



Public Works

Monthly Report

Administration ♦ Airport ♦ Engineering ♦ Maintenance ♦ Parks & Open Space ♦ Wastewater

February 2019

Engineering New Structure 2
Maintenance Spill Response Tools 2
Wastewater Remodel Complete 3

Wastewater Crane Training 3
Matt Green Certified Grade IV Operator 3

Snow Emergency—February 24-27



Parks & Open Space

An Adventure on Bear Mountain

During the recent storm event, we received a request for mutual aid from the Lane County Emergency Manager. They needed chainsaw operators to help them access the Bear Mountain radio tower.

The Bear Mountain tower is a vital part of our public radio communication system. On Friday, when the call for mutual aid came, the tower was due to run out of fuel, and if it did, the whole first responder network in Lane County would go down.

Urban Forestry's Jeff Chandler and Cory Shields (above) joined the Lane County Sheriff's Office and ODOT to assist our partners at Lane County. Jeff and Cory were able to clear downed trees along the rough terrain, giving Lane County a chance to refuel the tower in time.

Our regional partnerships are important, especially in times of emergencies, so we were happy to step up and join this effort.

Public Works Responds to Crippling Storms

Public Works kicked into 24-hour emergency response mode as the heaviest regional snowfall in decades (up to 18 inches on the valley floor, even more at higher elevations) began to fall on February 24. Plowing, sanding/de-icing, debris removal and preventing floods overtook normal operations and will continue in some areas into spring. In addition to the Priority 1, 2 and 3 street routes, teams cleared roads for emergency responders, EWEB crews, schools and other partner agencies.

Accomplishments in the first week included:

- ♦ Clearing more than 250 miles of roadway
- ♦ Tree blockages cleared on more than 100 streets
- ♦ Over 300 tree hazards investigated and 68 mitigated
- ♦ 140 tree hazards assigned to our partner tree contractors
- ♦ Seven plows, two tree trucks, nine chainsaw crews, seven hazard "scouts", and two EWEB/City teams inspected tree/electric issues
- ♦ Three vector trucks, three backhoes and three dump trucks cleared catch basins and curb inlets to prevent flooding
- ♦ Four sidewalk teams cleared snow from sidewalks and access ramps
- ♦ 10 AmeriCorps volunteers cleared snow from pedestrian bridges and downtown sidewalks.



In addition, teams worked around the clock at the airport clearing runways and keeping them sanded and de-iced. Wastewater teams maintained full operation at the plant and spent most of their week keeping backup power functioning at each of our pump stations. Parks and Open Space teams delayed hazard removal in the park system so they could pitch in on roadway clearing.

Engineering

Darwin and East Teams Develop New Name and Structure

The capital project teams, historically known as “Darwin” and “East” teams, recently met to review team culture and the project delivery process. Doug Singer and Jenifer Willer, section managers, met with the team members in small groups in December and January to be able to hear from individuals in a collaborative and supportive environment about the things we do well, identify our challenges, and review the team organization for needed updating.

After reviewing all the comments from the small group meetings, the primary updates are to act more like one team and a section management rebalancing — the teams will be renamed to the “Engineering Project Team” with two sections. The two sections have been rebalanced for better section management, with Doug Singer managing the water resources and park-focused programs and Jenifer Willer managing the transportation and pavement preservation focused programs. There will be no changes related to current project assignments, so continue to contact the current project managers.

The updated PWE org chart is available on the Public Works ceshare site: <http://ceshare/pw/Documents/PW%20Engineering.pdf>

We hope to continue building on this process through the day to day collaboration across the sections. This was such a valuable process that we look forward to revisiting the team organization and culture conversations on a regular basis. For more information on our process and experiences, contact Doug Singer dsinger@eugene-or.gov or Jenifer Willer jwiller@eugene-or.gov.

Maintenance

Spill Response Improves With New Booms in Place

Public Works Maintenance recently began a pilot project to see if we could improve our spill response source detection and response times by proactively placing oil absorbing spill response booms in the Amazon Channel and other smaller local waterways at specific locations. The locations were chosen based on historic spill response issues, and proximity to outfalls from the City’s piped stormwater system.

This project has already shown benefits. Just a week after the booms were put in place, there was a large hydraulic oil spill at 28th and Portland St., where approximately 50 gallons of fluid spilled onto the street and the public stormwater system. As part of our pilot program, booms had been placed at two nearby locations in the Amazon Channel, and were able to stop the hydraulic fluid from continuing down-

stream and further polluting the stream. The booms worked perfectly, holding back the floating oil, and giving response crews a chance to clean up the oil.

Public Works Maintenance will continue to monitor and maintain the booms throughout the year, and look for other opportunities to be proactive in our illicit discharge and spill response programs.





Wastewater

Maintenance Building Remodel Is Complete!

The 9,300 square foot remodel and addition to the Wastewater Division maintenance building has been completed and maintenance staff have moved in. The addition came from the need to have more space for maintenance crew lunch room areas, locker rooms, restrooms, computer and other work spaces, meeting areas, and office space.

An evaluation of current and future needs and growth was completed by a consultant who concluded that additional space was needed. The building, although not certified, was constructed using LEED standards which uses environmentally-friendly building products and methods, LED lighting with sensors, and efficient heating and cooling equipment and controls.

This addition enables all maintenance crews to work and meet under one roof which leads to better communication and efficiencies. This addition is greatly appreciated by maintenance staff and is projected to meet the needs of the maintenance sections for the next 30 or more years. The project was managed and funded by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission.

Crane Training — Train the Trainer

Crane safety is an important component of overall workplace safety and having a detailed, site-specific crane safety program is an important step. All workplace safety is important, but crane safety in particular is critical. Crane operators, and those working around cranes, need to recognize the most common hazards.



In December 2018, Jerad Jaennette and Matt Graf, wastewater maintenance workers, attended a crane safety course put on by Overton Safety Training, Inc., to become certified crane safety trainers. The two-day, train-the-trainer course focused on key elements of crane safety and how to instruct others on the safe operation of crane trucks.

In February 2019, Jerad and Matt conducted their first crane training. In total, 17 people from Wastewater Maintenance attended the two-day training. The training includes both classroom and hands-on training and a written exam. After passing the written exam, attendees are issued a crane operators certification. The duo received positive feedback from staff who went through the training. Way to go guys!

Matt Green Receives Grade IV Operator's Certification

Oregon law requires wastewater systems to be under responsible control and direction of trained and certified operators to ensure the systems are managed in a manner that fully protects public health and the environment. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the certification program. Congratulations are in order to Matt Green, who recently passed his Grade IV treatment certification! Matt has worked for the City for over nine years, and is the lead operator at the water pollution control facility. Congratulations and well done!

