

# River Programs & Volunteering

As a solution, volunteers will now acquire samples by hanging a bucket from a bridge over the target water body. This method is available to more volunteers, quickens sampling time, is more consistent, is used by the DEQ and increases interaction with the public. Several dock access sites will be maintained and volunteers may choose to access their sample sites by boat during fair weather. Below is a list of sites tested for temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, and turbidity.

Scappoose Creek at West Lane Rd  
Multnomah Channel at Gilbert River Boat Ramp  
Multnomah Channel at Sauvie Island Boat Ramp  
Willamette River at Cathedral Park  
Willamette River at Swan Island Boat Ramp  
Willamette River at Sellwood Park  
Johnson Creek at 17th Ave  
Kellogg Creek at Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Tryon Creek at Staupher Rd Culvert  
Oswego Creek at George Rogers Park  
Abernethy Creek at I-205  
Willamette River at Willamette Falls  
Molalla River at Knights Bridge Rd  
Pudding River at Arndt Rd  
Willamette River at Wilsonville  
Champoeg Creek at Champoeg Park  
Yamhill River at Dayton

Willamette River at Rte 22 (Salem)  
Mill Creek at Front Street (Salem)  
Rickreall Creek at Highway 51  
Willamette at Independence  
Santiam River at Jefferson Highway  
Luckiamute River at Buena Vista Rd  
Willamette River at Albany  
Calapooia River at Bryant Park  
Willamette River at Van Buren Ave (Corvallis)  
Mary's River at Avery Park  
East Channel/Muddy Creek at Stahlbush Is Rd  
Long Tom River at Bundy Rd  
Willamette River at Harrisburg  
McKenzie River at I-5  
Willamette River at Eugene Green Belt Bridge  
Coast Fork Willamette River at Seavy Loop Rd  
Middle Fork Willamette River at Parkway Rd (Jasper)



Monica tests the new "Bass-Rectenwald" bucket sampler.

## E. coli Monitoring

WRK tested E. coli at a number of sites last year but due to site selection, the data was not very useful. E. coli levels describe possible bacterial danger to humans in contact with water. Therefore, when we tested sites with little human usage the data was of little consequence.

The focus of the new E. coli monitoring program is on sites that experience frequent human usage in the form of swimming, fishing, waterskiing, wading, etc. The ultimate goal is to increase safe river recreation. If the public has access to information that depicts the safety of their favorite recreation area on the Willamette, they may be more inclined to use the river.

The WRK office receives a large number of calls from folks asking, "Where is it safe to swim on the Willamette?" Now they will be able to access bi-monthly data on WRK's website, [www.willamette-riverkeeper.org/E.colimain.htm](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org/E.colimain.htm), and find out for themselves. This aspect of the Water Quality program will be piloted in Portland and Salem this summer.

### Sites Tested for E. coli:

Columbia River at Sauvie Island beach  
Multnomah Channel at Sauvie Island Boat Ramp

Willamette River at Kelly Point Park beach  
Willamette River at Eastbank Esplanade N of Burnside Bridge  
Willamette River at Ross Island Slough  
Willamette River at Sellwood Park beach  
Willamette River at George Rogers Park beach (Lake Oswego)  
Willamette River at Cedar Island Boat Ramp  
Clackamas River at Dahl Park beach  
Willamette River at Bernert Landing (West Linn)

## Water Quality Website Additions

More Water Quality information and resources are now available at the Willamette Riverkeeper website: [www.willamette-riverkeeper.org](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org). Check out the link to Water Quality Monitoring under the Programs menu. Bi-monthly E. coli data as mentioned above is available for each tested recreation site. For volunteers, the monthly monitoring datasheet; monitoring protocols; and monitoring handbook are all available. Links to a variety of Water Quality related websites, WRK data, and information about special projects will all be made available over the website. This section is under construction and your feedback is appreciated. Please send comments to: [arthur@willamette-riverkeeper.org](mailto:arthur@willamette-riverkeeper.org).

# River Recreation

## WRK's Summer 2006 Paddle Trips

Our River Discovery Program gets people on the Willamette River. In our view, this is the most powerful way to learn about the river, its history, and its ecology. In general, our River Discovery paddles take place rain or shine from Eugene to Portland. However, trips are subject to cancellation if we decide conditions on the river are unsafe. Paddle trips are led by staff and volunteers who provide education and safety support to participants. You can paddle your own canoe or kayak or use one of Willamette Riverkeeper's canoes if you are a member. (Membership starts at \$35 per year.) To find out about membership, reserve a canoe and/or register for a trip call 503-223-6418. You must have experience in a canoe or kayak to go on these trips. If you are interested in receiving paddling instruction, we can direct you to local companies that provide that service.

