

There's still lots going on this winter at the Estuary Partnership. Read on for news from the lower river!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Water Trail signs go up at key sites

Site owners of key launch and landing sites along the [Lower Columbia River Water Trail](#) continue to install their water trail signs – further marking the trail for paddlers both on the water and on land. Columbia River Kayaking (*pictured at right*), Fort Clatsop National Historical Park (Netul Landing), Clatsop County (the John Day Boat Ramp near Astoria), Washington State Parks (Beacon Rock State Park), the Port of Chinook (Chinook Boat Ramp), and the City of Rainier (Rainier Boat Ramp and Rainier Marina) are just a few of the site owners who have or will soon install water trail signage.



Perhaps no site owner has installed signs quite as dramatically though as the City of Washougal at their Steamboat Landing Park. Contractors installing three new pilings at the site took a few extra minutes and advantage of their crane to hang the site's water trail banners at the top of one of the new pilings (*pictured at left*).

Look for more signs to be installed this winter and spring, and be sure to check out our [water trail website](#) as you gear up for paddling season!

Inter-Fluve receives Honor Award for Estuary Partnership project

Congratulations are in order! Our partner [Inter-Fluve](#) received an Honor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACEC) for their work on our [Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project](#), which improved fish passage to 190 acres of floodplain habitat and restored 36 acres of riparian wetlands in the Columbia River Gorge. The ACEC Honor Award recognizes engineering achievements which demonstrate the highest degree of merit and ingenuity. Completed in the summer of 2014, Inter-Fluve provided the design, engineering, and construction oversight for the restoration project.

East Fork Lewis River high water in context

It rained a lot in November and December. A LOT. Areas throughout the lower Columbia River flooded, including portions of Rainier, Kalama, and Clatskanie, and many areas and homes were hit hard. Estuary Partnership staff were curious and paid particular attention to flows on the East Fork Lewis River (EFLR), where in mid-November, just before the big rains started, we wrapped up a [large habitat restoration project at La Center Bottoms](#).



The project breached a levee in three locations, installed pedestrian bridges over the breaches, removed an outdated water control structure, and installed large wood habitat structures. We've also begun the process of planting more than 60,000 trees with funding from the Washington Department of Ecology.

So when the big rains came, we did some tracking. Mid-November EFLR flows reached a peak of about 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)—not uncommon on the EFLR, about a two-year flood event. But another big rain event came almost right after that one. The December flow was huge—about 22,400 cfs, the second highest flow recorded on the EFLR in 85 years.



As many people saw, these two high flows back to back flooded the La Center Bottoms wetlands, the hiking trail, and submerged the pedestrian bridges. Our restoration team did a lot of pre-restoration modeling to ensure the project would not increase flood risk, and our monitoring during the flooding events showed that the dike breaches did not contribute to the flooding. Such huge rain events just created big enough flows to overtop the levee,

dike breaches or not. Thankfully, the high flows receded pretty quickly and the trail and wetland are now back to normal.

Experience
Vancouver Lake
• Open House •
Wednesday, April 27, 2016 • 5pm - 7pm
Drop in any time • Brief program at 5:30
Water Resources Education Center
(4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver)
Come learn about what is happening at the lake from organizations engaged in:
Education
Recreation
Conservation
Research
Find out how you can get involved
Light refreshments • All are welcome!
For more information, contact the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership: (503)226-1565
or visit www.estuarypartnership.org/Vancouver-Lake



Vancouver Lake Open House

Mark your calendar and join us
April 27

Join us for a free [open house](#) on
Wednesday, April 27 from 5 - 7pm at the
Water Resources Education Center
([4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver](#)).

Booth exhibitors from Clark County, the
City of Vancouver, the Port of Vancouver,
the Estuary Partnership and many others



Winter plantings past & still to come

Forty-two dedicated volunteers of all
ages joined us at La Center Bottoms
Wetlands on Monday, January 18, to
honor MLK Jr. National Day of Service.
Together, we planted 740 native trees
and shrubs along Brezee Creek and the
East Fork Lewis River. We were joined by
Chay Environmental Group, Cub Scout
Pack 443, Boy Scout Troops 370 and 14,

will showcase current education, recreation, research, and conservation efforts taking place at the lake. Drop in any time. A short presentation will happen at 5:30pm. Come learn more and get involved!



Science to Policy report released

Our [Science to Policy Summit Final Report](#) on toxics reduction in the Columbia Basin is complete. The Summit, held on November 19, 2015 in Vancouver, included two peer-to-peer workshops to examine pesticide use and stormwater management. The report includes an overview of key points from Summit participants, and identifies next steps. Thank you to all who came out for the discussions.

and other local residents to make for a fun and productive day. Thanks to all who joined us to make a difference and restore lower Columbia River habitats.

And there are still opportunities for you to join us at one of our upcoming plantings! Many events are filling up fast—however, we still need dedicated volunteers to help plant at Benson State Park along Multnomah and Wahkeena Creeks on March 5 and 12, 9am - 12pm.

- February 6 - [La Center Bottoms, La Center, Washington](#)
- February 20 - [Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Washougal, Washington](#)
- February 27 - [Meldrum Bar Park, Gladstone, Oregon](#)
- March 5 - [Benson State Park, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon](#)
- March 12 - [Benson State Park, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon](#)



Copyright © 2016 Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp