

Great Willamette clean-up Saturday

Willamette Valley Region, OR – River enthusiasts from Oakridge to Portland are invited to take part in the 2017 Great Willamette Clean Up, a free family-friendly public event, uniting cleanup efforts across the entire Willamette River Basin! Participants can register at several locations north to south, from Scappoose Bay to Portland, Salem, Albany, Corvallis, Eugene, Springfield, Cottage Grove, and Oakridge, Oregon. In all, there are 27 locations hosting cleanup opportunities all along the river.

In Lane County, the cleanup effort will begin at Greenwaters Park in Oakridge to Turtle Flats at the confluence of the Coast and Middle Forks and beyond, following the urban greenway in Springfield and Eugene.

Locations in Linn-Benton County include Crystal Lake Park, Hyak County Park and Bowman Park.

In the greater Portland, volunteers can register for sites at Scappoose Bay, throughout the Portland metro area and down through Milwaukie, Gladstone, Oregon City and West Linn.

Volunteer land teams will be picking up trash along greenway paths, parks, trails and boat ramps while participants in boats ranging from kayaks and canoes to rafts and drift boats will be

clearing debris from islands and hard-to-reach areas less accessible by foot.

Each year, the Great Willamette Clean Up results in hundreds of people working hard to rid the river of trash and debris.

“This event really enables everyone to take part, and to make a very clear difference for our river from Eugene to Portland,” said Riverkeeper and WR Executive Director, Travis Williams.

“This project highlights water quality issues, while directly connecting people through a common goal to improve the Willamette River’s health,” said WR South Valley Advocate Michelle Emmons.

Volunteers can register through Event Brite at various sites online by clicking the REGISTER link for the Great Willamette Clean Up at <http://www.willametteriverkeeper.org> or by registering directly for a site at <http://greatwillamettecleanup.eventbrite.com>.

All participating boaters are required to register in advance, due to logistics and shuttling. Volunteers participating with their own boats are required to wear a life jacket and be at least 18 years old. Event organizers will provide tools, water, gloves, and instruction. Volunteers should come prepared with appropriate footwear and clothing.

Meeting times will vary depending on site location and whether the cleanup is land-based or on-water.

Following the cleanup effort, regional businesses will be hosting GWCU Volunteer Thank You gatherings:

Eugene: Ninkasi Brewing will be hosting a Volunteer Thank You Party 1-3PM at the Ninkasi Tasting Room Patio at 272 Van Buren Street. Free Track Town Pizza and beverages provided by Mountain Rose Herbs, Townschend’s Brew Dr. Kombucha, and Ninkasi Brewing, plus raffle prizes and more!

Corvallis / Albany: Volunteers are encouraged to meet at Calapooia Brewing at 140 NE Hill Street in Albany from 12-3PM for a free frothy beverage of choice following their cleanup efforts.

Portland: Base Camp Brewing will host a volunteer celebration and some “trash talk” from 12:30-1:30PM, including a free lunch provided by Willamette Riverkeeper from Pacific Pie Company plus happy hour beverage specials.

MORE about Willamette Riverkeeper: Willamette Riverkeeper (WR) works to protect and restore the Willamette River’s water quality and



habitat. WR has taken multiple actions in the enforcement of the Clean Water Act and was instrumental in forcing major improvements to the US Army Corps dams on the Coast Fork and Middle Fork Willamette, as well as the McKenzie River. WR has also taken the lead to clean up the Portland Harbor Superfund site. WR continues to lead habitat restoration efforts across the main stem Willamette, with a significant floodplain forest project at Willamette Mission State Park. WR has also implemented the Willamette River Water Trail with Oregon State Parks. WR manages the River Guardians program, focusing on clean river health through local monitoring and cleanup projects in Eugene-Springfield and beyond. WR also manages the Norwood Island complex near Eugene, making improvements to wildlife habitat and establishing more public access.

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To enter cut out the entry form and drop them off at the businesses for the drawing.

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No purchase necessary. No copies of the entry form will be accepted.

Cottage Grove Sentinel Employees and their families, and previous winners are not eligible to enter.

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