



Slough News

Newsletter of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Spring 2012

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Let Us Build Cully Park

By Tony DeFalco

It all started in 1989 when a construction waste landfill, located in the Cully neighborhood at NE 72nd and Killingsworth, filled up. Twenty-five acres were filled to the brim with construction waste debris. The first lined landfill in Oregon, its owner installed a methane collection system and a protective cap. But by the mid-90's, the owner went bankrupt and methane gases were leaking out.

To protect the environment and human health, the DEQ took over the site in the late 90's and repaired the methane collection system and the liner. The methane leaks ceased and regular monitoring ensued. The site was deemed appropriate for consideration as a future park site and discussions with the City of Portland and Metro resulted in transfer of the property to Portland Parks & Recreation.

Meanwhile, the Cully neighborhood continued to lack a developed park. Neighborhood advocacy highlighted the landfill site and in 2006 secured city funding for a park master planning process at the site. Extensive community involvement, including extra effort by Verde to include Spanish speakers in the process, resulted in a plan calling for baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, a basketball court, community gathering areas, a community garden, trails, habitat restoration, an off-leash dog area and picnicking spots overlooking the Columbia River floodplain with views of Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens on clear days.

In late 2010, Verde secured a grant from the Northwest Health Foundation to build community capacity to build the park. With twin goals of building the park to provide opportunity for Cully residents to earn both economic and health benefits from building the park, Verde launched the Let Us Build Cully Park! coalition.

The Cully Association of Neighbors, Hacienda CDC, the Native American Youth & Family Center, PCRI and Columbia Slough Watershed Council were core partners and the coalition quickly grew to seventeen community-serving organizations, including Rigler and Scott Schools by mid-2011.

Following the master plan, the coalition worked with Vigil-Agrimis, the firm that prepared the



Let Us Build Cully Park is a community-driven effort to construct a park in the park-deficient Cully neighborhood. While visiting the site, 20-year Cully resident and volunteer Rafael Bautista talks about the importance of building the park.

master plan to produce a viable first phase of park construction, including community-led design of its features and of the environmental and human health assessments to ensure the safety of the site. Community garden construction is set for this summer with the remaining features in phase 1 set for construction in 2013. Students at Scott School, lead teacher Patrick Mangan along with Terra.fluxus owner Jason King and landscape designer Sandra Koike designed the community garden. A community-led committee is co-leading the environmental and human health assessment.

You can get involved now in garden construction, play area design, tribal plant gathering area design, and fundraising by calling or e-mailing Tony DeFalco at tony.defalco@me.com or 503-309-7385. Visit www.LetUsBuildCullyPark.org for more info.

You can get involved now in garden construction, play area design, tribal plant gathering area design, and fundraising for the new Thomas Cully Park. Visit www.LetUsBuildCullyPark.org for more info.

2011 Slough Award Winners

By *Melissa Sandoz*



The Columbia Slough Watershed Council was proud to give five Leadership and Achievement Awards for 2011. These awards are given to individuals or projects that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the Columbia Slough Watershed.

2011 Leadership Awards



Megan Hanson,
City of Portland Clean
Rivers Education:
Youth watershed education



Verde:
*Multicultural green
economy building and
watershed restoration*

2011 Achievement Awards



David Kennedy:
*Pro-bono architect for
Watershed Education Center*



Jamie Stamberger,
City of Gresham:
*Fairview Creek outreach and
restoration*



Natural Area Land Acquisition Team, **Shannah Anderson** (City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services), **Deb Lev** (Portland Parks and Recreation), **Leif Anderson** and **Hillary Wilton** (Metro):

Public acquisition of Wilkes Creek Headwaters and the Columbia Slough

Nadaka Nature Park News

By Lee Dayfield

A growing partnership over the years with Friends of Nadaka and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council continues to open new opportunities for those caring about nature.



Friends of Nadaka Nature Park is hosting the 2nd annual Nadaka Community Festival on Saturday, August 11th from 9am to 3pm. The festival will celebrate all the community support for the park.

