



Public Works & Development Department  
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«Name»  
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## 2019 Emergency Preparedness Contest

### September is National Preparedness Month

Do you remember the snow storm in February and March? Then the flooding that came in April?

#### Were you prepared?

We've had a wildfire and several home fires in the community – are you prepared if something like that occurred at or near your home? The City of Cottage Grove is encouraging efforts to get better prepared.

To encourage community members, in September the City of Cottage Grove will be holding drawings for

**GREAT PRIZES** to help you get ready should something happen.

They have identified four tasks that citizens can complete to be better prepared. Completing each task makes you eligible to enter a drawing for that task. Drawings are open only to residents within the Cottage Grove City limits and only one drawing per address.

**Preparedness Task 1 - Complete a Home Inventory.**

**Preparedness Task 2 - Install or verify the operation of Smoke Alarms in every room of your home.**

**Preparedness Task 3 - Complete a Household Communication Plan.**

**Preparedness Task 4 – Apply to be on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) or Give Blood.**

**Visit [www.cottagegrove.org](http://www.cottagegrove.org) for more information.**



# RIPARIAN AREA Clean Water News

Cottage Grove Public Works & Development Department  
 Update for Riparian Corridor Neighbors  
 You are receiving this info because you live in or near a floodplain or flood prone area.

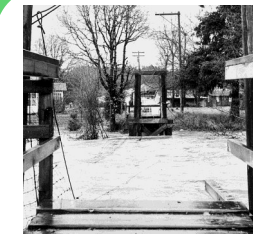


FALL EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2019

## PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE A FLOOD

Protecting yourself today means having sources for information, preparing your home or workplace, developing an emergency communications plan, and knowing what to do when a flood is approaching your home or business. Taking action today can save lives and property.



## History of Flooding in Cottage Grove

The City of Cottage Grove is located south of the confluence of the Row River and the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. These two rivers as well as Silk, Mosby, and Bennett Creeks contribute to the flooding hazard in Cottage Grove.

Due to heavy amounts of rain, and close proximity to two major rivers and Silk Creek, flooding has occurred in the past in our city. Before Dorena Dam was built, Cottage Grove experienced frequent flooding. The streets of downtown flooded with several feet of water periodically. Although the construction of the Cottage Grove and Dorena Dams between 1942-1945 greatly reduced the threat of flooding in our city, the risk still exists, especially for properties within the 100-year floodplain of the Coast Fork of the Willamette or the Row River and for those along Silk Creek, which has no flood protection impoundments. Silk Creek last flooded over its banks during the flood of 1997.

As a result of this, it is important for citizens to have information on flood damage prevention.

Flooding is the nation's most common and costly natural disaster. One of the goals of the Public Works and Development Department is to provide information to the public on flood damage prevention, flood preparation, and flood insurance. You can contact the Public Works & Development office at (541) 942-3340 to discuss your floodplain status, see FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), and learn about historic flood events and storm water issues that may have impacted your neighborhood or home in the past.

You can also visit the City's website at <https://www.cottagegrove.org/cd/page/flood-information> to view recorded Elevation Certificates.



## National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) aims to reduce the impact of flooding on private and public structures. It does so by providing affordable insurance to property owners, renters and businesses and by encouraging communities to adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations. These efforts help mitigate the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. Overall, the program reduces the socio-economic impact of disasters by promoting the purchase and retention of general risk insurance, but also of flood insurance, specifically. This year (2018) the NFIP celebrates 50 years of protecting people in the United States against the perils of flood damage. For more information, visit :

[www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) OR [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program)

## GET FLOOD INSURANCE

Purchasing flood insurance provides financial protection for the cost of repairs due to flood damage. Standard insurance policies do not cover flooding, but flood insurance is available for homeowners, renters, and business owners through the National Flood Insurance Program.

Contact your insurance agent now to discuss how you can protect your property from flooding!



## RIPARIAN ZONE BENEFITS

The land adjacent to our waterways is some of the most important for water quality and aquatic habitat. It provides shade, food, and structure, it filters runoff, and it reduces the downstream erosive power of our rivers. The riparian zone of the Willamette River often has trees and shrubs extending along the entirety of the river bank.

During floods, the river engulfs these riparian zones and overflows into adjacent floodplains that are important for water storage and for refugia for fish and amphibians.

It is in these historic flood zones along the mainstem river and its tributaries where large stands of black cottonwood, Oregon ash, and big-leaf maple have established to form riverine forests that are interspersed with wetlands, side channels, and backwater areas which provide high value habitat to our native fish and wildlife particularly during winter high flow events.



### Wood Duck: One of our most dazzling North American ducks.

Unlike most waterfowl, Wood Ducks perch and nest in trees and are comfortable flying through woods. Their broad tail and short, broad wings help make them maneuverable. When swimming, the head jerks back and forth much as a walking pigeon's does. You often see Wood Ducks in small groups (fewer than 20), keeping apart from other waterfowl.

