



Public Works & Development Department
 400 East Main Street
 Cottage Grove, OR 97424

«AddressBlock»

Phone: (541) 942-3340
 Email: planner@cottagegrove.org



September is National Preparedness Month



**Disasters can happen at any time.
 Be ready.**

Sign up to receive emergency alerts with Lane Alerts.



RIPARIAN

AREA
 Clean Water
 News

Cottage Grove Public Works and Development
 Department Quarterly Newsletter



FALL ADDITION

SEPTEMBER, 2023

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

National Preparedness Month

Beginning in 2004, September was designated National Preparedness Month. The month is observed with a new theme each year, with this year's theme focusing on preparing older adults for disasters. The City of Cottage Grove participated by posting daily emergency preparedness tips. Postings included information about various alert methods such as Lane Alerts; phone applications such as PulsePoint Respond, FEMA's mobile application, and EPA's AirNow; as well as helpful wildfire-smoke and Air Quality Index (AQI) information, in light of the hazardously high AQI resulting from this summer's wildland fires.

Make a Plan

Talk to your friends and family about how you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster. Make sure to update your plan based on the Centers for Disease Control recommendations due to the coronavirus.

Build a Kit

Gather supplies that will last for several days after a disaster for everyone living in your home. Don't

forget to consider the unique needs each person or pet may have in case you have to evacuate quickly. Update your kits and supplies based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control.

Be Informed

Along with daily postings, the City drew winners for weekly raffles. Residents were able to participate via the City's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CityofCottageGroveOR/>.

It was the intent of the City to help its residents be prepared and stay informed so that we can all remain safe in the face of any emergency.

National Preparedness Month Links

<https://www.ready.gov/september>
<https://www.ready.gov/older-adults>



IPAWS National Test 2023

FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct a national test of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) on Oct. 4, 2023.

The test will reach millions of mobile phones across the country via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), radio and television via the Emergency Alert System (EAS), and other communication pathways.

The test will take place at approximately **11:20 a.m. PST on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023.**



BE PREPARED!

It is important to consider how you can best prepare for potential flood events.

#1 Know your flood risk.

For local information, go to cottagegroveor.gov/cd/page/flood-information

#2 Prepare your property for wet weather.



#3 Get flood insurance.



There is a 30-day waiting period before a flood insurance policy takes effect, so call your insurance agent now.

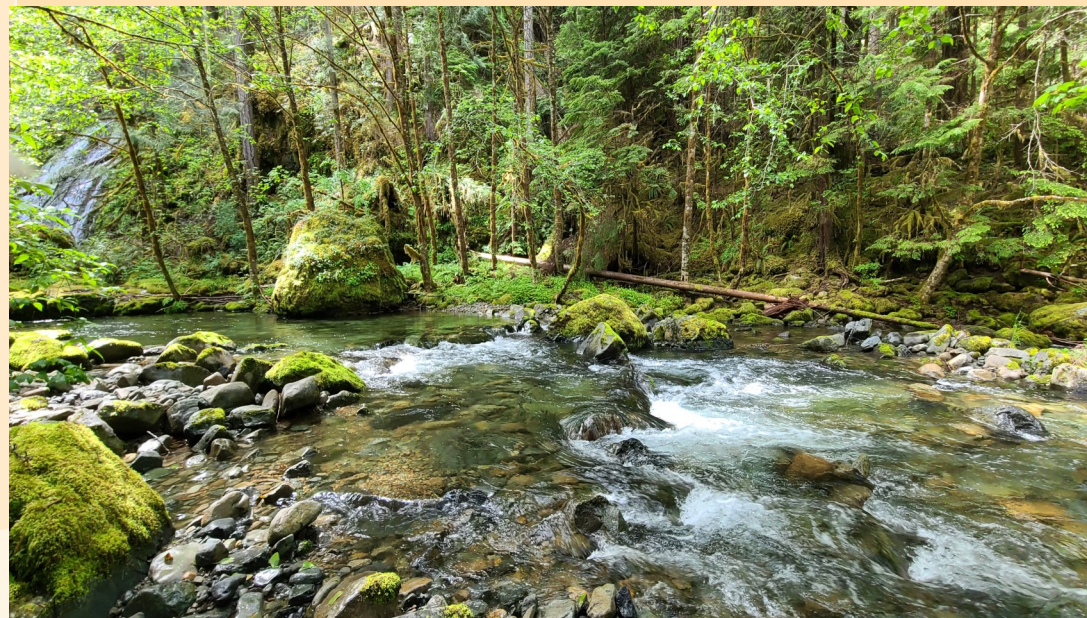


Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Updates

GOOD NEWS EVERYBODY!