For those not yet familiar with Nadaka Nature Park, it is a 10 acre natural forest which was once owned by the Camp Fire organization. In 1995 it was purchased by the City of Gresham with bond money but remained closed to the public until 2001. At that time the north entrance at NE 175th & NE Pacific was opened with a new ¼ mile loop trail through the forest. In 2009 the 2 acre adjoining Nelson property on the south end was purchased with grant funding from East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, Metro Nature in Neighborhoods and a donation by the Nelson Estate. The Trust for Public Land negotiated the deal.

The City of Gresham developed a Master Plan which was approved by City Council in June of 2010. Approximately one-third of the site will be dedicated to over 60 community garden plots. The remaining two-thirds will be devoted to passive recreation including a nature-based play area, rain gardens, walking paths, etc. The conceptual budget for this project is over \$1 million.

A full application for a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods capital grant in the amount of \$238,000 was submitted January 8, 2012 for the development of the Nelson Property Neighborhood Park Master Plan. The Council was the submitting organization for this grant. A site visit by the Metro NIN grant committee took place on February 13th with approximately 33 individuals attending. They included supporting representatives from Audubon Society of Portland, Wilkes East and Rockwood neighborhood associations, Grow Portland, Pacific Gardens Alzheimer's Care Center, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Eastrose Unitarian Church, SnowCap, Human Solutions, Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick, Gresham City Councilors Paul Warr-King and John Kilian as well as Gresham Park staff, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board Member, Rick Till and Owen Wozniak from Trust for Public Land. Additional grants are in the works.

The 2nd Annual Nadaka Community Festival will be on Saturday, August 11th. It will begin at 9 am with a cleanup until noon and free food and fun from noon until 3pm. The Audubon Society of Portland will have their live birds on display which are really a treat if you have never seen them. Friends of Nadaka is looking for groups that want to organize games for children, face painters, musicians, etc.

If you want to learn more about the Nadaka Nature Park & Garden Project or to volunteer for cleanups or the Festival contact Lee at 503.998.1044 or lee@wilkecastna.org. You can also find Friends of Nadaka on Facebook or at www.friendsofnadaka.org.

Wanted: Volunteer Paddling Guides

By Sam Schongalla

Each year the Columbia Slough Watershed Council hosts dozens of educational paddling events that expose adult and children to the strange wonders of the Columbia Slough. We're seeking intermediate to advanced paddlers who would like to volunteer to assist with our Twilight Paddles, Slough School kids paddles, and our big summer festivals. Attend our May 2nd orientation to get plugged into this year's volunteer guide paddling opportunities. Boats, dinner, and training provided. RSVP or inquire further by contacting sam.schongalla@columbiaslough.org.



Orientation for Volunteer Paddling Guides

Wednesday, May 2nd
6:00-8:00

Council Office at
Whitaker Ponds, 7040
NE 47th Ave,
Portland OR 97218

A Record Slough Celebration!

By Melissa Sandoz

The thirteenth annual Slough Celebration on February 10, 2012 exceeded all our expectations! The 200 smartly-dressed attendees enjoyed an extravagant silent auction & raffle, local beer and wine, and a photo booth before dinner. After dining on the Melody Ballroom's gourmet fare, MC Inessa Anderson took us on a journey of the Council's accomplishments in 2011, highlighting our five award winners (see page 2). To cap it off, each of the award



Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Alice Blatt, a longtime leader for the Council and the Wilkes Community Group, chat before the program.

winner was featured in a special "SloughTube" video directed by Melissa Sandoz and filmed by Kenny MacDonald of Recorded History. (Each of those videos is available to watch on the Council's YouTube channel.) After the

awards program, attendees enjoyed the smooth jazz sounds of the Andre St James Trio while catching up with friends and colleagues.

The Council is very pleased to have raised record \$23,000 at this year's Slough Celebration! This show of financial support, especially in tough economic times, demonstrates how important the Council's work is to all our community. A special thank you to all of our sponsors, auction & event donors, attendees, and award winners for your dedication to the Slough.

