

About The Surface Water Management Program

Surface water management (SWM) provides water quality protection for the community by implementing programs, which reduce pollution in our rivers and streams caused by urban stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff is the most significant source of water pollution in our state. It washes pollutants into the storm drains and drainage ditches, carrying oil, chemicals, and silt to the nearest creek or stream. The polluted runoff can harm fish and other aquatic life and threaten our drinking water.

Through watershed protection and planning, Water Environment Services (WES) is taking a long-term approach to protecting the health of our water resources.

Why Do I Pay a SWM Fee?

WES is working to protect and enhance the water quality in our streams and rivers by managing programs that address stormwater runoff and local drainage/flooding problems in Clackamas County.

The stormwater runoff, local drainage and erosion prevention programs are funded through the SWM fee.

What Does the SWM Program Do?

- Maintains stormwater facilities
- Responds to customer service inquiries
- Monitors water quality
- Requires buffer zones between new development and wetland/creek areas
- Plans and designs regional water quality and flood reduction projects
- Provides long-term watershed planning
- Provides public outreach and partnerships for pollution prevention



WATER
ENVIRONMENT
SERVICES



Calendar of Events

Lower Tualatin Surface Water Management Citizens Advisory Committee

Location: Athey Creek Middle School from 7 PM – 8:30 PM
Meeting calendar: January 5, March 9 and May 4.

For more information on these and other events visit www.co.clackamas.or.us/WES/calendar.jsp

Online Bill Payment

Now you can pay your surface water management fee directly from your checking account. Visit www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/payment.htm and follow the instructions. It's fast, convenient and just a link away.

Teens Get Down and Dirty For Watershed Restoration

Getting a group of teenagers to volunteer for tiring work in the mud and grub of the outdoors seems like an impossible feat, yet this is something math and science teacher Daniel Huld has accomplished for the past two years with his environmental science students at the Parenting, Academics, Careers and Employment Program (PACE), North Clackamas School District's teen parenting program. After some initial "grumbling", Daniel has found that his students tend to develop genuine enthusiasm for watershed restoration once they see how they're making a difference.

Watersheds are areas of land that empty water into our streams, rivers, and wetlands. The health of our watersheds directly affects the quality of our water, and ultimately, our quality of life. A polluted watershed is a threat to public health and our environment as a whole. Besides the pollutants introduced by humans such as sewage, toxins and other garbage, non-native plant species also cause significant damage to a watershed and the wildlife around it. Invasive species like



reed canary grass and stinging nettles can take over a watershed and choke out the natural vegetation. A watershed overrun by invasive species experiences erosion and warmer temperatures, causing salmon and other living things to disappear from the area. One such area where this has happened is the Mt. Scott Creek watershed area that runs through North Clackamas Central Park.

Daniel Huld says his class chose this park as the site of their watershed restoration project because, "This is a park they can take their kids to, a park they can take their dogs to. They can

(Continued on page 4)

Freeze The Grease, Save The Drain!

Did you know that residential grease accounts for 25% of the grease build-up in Clackamas County's sewers? Restaurant and food processor grease build-up account for 65% and 10%, respectively. Grease, fats, gravy, and oil will stick to the inside of sewer pipes and cause messy and expensive sewer backups.

How you can help:

In the Home

- Never pour grease down sinks, toilets, or garbage disposals
- Pour grease and oil into a can, freeze it and put it in the trash
- Catch food scraps with baskets or strainers in sink drains and throw scraps in the garbage

For Restaurant and Building Owners

- Recycle grease and oil
- Don't pour grease or oil into sinks, floor drains, or onto a parking lot or street
- Use a grease trap or interceptor that is designed, installed and maintained correctly
- Never put solids into grease traps or interceptors
- Check and maintain grease traps and interceptors regularly

Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain Kit

Call (503) 681-5177 for a Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain kit. The FREE kit includes foiled lined bags for unwanted oil and grease, a food scraper, and easy instructions.

Offer ends February 28, 2006.

Help Improve Storm and Surface Water Quality

Clackamas County Commissioners are seeking citizen members who are interested in serving two-year terms on the Lower Tualatin Citizens' Advisory Committee. The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the commissioners and to Water Environment Services, a department of Clackamas County.

Federal and state regulations require Clackamas County to administer comprehensive management programs that improve storm water and surface water quality in urbanized and rural areas. The commissioners and Water Environment Services work with the Lower Tualatin Citizens' Advisory Committee to develop and implement programs and standards that relate to surface water and storm water management in the Surface Water Management Agency of Clackamas County (SWMACC).

SWMACC serves the Lower Tualatin area of the County. Interested residents and representatives of businesses, associations, non-profit groups and other organizations that are based in SWMACC are encouraged to apply.

Interested individuals need to complete an application form. The recruitment process will begin in Spring 2006. For more information contact Hilda Stevens at (503) 353-4561 or email hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us.

Teens Get Down and Dirty for Watershed Restoration

(Continued from page 2)

come down here with their family and their friends and show off the work they've done: 'Hey, look at all those trees over there. I planted those.'" This gives the teens a sense of community responsibility and ownership of their surrounding environment.

"Hey, look at all those trees over there. I planted those."

However, watershed restoration doesn't happen overnight. The process takes a lot of time and a lot of work. Over the course of a school year PACE students can typically cover an area of 100 to 150 feet along the watershed, removing invasive plant species and planting native trees. Each site gets a mix of six native trees such as cottonwoods, alders, and ash. According to Daniel, rather than only weeding out the invaders from year to year, the best approach is to plant native trees that grow quickly and form a canopy which shades out the competitors, discouraging them from growing back at all. And of course, all of this costs money—money for the trees and the blue plastic tubes that protect them as they grow to maturity. Because of the grant received from Water Environment Services Watershed Stewardship Assistance Program, PACE students were able to purchase 125 trees last year.

Now that a new school year has begun, Mr. Huld will motivate a new group of PACE students to continue the project. This year's environmental science class

will pick up where last year's class left off, restoring another large portion of the park's watershed area. Daniel hopes to continue the project with his students each year, working their way down to eventually connect with Mt. Scott Creek, and maybe in time, see the salmon return. "It's a lot of work but it's worth it," he says.

Community groups interested in watershed restoration projects can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 per project through Clackamas County's Water Environment Services. For more information on the Watershed Stewardship Assistance Program and how to apply, visit: www.clackamas.co.or.us/wes or call (503) 353-4561.

How to Reach Us:

Customer Service and Billing Questions

(503) 353-4567

M-F 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Online Bill Payment

www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/payment.htm

Community Relations and Public Information

Phone: (503) 353-4561

Email: hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us



9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd, Suite 441

Clackamas OR 97015

Phone: (503) 353-4567

Fax: (503) 353-4565

www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes