

The Portland Observer Sustainability



Beaverton grant supports amenities

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded the city of Beaverton a \$1 million Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant.

The monies will accelerate sustainable development and support the implementation of the Beaverton Creekside District Master Plan, which integrates affordable housing with efficient transportation, green infrastructure and public amenities.

"Partnerships like these are critical to creating the vibrant downtown aspired to by Beaverton residents," said Mayor Denny Doyle. "We'll now have the capacity to move our plans to projects."

The City will use its Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant to implement a number of strategies identified in the Civic Plan, adopted by City Council in April 2011.

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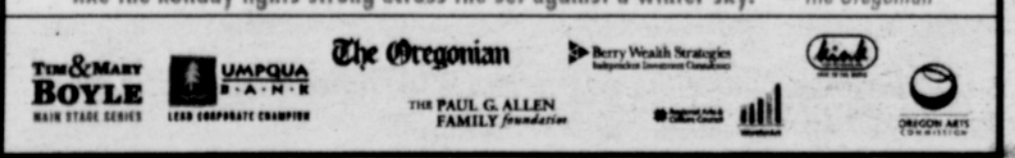
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"Sparkles and glows
like the holiday lights strung across the set against a winter sky." — *The Oregonian*



One of the Portland area's favorite holiday attractions is even greener this year. The Oregon Zoo's winter ZooLights display features 1.35 million lights, and 900,000 are now energy-efficient LEDs.

Holiday Lights go Green with LEDs ZooLights festival offers fudge to recycle old lights

If you've been thinking of switching out your old holiday lights for some energy-saving LEDs, the Oregon Zoo has a sweet offer for you: free fudge.

Throughout the run of its winter ZooLights festival, the zoo will be collecting old holiday light strings for recycling. Visitors who drop off their lights at the zoo by Sunday, Jan. 1 will receive a coupon for a free piece of fudge courtesy of the Zoo Store. All collected lights will be recycled into their component parts.

"LED string lights use a fraction of the power consumed by traditional string lights, but they're just as beautiful," said Chris Massey, zoo facility operations manager. "Anyone who wants to decorate for the holidays can save on electric costs

and protect the environment by switching to LEDs. It's a win-win situation."

ZooLights visitors who want to take additional steps to conserve natural resources are in luck: Volunteers are running educational "EcoBooths" at the zoo's Family Farm on Saturday and Sunday nights. Kids and adults can participate in fun activities about saving water, conserving energy, and "greening" the holidays. All participants will be entered to win a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo's polar bear exhibit.

The zoo has been using LEDs (light-emitting diodes) for its ZooLights displays since 2000 and continues to add more each year, replacing its conventional bulbs. This year, the zoo added around 100,000 more LEDs, making for a

total of 900,000 LEDs out of the 1,350,000 lights. LEDs use only about one percent of the power of standard holiday lights, and about 10 percent of the power in mini-lights.

"During the ZooLights season, the zoo now consumes 80 percent less power than it did before we started switching to LEDs," Massey said. "That's an incredible difference."

According to Massey, few visitors notice the change—LEDs give off a slightly different glow than standard holiday lights, but are just as festive. Additionally, LEDs do not fade and lose their color over time. Since the diodes themselves create the colors, rather than painted bulbs, old LED strings remain as bright and colorful as the day they were purchased.

Sewer Overflows Project Completed

The City of Portland has completed its 20-year program to control combined sewer overflows to the Willamette River and Columbia Slough.

Completing the project reduces the river discharges from an average of 50 per year to an average of four each winter and one every third summer during very heavy rain

storms. The program reduced annual combined sewer overflow volume to the Columbia Slough by 99 percent and to the Willamette River by 94 percent.

Portland's combined sewers carry stormwater runoff and sanitary sewage in the same pipes. Today, stream diversion, sewer separation, sump installation and down-

spout disconnection projects remove an average of 2.2 billion gallons of sewage per year from the combined sewer system, officials said.

The East Side CSO Big Pipe Project, the largest public works project in Portland history, created a six-mile long, 22-foot diameter tunnel that was activated this fall.