



PRESS RELEASE

Columbia Slough Watershed Council
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For Immediate Release:

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Explorando el Columbia Slough **Saturday, June 20**

Explorando el Columbia Slough, Portland's first bilingual environmental festival, returns for its eighth year running on Saturday, June 20. Presented by the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, this festival celebrates nature in the city and the culture of the local Latina population. With family-friendly activities in both Spanish and English, this free event welcomes more than 500 people every year to Whitaker Ponds Nature Park for an afternoon of fun and learning.

With partners such as the Oregon Zoo, Portland Parks and Recreation, REI, Metro, and Verde, *Explorando* offers free information on wildlife, gardening, recycling and recreation opportunities. In addition to hands-on environmental activities, *Explorando* showcases local talent with Mexican folk dancing, live music, storytelling, and arts and crafts. Participants also have the chance to meet a live bird of prey, identify different water bugs, and take a guided canoe trip down tree-lined Whitaker Slough.

"I love Explorando because of the interactions between nature and the community," said Isabel Cruz, a long-time supporter and Explorando volunteer. "We live in nature, we live in the community, so it's wonderful to come and enjoy the environment and all the resources we have in our community."

Explorando highlights the natural beauty of Whitaker Ponds Nature Park at 7040 NE 47th Ave. in Portland, 1/4 mile north of NE Columbia Blvd. Activities start at 1 pm, and end at 5 pm. Event flyers are available at www.columbiaslough.org.

As always, Explorando el Columbia Slough is free to attend. Participants receive a free Explorando 2009 t-shirt (while supplies last), and the first 300 visitors receive a free pass to a Portland Parks & Recreation facility. Food is available for purchase, and raffle drawings are held throughout the afternoon. All ages, all cultures and all backgrounds are welcome.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council is a diverse group of neighbors, property owners, businesses, environmental advocates, recreation activists, and government agencies representatives. Its mission is: "to foster action to protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the Columbia Slough and its watershed."

Presented by:
Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Explorando Sponsors:
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District; City of Gresham; City of Portland: Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation, Portland Water Bureau; Halton Company; Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel; Squires & Lopez, Attorneys at Law; Willamette River Fun(d) of the Oregon Community Foundation

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