



LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

April 2005

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 26th, 5:45 - 7:00
Tugman Park, Eugene

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL APRIL MEETING

****NOTE EARLY START TIME: 5:45****
— RAIN OR SHINE —

TUGMAN CREEK
ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
OUTDOOR TOUR AND DISCUSSION
Trevor Taylor, Parks and Open Space,
City of Eugene

STEERING & STAFF REPORTS
Mike Kesling, Chair
Staff

See pp.2-3 for Meeting Background.
See back page for address and map.



Projects & Monitoring Coordinator, Cindy Thieman,
collects macroinvertebrate samples.
*If this looks like fun, find out how you can get
involved on p. 4 !!!!*

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Our Mission:

The Long Tom Watershed Council serves to improve water quality and watershed condition in the Long Tom River basin through education, consultation, and cooperation among all interests, using the collective wisdom and voluntary action of our community members.

Meeting Backgrounder

*Information provided by Trevor Taylor, City of Eugene Parks
and Open Space Division*

The City of Eugene's

Tugman Creek Enhancement Project

Tugman Creek, in Tugman Park located in South Eugene, is a tributary to upper Amazon creek in the Long Tom Watershed. This small segment of open waterway is the largest remaining reach of the original Tugman Creek. The restored channel was previously a channelized stream that flowed from piped segment to piped segment. The riparian area had been reduced to a park lawn that received regular mowing efforts. This project lengthened the stream and enhanced riparian habitat by providing a more S-like, sinuous channel with floodplain elements that created a more natural stream environment. Enhancements to the stream and the riparian areas bring other benefits to the site, such as wildlife habitat improvements, increased flooding capacity, and a naturalized element to the park.

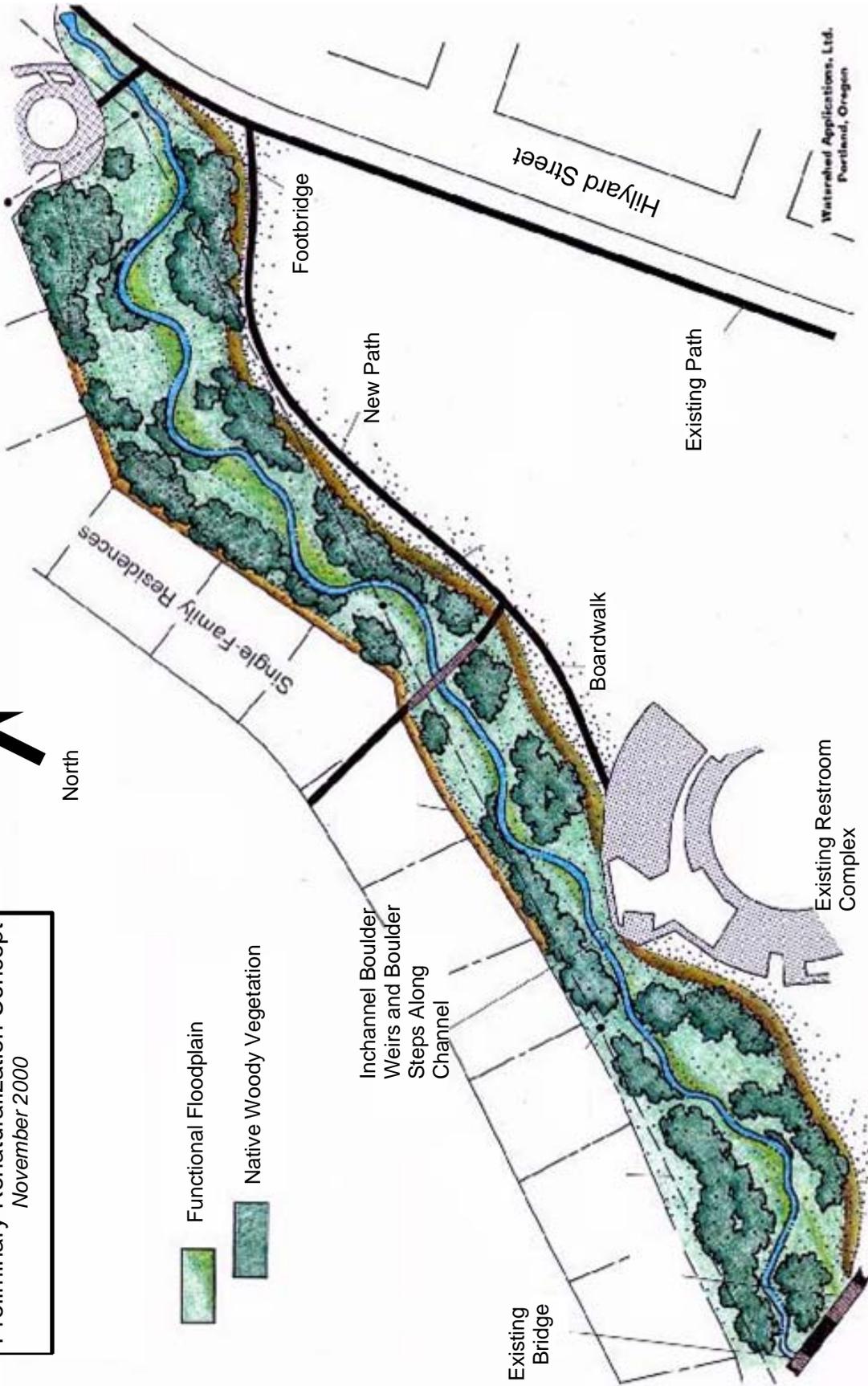
Tugman Creek stream enhancements include the following elements:

- ◆ Added stream structure of boulders, pebble and wood debris
- ◆ Introduction of native grasses, forbes, shrub and trees
- ◆ Detention of water by pond and stream configuration
- ◆ Increased water quality performance by increasing the length of the stream (by adding sinuosity, or “S-curves,”) and vegetation
- ◆ Volunteer and educational opportunities
- ◆ Reduced flooding within the park
- ◆ New walkway and boardwalks

This project was implemented by the City of Eugene with donations of wood material from the Corp of Engineers and plant material from the Eugene Stream Team. Volunteers have already helped with planting at the site and more opportunities will be available. Stop by and watch a new stream find itself.

Meeting Backgrounder, cont'd

Tugman Creek Corridor
Preliminary Renaturalization Concept
November 2000



Watershed Announcements

Biomonitoring Program Volunteers Needed

The Long Tom Watershed Council is looking for volunteers to help us collect macroinvertebrate samples this summer.

Volunteers will be paired in teams and use GPS units to navigate to sites around the watershed where they will gather and preserve aquatic bug samples and habitat information in order to help us get a clearer picture of habitat conditions in our watershed.



Sampling work may require hiking in steep or rugged terrain and wading in streams.

For more information contact:
Cindy Thieman,
Projects & Monitoring, 683-2983
or
Lori Quillen, 683-6949,
lquillen@longtom.org

New Publication, *Listening to Landowners: Conservation Case Studies from Oregon's Willamette Valley,* Now Available on the Web

The non-profit organization Defenders of Wildlife has just released a new publication by an OSU graduate student containing case studies about private landowners who have utilized conservation incentive programs to restore and protect their land. Incentive programs have proven to be a valuable, non-regulatory alternative for encouraging and enabling private landowners to participate in watershed restoration. Oregon has several excellent incentive programs, but the programs are not yet at a point where they are easily accessible by landowners.

The six Willamette Basin landowners interviewed for the publication provide important insight and observations on current incentive programs and the agencies that administer them, as well as suggestions concerning improvements that could make the programs more attractive to landowners.

