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City recommends caution for recreational river use

June 5, 2005

Due to the most recent rainstorm, Portland's combined sewers have overflowed. Portland's Environmental Services advises the public against any recreational activity in the Willamette River during which water could be swallowed.

The public should avoid the Willamette River for 48 hours after the rain has stopped. It is especially important to avoid recreational activities—

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People who fish should wash their hands following contact with the water. Those who choose to eat fish caught in the Willamette River should cook them thoroughly to kill bacteria.

In many areas of Portland, sewage mixes with stormwater runoff in what is called a combined sewer system. When the combined sewer system receives too much runoff, it overflows into the Willamette River. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are contaminated with bacteria from untreated sewage.

Portland is in the 14th year of a 20-year program to improve the city's sewer system. Until the program is complete, overflows of untreated sewage and stormwater will occur during rain storms, although as the program progresses, the frequency of overflows and number of outfalls are diminishing.

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Lane closures begin next week on West Burnside Street

June 9, 2005

Next Tuesday, June 14, sewer work will close both eastbound lanes of West Burnside Street between SW 21st and SW 18th avenues. Beginning at about 3:00 a.m. next Tuesday, eastbound traffic on West Burnside will detour to Morrison at SW 21st and can return to Burnside at SW 18th. The City's contractor will temporarily convert SW Morrison to a one-way eastbound street between SW 21st and SW 18th.

Westbound traffic on Burnside will not be affected. The eastbound detour will be in effect 24 hours a day until construction is complete, which could take up to two weeks.

A private firm is redeveloping the Civic Apartments next to PGE Park. The lane closures will allow workers to install a pipe liner to rehabilitate the 30-inch sewer that will serve the redeveloped apartments. Crews will work extended hours to shorten the duration of the project and the detour.

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Daytime road closure on SE 162nd Avenue

June 10, 2005

A section of SE 162nd Avenue in the Pleasant Valley area will be closed for sewer construction during the day until about June 20. The project area is on SE 162nd between SE Clatsop Street and SE Henderson Way. Work hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The street is open to through traffic after work hours and on Sunday.

Eastbound traffic on SE Foster Road can take SE Barbara Welch Road south to Clatsop Street during construction hours. Westbound Foster Road traffic can use SE 172nd Avenue to reach SE Clatsop.

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Downspout Disconnection Program hits the billion gallon mark

June 14, 2005

When Environmental Services launched the Downspout Disconnection Program in 1995, it was hard to imagine it would be responsible for removing a billion gallons of stormwater a year from Portland's combined sewer system. But entering its tenth season this year, the program has exceeded that goal.

"The more than 45,000 homeowners who have disconnected downspouts get the credit for this success," says Environmental Services Director Dean Marriott. "This is a way for citizens to participate directly in our efforts to control combined sewer overflows and their help is crucial," Marriott says. Canvassers are going door to door in east Portland this summer signing up new homeowners.

Disconnecting downspouts keeps stormwater runoff from flowing into Portland's combined sewer system. Combined sewers carry both stormwater and sewage in the same pipe. Thousands of residential downspouts are connected directly to the combined sewers. When it rains, combined sewers fill up and overflow to the Willamette River. Downspout disconnection redirects roof drainage to yards or gardens where the water can soak into the earth instead of spilling into the river.

The program is a partnership between Environmental Services, the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, homeowners and community groups. For each downspout they disconnect, community volunteers earn \$13 to spend on neighborhood projects. More than 5,300 volunteers have disconnected downspouts and community groups have earned nearly \$220,000.

Homeowners who do the work themselves earn \$53 per downspout, or the City will do the work for free. It's not too late to help The Downspout Disconnection Program can always use more community volunteers. Call 503-823-5858 to learn how to get involved.

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City recommends caution for recreational river use

June 17, 2005

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People who fish should wash their hands following contact with the water. Those who choose to eat fish caught in the Willamette River should cook them thoroughly to kill bacteria.

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what is called a combined sewer system. When the combined sewer system receives too much runoff, it overflows into the Willamette River. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are contaminated with bacteria from untreated sewage.

Portland is in the 14th year of a 20-year program to improve the city's sewer system. Until the program is complete, overflows of untreated sewage and stormwater will occur during rain storms, although as the program progresses, the frequency of overflows and number of outfalls are diminishing.

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City recommends caution for recreational river use

June 20, 2005

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June 22, 2005

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Eastbound lanes of West Burnside are open again

June 23, 2005

The sewer project that closed both eastbound lanes of West Burnside at SW 21st is complete and both lanes have reopened. The detour to SW Morrison Street was removed overnight and traffic was restored to normal on both Burnside and Morrison.

The sewer rehabilitation project began on June 14 and was expected to take up to two weeks. The project went smoothly and the City's contractor was able to complete work ahead of schedule.

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Nighttime sewer work scheduled on Capitol Highway

June 24, 2005

This Sunday night, June 26, work starts on a sewer repair project that will restrict nighttime traffic on SW Capitol Highway in Hillsdale. The work area is on the north side of Capitol between SW Sunset Boulevard and SW Bertha Court.

The project will reduce two-way traffic to one lane in each direction from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Sunday evening through early Saturday morning. The project will take about four weeks.

All lanes will be restored each day after 6:00 a.m. Trenches will be covered with steel plates or temporary asphalt.

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City recommends caution for recreational river use

June 27, 2005

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Chinese delegation will tour West Side Big Pipe Project

June 29, 2005

A delegation from China's Ministry of Construction will tour the largest public infrastructure project in Portland's history. On Friday, July 1, the 25 delegates will visit the West Side Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project office for a project presentation and an elevator trip down the 120-foot deep Nicolai Tunnel Shaft to view completed portions of the 14-foot diameter tunnel. Reporters and photographers are welcome to join the tour.

The West Side Big Pipe is part of Portland's 20-year program to control combined sewer overflows. The Chinese delegation arrives in Portland June 25 for an

eight-day training on sustainable development practices.

Who: China Ministry of Construction
officials
Environmental Services Director Dean
Marriott

What: Tour of the West Side Big Pipe Project

When: Friday, July 1, 11:00 a.m.

Where: West Side CSO Project Office, 2730
NW Front

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For information about Environmental Services programs, contact [Linc Mann](#), 503-823-5328, or [Joan Saroka](#), 503-823-5021.

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