**BRING:** Water, a snack or lunch, and a change of clothes in addition to your paddling equipment.



### Saturday, June 3, 9 am to noon

*Eugene Water Trail Launch Event & Paddle*  
This paddle celebrates the official launch of the newest stretch of the Willamette River Water Trail from the Eugene to Albany area.

The event will take place at Marshall Island Access and a paddle will run eight miles to Harrisburg. Shuttle provided.

### Thursday, June 8, 6 to 8 pm

#### *Willamette Islands Paddle*

Join us for an evening round-trip paddle around Hogg and Cedar Islands from the Cedar Oak Boat Ramp in West Linn. Along the way we will discuss the restoration and stewardship efforts, both proposed and currently underway on these islands.

### Saturday, July 15, 9 am to 2 pm

#### *Eugene to Harrisburg Paddle and Cleanup*

Join Willamette Riverkeeper for this Eugene area trip as we experience a wonderful stretch of the river, and help clean up the river along the way. This trip will complement a Eugene area cleanup spearheaded by the local REI. We will leave from Whitely Boat Ramp in Eugene and take out at Harrisburg Park. This is a 15-mile paddle with a few areas of swift current. Willamette Riverkeeper will arrange a shuttle back to Whitely.

### Friday, August 11, 6 pm to 8 pm

#### *Willamette Narrows Paddle*

Our destination will be Rock Island, where there are fewer houses, the river narrows, and natural scenery abounds. Join Willamette Riverkeeper at Willamette Park in West Linn for this four-mile evening paddle around the island complex and back.



**Portland's 20th Annual  
Great Blue Heron Week  
May 31st - June 11th, 2006  
Celebrating Natural Areas  
and Clean Water**

© Michael Wilhelm

This year's Great Blue Heron Week will once again celebrate the region's successful 1995 regional Greenspaces bond measure, which added over 8,200 acres of natural areas, 74 miles of stream and river corridors, and new trails to the region's parks, trails, and natural areas system. The week provides some great opportunities to enjoy natural areas such as Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve and many others.

**WRK will be collaborating on a special Ross Island and Holgate Channel Paddle, 10 am to 1 pm Sunday, June 11th.**

Participate in this three-hour paddle around what will soon be one of Portland's premier wildlife refuges. Leaders include **Bob Sallinger**, Director of Audubon Society of Portland's Urban Conservation Program; **Travis Williams**, Director of the Willamette Riverkeeper; and **Mike Houck**, Director of the Urban Greenspaces Institute. RiversWest will provide safety boats and other assistance. Plan to bring your own boat and be ready to get on the water at 10 am from Willamette Park in Portland. Willamette Riverkeeper members can contact us to reserve canoes and gear.

A list of other great paddle trips, walks, and Great Blue Heron Week events are online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org).



# River Recreation

~ WILLAMETTE CHALLENGE continued from page 1.

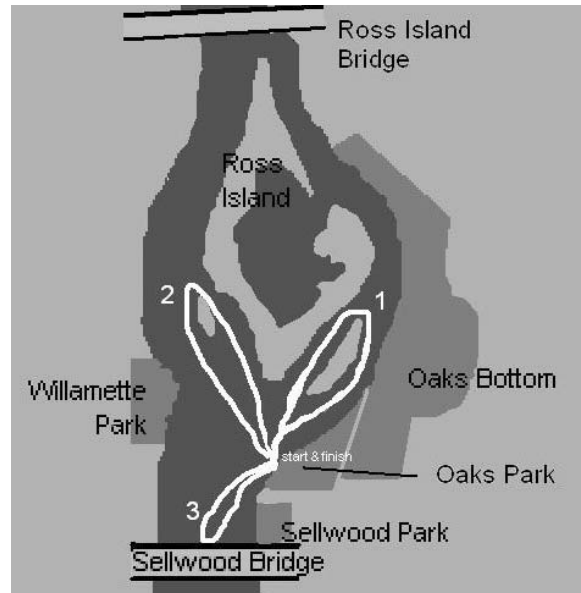
Competitors will return to the beach after each leg of the race to punch their punch cards and continue on until all three holes have been punched. Race finalist will receive fantastic prizes.

Race registration is required; details and costs are highlighted below. Applications are available online at [www.willamette-riverkeeper.org](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org), at Portland REI or can be mailed to you by contacting WRK at 503-223-6418. Friends and family are encouraged to participate by cheering their loved ones on at the shore and taking part in the picnic celebration and activities.

