficient than trucks, trains.](#) “...while spending the region’s entire allotment of federal transportation dollars solely on these modes... – we continue to ignore the rivers at our urban and regional cores. We ignore the opportunity for an extraordinarily low-carbon, low capital cost and economically beneficial public transportation option. ... Given at least 10,000 years of river transport in the Northwest – certainly the first transit of our area – and the extremely low cost and impact of a river ferry system, along with great livability gains, we deserve a web of transportation that includes river ferries.” *Pamplin Media Group, November 10*



[Ahoy! Reality TV gets some local Spirit—Focus on ships’ crews tries to avoid all the spray tans, yelling.](#) “A new reality show being filmed in Portland is trading fake tans, short skirts and drunken shouting matches for some good old-fashioned family values. “Ships Ahoy!,” a fly-on-the-wall series that has been in production since August and will continue through December, documents the lives of the crew and passengers aboard the ships of the Portland Spirit – a river cruise company that has operated in the city for more than a decade.” *Portland Tribune, Nov. 10*

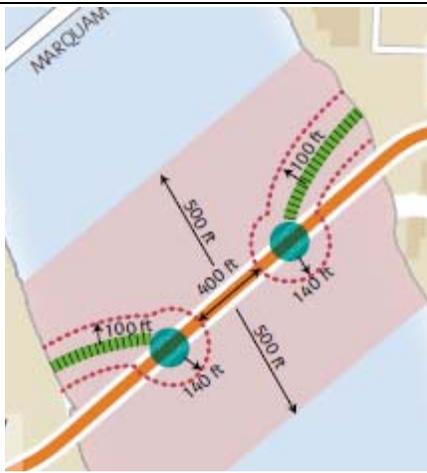
[River City’s pipe dream—Big Pipe keeps sewage out of Willamette, but will it be enough?](#) “...after 20 years, \$1.4 billion and a fivefold increase in residential sewer bills, the Big Pipe project is history. Days before a state-imposed Dec. 1 deadline, the city of Portland will wrap up its Combined Sewer Overflow project. It’s the biggest public works project ever done by the city – and the most ambitious environmental cleanup.” *Portland Tribune, November 10*

[Less sewage spilling into Willamette River thanks to new system.](#) “Rain used to spell trouble for the Willamette River, but not anymore. Even a small amount of rain would overload Portland’s sewer system, sending billions of gallons of storm water and sewage spilling into the river every year. ‘Before the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project, we saw sewage going into the river every time it rained. It was a normal occurrence,’ said Paul Gribbon, the project’s chief engineer. During Wednesday’s storm, the city tested the new system, and Gribbon said there was no overflow.” *KOINLocal6.com, November 16*



[Portland’s ‘Bridge Lady’ writing interactive book for kids.](#) “After 20 years of leading tours of Portland’s bridges, Sharon Wood Wortman, author of *The Portland Bridge Book*, is working on a children’s book about the local bridges, *The Big & Awesome Bridges of Portland & Vancouver—A Book for Young Readers*. Wortman plans to donate 5,000 free copies of the full-color, hardcover book to third grade classrooms in Portland Public Schools and fourth grade classrooms in the Vancouver, Wash., School District.” *DJCOregon.com, October 31*

[In-water work window closing for light-rail bridge.](#) “Since July 1, crews have worked to set the stage for construction of the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Bridge. Now the curtain will rise, so to speak, for the main attraction. Monday marks the end of the window that allows crews to work in the Willamette River. The deadline also marks the beginning of the project’s next phase, when the bridge itself will begin to take shape.” *DJCOregon.com, October 27*



**TriMet reminds river users of bridge construction safety zone.** As the days get shorter, the [Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project](#) wants to make sure all river users are safe near the new bridge construction zone between the Ross Island and Marquam Bridges. Project managers ask: paddlers to travel in the center of the navigation channel--increased truck and equipment traffic on the work trestles make it unsafe to pass underneath. Managers ask motorized boaters to adhere to the SLOW/NO WAKE zone 500 feet upstream and downstream from the bridge construction. Construction activities are increasing in this area and wakes can create a dangerous situation for nearby workers. [Click here](#) for a safety zone map, or call 503-962-2150 with questions or concerns. *Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project*

[Steel Bridge protest shines light on infrastructure crisis.](#) “Demonstrators plan to line the Steel Bridge ... to raise awareness about its “structurally deficient” status .... Meanwhile, a group from the Oregon chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers is preparing to put a plaque on the 99-year-old bridge to recognize it as an ‘important piece of infrastructure.’ Both actions aim to increase awareness of what activists perceive as a problem in Oregon and the nation as a whole: Bridges, roads and highway are in danger of falling into disrepair” *DJCOregon.com, November 16*

