



Photo by--[Portland Ground: Pictures of Portland Oregon.](#)

## ***River News Digest: February 24, 2012***

*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!...**

## **On the Waterfront**

education series

**River City Confidential:  
 The Willamette River's  
 Pollution Story Revealed**

**March 21, 2012  
 7:00–8:30 pm  
 Widmer Gasthaus  
 Great Room  
 947 N Russell St., Portland**

James Hillegas shares insights from his upcoming book on the original Willamette River pollution cleanup, from the 1920s to the 1970s. Co-hosted by the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group and Oregon Historical Society.

**If the Willamette River  
 could talk, what would  
 it say?**

**April 11, 2012  
 7:00–8:30 pm  
 McMenamin's Kennedy  
 School Gym  
 5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland**

Join Oregon experts as they lead you on a journey through the Willamette River, sharing stories of its ecological past and visions for its future. Introductory remarks by Congressman Blumenauer. Co-hosted by The Freshwater Trust. Moderated by Doug Stamm, Meyer Memorial Trust.

For more information: [Portland Harbor Partnership.](#)

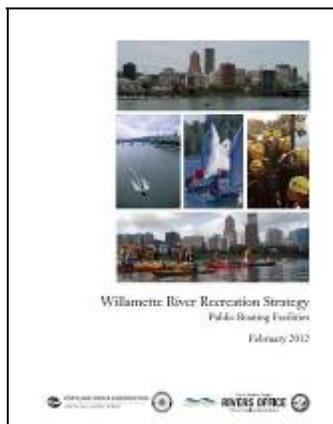
[Rain Gardens 101. May 6, 12:30 – 4:30 pm.](#) “This workshop explores the critical role rain gardens can play in urban stream restoration, all while adding beautiful landscaping to your yard.” Registration open now; classes can fill quickly. *East Multnomah SWCD*

[14th Annual Johnson Creek Watershed Council Watershed Wide Event](#). **Saturday, March 3 • 9am- Noon.** “Join over 300 others to restore natural areas in the Johnson Creek Watershed. Organizations, individuals, and businesses will gather for a day of ecological stewardship, spring stream-cleaning, and community-building at priority restoration sites. ...” Pre-registration required ([click here](#)). More info: Amy Lodholz, 503.652.7477.



**SAVE THE DATE FOR PADDLE OREGON:** 12th annual Paddle Oregon adventure—**August 13th - 17<sup>th</sup>**. Harrisburg to Newberg. Registration and details soon at <http://www.paddleoregon.org/>.

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



[Portland City Council OK's new Willamette River Recreation Strategy](#). On February 22nd, the Portland City Council accepted the [Willamette River Recreation Strategy](#) as the City's guide for river recreation and boating facility planning along the Willamette River in Portland. The Strategy articulates a new river recreation vision and prioritizes actions for the next 15 years. It identifies key facilities for improvement, targets additional areas for facility expansion, establishes a river recreation advisory group, and describes next steps for asset management, education, and enforcement. To view the presentation made to Council, [click here](#). For more information, visit the [Rivers Office website](#).

[Boater helps people reconnect with river—Willamette tour guide a vanguard for city's recreation plans](#). “Starting Memorial Day, [Seth Vore]... is launching a new business called Portland Boat Tours.” *Portland Tribune, February 23*

[City strategy wants public to be friends with Willamette River](#). “Now that the city has completed its \$1.4 billion “Big Pipe” project to prevent most of the untreated sewage discharges that have long plagued the Willamette, the city’s parks and recreation bureau and Office of Healthy Working Rivers say it’s time for Portlanders to “claim the clean river dividend.” *Portland Tribune, February*

[Construction of South Waterfront greenway to begin despite budget shortfall](#). “The \$9.5 million “central district” project includes construction of a five-block-long mix of lawn, park and plaza areas between Southwest Gibbs Street and Lane Street. Existing pathways leading out from two condo high-rises – Atwater Place and the Meriwether – will be extended to the new green space, which will have separate paths for bikes and pedestrians and a gravel beach to improve fish habitat.” *DJCoregon.com, February 14*