The report is posted on the website:

www.biodiversitypartners.org/state/or/incentives/case01.shtml. This website also provides additional information on landowner incentives and other state-level conservation programs across the country.

You may also request a copy of the report by contacting Cheryl Hummon at 503-697-3222.

Watershed Announcements

Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families

Presented by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality



“Lawns can look great without chemicals.”

Interested in reducing the use of chemical weed killers on your lawn?

To find out how visit:

www.healthylawns.org

Why care about lawn care

Learn how your lawn and garden habits influence your health and the health of your watershed.

How to use natural alternatives

Learn how easy it is to use natural alternatives by viewing testimonials from Oregonians.

Act now, take the pledge

Take the pledge to use alternative techniques and receive a “Natural lawn care practiced here” sign!



DEQ Launches Web site about Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care

Log on to www.healthylawns.org for natural lawn care tips.

Finding information about how to have a great looking lawn without using chemical fertilizers and weed killers is now easier with the launch of a new Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) web site.

The DEQ Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families site at www.healthylawns.org includes information about how our lawn care habits influence water quality and tips on how to practice natural lawn care.

Misuse and overuse of pesticides and chemical fertilizers on the lawn can lead to lawn problems, and the chemicals themselves are often washed off

the lawn by rain, headed for the storm drain and ultimately to Oregon’s rivers. Once in the river, the chemicals can cause problems for fish.

Natural lawn care can actually produce a healthier lawn. Healthy grass can help keep weed populations down.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families web site includes an interactive demonstration of how our lawn care habits affect the health of our rivers. The site also has videos of Oregonians telling stories about how they successfully use natural methods to create healthy, attractive lawns without chemicals.

The Healthy Lawns, Healthy Families web site was funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Watershed Announcements



CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES PLANNED AT THE WEST EUGENE WETLANDS

May is designated as American Wetlands Month across America, and it presents an ideal opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and celebrate at the West Eugene Wetlands.

A series of educational and recreational events are planned for the public to attend. Activities include; bird walks and butterfly talks, up-close looks at raptors and dragonflies, discussions on turtles, wildflowers, and a photography workshop and exhibit. These activities will be hosted by local wetland experts and enthusiasts. For those that prefer unstructured opportunities, there are numerous trails and interpretive sites to explore.

The West Eugene Wetlands are managed by a partnership between federal, state and city governments and private organizations to preserve and promote the unique wetland ecosystem habitat in the area. The partners manage over 2,000 acres in West Eugene.

The events planned in recognition of National Wetlands Month will serve to educate the public about the amazing community resource we have in the West Eugene Wetlands.

For details on the scheduled activities, contact Holly McRae, Environmental Education Coordinator for the Willamette Resource Education Network at 683-6494 or visit www.wewetlands.org.

Events for 2005 Wetlands Month

Dragonflies in Our Wetlands, Tuesday, May 3rd

Of Oregon's 87 species of dragonflies and damselflies, 36 species (about 41%) have been found in the West Eugene Wetlands. Learn about these fascinating insects and their amazing life cycles. See beautiful photos with Odonates in shades of red, blue, black, white and green. Learn more about their unique behaviors. Learn that Sandpiper Pond, a wetland restoration project, is THE best spot for dragonflies and damselflies in the entire metropolitan region. Join Steve Gordon and Cary Kerst, a local entomologist, who have been studying local Odonata since 1999 for an evening of adventure with some of our most colorful, wild neighbors. Meet at 7pm at the West Eugene Wetland Yurt. For more information, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494.

Photography Exhibit, Friday May 6th

In honor of American Wetlands Month, Willamette Resources & Educational Network (WREN) and West Eugene Wetland partners are sponsoring a community exhibit of photographs taken in the West Eugene Wetlands. The show will be held at Café Paradiso during the month of May. Representatives from WREN and West Eugene Wetland partners will be present during the First Friday Artwalk on May 6th to answer questions about the exhibit and the work going on in the wetlands.