Thanks to our Slough Celebration sponsors!

Celebration Sponsors

- The Boeing Company
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services

Presenting Sponsor

- Port of Portland

Award Sponsors

- Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station
- Arclin Surfaces
- City of Gresham Watershed Management Division
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- McKinstry
- Multnomah County Drainage Districts
- O-I
- Portland Parks and Recreation
- Portland Water Bureau

Table Sponsor

- PC Trask



Thank you to all of our auction, raffle, and event donors!

Beer: Hopworks
Wine: Casa Bruno
Videos: Recorded History

- Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe
- Aloft Portland Airport at Cascade Station
- Argyle Winery Bolt
- Breitenbush Brewvana
- Chinook Book
- Christie Holmgren Cinema 21
- Columbia Sportswear
- Colwood National Golf Club
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz
- Common Ground Wellness Center
- Coolidge House

- Corky Collier
- DOC Restaurant
- Emergent Designs
- Family Fun Center
- Frock
- Garden Fever!
- Garnish
- Gazelle
- Higgins Restaurant & Bar
- Hollywood Theatre
- Hotlips HQ
- Jackson WellSprings
- James Luther Davis
- Jane Van Dyke
- Jelvment
- John Street Café
- Julanne & Vince Sandoz
- Julie Matney
- Keelin Sanger
- Keen
- KINK Radio, 101.9 FM

- Lan Su Chinese Garden
- Laughing Planet
- Leatherman Tools
- Linda Robinson
- Lompoc Brewing
- Marine Discovery Tours
- McMenamins
- Milagros Boutique
- Miracle Theatre Group
- Mirador Community Store
- Mississippi Studios
- Multnomah County Drainage Districts
- Neil Kelly
- Nestor Campos
- NW Discoveries
- Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Oregon Gardens
- Oregon Shakespeare Festival
- Oregon Symphony
- Oregon Zoo

- Patagonia
- Pittock Mansion
- Pizzicato Gourmet Pizza
- Plan-it Earth Designs
- Por Que No Taqueria
- Portland Center Stage
- Portland Nursery
- Portland Timbers
- Portland Trail Blazers
- Proper Eats
- REI
- Rejuvenation
- Sabor Latino
- SoupCycle
- Studio 30
- Timber Press
- Trebol
- Troy Clark
- Working Class Acupuncture
- Yakuza

2011 Fundraising Campaign

By Jane Van Dyke

Molly Chidsey & Tony DeFalco

Mike Abbaté

Shannah Anderson

Leif & Tes Anderson

Jane Bacchieri

Sheila Barnhart

Susan Barthel

Ann Beier

Jennifer Belknap-Williamson

John Bentley

Karl Boercker

Tamara Boyd

Susan Brickey

Jane Van Dyke & Bronson Potter

Carrie Butler

Matt Clark

Corky Collier

James Davis & Sally Loomis

Lee Dayfield

Jim DeCoursey

Julia & Marc DeGagne

Jennifer Devlin

Sheilagh Diez

Haley Dillon

Robert & Nancy Dolphin

Astrid Dragoy

Kevin Duff

Ivy Dunlap

Gregg Everhart

Aron Faegre

Steve Fancher

Rachel Felice & Jeremy Engle

Karen Garber

Glenn Gray

Steve Gunther

Charlie & Nancy Hales

Mark Hansen

Nancy Hashimoto

Dave Helzer

Nancy Hendrickson

Michelle Juen

Greg & Gayle Kimsey

Ted Labbe

Michelle Lasley

Meei Lum

Rex Burkholder & Lydia Rich

John Schuberg & Maggie Skenderian

Lara Miller

Gayle Mohrman

John Moyer

Lynne Kennedy & Neil Mullane

Frodo Okulam

Allen Owensby

David Porter

Linda Robinson

Melissa Sandoz

Thank you to the many people who responded to our fundraising appeals in December 2011 through February 2012. We raised over \$8600 in unrestricted funds. Your gifts by mail and online at our website, www.columbiaslough.org, will provide necessary financial resources for our work this year.

