

Stormwater News



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF KEIZER ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL PROGRAM

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The Story of Labish Creek



If you look really hard in the photo you can see two species of native fish in Labish Creek, The red side Shiner and the Prickly Sculpin.

Labish Creek has an interesting history, Some 106 years ago, an enterprising Californian businessman set about to drain the vast tract of swampy beaver ponds and meandering channels of the Pudding River wetlands.

The rich bottom land, was called by the French-Indian name "Land of the Elk" or Labish Lake in English. This area

was said to be one of the richest beaver areas in the state, supporting vast herds of elk, as well as mink, otter, raccoon and deer. J.O. Hayes of San Diego recognized the rich soil that lay beneath the flooded wetland grass and in 1913 put up the vast sum of \$150,000, organizing labor and bringing in a heavy dredge to dig a massive canal to drain the wetlands and convert it to farmland.

The businessman had a novel idea of dividing the 1000 acre's into 20 different model farms each run independently by a family, but under the management of an overarching farm manager. It was speculated that this would be some of the premier cranberry growing land in the Oregon country.

Once known as Labish Ditch, but now having the characteristics of a creek, this man made channel drains the vast agricultural fields to the east of Portland Rd. Labish Creek, enters Keizer just to the north of Volcanoes Stadium skirting along the Gubser neighborhood and running through scenic country Glen Park, before meeting Claggett Creek at the McNary Golf Club.

A recent underwater survey showed two native fish species occupying the stretch that flows through Country Glen Park. The Red Side Shiner and the Prickly Sculpin are a good sign that this 100+ year old project to drain some wetlands is starting to function like a natural system.



Labish Creek during a high water event in the winter of 2017 spills it's banks at Country Glen Park.

Did you Know:

Prior to World War II a large Japanese Community farmed Celery and Onions in the agriculture fields of the drained Lake Labish, every family had its own greenhouse to make starts in. During the war years these families were relocated to internment camps by the U.S. Government. After the war only a few families returned to the Lake Labish area to continue farming and Celery was no longer a commonly grown crop in Lake Labish after that.

Special points of interest:

- IN THE 1840'S THE WATTIER FAMILY FOUNDED A HOMESTEAD AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE BIG AND LITTLE PUDDING RIVERS, THEY SETUP A GRIST MILL AND A SAW MILL RUNNING OFF OF HYDROPOWER FROM THE RIVERS AND FORMED A TOWN CALLED PARKERSVILLE.
- MR. HAYES THE AGRICULTURAL PIONEER PURCHASED THE WATTIER FAMILY WATER RIGHTS FOR \$25,000 AND REROUTED THE RIVERS TO HELP THE DRAINAGE.
- CRANBERRY PRODUCTION NEVER REALLY TOOK HOLD BECAUSE THE AREA THAT WAS DRAINED AND KNOWN AS LABISH LAKE IS MOSTLY USED FOR ONION PRODUCTION.

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A "cross bore" of a natural gas line through a storm line is a common occurrence since Horizontal Directional drilling (HDD) became a routine way to install underground utilities.

Infrastructure Highlights-By Lyle Bell

Our T.V. contractor utilizes underground camera equipment to inspect about 10% of the City's storm lines each year and occasionally finds objects bored through them, such as gas lines, pvc conduits, etc.

This can be a problem since storm drain lines need a

These cross bored lines can trap debris and cause a potential flooding situation if the pipe were to become blocked.



This picture above shows a gas line bored through a storm line.

The Storm crew acts quickly to repair these situations. Often replacing the section of storm line, while the utility contractor reroutes the line usually over the top of the storm line.

The hazelnut is unique in that it blooms and pollinates in the middle of winter. Wind carries the pollen from yellow catkins to a tiny red flower, where it stays dormant until June, when the nut begins to form.

Where did the Orchard Go?

If you have been to Keizer Rapids Park you may have noticed the Filbert Orchard was removed this winter.

From the ODA about the origin of the name:

HAZELNUTS ARE ALSO KNOWN AS "FILBERTS." SOME SPECULATE THE NAME ORIGINATED FROM "FULL BEARD," WHICH REFERS TO THE HUSK (OR "BEARD") THAT ENTIRELY COVERS THE NUT IN SOME VARIETIES. OTHERS BELIEVE THE NAME WAS DERIVED FROM ST. PHILIBERT, AS AUGUST 22 (A DATE THAT CORRESPONDS TO THE RIPENING OF THE EARLIEST FILBERTS IN ENGLAND) IS DEDICATED TO HIM

For years now the Orchard has been in decline from a disease that has effected much of Ore-

gon's Hazelnut production. Eastern Filbert Blight (EFB for short), is a fungus disease that was originally confined to the great lakes and Appalachian regions of North America, before it turned up in a Hazelnut orchard in Vancouver, Washington in the 1970's.



An excavator clears out the diseased trees from the KRP orchard.

