

Read on to find out what's new at the Estuary Partnership!

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Bill to fund Columbia River clean up reintroduced

Monday, July 28th, the [Columbia River Basin Restoration Act](#) was reintroduced by Senator Merkley and Representative Blumenauer. If passed, this bill will clear the way for \$50 million in funding through a competitive grant program for toxics and pollution clean up along the river. The Columbia River Basin is designated a "large aquatic ecosystem" by the EPA, but is the only system that receives no dedicated funding pursuant to this designation.

The Columbia River desperately needs funding to clean up toxics. Toxics are pervasive in the water,



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sediment, and fish, and do great harm to the health of wildlife and humans. PCBs—[still found in some food packaging](#)—harm our immune system and increase cancer risks. Mercury affects the developing brains of children and alters behavior and learning. Contaminants in flame-retardants, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals cause male fish to morph to females during their life cycle. This act will fund voluntary, collaborative, and incentive-driven initiatives to improve water quality.

Congress is currently in recess—keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates starting next month! Read more about the bill at [OPB News](#) and [Portland Family Magazine](#).

Save the Date! Our 15th Annual Dinner & Art Gala is October 18th

Our Annual Dinner and Art Gala is **Saturday, October 18th** (please note the date change) at the scenic Columbia River Yacht Club. Eat, drink, be merry, and bid on unique art and river experiences—all with a breathtaking view of the Columbia River. The gala will raise funds for our Education and Volunteer Stewardship Programs.

Tickets will be available soon. Mark your calendars – a wonderful evening on the banks of the Columbia River awaits you!



Looking to venture out on the Columbia River? Check out our [Lower Columbia River Water Trail interactive map](#) for loads of info, including launch sites, parking, restrooms, camping, food stops, and more. Have fun, be safe, and don't forget your sense of adventure!

(photo credit: Neil Schulman)

***Thank you 2014
Dinner & Art Gala
sponsors!***

**We are grateful for
your support.**

70,400 new trees for La

Center wetland



The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is funding an Estuary Partnership project for stormwater education and tree plantings in the La Center, Washington area. Plantings will

take place on 30 acres of the East Fork Lewis River (EFLR) bottomlands and two acres along Breeze Creek. Contractors will plant the majority—66,000 trees along the EFLR—though the Estuary Partnership will also organize community volunteers and students to plant an additional 4,400 trees along Breeze Creek, a small tributary to the EFLR. Plantings will help shade and cool the creeks, making them more hospitable for juvenile salmon. Students and community members will also learn how to reduce stormwater impacts and learn how plantings filter pollutants and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Volunteer and student activities begin this winter.



Science to Policy Summit final report released

In June, we hosted our 8th annual Science to Policy Summit with a focus on toxics reduction in the lower Columbia River. Together with one hundred scientists, community leaders, and natural resource practitioners, we learned about emerging data regarding sources and impacts of toxics in the lower



river. We also heard success stories of voluntary toxics reduction, including promising advancements from groups such as [Salmon-Safe](#) and [Staples, Inc.](#) Small group discussions recommended ways to further this critical work, such as increasing the market for safe products, creating economic incentives to use less toxics, and passing the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act. Throughout the day, speakers centered on a common goal: reduce toxics and create a healthy environment for our children's children. Our final summit report and summit presentations are available [here](#).

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