

Calendar of Events

Citizen Advisory Council for wastewater treatment

Meets the second and fourth Monday of every month
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Location:

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

Meeting calendar:

July 10 & 24, August 14 & 28,
and September 11 & 25

Clackamas County Fair – Canby Fairgrounds

It'll be a blast!

August 15-20

Visit WES booths 6 and 7

in the Floral Arcade Section

For more information about the County Fair call (503) 266-1136 or

visit the official fair website at <http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/fair/>

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:

August 15, October 10,
and December 12

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/documents/payment.htm and follow the instructions. It's fast, convenient and just a link away.

Hearthwood Preserve Teaches Lessons In Land Stewardship

At speeds of 55 mph and greater, motorists might not notice the 17 acre wetland that lies alongside I-205 near Johnson City. This is the site of the Hearthwood Preserve, a wetland owned by The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC) which is essentially the headwaters of Kellogg Creek. Invasive plant species dominated this ecologically important property when TWC acquired it, with the delicate balance of biodiversity disrupted by aggressive invaders like blackberries and reed canary grass.

Restoring this wetland has been a complex process involving some key steps: clearing away the nonnative species; keeping the area covered with black plastic for a year to kill off remaining weed seeds and seedlings (a method known as solarization); replanting the wetland with native plants such as slough sedge, rush species, dogwood and willow; then, vigilant weed management to protect the young native species.

With help from Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES), TWC was able to remove invaders such as blackberries and have Friends of Trees plant 400 native tree species such as cottonwood, alder, ash, oak, and cedar. So what's all the fuss over a few weeds? It's because wetlands serve an essential purpose in our ecosystem and healthy wetlands make our community a better place.

On the surface, the most obvious benefit of a wetland is its beauty. It is a place of natural serenity with lush plants, cooling trees and diverse wildlife. The Hearthwood Preserve is this kind of place. According to TWC Land Steward Marshall Johnson, "If you walk around this neighborhood and ask people if they're happy about the wetland being here, 90 percent of them love it because it's beautiful. There's a lot of wildlife...and they're just happy it's not a parking lot, a strip mall or an apartment building here."

A less obvious but very critical benefit of a wetland is what goes on at the soil level. During a storm when water heads for the wetland, the healthy soil and plants there work to store and filter the water like a big sponge. This not only cleans pollutants from the water but releases the water slowly which reduces flooding of waterways—something of concern to residents and property owners along any stream or creek. In this case, water that runs through the Hearthwood Preserve has a direct impact on the purity and levels of the water in Kellogg Creek.

TWC acquires ecologically crucial wetland properties like Hearthwood with the goal to preserve and enhance their health and natural functions. They selected Hearthwood because of its basic wetland characteristics, as well as the vital role it plays in the entire Kellogg Creek watershed. To assure the long term success of this restoration project, TWC needs community volunteers to help with weed maintenance so the newly planted native species can become established. It takes up to five years for new plants to be able to survive against aggressive invaders on their own, and until then the wetland will need weed maintenance two or three times a month.

There's more to helping maintain the Hearthwood Preserve than just a lot of hard work. It provides a great way for members of the community to learn good land stewardship practices they can take back with them to their own properties. In a sense, it's like an outdoor classroom. "We want people to come here and learn," says Marshall.

Projects of this sort could not be accomplished without the countless volunteer hours and partnerships with agencies such as Friends of Kellogg & Mt. Scott Creek, Friends of Trees and WES. To find out how to get involved in these projects, or for general weed management questions, contact Marshall Johnson with The Wetlands Conservancy at (503) 691-1394 or email marshallj@wetlandconservancy.org.



Fight The Bite

West Nile virus is in the national news and health experts expect it to arrive in our region this year. National health experts do not believe this will be a health emergency for residents of Clackamas County. Human illness from West Nile virus is rare, even in areas where the virus has been reported. The chance that any one person is going to become ill from a mosquito bite is low.

The Clackamas County Vector Control District (CCVCD) is working closely with Water Environment Services (WES), cities and other jurisdictions to monitor and control mosquitoes in stormwater treatment and detention ponds, local wetlands and streams, and the public drainage system.

What are stormwater facilities and why are they important?

When land is developed to create homes, roads, businesses and other improvements, the natural system of trees and dense vegetation is replaced with pavement, hard surfaces and compacted lawns. As a result, less rainwater soaks into the ground and more of it runs off the hard surfaces at a faster rate—which may contribute to flooding as well as pollution problems in local streams and rivers. The rainwater becomes polluted with oil, fertilizers, pesticides, bacteria and other pollutants as it flows over parking lots, streets, rooftops, lawns and other hard surfaces.

Stormwater facilities (ponds and swales) are designed to detain and slow the rate of runoff from developed areas and remove pollutants that are collected in the runoff. These stormwater facilities are commonly used throughout the United States to reduce and control stormwater runoff, flooding, erosion, and pollution, all of which are essential to protecting public health and safety, public and private property, and water quality in local rivers and streams. The facilities are a vital element of the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program to meet federal and state water quality laws.

What is being done to monitor and control mosquitoes that may carry West Nile virus in the stormwater facilities and local waterways?

The Clackamas County Vector Control District (CCVCD) is working with Water Environment Services (WES), cities and other jurisdictions to monitor stormwater facilities and local waterways for the presence of mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus.

During the summer of 2006, WES will be cooperatively working with the CCVCD and Portland State University to perform a biological characterization of some stormwater detention facilities. The objectives of this predator/prey study are to: 1) assess conditions that contribute to West Nile Virus vector habitat; 2) characterize the predator/prey makeup and relationships; 3) compile a prioritized list of stormwater detention facilities as to their West Nile Virus threat potential and possible retrofit opportunities and challenges; and 4) recommended designs and maintenance practices to reduce the potential West Nile Virus vector habitats.

Reduce mosquito habitat

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. The eggs only need a few ounces of water and about a week's time to grow into adults.

- Eliminate places where water can stagnate in containers such as buckets, flowerpots and tires.
- Change water at least once a week in birdbaths and wading pools.
- Clean clogged rain gutters, and put mosquito screens on rain barrels.
- Dispose of old tires or cover them so they don't collect water.

Personal protection

We will never be able to eliminate all mosquitoes. Personal protection is a way to avoid getting bitten. When mosquitoes are out, particularly at dusk:

- Wear long sleeves, socks and long pants.
- Consider wearing insect repellent that contains DEET. Read repellent instructions carefully. Repellent should not be applied to children under the age of two.



FREE Fight the Bite Kit

Call (503) 353-4616 for your Fight the Bite kit. The FREE kit includes travel size mosquito repellent wipes and more information about West Nile Virus and stormwater facilities. Offer ends September 30, 2006.



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/
documents/payment.htm](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/documents/payment.htm)

Community Relations and
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