[Portland gets creative with stormwater project, adds bikes and art](#). “It isn’t simple – or cheap – to prevent raw sewage and stormwater from spilling into the Willamette River and Columbia Slough. ... Work on the \$1.4 billion Big Pipe ... wrapped up in December. But the

city of Portland also has committed to investing in smaller, community-driven stormwater management projects, including a recent one in Northeast Portland that also features public art and bicycle parking. City staffers hope the design will be replicated throughout the city when resources allow". *DJCOregon.com, February 16*



[City, port bank on ambitious export plan—'Green economy' head start could open new global markets.](#) "[Mayor Sam] Adams joined with a Who's Who of the Portland business community to endorse an ambitious plan to double regional exports during the next five years – jumping from \$21 billion worth of exports in 2011 to \$42 billion by 2016. 'The quality of life here is a good foundation, but it is insufficient for Portland to compete successful in the global economy,' Adams said." *Portland Tribune, February 16*

[How to Keep U.S. Exports \(and Jobs\) Growing.](#) "...several innovating metropolitan areas are stepping up to more aggressively orient their economic ecosystem for global trade. Recently, the greater Portland, Oregon, area released its "ExPort Portland" plan, which leverages the region's strengths in computer electronics and clean technology services to meet global demand. In the coming weeks, the Los Angeles, Minneapolis-Saint Paul, and the Syracuse/Central New York regions will issue and begin implementing their own plans to boost exports and trade." *Brookings Institution UpFront Blog, February 17*

[Industrial land study conducted to attract businesses to Portland area.](#) "... a new study, the [Regional Industrial Lands Inventory and Site Readiness project](#), may provide more information about the metro area's industrial lands, as well as steps needed to make them more appealing. The study is the result of a partnership between Business Oregon, the Port of Portland, Metro, NAIOP's Oregon chapter [ed. note: NAIOP is "the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, according to its [website](#)], and the Portland Business Alliance. ... The study looked at nearly 4,000 vacant industrial lots, and only 56 were developable sites with more than 25 acres... ." *DJCOregon.com, February 21*

[Right place, right time for river rescue—Man lands in river near where firefighters were maintaining rescue boat.](#) ""This is one of the fastest water rescues I have ever seen," said Portland Fire Battalion Chief Tom Williams. "Firefighters who were in the right place at the right time were able to mobilize their resources and rescue this man in minutes."" *Portland Tribune, February 22*

[Athletes for Cancer takes this year's Paddle 4 Cancer to downtown Portland—September 1st.](#) "This annual test of physical and mental endurance, challenge, and fun will benefit Athletes for Cancer's Survivorship Program. ... This year we are opening up participation to SUP, paddleboards (prone), and kayaks. ... The Willamette River offers a friendly setting for all levels of paddlers to participate. Having raised over \$300,000 for cancer programs up and down the west coast since its first year, Athletes for Cancer's SUP 4 Cancer and Kiteboarding 4 Cancer events have blended the health and passion of the action sport community with the needs of the cancer care community for an amazing benefit." *SUP Connect event announcement*



[Willamette sturgeon season draws large opening crowd.](#) " 'It's crazy,' said Sgt. Chris Allori of the Oregon State Police fish and wildlife division. 'It's more effort than I've ever seen on the river.' " *OregonLive.com, February 18*

[Grant McOmie: Sturgeon patrol in Willamette.](#) "Thousands of fishermen mobbed the Willamette River last weekend to catch a dinosaur species called "sturgeon." When it's elbow-to-elbow there are no 'secret' fishing holes on the Willamette River. ... OSP Enforcement Officer, Sgt Chris Allori, said "I've never seen it this busy with this much

traffic- for any fishery – anytime.” *KGW.com, February 22*



photo courtesy [Oregon Convention Center](#)

[Four Willamette bridges in line for historic honor—State committee may nominate the Hawthorne, Broadway, Burnside and Morrison bridges to a national history list.](#) “ ‘Many of the 10 roadway bridges that currently span the Willamette in Portland are eligible for the national register, including these four county-owned structures,’ says Robert W. Hadlow, an Oregon Department of Transportation historian. ‘Formal listing in the national register recognizes at a national level the importance of these bridges and the others.’ ” *Portland Tribune, February 9*

[Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants Acquires Landmark Portland Hotel.](#) “RiverPlace Hotel Becomes Kimpton’s Third Boutique Hotel in Portland” *SeattlePI.com, February 10*