Considered one of the most stunning of all waterfowl, the wood duck's scientific name, *Aix sponsa*, means "waterbird in bridal dress". Breeding males have a purple-green iridescent head, long crest, red eyes, and ornate white stripes on the head, neck, and body. Females are gray-brown with white patches

around the eyes.

Wood Ducks average twenty inches long and are recognizable in flight by long, rectangle-shaped tails. Although most often seen on water, these sharp-clawed ducks can fly through forests and perch on trees.

Wood Ducks seek out hollow trees, old woodpecker holes, or **NEST BOXES (see info below)** for nesting. Females select the nest site. Males guard females until eggs are near hatching. Southern Wood Ducks can produce two broods per year. The mother duck will lay one egg a day and the clutches consist of six to fifteen white, tan, or olive eggs. Incubation will usually last twenty-eight days. Females

incubate and tend young. Ducklings are well developed and able to leave the nest on the same day that they hatch.

One day after hatching, on "Jump Day," a mother Wood Duck calls to the young below the nest box. Chicks then leap and glide from nest to the ground or into water, sometimes dozens of feet down. The female leads ducklings to water to swim and feed. Flight occurs at two months.



### WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX

In the 1980s, the late Don Helmeke, a Minnesota outdoorsman and conservationist, worked long and thoughtfully on Wood Duck nest box plans. His success at creating a "safe haven" for nesting birds led to its recommendation by both the Minnesota Waterfowl Association and the Wood Duck Society. "The low height—just 6 feet from the ground—and the side opening makes for easy, ladder-free nest checking and less disturbance to the

hen." Another bonus: "Kids can get nose-to-nose with eggs, which creates a fun learning experience." Place the nest box where entry flyway is clear, in or near fresh water, but away from trees. If placed on land, face the entry hole toward water. Add four inches of wood chips. The hen makes a cup-like depression for the eggs and lines the nest with her own soft down feathers. Place nest boxes on

sturdy poles such as eight foot-long metal highway signposts or four-by-four-inch wooden posts with a predator cone below the nest box. Space nest boxes fifty feet apart. If on land, place nest box six feet high. In water, place nest box three feet above historic high water levels.

For more building instructions, visit: [www.audubon.org/news/how-build-wood-duck-nest-box](http://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-wood-duck-nest-box)

## Beaver Dams Restore Riparian Areas



**Beavers have a knack for environmental restoration. Beaver dams enhance watershed conditions by raising the water table in the valley floor leading to more forage, diversified and improved wildlife and fisheries habitat, and improved flood control.**

Many streams and rivers in eastern Oregon have been heavily impacted by activities such as mining, grazing, logging, road building, farming, and urbanization. However, in the southern portion of the Willamette National Forest near Whitney Valley, the Whitman Ranger District, in partnership with the Powder Basin Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, is working to reverse decades of impact by restoring beaver habitat in several tributary streams of the North Fork Burnt River.

The project involves removing encroaching conifer trees, planting willows, fencing the aspen to protect the shoots from elk and livestock browse, and monitoring changes. The

goal of this project is to have beavers establish a core zone of stable beaver dam complexes that will allow them to expand their water storage and modification influences outwards into other tributaries.

The project objectives include increasing the amount of surface and ground water stored in the watershed, trapping sediment, stabilizing eroding stream banks, decreasing stream temperatures, expanding the width and complexity of the riparian habitat, improving fish and wildlife habitat, and creating increased habitat diversity and complexity in the watershed.

"Beavers have a knack for environmental restoration," says Suzanne Fouty, District Hydrologist for the Whitman Ranger District. "As they build their dams in streams they transform those systems from single thread channels with narrow riparian zones to complex

systems with wide riparian zones. Beaver dams enhance watershed conditions by raising the water table in the valley floor leading to more forage, diversified and improved wildlife and fisheries habitat, and improved flood control. The result is that stream/ riparian systems, and the communities that depend on healthy systems, are less sensitive to climate variability and climate change. Beaver dams and the vegetative changes that accompany them also result in carbon sinks as ponds and dams trap organic material and vegetation types shift from dryland species with shallow or few roots, to deeply and abundantly rooted vegetation types such as sedges, willows, and cottonwoods." Fouty expects to see aspen respond within a year as a result of the removal of conifers and ungulate browse pressure. "It's exciting

to be part of a project that has multiple partners, can begin to yield results within a couple of years, is cost effective and produces multiple environmental and economic benefits," says Fouty.

The expansion of beaver populations is a critical step in the efforts to restore streams while continuing to utilize the land. "Ranching, logging, mining, recreation, roads and beavers are not mutually exclusive but changes do need to occur in how people do those things if conflicts are to be minimized and benefits maximized," explains Fouty. And conflicts do arise, primarily when beavers clog irrigation canals, block culverts, or cut down favorite trees. Solutions include road culvert protection and culvert protective fences.

**More information can be found at [beaversolutions.com](http://beaversolutions.com).**

