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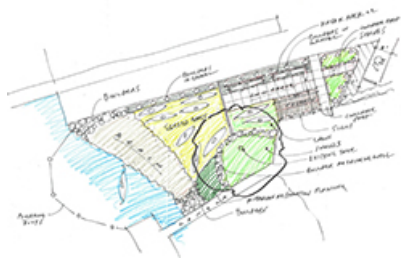
Welcome to paddling season, Estuary Partners!

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Ridgefield Water Trail Improvements Thanks to REI

Ridgefield, Washington has a thriving non-motorized boating scene. Each year, hundreds of kayakers, canoers, and stand-up paddle boarders descend on Ridgefield for their Big Paddle, which celebrates National Trails Day and Ridgefield's prime Water Trail location. Throughout the rest of the year, paddlers flock to Ridgefield because of the calm waters of Lake River, its location on both the Lower Columbia River Water Trail and the Lewis River-Vancouver Lake Water Trail, the easy access to the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and its proximity to Vancouver and Portland. But like most communities, Ridgefield lacks a dedicated, developed launch specifically designed for non-motorized boaters.



That's about to change. Thanks to funding from REI, the Estuary Partnership, the City of Ridgefield, and the support of many community

stakeholders, plans are underway to create a launch area directly adjacent to the Ridgefield Boat Ramp designed specifically for canoes, kayaks, and other non-motorized boaters. With help from Greenworks PC, we've created a concept design that integrates kayak racks, clear separation between motorized and non-motorized uses, interpretive signage, and infrastructure improvements that will make the site more appealing and easier to use and maintain.



Attention Fred Meyer Rewards users! On July 1, all rewards cards will be unlinked from your nonprofit of choice. [Re-link your card to Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership](#) and keep supporting outdoor education and volunteer stewardship with your Fred Meyer purchases!

Science to Policy: How Vulnerable is the Lower Columbia River to Climate Change?



Join us this Friday, June 17 at the Hilton Vancouver Washington for our 10th annual Science to Policy Summit. We'll be joined by an expert panel presenting on topics including projected changes in regional climate, cold water refugia in the lower river, ocean

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soon release an online survey to gather public input - stay tuned.

With permitting and construction still to go, the grand opening won't happen during this paddling season, but we'll keep you posted as the project progresses. Make you check it out during next year's National Trails Day Big Paddle on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Time Lapse Video Shows La Center Changes



After our restoration project at La Center Bottoms was completed last fall, we monitored the site to assess the ecological impacts of our restoration. We placed a time-lapse camera to capture some of the winter storms and the resulting high water. It may seem long ago, but as you probably recall, we had some significant rain events over the winter. It is fascinating to see the changes to the landscape.

[Watch the one minute video here.](#)

Congratulations for Batwater Partners!



On Tuesday April 12, Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon State Land Board awarded the 2015 Wetland Award to the Batwater Station tidal reconnection project.

Strong collaboration and solid partnerships made the project a success. We are honored to be part of the team that includes the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Columbia Soil and Water

Together, we will discuss how climate change affects the management plan for the lower river and how we can adapt to our changing climate. [Register now.](#)



Our [Community Paddles](#) launch Monday, June 20. Paddles are extremely popular, so be sure to keep an eye on the calendar and sign up early. Preregistration opens six weeks before each paddle at 7am. Paddles are free of charge - though donations are always appreciated - and are great fun for families or individuals alike. Our two 29 foot canoes are a sturdy and safe way to get up close and personal with your local water body, and to get to know the sport of on-water paddling. See you on the river this summer!



A view of the breached levee at Batwater Station soon after project construction completion.

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make it happen. Congratulations to all.



The Estuary Partnership began developing this project in 2012 with the dual goals of restoring tidal influence to the

Batwater Station wetlands and to create critical wildlife habitat for a multitude of species. By its construction in 2015, an innovative approach for building juvenile salmonid habitat was integrated with habitat for Columbian white-tailed deer, Western pond turtle, beavers, and red-legged frogs. The project created tidal channels also provide habitat for Chinook, coho, sockeye, and chum salmon, as well as steelhead trout. Overall, the Estuary Partnership breached 500 feet of levee, constructed a network of sinuous tidal channels, and planted over 30,000 native riparian plants across 26 acres of habitat.



Hundreds of paddlers braved the heat on Saturday, June 4 to celebrate National Trails Day at Ridgefield's Big Paddle. The Estuary Partnership was there to take people out in our big canoes.

Many thanks to Governor Brown and the Oregon State Land Board for this honor.



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