This fungal pathogen can take 2 or more years to complete it's lifecycle and infect plants. It can also be very slow to affect orchards, with much of the canopy

of an infected orchard dying within 7-15 years after the original infection. This has had an impact on Filbert production in the valley which has been a leading producer of Filberts since the first commercial orchard was planted here in 1903.

Recent introductions of EFB resistant varieties has lead to removal of infected orchards and replanting of modern varieties that will not be impacted by the pathogen.

The parks department will lease the cleared land to a farmer until master plan improvements can take place, including multi use sports fields, softball fields and an indoor multi use facility, along with the permanent restrooms facilities that will be installed in the Winter/Spring of 2018-2019.



A vacant house occupied by squatters is overflowing with trash.

Homelessness in Keizer Oregon by Ben Crosby

I started working for the City three years ago and right away noticed that there was a need for more attention to the transient population in

Keizer. The City was getting calls for camps popping up in parks and along the river. We were also receiving calls of squatters in vacant homes;

mostly foreclosed properties. Park goes could not enjoy the parks because of trash and unsanitary conditions left by transients. Homes taken over

Homelessness in Keizer Oregon by Ben Crosby Story cont'd

by squatters would collect large piles of garbage. With no water or sewer services the situation gets undesirable very quickly.

With help from the Police and Parks Departments, we have closed down well over 50 camps, including squatter houses/properties. The wide range of trash, debris, and human waste removed from these camps is staggering. Camps and the human related refuse is commonly located adjacent to waterways so careful clean-up is needed in order to protect water quality.

Many arrests have been made associated with the camps and squatter homes, but we have also had a couple of recent happy endings as well. One female camp resident got a job and is now living in a real home. An eighteen year old boy was reconnected with his grandmother and is back in school getting his GED. I think we have balance that is working. With patience from the community and with City employees that care, we will make a difference.



Shane Witham inspects a squatter house



Robert Johnson and Ben Crosby use a drift boat to remove trash and debris and a stolen canoe from a homeless camp at Wallace House Park.

Did you Know?:

It is estimated that nationwide there are 564,708 experiencing homelessness on any given night.

The future is now: ArcGIS Online by Billy Johnson

The Environmental and Technical Division has been hard at work setting up a new GIS platform for Public Works that utilizes **ArcGIS online** to capture, manage and analyze data. ArcGIS online is a seamless "cloud" that allows staff to not only manage data more efficiently, but also al-

lows the city to keep up with regional agencies. It provides more effective internal communication and customer service. From project management and field surveys to maintenance programs and repairs, everyone in public works has access to live data, enhancing workflows for all

divisions. One of the largest advantages is the ability to utilize existing data to setup mobile and desktop applications to meet daily needs. We're busy launching all kinds of new projects, moving forward we'll highlight these projects and track the progress.



Outstanding Community Educator Award by Elizabeth Sagmiller

Mark Akimoff is an Environmental Program Technician in the City's Public Works Department. Mark came to work for the City in 2015. Mark's role with the City is primarily in Public Education as it relates to stormwater, the environment, and water quality.

Because of his creative work with students in the region, Mark was awarded the Outstanding Community Educator Award by the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District for 2017. His horticulture background has expanded education efforts in class-

rooms the City has not provided before such as the role plants play in removing pollutants from the soil, and helping to improve runoff water quality prior to discharge.

Congratulations Mark!



Mark Akimoff accepts the community educator of the year award from the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District's Staff Jenny Meisel and Chair Person Tim Bielenberg.



Pride, Spirit and Volunteerism

CITY OF KEIZER

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Please direct questions or
comments about this newsletter
to:

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The Environmental & Technical Division is responsible for implementing the City's regulatory programs and meeting compliance strategies of stormwater permits. These programs are primarily focused on protecting water quality in local waterways and groundwater. Protection of these resources are required through the federal Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

The City's 3 mandated programs are as follows:

1. **The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit.** This permit allows the City to discharge stormwater to local waterways through implementation and compliance with a Stormwater Management Plan.
2. **The Wastewater Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permit.** This permit allows the City to manage stormwater by injection into the ground through implementation and compliance with a Underground Injection Control Management Plan.
3. **The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan.** This plan manages the discharge of stormwater that flows overland directly to waterways.

**We are on the web
at: www.keizer.org**



Chris Shaw enjoys summer backpacking trips in the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

How Well do you know City Staff?-Chris Shaw

Chris is responsible for maintaining the Pump Stations and facilities and working with the constructions crew. He is the back-up to the Customer Service position and the Water Plant Specialist position.

How long have you worked for the City:?

I have worked here since April 2017..

What do you like best about your job?

I love making our pump stations look the best they can. Then on a random Friday helping the crew fix a repair.

AC/DC, Frank Sinatra or Johnny Cash?

Johnny Cash for sure!

f you could max out a credit card at any store and didn't have to pay it off what would you buy?

Cabelas (New rifle and scope, a guy can't go wrong there 😊)

What is the farthest point away from Keizer Oregon you have been in your life?:

Maui, Hawaii

What is your passion?

High country mule deer hunting, other than time with my family, it takes up the rest of my thoughts.

What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Hunting and fishing