

Proposed Stormwater Fee Increase Supports Stream Acquisition Program

Effective July 1, City of Eugene monthly stormwater fees are proposed to increase approximately 7% to fund the stream corridor acquisition program. This is the first stormwater rate increase since 1994.

Proposed Stormwater Monthly Fee Schedule

User Category ¹	Small Residential ²	Medium Residential ³	Large Residential ⁴	Commercial/Industrial ⁵
Impervious Surface	\$3.91	\$6.30	\$2.17 per 1,000 sf	\$2.17 per 1,000 sf
Street-Related	\$0.99	\$0.99	\$0.99	\$0.70 per 1,000 sf
Administrative (per account)	<u>\$0.29</u>	<u>\$0.29</u>	<u>\$0.92</u>	<u>\$0.92</u>
Total Monthly Fee	\$5.19	\$7.58	Varies	Varies

- 1 Duplexes are charged at twice the rate for small or medium residential categories depending on the building footprint.
- 2 Small Residential Customer: Building footprint is equal to or less than 1,000 square feet.
- 3 Medium Residential Customer: Building footprint is greater than 1,000 square feet and less than 3,000 square feet.
- 4 Large Residential Customer: Building footprint is 3,000 square feet or greater.
- 5 All users other than single family homes and duplexes are included as Commercial/Industrial.

For more information, call 682-4900
www.ci.eugene.or.us/pw



A Memorial at Last

Five-year anniversary of Thurston shooting observed.

What began in tragedy, languished in neglect and was embroiled in discord, has finally ended in harmony. Five years after the events that stunned Lane County and sent shock waves across the nation, the victims of the shooting at Thurston High are getting a permanent memorial. Everyone is invited to attend the dedication at 4 pm May 21 in a landscaped area on the southwest corner of the school property on 58th Street in Springfield.

Volunteers have been laying out donated plants at the site since May 3. The Thurston Memorial itself consists of a remembrance wall layered with color-coded tiles that represent all of the nearly 1,500 students and staff who were present at school during 15-year-old Kip Kinkel's shooting rampage on May 21, 1998. Black represents the two slain students, Mikael Nickolauson and Ben Walker, red is for the 25 wounded students, and white is for the seven heroes who brought Kip down. The tiles are arranged in the approximate locations where these students stood or sat in the cafeteria just before 8 am when Kip opened fire with his Ruger semiautomatic rifle.

Near the wall stands a six-foot tall roughly cut basalt memorial stone with a plaque that dedicated to Nickolauson and Walker. No other names appear anywhere in the memorial, and there is no reference made at all to Kip's parents, Bill and Faith. Bill Kinkel taught at Thurston High for 30 years before his retirement, and Faith was still teaching at Springfield High when Kip shot them at their home in the suburb known as Shangri-La. Another plaque tells the story of the school shooting and how it affected the entire community.

The promised memorial, first proposed a few weeks after the shooting, was continually delayed due to conflicts between parents, teachers and the school district administration. Apparently, many of those problems went away when Superintendent Jamon Kent was dismissed and his assistant Len Arney resigned in July and August last year. For the three years immediately following the assault, Kent worked strenuously to keep the name of Thurston out of the public eye. Even local TV coverage of a benign event such as a bubble gum blowing contest at the high school on National No-Smoking Day was forbidden by Kent a few years back.

From the beginning, some teachers objected to any kind of memorial because they felt that seeing it when they came to work each day would be painful. They, and many students, wanted to get on with their lives without any reminders of a tragic and painful past. For parents of the dead and wounded, it was as if the community wished to erase the event and deny the trauma that they and their



Banner hanging on the fence at Thurston High after the shootings.

kids had gone through. The struggle to erect a memorial became an emotionally draining task for many of them.

An impromptu memorial was anonymously set up one night in a traffic circle down the street from Thurston just before the anniversary date in 2002. Then there was talk about a memorial hallway at the entrance to the new football stadium. This upset many parents because, while none of the murdered or wounded students had been a football player, Kip himself had been on the football team.

The committee originally set up to work on the student memorial included no shooting victims and, according to inside sources, no one who was even a witness to the event. The one parent representative was a school employee.

The three options originally allotted for the public and victims alike all involved massive (i.e., expensive) reconstruction for the parking lot and bus drive-through, which many parents felt was not an appropriate use of donated memorial funds. The preferences and/or ideas expressed by the victims (students and families) were given no more weight than those ideas expressed by any other person answering the questionnaire on paper or by Internet.

Community members and people across the nation have asked to be involved in the memorial process. Many people offered to pay for a bench, a tree or a plaque. Some even designed memorials on paper, submitted them to the school and offered to pay for them. All offers were rejected.

Only last month, on April 25, it was announced that the final outstanding lawsuit against the Kinkel estate, by shooting victim Teresa Miltonberger and her family, had finally been settled. Teresa, who was permanently injured after being shot in the forehead by Kinkel, asked for \$14.5 million. The final agreement includes the filing of a \$5 million judgment against Kip's future income, if any.

Kinkel turns 21 in August and is still incarcerated in MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility. He was sentenced to 112 years in prison after pleading guilty in September 1999, and Oregon's highest court recently upheld that ruling.

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