



2011 Columbia Slough Award Winners

Leadership Award Winners

Megan Hanson, City of Portland Clean Rivers Education

Megan Hanson has been an environmental educator with the Clean Rivers Education Program since 2002, reaching over 8000 student contacts annually. Regularly working with Slough School staff, she co-facilitates classroom programs, field trips and canoe trips for local school groups. There is no other community partner that contributes as much to the long-term stability and exemplary quality of the Slough School youth education program.

Verde

An enterprise offspring of Hacienda CDC, Verde's focus is empowering low-income people and people of color to create strong neighborhood economies through environmental work. Verde provides landscaping, native plant nursery services, natural area and street tree planting, habitat restoration services, and invasive plant control. In addition to their field work, they provide weatherization services, multicultural youth education, and are leading the effort on Let's Build Thomas Cully Park. Verde directly serves the Columbia Slough Watershed's diverse communities in an innovative way.

Achievement Award Winners

David Kennedy, Architect for the Watershed Education Center

David Kennedy took a lead role in planning the new Watershed Education Center located at Whitaker Ponds Nature Park in NE Portland. Offering his services pro-bono, he drew up concept ideas, recruited an interior designer, completed the drawings and work for the Change of Occupancy permit, and secured donations for materials and fixtures for the renovation. His support was essential to the completion of the Council's new location that serves as classroom, office space and storage.

Natural Area Land Acquisition Team: Shannah Anderson (City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services), Deb Lev (Portland Parks & Recreation), Hillary Wilton and Leif Anderson (Metro)

In 2011, the Natural Area Land Acquisition Team had two significant achievements: the acquisition of Wilkes Creek Headwaters and the Columbia Slough Natural Area. Wilkes Creek Headwaters contains the area where the creek wells out of the hillside and flows into the Upper Columbia Slough. Sixteen acres surrounding the headwaters will be restored as natural area, while the remaining acreage will be developed as an active park in this (formerly) parks-deficient neighborhood. The Columbia Slough Natural Area will provide easy access for canoeist and kayakers the Middle Slough, and the Columbia Slough Trail will be constructed on this site as part of Commissioner Nick Fish's E205 initiative.

Jamie Stamberger, City of Gresham

Ms Stamberger has worked since 2006 to restore creekside habitat along Fairview Creek, a major Slough tributary, in Gresham. Working with landowners, she developed a large restoration partnership that has, to date, cleared a half acre from invasive plants and installed nearly 1000 native plants. Her innovative and thorough work allowed her to overcome a general distrust from private landowners to the benefit of Fairview Creek and all the water downstream.