Chris Scarzello

David Shaff

Eric & Lycia Shaffner

Dale & Victoria Shamp

Dorothy Sperry

Patricia Stone

Richard Street

Jennifer & John Sutter

Skip Tarr

Randall Thayer

Stu Ticknor

Donata Tiley

Phil Trask

Stacey Triplett

Eric Wentland

Lawrence Woelfer

Rachel Wray

Restoration with NAYA Students

By Laura Colgan

Many of the new herbs, shrubs and trees at Whitaker Ponds have been planted during this very productive winter planting season by young students from many schools around the watershed. One of the planting sites, however, has been both planned and planted by high school students from our neighboring school, the NAYA Early College Academy. They are combining aspects of naturescaping along with restoration, so that when visitors enter the park from the south end they will immediately see that this park is special and well loved. The site is along the entrance used by these students when walking to the ponds from their school, which is helping to foster a sense of ownership between the students and the area in which they are planting.

The restoration project combines nicely with an educational component, and many scientific concepts were discussed during the planting field trips. Such concepts include native plant identification, advantages of native plants versus disadvantages of non-natives, how the plants will help prevent erosion and excess runoff from reaching the west pond, how rich plant biodiversity provides valuable habitat, and aspects of ethnobotany. Sometimes it helps

high school students to expand their horizons beyond the typical “high school bubble” to put away the cell phones and pick up some shovels. Such hands-on work can be an empowering learning tool to inspire engagement with students’ surrounding communities. Hopefully this partnership will continue with future classes maintaining this site.



NAYA Early College Academy students helped to restore native plant communities this winter with the Council.

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteer at Stewardship Saturdays!

On the second Saturday of each month, from 9am until 12pm, volunteers gather to do great things for the Slough! Here's what's happening next month:

Stewardship Saturday, April 21

9:00am—12:00pm

Wilkes Creek, NE 154th & Fremont

Help us weed out invasive plants in target areas. We'll supply cool water, yummy treats, tools to work, beautiful setting, consistent cheerleading, and ear to ear smiles. Community building, good neighbor attitudes, and enthusiasm provided at no extra cost! Activities include: Invasive Plant Removal, Mulching Around Plants, Planting, Weeding.

To RSVP: Call (503) 281-1132 or email sam.schongalla@columbiaslough.org.

Mark your calendar for more Stewardship Saturday fun!

May 19, June 9

Spring Events

For more information about Columbia Slough Watershed Council events, visit our website at www.columbiaslough.org.

Wetlands 101

Saturday, April 7th, 8:45am—1:00pm

Whitaker Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave, Portland

Join the Council and local experts for a hands-on workshop about everyone's favorite muddy, wet, and wildlife-rich places. Sign up at www.columbiaslough.org.

Slough Tour: Frogs, April 11

Bring Your Own Boat Paddle, April 25

Brunch with the Birds, April 27

Evening Canoe the Slough, May 23

Slough Tour: Vanport, May 30

Tadpole Tales

Wednesdays in April and May, 10:00am—11:30am

Children 3-5 years old with their parents are invited to storytime and a nature walk with the Council. \$3 donation per child. Held at Whitaker Ponds in April and the Columbia Slough WQF (Gresham) in May; contact Laura at intern@columbiaslough.org for more information.



7040 NE 47th Avenue
Portland, OR 97218

Phone: 503-281-1132
www.columbiaslough.org

Jane Van Dyke, Executive Director
Melissa Sandoz, Outreach Director
Sheilagh Diez, Education Director
Michelle Boercker, Stewardship Director
Sam Schongalla, Community Connections Coordinator
Laura Colgan, Education Intern



Council Wish List

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is on the hunt for:

- Good-condition 10x10 ft tents
- 0-3 year old laptop with Windows 7 Professional
- Well-functioning binoculars
- Paddles
- Children's life jackets

If you have something in good condition to donate, please contact us at 503-281-1132!