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Is Your Lawn Chemical-free? Maybe it Should Be.

Before you reach for that weed and feed, please consider this: children and pets can be at risk from exposure to lawn and garden chemicals. Chemicals can stay on the lawn for weeks and tracked into the house, where they can remain for months. Rain can wash chemicals off your lawn and into the storm drains that lead to neighborhood rivers, creeks and wetlands. Why take these risks? Choose safer alternatives.



FREE All-Natural Lawn Care Kit Call (503) 681-5177

The kit includes gardening gloves, native plant seeds, coupons and much more.
Offer ends August 30, 2005. www.cleanriversandstreams.org

Clearwater Project Draft Implementation Plan

In the spring of 2004 a technical and financial study of the logical options for providing long-term wastewater treatment services to the citizens of North Clackamas County was completed. The Regional Wastewater Treatment Options Study was presented to a joint meeting of elected officials in April 2004. Following that presentation, staff was directed to begin a public involvement process and develop a potential implementation plan for the most advantageous option – regionalization of wastewater treatment at a single location.

The overarching goal of the Clearwater Project is to optimize efficient and effective treatment of wastewater while reducing ratepayer costs for the long term. It also provides significant community amenities and opportunities through leveraging economies of scale, as well as significant environmental benefits through enhanced treatment, greater reliability, and environmental enhancement and protection.

The draft implementation plan is the outgrowth of more than twenty years of discussion and studies, and follows the completion of nearly two years of intense study and stakeholder involvement in how best to provide long-term wastewater services to the fast-growing north Clackamas County area. This plan has been developed using the resources of Water Environment Services (WES) and collaborative discussions with the affected jurisdictions in the study area. It is intended to provide the necessary information on which a decision for long-term wastewater treatment service provision within the region may be made. It is also intended as a blueprint for implementing the Clearwater Project. The draft plan is now available online at www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes/wwtos.htm



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:

August 9, *October 11, December 13

* October meeting includes a tour of surface water management capital improvement projects in North Clackamas County

Clackamas County Fair – Canby Fairgrounds

Jam Packed with Fun!

August 16-21

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 www.co.clackamas.or.us/fair/

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.

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.

Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD1) is in the process of drafting a new master plan for the surface water management program. The goal is to emerge with a new program that is based on sound scientific modeling, and that incorporates the best management practices available to support a healthy watershed.

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 or request that your name be added to a mailing list to receive notification of upcoming public meetings by calling (503) 353-4561 or emailing hildaste@co.clackamas.or.us.

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
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Restoring Wetland and Wildlife Habitat in Echo Valley

The Echo Valley Meadows wetland site is located in a residential subdivision in northern Clackamas County. The water that drains to the wetland and Echo Valley Creek eventually flows to the Willamette River. In partnership with Clackamas County Water Environment Services (WES) and the Department of Transportation and Development (DTD), Friends of Trees has been introducing native plants to reduce erosion, improve habitat for wildlife, and aesthetics for humans.

On Saturday, March 19, 2005 more than 30 volunteers from local schools, civic groups and Boy Scout troops devoted their time and energy to plant more than 700 native trees, shrubs and groundcover plants at the Echo Valley wetland site. Their volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated because clean and plentiful waterways, and healthy habitats are among the most important and valued natural resources.

As population and development in our community increases, the challenge to protect and maintain aquatic resources has grown in scope and complexity. Wetlands provide habitat for numerous species of birds, insects, amphibians, fish and wildlife. Often, wetlands function as the core habitat for wildlife. The grasses, shrubs and trees associated with these wetlands provide essential nesting, food and cover for wildlife. Wetlands also provide substantial environmental benefits such as water retention and flood reduction by holding water during heavy rains and slowly releasing it into the ground or creeks downstream. This can improve water quality by filtering pollutants such as toxins and sediments from stormwater runoff.

Restoring a wetland basically involves putting the “wet” back into the land, controlling non-native invasive plants and replanting with native plants. Results of a wetland restoration project are often almost immediate as many wildlife species are quickly drawn to enhancement of habitat conditions on site. That makes wetland restoration for wildlife habitat enhancement one of the most rewarding volunteer projects a community can undertake.

Mature native trees are also an important component to wetlands, creeks and streams because they function in many ways to cool the water for fish, contribute food and wildlife for habitat, and stabilize banks. Because of this, wetland and other restoration projects must be an on-going, long-term commitment and effort. Local commitment and cooperative efforts are key to the development of successful watershed management and restoration programs. To learn more about, or get involved in volunteer efforts, stewardship programs or restoration projects in Clackamas County visit www.co.clackamas.or.us/wes or www.friendsoftrees.org.



A wetland is an area that temporarily holds surface or ground water, thus reducing the amount of storm runoff. Wetlands support a wide variety of plant and animal populations that rely on it for food, shelter and reproduction.



Benefits of a wetland:

- Reduce flooding, erosion and increases water supplies.
- Provides essential food chain, and supports a variety of animals, fish and wildlife.
- Replenishes water supplies by retaining precipitation, and gradually recharging ground water and streams.
- Improves water quality by filtering pollutants. When water enters a wetland, it acts as a purifier, cleaning the water before it exits.
- Provides open space opportunities, and a great outdoor classroom for children to learn about the watershed.