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Skyline Rural Watch Newsline

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SRNPDX.ORG | Facebook Group: Skyline Ridge Neighbors



Date: 09/19/2021

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A Neighbor Reports:

Multiple neighbors have contacted me over the last few weeks of the siting of a young or small cougar on properties which abut Old Germantown and Germantown Rd. It has been seen crossing Old Germantown near the powerlines, a heavily used animal corridor.

The sitings are in broad daylight.
9:45 am through to 3:00 pm.
Sittings sporadically from Sept 1 through Sept 17.

For neighborhood informational purposes only. No attacks on pets, livestock, or people have been reported. Only sitings.



source: <https://wmswcd.org/urban-conservation-planning-and-collaboration-highlights-from-2020-2021/>

Urban Conservation Planning and Collaboration: Highlights from 2020-2021

Covid-19 didn't stop residents from getting out on their properties and into local natural areas to connect with the land and lend a hand. It also didn't stop urban partners from continued collaboration and innovation focused on better addressing challenging urban conservation issues.

We developed seven new conservation plans this year with interested residents. Some of these plans include multiple residents working together across property boundaries to improve the health of their combined properties. In addition to plan development, we coordinated funding and/or provided technical assistance to six conservation projects to implement on-the-ground conservation work including the installation of native plants, stormwater management improvements, root wad placements, and invasive species removal. Funding to complete this work was provided by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Metro, site landowners, and the District.

This year, District staff developed, shared, and presented research on *Portland's Stormwater Permitting, Policy & Processes: A Stakeholder & Geospatial Analysis* at the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium of Portland/Vancouver. Portland's West Hills have many steep and landslide-prone slopes. The City of Portland is a nationally-recognized leader in stormwater management with strategies that show why working at the sub-watershed level – a smaller geographic scale – is more effective for planning, implementing and evaluating watershed improvements. Despite the city being at the leading edge, Portland's West Hills still have significant problems managing stormwater, which impacts the health and water quality of its many creeks. Watershed health may further decline as local stormwater systems become increasingly less able to manage the annual volume of stormwater. This reduced ability is caused by a number of factors which vary by sub-watershed: more new buildings, paved areas, and sealed surfaces that stormwater can't pass through; degraded riparian zones with decreased ability to absorb and filter stormwater; climate change producing more intense storm events; and aging, failing, and/or inadequately-sized grey and green stormwater infrastructure (i.e. pipes, retention basins, swales, etc.). Additionally, with stormwater systems in disproportionate condition across the city, equity, sustainability, and livability questions arise. This research sought to uncover barriers and opportunities for improving stormwater conditions through diverse stakeholder involvement.

Along with partners, we celebrated the 9th year of the Canopy Weeds Program with 411 participating landowners and 34,186 trees cleared of invasive vines. Portland Fire & Rescue joined the partnership, adding wildfire risk reduction to the suite of benefits offered to program participants. The Canopy Weeds Program has historically provided free treatment of invasive ivy and clematis species in neighborhoods adjacent to Forest Park. The goal of this important program is to save trees, slow the spread of invasive weeds and protect the health of Forest Park as well as a segment of the wildlife corridor that connects Forest Park to the Oregon Coast Range. This year, we piloted a fee-for-service model with a sliding needs-based scale to help fund and increase the number of on-the ground weed removal projects. In addition, we helped outreach about wildfire risk reduction home assessments that are available through Portland Fire & Rescue. The Canopy Weed Program work is completed by Forest Park Conservancy's Green Jobs Interns. The Green Jobs Training and Internship Program provides BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth and young adults with hands-on professional experience and support to pursue a career in the conservation and natural resources field.

Urban educational demonstration projects, native habitat gardens, porous walkways, streamside enhancements, culvert removal, signage, and retention basins continue to benefit soil, water, local wildlife habitat, and neighborhood greenspaces. These projects engage and connect diverse communities with conservation practices and provide access to nature in areas that have been historically underserved by the District through volunteer events, tours, signage, and local neighborhood enhancements.

This year's demonstration projects include a streamside area that's being restored and used as an environmental education site by a community of faith. Another project includes meadowscaping, forestland and stormwater improvements adjacent to an important "safe route to school" pathway that serves diverse and low-income youth and adults. Pathway users regularly volunteer to maintain the demonstration plot at work parties and educational events.

Despite initial restrictions on in-person gatherings due to COVID-19, the [Stormwater Stars Program](#) was able to conduct design and build workshops by adding health and safety protocols. Program organizers hosted 3 events that engaged 55 people through hands-on planning and installation workshops for yard-scale stormwater management techniques. In addition, partners assessed 23 sites for stormwater upgrades, providing each with recommendations for their properties. They also launched a new website with photographs and descriptions of past workshops to inform and inspire more people to install stormwater management features. In April 2021, program managers also began planning growing the program into Washington County.

New and continued partnerships with local watershed councils, universities, local agencies and nonprofits continue to be a critical way of achieving conservation objectives in the urban realm in a strategic and effective way. With modifications for COVID-19 pandemic gathering limits, The Tryon Creek Watershed Council was able to hold a watershed-wide event and even grew access to the event to those who were unable to attend in-person; participants were invited to conduct restoration work in their own locations as part of the event. The West Willamette Restoration Partnership continued its important work of monitoring restored areas with Wisdom of the Elders and District staff. Lastly, a new partner that we recognized this year for stepping up in a big way is Neighbors West Northwest. This partner quickly, thoughtfully, and seamlessly took on a fiscal agent role for a critical partner, the Westside Watershed Resource Center, when the Center had an abrupt need to change their fiscal agent.

For more information about our work in urban neighborhoods, contact Urban Conservationist, Mary Logalbo, at mary@wmswcd.org.



(Stormwater Stars planting event. Photo by Corey Shelton)

Advertisement

Advertise in the Newsline

We welcome classified ads from individuals, families, and home-based businesses within the SRN boundaries. Ads are limited to 50 words, and be sure to include your contact information. Send them to newsline@srnpdx.org and indicate how many times you want your ad to run.

Prices for Newsline ads are as follows:

Families & individuals: First issue is free, then \$5 for each additional repeat of the same ad.

Home-based businesses: \$7.50 per Newsline issue

Please pay for your ad in advance by either mailing a check payable to SRN to our Treasurer Rachael Brake, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd., Portland 97231, or via the Venmo phone app to rcbrake@hotmail.com. Be sure to indicate which Newsline ad you are paying for.

Skyline Ridge Neighbors, Inc Website
<https://www.srnpdx.org/>

Calendar

Skyline Ridge Neighbor, Inc Regular Board Meeting: The SRN board meetings are routinely held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm by Zoom. All are welcome to attend. For Zoom login information please reach out to Emily at ebennett@gmail.com

Skyline Ridge Runner Deadline for the next issue is Wed Dec 15. If you have any ads, calendar listings, news items, stories, letters, photos, etc. that you would like to submit for publication in the January edition, please email them to ridgerunner@srnpdx.org. Or call me (503-621-9867) to let me know you're going to send something for the Ridge Runner. Please note that the Ridge Runner may not reach mailboxes until the middle of the month of publication. Thanks, Miles Merwin Editor

Find the community calendar here: <http://www.srnpdx.org/calendar.html>

Resource Directory

As a service to neighbors, SRN publishes a listing of local government agencies and businesses in the [Skyline Resource Directory](#). Follow the links in this section to view its contents and learn how to add a business or agency listing. Listing of organizations and businesses herein does not imply any endorsement of SRN nor does it imply a lack of endorsement for similar organizations or businesses not included.

Community Links

Skyline Ridge Neighborhood Emergency Team (NET): SkylineRidgeNET@gmail.com

Skyline Grange: <https://skylinegrange94.org/>

Forest Park Conservancy: <http://www.forestparkconservancy.org/>

Linnton Community Center: <http://www.linntoncommunitycenter.org/>

Linnton Neighborhood Association: <http://linntonna.org/>

West Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District: <http://wmswcd.org/>

Skyline School: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/skyline/>

Skyline School PTA: <https://skylineschoolpta.com/>

Lincoln High School: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/lincoln/>

About the Newsline

Skyline Rural Watch Newsline is a part of Skyline Ridge Neighbors (SRN) and has been produced since June 1994 as a means to communicate neighborhood information. The Newsline is produced by Laurel Erhardt (editor) with help from Miles Merwin, Libby Merwin, and Sen Speroff.

The Newsline depends on you as a source of accurate information about local crimes, upcoming events, and other news pertinent to the area. If you have information you would like considered for the Newsline, you may do so by e-mailing the information to newsline@srnpdx.org, or leaving a message at (503) 621-3501. Urgent, timely items (crimes, lost pets) should be emailed to alert@srnpdx.org. If you would like more detailed information about any item on the Newsline, request that information & SRN will e-mail it to you if available.

You can [subscribe to the Newsline](#) at the Skyline Ridge Neighbors website, SRNPDX.ORG. Tell your neighbors about this free Newsline service.

About Skyline Ridge Neighbors

SRN is a neighborhood association serving much of unincorporated northwest Multnomah County and some adjacent areas within the city of Portland. SRN is registered as a neighborhood association within Multnomah County, registered as a non-profit public benefit corporation with the State of Oregon and approved as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the IRS Code. SRN is operated by volunteers and with donated funds entirely.

If you would like to donate to SRN in support of its activities, such as this free Newsline service and the publication of its quarterly Skyline Ridge Runner, send your donation to "Skyline Ridge Neighbors", c/o Rachael Brake, 14109 NW Rock Creek Rd, Portland OR 97231. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

