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Happy summertime, Estuary Partners! Read on to find out more of the great work we're up to on the lower Columbia River.

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## Experience Vancouver Lake



We are excited to announce that we are partnering with the Port of Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and Clark County to increase community engagement with Vancouver Lake. In the coming year, we will lead community paddles, volunteer events, and provide watershed education for students in Clark County. We also will produce online maps and

resources for the Lewis River-Vancouver Lake Water Trail, and will host a Vancouver Lake community forum for stakeholders and members of the public.

The 2,300 acre Vancouver Lake is an important resource to the lower Columbia region. Each year, the lake and surround area supports over 200,000 migratory waterfowl and a variety of salmonids, including lower Columbia chum, Chinook, and steelhead. The lake also provides local residents with numerous recreational opportunities, such as paddling, sailing, swimming, hiking, and birdwatching – all right in the backyard of the Vancouver-Portland metro area. Our first scheduled event is a community paddle on June 23rd. Seats go quickly and this paddle is completely full, but you can still secure your spot for [one of two paddles on Tuesday, July 14](#). Registration is required; there is no cost to participate. Keep your eye on the Estuary Partnership website for a full list of [Vancouver Lake events](#).

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## Batwater Station Project Begins

The Estuary Partnership will begin work on the Batwater Station Floodplain Restoration Project in July, restoring habitat for a multitude of species, including various waterfowl,

beaver, deer, amphibians, reptiles, and juvenile salmonids. The project is located on the mainstem of the Columbia River in Oregon near river mile 57 and Crims Island. It will restore 26-acres of tidal freshwater wetland by breaching a levee (pictured at right) and removing a tide gate. The project also will construct 1,600 feet of tidal channels, install 14 large wood structures, control invasive reed canarygrass, and replant 11 acres to a scrub-shrub riparian forest and emergent marsh. The name *Batwater* comes from the property owners. When restoring the main house, they pulled off some ceiling tiles, and several mother bats with their clinging pups fell from the ceiling.



*Project partners include the private landowner of the property, the Columbia Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, with funding from Bonneville Power Administration.*

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## Teacher Gives Back: Leaving a Legacy of Learning Outside

“My favorite moment is always when a student tells me they were scared of going in a boat. They overcome their fear...when the trip is complete, everyone is all smiles.” These words from 4th grade teacher Audra Brown capture a little of the magic that happens when you get kids outside to explore and learn. It also explains a little about why **Audra chose to name the Estuary Partnership as a beneficiary of her will.**



For the past 4 years, Audra and her students have received Estuary Partnership classroom visits and outdoor field trips. “The trips are amazing and often listed as my students’ favorite memory of fourth grade,” says Audra. “It’s EXTREMELY difficult to find field trips for students that are free and get students out into their natural world. Public education should include field learning, but we struggle to find opportunities that are financially accessible to our students. The 3 in-class lessons leading up to the trip also make the excursion all the more valuable.”

Our Outdoor Program has made a big difference to Audra's students, so when it came time to make decisions about bequests, she knew how to make a difference for more students. "The Estuary Partnership has always been organized and focused on adult and student education, so it was an easy choice."

As the mother of a 5 and 9 year old, Audra seeks out local wildlife refuges to get her family out in nature. Her favorite spot is Tualatin's [Brown's Ferry Park](#) on the Tualatin River with "easy kayaking, hiking, and bird watching for all ages."



**Thank you Audra** for your commitment to students and your devoted support of the Estuary Partnership!

To find out more about leaving a legacy gift to the Estuary Partnership, contact Debrah Marriott, Executive Director, [by e-mail](#) or at 503-226-1565 x227.



## Calling All Artists!

The Estuary Partnership is seeking unique artwork focused on the Columbia River for our annual Dinner & Art Gala, to be held **October 17, 2015**. Over 250 people who live, work, and play along the Columbia River attend the gala each year. All proceeds will support our Outdoor Education Program—*free* to local students.



## Join us on the River

School is out, the sun is bright—summer is here! What better way to enjoy the river than paddling on it? Join us in our 12-person big canoes to explore your local watershed. Our FREE community paddles are led by our experienced environmental educators, and occur at various locations along the lower river. Trips are appropriate for ages 5 and up and all paddling skill levels. Registration

We will promote our donating artists and their artwork extensively in the weeks leading up to the event. If you are an artist willing to donate, or if you have other ideas for auction packages, please contact Erinne Goodell [by e-mail](#) or at (503)226-1565 x 226.



is required. The full schedule and links to registration can be found [on our website](#). See you on the water this summer!

- [Wed. June 17, 9:30am - 1:30pm](#): Willamette Park (Paddle to Ross Island and pull invasive plants)
- [Tues. June 23, 10am - 12pm](#): Vancouver Lake, Felida Moorage - **FULL**
- [Wed. July 1, 8 - 10pm](#): Willamette Park (Full Moon Paddle)
- [Thurs. July 9, 9:30am - 12pm](#): Willamette Narrows, West Linn, OR
- [Tues. July 14, 9:30am - 11:30am or 12pm - 2pm](#): Vancouver Lake, Felida Moorage
- Additional dates [on our website](#).

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