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

[If you build it, they will swim.](#) “For the first time in over 60 years, juvenile spring Chinook salmon are swimming through newly created side channels of the Willamette River at Delta Ponds and Heron Slough” *KVAL.com, February 9*



photo from [Oregon Solutions](#)

[Conservation Easement Benefits Native Fish.](#) “Greenbelt Land Trust has purchased a conservation easement with three different property owners in Benton County to permanently protect the land within Harkens Lake. At the height of the recent flooding, property owners in the Harkens Lake area say the water levels were more than five feet high, meaning the fish in the Willamette River were able to swim into the side channel there for refuge.” *KEZI.com, February 16*



photo: [The Intertwine](#)

[Paddlers’ dream on Tualatin River--Water trail taking shape with first new launch sites.](#) “Kayakers and canoers paddling the Tualatin River through Tigard and Tualatin often are amazed to discover this scenic little gem in the midst of suburbia. ... The once-polluted Tualatin River has been gradually restored during the past half-century. For much of that time, kayakers and canoers have dreamed of creating a Tualatin River Water Trail, to provide easy access to the river all the way from Hillsboro to West Linn, where it feeds the Willamette River. Now that dream is within reach, at least the first leg of it.” *Portland Tribune, February 16*

[Cruising industry rides new wave as demand grows.](#) “Last year, American Cruise Lines refurbished and launched the 120-passenger Queen of the West, which will run seven-day trips up the Columbia and Snake rivers out of Portland, Ore., and Clarkston, Wash. Because the Queen of the West, originally built in 1996, was being refurbished part of last year, 2012 will be the boat's first full season.” *San Francisco Chronicle, January 15*

[Tour historic Fort Vancouver by lantern light.](#) “From 1825 to 1849, Fort Vancouver was the

headquarters and supply depot for traders and trappers who fanned out across a region that today takes in Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Idaho. The reconstructed fort, on the original site near the banks of the Columbia River, is worth a visit for the story it tells of the rough-and-tumble birth of European culture in the Pacific Northwest." *Seattle Times, January 14*

[Clackamas County solicits public feedback on future of Canby Ferry.](#) "The public is invited to [complete a survey](#) to help determine the fate of the Canby Ferry, which county commissioners are considering eliminating. Clackamas County subsidizes ferry service with about \$455,000 out of the road fund each year. Commissioners are reconsidering the expense in the wake of tight budgets." *OregonLive.com, February 9*

[Gravel buildup keeps Wheatland Ferry closed.](#) "The Wheatland Ferry is has been closed since Monday due to gravel build-up in the Willamette River causes by January flooding, Marion County officials said." *Yamhill Valley News-Register, February 16*

[Costly Davy Crockett Oil Spill Could Have Been Prevented.](#) "The U.S. Coast Guard and its contractors spent 10 months and \$22 million last year removing the Davy Crockett from the Columbia River. The barge had broken apart during a botched salvage job and was spilling oil and PCBs into the river. Workers prevented a major environmental disaster, but an EarthFix investigation has found that state and federal officials could have prevented the oil spill and the need for a multi-million-dollar cleanup had they enforced their orders to the vessel's previous owners." *OPB.org, February 21*

[Northern pike flourish in Columbia River tributary; Washington cracks down.](#) "The hammer is about to come down on northern pike that have invaded the Pend Oreille River, a tributary of the Columbia River. Non-native pike will never be eradicated from the river's Box Canyon Reservoir, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife officials say. But plans are being unveiled to dramatically reduce their numbers." *OregonLive.com, February 15*

[EPA: US needs \\$300B in sewer, water work.](#) "A federal study shows municipalities nationwide need more than \$300 billion worth of essential upgrades to long overlooked water and sewer systems over the next 20 years." *Associated Press, February 8*

[Hundreds plunge for good cause.](#) "With a group of people all clad in tie-dye T-shirts, Chip Anderson walks up the boat ramp at [Corvallis'] Crystal Lake Park, dripping water after having just run into the frigid Willamette River on Saturday morning. "I don't know if I screamed like a girl," he said. 'It might have happened.'" *gazettetimes.com, February 12*

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