Wild Wetland Walk, Saturday May 7th

Join Bruce Newhouse and Peg Boulay, for a wild wetland walk during the 1st annual "Native Plant Appreciation Week" in search of blooming wildflowers and trees, butterflies, and other ecological wonders. Meet at the Willow Creek Natural Area at 10am for this two hour walk. Participants should wear rubber boots or shoes that can get wet and muddy. Space is limited to 15 people. Call Holly McRae at 683-6494 to register. Directions to the Willow Creek Natural Area: From downtown Eugene, go west on West 18th Ave. past Bertselsen Road (a four-way stop) about ¼ mile. Meet at the first turnout on the north side of 18th.

Raptors of the Wetlands, Wednesday May 11th

The West Eugene Wetlands provide habitat for many birds of prey. Join Louise Shimmel of the Cascades Raptor Center for a first-hand experience to discover some of the raptors that can be found in the West Eugene Wetlands. Meet at the West Eugene Wetland Wetlands Yurt located at the NE corner of W 11th & Danebo at 7:00pm. For more information, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494.

Watershed Announcements

Bird Walk, Saturday May 14th

Join Charlie Quinn for the final pre-season breeding bird survey of The Nature Conservancy's Willow Creek Preserve from 7:00-9:00am. We will learn how to identify birds by ear, discuss surveying protocols and visit most of the habitats on the preserve. We will also stop for wildflowers, butterflies and other interesting encounters along the way as well as hear about the on-going restoration work at this site. Birders of all ages and abilities welcome. Come prepared to slosh through up to six inches of water and walk about two miles off-trail, over some very uneven terrain and obstacles. Dress in layers and bring your binoculars and field guides. (We will have to re-schedule if it is rainy or windy enough to interfere with our hearing the birds.) Space is limited. For registration, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494. (LIMIT: 12 PEOPLE)

“Wild Wings across the Wetlands,” Saturday May 14th

8-12 year olds are invited to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day in the West Eugene Wetlands. Participants will learn about some of the wetland migratory birds, their threats, and how we as humans can help them on their journeys! Meet at the West Eugene Wetland Yurt at 1:00pm for this 1 ½ hr activity. For more information, call Holly McRae at 683-6494.

Western Pond Turtles, Wednesday May 18th

The current western pond turtle population in Oregon is thought to number less than 10% of the historical population. Join wildlife biologist, Bill Castillo of the ODFW for a presentation about the natural history and management actions for this wetland inhabitant. Meet at the West Eugene Wetland Yurt on the NE corner of W 11th & Danebo at 7:00pm for a 1 hour presentation. For more information, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494

Spring Butterflies of the West Eugene Wetlands, Saturday May 21st

Late spring is an excellent time to observe butterflies and wildflowers in the West Eugene Wetlands. This will be a leisurely 3-hour field trip. Meet at the BLM's West Eugene Wetlands Office at 751 S. Danebo at 1:00 pm. Space is limited to 20 people. Pre-registration required. Leader: Eric Wold. Call Holly at 683-6494 to pre-register. This field trip is sponsored by the local chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA).

Hynix Tour, Monday May 23rd

Join Doug Brooke, the Environmental Department Team Leader at Hynix, and 2004 recipient of the West Eugene Wetlands Awards for this 1 ½ hour walking tour.

Participants will learn about the stormwater treatment Best Management Practices used at Hynix Semiconductor in the West Eugene Wetlands. The tour will demonstrate one facet of how industry can coexist in and near natural areas to enhance the habitat on site and to minimize and eliminate water quality impacts to the surrounding areas. Doug will discuss the natural flora and fauna on site, control of invasive species, water quality parameters, control of erosion, habitat enhancement and lessons learned during the nine years of project development. The tour will also be of interest to developers that may be considering future stormwater treatment projects. Meet at 6:00pm at Hynix on 18th & Willow Creek at 6:00pm. Space is limited. For registration call Holly McRae at 683-6494.