## The Celebration

A treed area and gazebo at the park's southern end will provide a picnic and activity center for race participants, families, Willamette Riverkeeper members, supporters and anyone interested in the celebration event. Tents will be set up with kids' activities, raffle items, and educational displays. Willamette Riverkeeper will provide canoes and gear for those that would like to paddle near the park just for fun. Participants are welcome to purchase discounted Oaks Park ride bracelets and enjoy the park's Kiddieland rides, Go Carts, Carrousel, Roller Rink and more. Picnic style barbeque lunch and beverages will be provided to participants. WRK will hold a short recognition presentation to highlight our 10th Anniversary and the work individuals have done to contribute to our mission and programs.

All are welcome to attend. We hope you can join us as a race participant and/or attend the picnic and watch from shore. Parking is limited and often fills up at the park, so we recommend picnic participants arrive by 11 am and watch the race.



## Event Details

Race: 9 am to 11 am  
 Picnic & Activities: 11 am – 2 pm  
 WRK presentation: 1 pm  
 Oaks Park Hours: noon – 7 pm

Race early registration fee (ends July 20): \$30  
 Call our office for other registration options.  
 Race registration includes:  
 T-shirt, goodie bag, ride bracelet and picnic.

Suggested picnic donation: \$5  
 (RSVP to WRK at 503-223-6418)  
 Oaks Park Ride Bracelet: \$10

## Registration Now Open — Call 503-223-6418

### PADDLE OREGON 2006 • August 28th – September 1st

Join Willamette Riverkeeper and 100 other paddlers for the 6th annual PADDLE OREGON canoe & kayak adventure on the Willamette River! Explore the Willamette River from Marshall Island Access near Eugene to Rodger's Landing in Newberg.



PADDLE OREGON offers:

- Catered meals
- Nightly entertainment
- Camping
- Paddling instructions
- Gear shuttle
- Safety staff
- Naturalists
- Wildlife & bird viewing

Cost is \$575 per person; Youth \$475;  
 Returning participants \$525.  
 For details & registration packet call us  
 or visit [www.paddleoregon.org](http://www.paddleoregon.org).

# R River Care and Repair

## Islands Initiative Report

Willamette Riverkeeper is working hard on habitat restoration projects throughout the Willamette Basin. Our recently launched Islands Initiative is already yielding fruit.



**ELK ROCK ISLAND** – With the help of the Portland Parks City Nature, Friends of Elk Rock Island, the Lewis and Clark College Crew Team and volunteers, WRK held a very successful trash cleanup and invasive species removal in March with a total of 75 participants. The group removed a significant amount of trash that accumulated from the high winter flows. A tremendous swath of English Ivy was also removed from numerous trees in the area.

Join us for an upcoming nature walk and work party event on **Saturday, June 10, Elk Rock Island/Spring Park Work Party, 9 am to noon.** Learn about the island's unique geology and habitats from a City Naturalist and then help out by removing invasive plants. Participants will meet at Spring Park in Milwaukie and walk to the island. Contact Amy at [amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org](mailto:amy@willamette-riverkeeper.org) or call 503-223-6418 to RSVP and get directions to the park.

**HOGG ISLAND** – WRK has officially become the land steward for Hogg Island through Clackamas County's Park District. Over the past few months WRK has devoted significant time to eradicating invasive species on Hogg Island. We have pulled hundreds of Scotch Broom plants, some nearly 10 feet tall. In fact, Scotch Broom on Hogg Island is so well established that the larger plants have moss on their base. This island has a wonderful stand of Oregon White Oak, with a large understory full of Oregon Grape. Unfortunately, the island is also full of poison oak, so one must tread carefully.

WRK is in the process of conducting an ecological assessment of Hogg Island that will help guide our efforts with Clackamas County in the coming years. We hope that this island will serve as a wonderful natural area for people to explore. Stay tuned for WRK's fall activities for opportunities to get out on Hogg Island and volunteer your time!



### OTHER HABITAT PROJECTS –

WRK is working with the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to restore the riverbank near the Portland Boathouse. This area is significantly impacted by urban activities, and is replete with Himalayan Blackberry. WRK and the City of Portland will begin work this fall to remove invasive plants, and will begin replanting in late 2006. This is a large section of riverbank between the Hawthorne Bridge and OMSI, and will provide numerous opportunities for volunteer participation!