[Morrison Bridge work problems.](#) “The job was stopped for eight weeks in the middle of the summer construction season, with county and environmental regulators accusing Conway of spilling debris contaminated with lead paint into the river. With delays mounting, the county threatened to terminate the contract -- a first in the last 14 years of local bridge work. For motorists, the project has blocked a substantial chunk of the bridge’s westbound traffic, snarling the morning commute around a bridge that carries 50,000 vehicles a day.” *OregonLive.com, November 5*

[Steepness, stairs will limit bike access on new Waud Bluff Trail.](#) “Next Tuesday, officials from the City of Portland Parks and Recreation bureau will join community leaders at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Waud Bluff Trail; a short, paved path that will connect North Portland and Swan Island near the University of Portland. After six years of waiting, Swan

Island businesses, trail advocates, and thousands of residents eager for safer and more direct access to the Willamette River have rejoiced at seeing this project move forward. Unfortunately, for people riding bikes..., the trail will present several challenges." *BikePortland.org, Nov. 7*

[Recap from first open house for Sullivan's Gulch corridor project.](#) "On Tuesday night at the Hollywood Senior Center, the City of Portland hosted the first official public open house for the Sullivan's Gulch corridor project. ["Portland Parks & Recreation and the Portland Bureau of Transportation ... are teaming up to develop a concept plan for Sullivan's Gulch Trail, an approximate 5-mile trail connection along I-84 from the Eastbank Esplanade at the Willamette River to I-205 at Rocky Butte and the Gateway District." [City of Portland Sullivan's Gulch Trail website](#)]... Huge aerial maps were spread on tables and attendees were placing little dots where they'd enter and exit the pathway once it's built. The manager of PBOT's Planning Division, project managers from Portland Parks & Recreation ... , consultants hired to help plan the project, and members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee were on hand to answer questions." *BikePortland.org, November 4*

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



[Guest editorial: Marine traffic at Willamette Locks is crucial.](#) "The continuing operation of the canal and locks by the COE is central to these companies and others who support and service the many communities along the river, both above and below the falls. Unfortunately, the COE budget for 2011-2012 does not include operations money for the facility, which is now officially in "caretaker status" and is just being opened one day a month for routine maintenance checks." *Oregon City News, November 9*

[Trickle-down effect.](#) "Today, under the direction of the Marys River Watershed Council, a 10-year, \$755,000 restoration effort is well under way on a 6-mile stretch of Shotpouch Creek dotted with small farms and private timber tracts. It's one of 15 major stream recovery projects being carried out under the banner of the Willamette Model Watershed Program, a long-term undertaking led by the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that is pouring money into key river systems throughout the upper Willamette River Basin. Designed to work in tandem with other restoration efforts along the Willamette mainstem, the program aims to improve water quality, lower stream temperatures and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife in these important tributary networks." *gazzettetimes.com, November 12*

[Editorial: Restoring rivers, one neighbor at a time.](#) "Now, this is how you restore rivers: You do it one stream at a time, one riparian stretch at a time, one neighbor reaching out to another neighbor to protect a precious waterway. ... Bennett Hall's story in Sunday's Gazette-Times about the [Willamette Model Watershed Program](#) was a shot of good news, as cool and bracing as the waters in which trout like to spawn." *gazzettetimes.com, November 15*

[Voyage of the Koo Koo Sint & Paddle Song.](#) "On June, 3, 2011, ten 25-foot voyageur canoes left Invermere, British Columbia on a six week, eleven hundred mile trip to Astoria, Oregon via the Kootenai, Clark Fork, Pend Oreille, and Columbia Rivers. [and] arrived in Astoria, Oregon on July 15, 2011, 200 years to the day after David Thompson's arrival in 1811." *The American Surveyor, November 12*

[Wilsonville and Sherwood to celebrate Willamette River water partnership.](#) "Wilsonville and Sherwood officials will host a celebration Wednesday in honor of a partnership that will bring millions of gallons of water to Sherwood residents. ... Residents will have the opportunity to learn about the project that will deliver 2.5 million gallons of water a day to Sherwood." *OregonLive.com, November 15*

[Carousel, museum being built by volunteers on riverfront in Albany.](#) "...Albany City Council [has] allocated \$110,000 in urban renewal money to support a project that calls for creation of a carousel, museum, arcade and food building." *DJCOregon.com, November 7*

[Estimate: 3,000 sturgeon eaten at Bonneville.](#) "Sea lion predation on sturgeon in the Columbia

River at Bonneville Dam increased for the sixth straight year in 2011 with more than 3,000 estimated killed." *The Columbian*, November 17

[River Managers Mull Operations To Expand Spawning Area For Listed Chum Below Bonneville Dam](#). "Fishery managers are hoping for high chum salmon numbers and high flows (precipitation plus) this late fall and winter to enable Columbia River dam operators to create an expanded spawning area for the threatened species below Bonneville Dam." *Columbia Basin Bulletin*, November 11

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