Discover Dragonflies! Wednesday May 25th

Learn all about these amazing flying machines with a naturalist from Nearby Nature. Enjoy fun facts, specimens, a craft, a story and more. Fun for families! Meet at the West Eugene Wetland yurt at 6:30pm for this 1 hour activity. For more information, contact: Holly McRae, 683-6494

Wetlands Nature Photography Workshop, Saturday May 28th

Saturday, May 28, 12 - 4pm, and Thursday, June 2, 7 - 9pm,

The West Eugene Wetlands offer many opportunities to photograph the natural world right here in Eugene - wildflowers, birds and miniature landscapes abound. Learn from local photographer David Stone the principles of nature photography and see examples in class, practice techniques in the field and share your results in a follow-up session back in the classroom. Film and digital cameras welcome. Bring one roll 24 or 36 exposure slide film or a memory card (64 mb or larger) for your digital camera. Space is limited to 15 participants. For registration call Holly McRae at 683-6494.

Calendar

APRIL



TUESDAY

26

Long Tom Watershed Council *Restoration Project Tour*

5:45 pm
Tugman Park, Eugene

*(see back page for
address and map)*

Developing Willamette Basin Restoration Priorities

OWEB has contracted with a team of consultants and the Willamette Basin Watershed Councils to develop broadly accepted habitat restoration priorities for the basin. The focus will be on fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The project's findings and recommendations will assist OWEB in prioritizing the selection of grant-funded habitat restoration projects in the basin.

The development of habitat restoration priorities will build on the recently completed Willamette Subbasin Plan—

(<http://www.nwppc.org/fw/subbasinplanning/Willamette/default.asp>).

The Subbasin Plan outlines key limiting factors and habitat restoration focus areas and priorities for fish and wildlife habitat. Information from the Subbasin Plan will be checked for accuracy and additional information will be integrated into the plan by reviewing watershed council assessments, other relevant reports and studies, and through advice on local priorities by watershed councils and other basin stakeholders.

Two regional public meetings, convened by local watershed councils, will be held at key points during the development of habitat restoration priorities. At these meetings the team will provide summaries of the draft findings and recommendations and solicit input and advice.

The Long Tom Watershed is located in the Upper Willamette Basin along with the Coast Fork Willamette, Marys River, McKenzie River, and Middle Fork Willamette Watersheds.

The first regional meeting for the Upper Willamette Basin has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th, from 7:00 - 9:00p.m. The meeting will be held at the E.W.E.B. Community Room in Eugene.

*For more information contact:
Dana Erickson, Council Coordinator
(541)683-6578 or coordinator@longtom.org*

MAY



May is American Wetlands Month!

**Have you hugged your
wetlands today?**

See pp. 6-7 for a calendar of events scheduled in celebration at the West Eugene Wetlands.

WEDNESDAY

11

Council Development Committee Meeting

3:30 - New Morning Bakery, Corvallis
For information contact: 683-6949

THURSDAY

12

Steering Committee Meeting

6:30 - Council Office
For information contact: 683-6949

WEDNESDAY

18

**Willamette Basin Restoration
Priorities :**
Upper Willamette Public Meeting
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
EWEB Community Room

TUESDAY

31

**Long Tom Watershed
Council Meeting - Outdoor Tour**
(see next month's newsletter for more
information!)

Council Meeting Notes from March

By Lori Quillen

Last month's council meeting was held at the Community Center in Monroe, and featured two guest speakers on the topic of Agricultural Water Quality and Senate Bill 1010. Mike Powers, from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, gave a slide presentation on the Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in implementing Senate Bill 1010. This presentation was followed by a discussion with Mike and with Eric Horning, of the Benton SWCD, about the local impacts of the Bill and on the upcoming review process for the Plan and Rules.

As required by law, the two-year review of the Upper Willamette Management Plan and Rules will begin this Fall. East Lane Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting this review.

