

In This Issue

- Clearwater Project
- Freeze The Grease, Save The Drain!
- Surface Water Management Master Plan
- Teens Get Down And Dirty For Watershed Restoration
- Calendar of Events

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
- Never put solids into grease traps or interceptors
- Check and maintain grease traps and interceptors regularly

Clearwater Project

On September 1, 2005 after more than a year of public participation and an extended opportunity for citizen involvement on the Clearwater Project, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners who serve as the Board of Directors of Water Environment Services adopted the implementation plan.

According to the Clearwater Project implementation plan, both the Kellogg Creek wastewater treatment plant in Milwaukie and the Tri-City wastewater treatment plant in Oregon City are reaching capacity and require significant upgrades to meet water quality standards. Under the Clearwater Project, the Kellogg Creek plant would be decommissioned by the year 2010 and flows rerouted to the expanded plant in Oregon City. The expanded Clearwater facility in Oregon City will provide higher water quality through modern technology while helping to restore the flood plain, public amenities such as ball fields, and lower operating costs through partners, shared facilities, and consolidation of administration.

Water Environment Services staff are in the process of developing a project timeline for the Clearwater Project. This will generate a variety of opportunities for residents to become involved in citizen task forces or through public meetings. Visit the Clearwater Project website at www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/wwtos.htm for the latest information. You can also contact Hilda Stevens at (503) 353-4561 or hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us to be added to the Interested Parties and Citizens mailing list.



Calendar of Events

North Clackamas Surface Water Management Citizen Advisory Committee

Meets the second Tuesday of every other month

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Location:

Sunnybrook Service Center
9101 SE Sunnybrook Blvd.
Suite 441 in Clackamas

Meeting calendar:

December 13

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 sewer and/or surface water management fees 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.

Freeze the Grease, Save the Drain Kit

Call (503) 353-4616 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 December 31, 2005.



Surface Water Management Master Plan

Protecting our streams and improving quality. When it rains, stormwater washes off roofs, streets and other impervious surfaces, carrying oil, pesticides, metals, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants into storm drains that discharge directly to rivers, streams and wetlands. An effective stormwater management program will better control pollutants in runoff, manage stormwater flows and protect water quality in our waterways.

For more than a year, Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD1) has been working with a consulting team to draft a new master plan for the surface water management program. The goal is to emerge with a program that is based on sound scientific modeling, incorporating the best management practices available to support a healthy watershed. Two public meetings have been held to date, as well as, various presentations to civic and community organizations. In addition, the consulting team continues to update the North Clackamas Surface Water Management Citizens Advisory Committee on the progress of a draft master plan.

Get involved. For the convenience of interested individuals and organizations wishing to review draft documents, a project website has been created and is updated as new information becomes available. You can get more information online at www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/swm.htm. To arrange a presentation or request that your name be added to a distribution list to receive notification of upcoming public meetings call Hilda Stevens at (503) 353-4561 or email hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us.

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 Parenting, Academics, Careers and Employment Program (PACE), North Clackamas School District's teen parenting program. After some initial "grumbling", he's 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. 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 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 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.

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

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