City Planner Eric Mongan was successful in the appeal of the preliminary Central Lane County flood map updates, and the process is now paused as revisions are being done by FEMA and the US Army Corps of Engineers. As you may recall, FEMA was updating the flood maps for Cottage Grove and other cities within Central Lane County, and the preliminary maps that effected our city would put 710 structures within City limits in the floodplain, and would require flood insurance. Currently, only 76 structures are within the floodplain. Even though the city participates in the Community Rating System and is a Class 6 which provides a 20% discount on flood insurance, the amount of structures going into the floodplain was drastic. Because of this, Mr. Mongan consulted with staff, residents, and outside consultants to get a full understanding of the data presented by FEMA and what existed already, whether it was through the historical documents of the 1996-97 flood, past and current Elevation Certificates, or data collected from the U.S. Army Corp

of Engineers. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers provided some data regarding water before and after the dams were built, with it appearing that most of the water would stay within the river channels. With all of this information, Mr. Mongan filed the appeal that challenged the preliminary maps to FEMA on April 19, 2023. After review by FEMA, they determined the maps needed to be revised, and have estimated new preliminary maps will be available for review in 18 months, with a 30 day comment period. The success of an appeal of preliminary flood maps is not a common occurrence, and we want to congratulate Mr. Mongan on his thorough research and dedication to providing the best service to the residents of Cottage Grove. With this pause, keep an eye out on future newsletters to learn more about when the newly revised preliminary flood maps are available.



ADOPT A DRAIN

It's important to keep leaves and debris out of the streets, where they can cause drainage issues and additional flooding. Please dispose of yard waste properly.

Storm drains, also known as catch basins, are part of City infrastructure that is a drainage system that takes surface water and rain off of streets and parking lots, and moves the water through pipes to streams or rivers. Storm drains are important to our City because they help minimize flooding on roads and keep water from pooling around foundations, where it could cause damage.

We encourage you to "Adopt a Drain", where you take the opportunity to "adopt" a drain near you, and help keep it clean. Some things you can do to help keep the storm drains clear and working to the maximum capacity this winter:

- Wear gloves and use a rake, shovel, or broom to remove items like twigs, sticks, leaves, and other debris that accumulate during storms.
- Never open the storm drain grate or reach into them, as pollutants might have already settled. If the drain is clogged to a point where you don't feel comfortable cleaning it, call Cottage Grove Public Works at 541-942-3340.
- Only clear drains you can reach when standing on your sidewalk or off the street, and never clean drains by standing in the street. Be aware of traffic when cleaning the drain.
- If possible, clear drains before a storm comes.



GET PAID FOR SHADE - NEW PROGRAM LEASES STREAMSIDE LAND TO PLANT TREES

The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) is interested in revegetating land along the banks of the Coast Fork Willamette and Row Rivers and lower Mosby Creek for streamside (riparian) enhancement projects.

The CFWWC is working with The Freshwater Trust and the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission of Eugene and Springfield (MWMC) to improve the health of our rivers and streams. CFWWC is currently implementing a project in partnership with the City of Cottage Grove at the Row River Nature Park. This project, like others, will plant and maintain an attractive, resilient mix of native trees and shrubs in a buffer along the water's edge. Removal of the invasive vegetation is a key piece of this project, and removal of the nonnative blackberry began at the nature park at the beginning of September. Projects like this one include long-term stewardship to ensure the new riverside forests thrive. Not only is there no cost share or work share, but landowners will receive yearly lease payments for participating in the program.

What is the catch, you ask? There is none. We are motivated by our love of our rivers! Forests along the river's edge benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality by shading the water, filtering out excess sediments and nutrients, and eventually contributing large wood to build instream habitat complexity in the river. Shade is important because solar radiation can warm the water too much for our native cold-water fish such as salmon, trout and lamprey during critical times in their life cycles.



To learn more about this streamside planting program or to schedule a no-obligation site visit, contact Reilly Newman at reilly@coastfork.org or (541) 767-9717.