For more information on the Upper Willamette Management Plan Review, contact:

- ◆ **Mike Powers**, Oregon Department of Agriculture
E-mail: mpowers@oda.state.or.us
- ◆ **Dave Downing**, E. Lane Soil & Water Conservation District
Phone: 541-485-8293 ext. 3

For more information on the Mid Willamette Management Plan Review, contact:

- ◆ **Donna Schmitz**, Benton Soil & Water Conservation District
Phone: 541-753-7208

The Agricultural Water Quality Management Plans and Rules for the Upper and Mid Willamette subbasins can be viewed at:

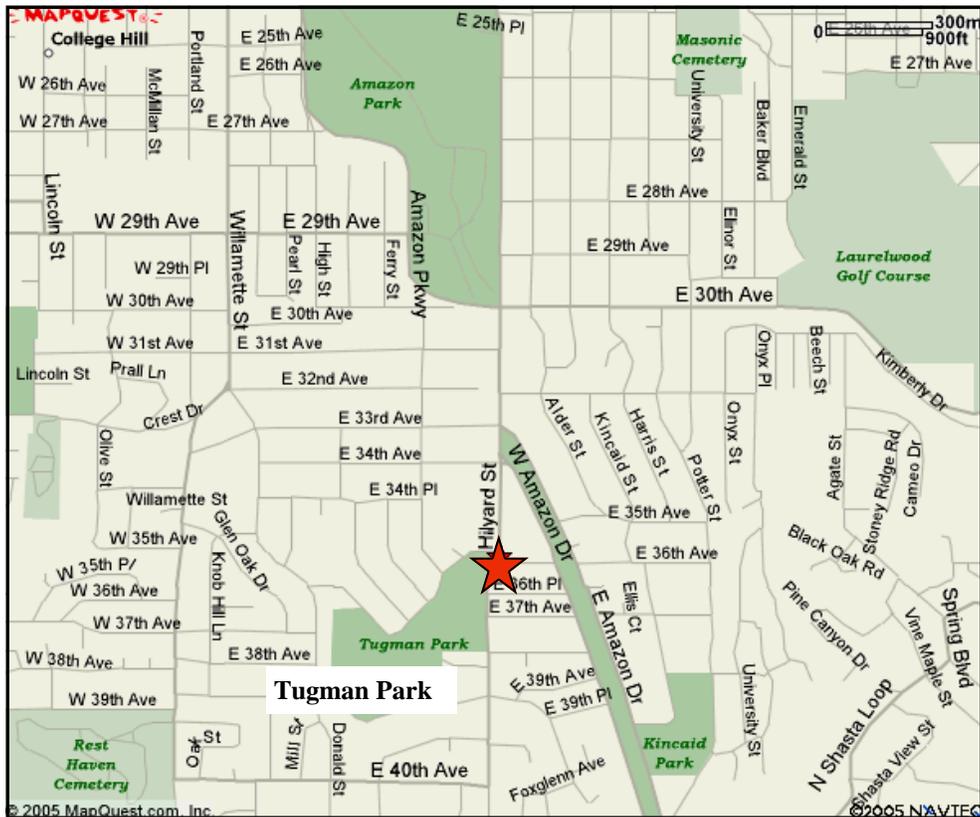
www.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_agplans.shtml

Inside: Tugman Park Tour Info, Come Help Biomonitor! Healthy Lawns!

Long Tom Watershed Council
Phone: 683-6578 e-mail: coordinator@longtom.org
www.longtom.org
751 S. Danebo Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

Directions to Tugman Park

Located on Hilyard St, between 36th and 38th Ave.



From 6th or 7th Ave. (99) in Eugene turn South onto Pearl St.
Pearl turns into Amazon Parkway. From Amazon Parkway turn right onto Hilyard St.
Park along Hilyard St. between 36th and 38th Ave.