

Ambitious plans for ELC

Development ideas for Environmental Learning Center

Ben Maras
Clackamas Print

located on the edge of campus, the existence of the Environmental Learning Center is a mystery to most students. The area will be given a name by the college starting in 2005. The goal of the project is to restore the area, and do a lot for the college and commu-

ally a site for a Smuckers. The ELC is situated with a pond which supplies water to the college, in addition to the creek at the mouth of Newell Creek. The plant was the result of trenches and industries, until a student took over the job of reclaiming the area.

In the next 20 years, it is planned and became known as the ELC, which includes Lakeside Hall and the Environmental Learning Center, which are used for seminars, as well as open to the community. In 1996, the ELC had been established and run by a private organization, but the college bought it and it is now an official part of the college. This was a mixed blessing for the ELC though, as budget cuts forced the college to eliminate support for the

center if they couldn't raise the money, the college turned to the community and enlisted the help of Oregon State University, the Soil and Water Conservation Service, and two federal agencies: the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resource Service. With these and other private organizations, the college now has a budget of approximately 2,000 square feet for new offices and classrooms. In addition, the college is planning for the wetland area to be turned into

a more "native" area, removing some of the non-native plants which have been intrusive and damaging to the natural ecosystem of the wetland area.

"Over the years, a lot of non-native plants have gone in," said David Dickson, Associate Dean of College Advancement/Foundation Executive Director. "Some have been invasive and unwanted. We also want to take out the ponds which are not a natural occurrence, we want the water cleaned and finished as it goes through the wetlands, which supplies two thirds of the water to the college."

There is also hope that the new area will nurture Newell Creek Canyon, an area that has an internal forest and native wildlife not supported in many other ecosystems. Among fauna in the canyon are Cutthroat Trout, Coho Salmon, and Steelhead.

The new area will also serve educational purposes, with various viewing areas and water treatment centers. The goal is to help kids and adults better learn about the environment.

"We're teaching the public about the environment, and to develop new certificates for environmental educators," said ELC Education Coordinator Alison Heimowitz. "[We have] a tremendous educational opportunity, where students can come to learn about the environment."

The college hopes that initial planning will be done by January, with financial planning occurring in July. The college is still in the fund-raising process, which will draw much from private contributors to cover the expenses involved in the building, as all of the buildings will be environmentally friendly ("green") buildings. Those in charge feel that it is worth the price.

"If we put [many organizations] in one building, this will be like a Fred Meyer, a one-stop shopping center ... this will be a one-stop environmental center for the Clackamas County and the general community."



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Map of the proposed development of the Environmental Learning Center

campus SAFETY

All reports are taken from CCC's campus safety incident logs. Summaries are edited for clarity, not content.

11-18-04

12:50 p.m.

Student reported a dispute over a parking space in Community Center lot.

4:10 p.m.

Staff reported threatening phone calls.

11-17-04

10:34 p.m.

Student reported two vehicle racing in Barlow lot.

10:55 p.m.

Contact two white male adults in above mentioned vehicles.

11-15-04

2:22 p.m.

Radio call regarding a man with a gun in the area of the BC and RR and everything was OK. Oregon City Police Department arrived to assist.

11-13-04

10:34 p.m.

While conducting a foot patrol through the OIT building I heard noises coming from a garbage can inside the building. I asked a white male adult that was outside the building to help me move the garbage can outside. Once the can was outside I removed the lid and found a very large rat. I then turned the can on its side, and released the critter into some bushes.

11-10-04

5:25 p.m.

Staff reported lost credit cards in mall area. Checked area and ASG office.

11-09-04

9:25 a.m.

Student reported tools stolen from his locked tool box in B109.

11:19 a.m.

Contacted three white male juveniles. Minor in possession of tobacco.

11:55 a.m.

Student reported hit and run in Clairmont lot.

6:40 p.m.

Received call of theft of car stereo.

We have some holiday giving ideas for you!

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on possibilities abound to participate in the giving holiday season. The first one requires no cash, only time, talent and good luck. The grocery store on

Highway 213 across from the college, will donate a \$50 gift certificate to the local Salvation Army or Food Bank if you and a few of your friends will belt out some holiday tunes for an hour at the store. The event is called "Sing from the Heart" and takes place Friday, Dec. 10, from 2-7 p.m.; Saturday, Dec.

11, noon-7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 12, noon-5 p.m. To sign up, call (503) 451-7900 and ask for Tom Hanks.

"You don't have to have a Christmas program," said Hanks. The holiday songs "can be formal or casual" and a group can be "three to four people, or any size," he said. "The donation can be done in the name of the college or another organization," he added.

There's still time — today and tomorrow — to participate in the Giving Tree. This annual event is a way for students to help other students who have children. Go to the Community Center, take a labeled ornament from the tree and go to the ASG office (inside the cafeteria) to find out what the child needs. Drop off the unwrapped gift by Dec. 2.

If you just heard about the Giving Tree and didn't have time to donate, consider a donation to Young Parent Opportunity Program (YPOP) here at Clackamas. They always need diapers of various sizes (preferably HUGGIES® brand) and baby wipes. Drop off

donations at the Family Resource Center all year round. Call YPOP at (503) 657-6958, ext. 2592 for more information.

Shelter makes a great gift as well. This idea, via KATU-TV News, is to donate to the Mount Hood Habitat for Humanity due to a recent break-in at their "Lillian's Place" project trailer. Replacement tools would be welcome as this volunteer organization does not have the resources to replace what was stolen. Drop off donated tools at the job site, 16842 SE Stark, Gresham. Habitat's main office is (503) 262-9794; ask for Magan or Sara.

Finally, your thoughts about the troops during the holidays could be translated into actual letters: consider sending them some fan mail. Send your name and address to: "Info Please," Friends of Our Troops, P.O. Box 65408, Fayetteville, NC, 28306. Or, if money is not an obstacle, make a donation to the troops or their families by way of a number of requested items. Information about these two ideas is posted on katu.com in their "hotlinks" section.

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