

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oswego Lake Watershed Council Launches 2015 Watershed Enhancement Projects

Lake Oswego, Oregon – March 16, 2015

The Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) is pleased to announce a partnership with the City of Lake Oswego to improve the watershed on three private properties within the Oswego Lake Watershed. Under changes in the Sensitive Lands ordinance the City Council directed Parks budget funds be directed towards public property to enhance and maintain the health of the watershed. These funds will also help private property owners enhance the health of the watershed on private lands. The City has contracted with OLWC to create a program that not only benefits the homeowner whose property contains natural watershed resources, but benefits the entire community by restoring a healthy functioning watershed as a common good.

OLWC, whose mission is to conserve, restore, enhance and maintain watershed functions to achieve and sustain a healthy watershed, identified three demonstration sites that would help the City achieve the goal of improving watershed function on public and private property throughout the City. The sites were chosen to demonstrate how this program would work for three property types of high environmental value in different areas of the city.

The criteria used to identify these sites were:

- Property had running water at least part of the year (riparian sites)
- Property was adjacent to City natural areas
- Property was degraded by invasive species and other effects of urbanization

For these demonstration projects, the property owners were not involved in the selection of the sites. They were approached after their property was identified as being high value sites for enhancing watershed health. All three were happy to be involved in the demonstration projects.

To ensure longevity of the enhancement project, property owners sign an agreement to maintain the property in the future. The City provides OLWC funds to help with maintenance for three years following the initial work. Monitoring of the enhanced properties will take place beyond the three year maintenance timeline to ensure properties are not taken over by invasive species or become degraded.

Once these demonstration projects are done, the OLWC will work with Neighborhood Associations to identify properties that would benefit the community and provide a mechanism for property owners to apply for this program. Community members are welcome to help with OLWC projects. For further information visit: <http://www.oswegowatershed.org>.

ABOUT OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL: The Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) is a locally organized, non-profit, non-regulatory watershed stewardship organization established to improve the condition and health of the Oswego Lake watershed and its stream network.

The mission of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed. Our vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working

together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

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