WRK is also a partner in the **South Portland Riverbank Projects**, which formed in 2005 to restore and enhance habitat along the Willamette River. This project focuses on city-owned property on the westside between Powers Marine Park and Willamette Park. The partnership includes DEQ Volunteers in Action, Portland BES, Portland Parks City Nature, Corbett-Terwilliger Lair Hill Association, AmeriCorps and the Macadam Bay Homeowners Association. Monthly work-parties have been recently established to improve habitat with invasive removal and native plantings as well as trash removal along the Willamette riverbanks, some uplands areas and the mouth of Steven's Creek.

Join us for the next South Portland Riverbank Projects work day, set for **Saturday, May 20th.** Different tasks will be performed each month. For information call Louise Shorr, Portland Parks, 503-823-6131 or visit [www.ctlh.org/southportlandriverbank](http://www.ctlh.org/southportlandriverbank).

# R River Care and Repair

## News from our Permit Analyst, Brett VandenHeuvel

### Willamette River Greenway

Newberg area boaters and paddlers might be familiar with the bare riverbank and large mansion near the confluence of the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers. If not, it is likely you are aware of a similar riverbank property with poorly managed riparian vegetation. Willamette Riverkeeper has recently looked further into this particular property and Willamette Greenway issue. In this Yamhill case, the property owner cut several hundred feet of riparian vegetation, including large trees on the river's edge, to improve his view. We believe this area should be protected because it is part of the Willamette River Greenway and has the potential to provide shade, which is critical to the river's health. Considering the hundreds of volunteer hours spent restoring Willamette riparian areas and the millions of dollars spent by taxpayers and industry reducing the dangerously high water temperature, this tree cutting is offensive.

Statewide planning Goal 15 (Willamette Greenway) requires counties to "protect, conserve, enhance and maintain the natural, scenic . . . and recreational qualities along the Willamette River." As such, Yamhill County prohibits cutting trees in the Greenway without a permit, except for the "cutting of timber for public safety or personal noncommercial use," among other uses. WRK filed a complaint with the county for this clear violation. We spoke with the Yamhill County Assistant District Attorney, who determined they could not prosecute because



the action fit the timber-cutting exception of the code. This is ridiculous. As citizens, we cannot force prosecution, but we must inform local governments that this complicit behavior is unacceptable. After this discouraging situation, WRK is working with cities and counties to strengthen and enforce their Greenway laws.

*“ As citizens...we must inform local governments that this complicit behavior is unacceptable. ”*

### Permit Comments

WRK submitted extensive comments on each pollution discharge permit renewal for the Willamette River and many of the tributaries. In general, our comments point out flaws in the typically lenient draft permits and offer solutions. The comment process also preserves our right to take legal action if necessary.

For example, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is currently considering our comments for the Blue Heron Paper Company in

Oregon City (see full comments at [www.willamette-riverkeeper.org/alerts1.htm](http://www.willamette-riverkeeper.org/alerts1.htm)). The mill's discharge of 10 million gallons per day has trouble meeting the water clarity standard, which sets the maximum level of murkiness acceptable for fish and wildlife. In 2001, DEQ offered Blue Heron a 4.5-year "compliance schedule" for water clarity. This is agency-speak for "you don't have to comply with the law." Because that free pass is about to expire, DEQ's new permit offers a 4.75-year compliance schedule. In meetings with DEQ, WRK has made clear that this is not a good solution and we will challenge the permit if not improved.

### Access to Information

Watch-dogging dischargers and DEQ is an important component of our Clean Water/Clean Sediment Program. Better access to information is critical to our work. WRK is pressuring the agency to make information easily available to the public by posting permits, water quality sampling data, and permit violations on the internet. Currently, this information is only available in files in DEQ regional offices. With better access to information WRK and citizens can monitor what is discharged into any stretch of the river.

Please contact us if you are interested in learning which pollutants are discharged near you, or if you wish to help with permit monitoring. Keep on eye on the WRK Alerts website listed above or email us at [info@willamette-riverkeeper.org](mailto:info@willamette-riverkeeper.org) to receive Action Alerts.



49 SE Clay St.  
Portland, OR 97214

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PORTLAND, OREGON  
Permit No. 599

## *Celebrate!*

### *Willamette Riverkeeper's 10th Anniversary*

**SUNDAY, JULY 30, at OAKS AMUSEMENT PARK**

**Participate in or watch the "Willamette Challenge" Boat Race!**

**RACE BEGINS AT 9am, PICNIC AT 11am**

*Enjoy a day  
on the banks  
of the Willamette!*

Barbeque lunch & beverages

Race prizes • Raffle items

Kids' activities • Rides • Educational displays

Recognition presentation

(See details inside on page 9.)

