New site plan proposed for CCC Learning Center

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Through the help of a Metro grant, the Environmental Learning Center at Clackamas Community College has a new conceptual site plan hoping to benefit the community and the Newell Creek Watershed for years to come.

The public is invited to an open house to view the conceptual plans for the restoration of the ELC site. The open house will take place on Wednesday, May 23, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Lakeside Hall at the ELC. Light refreshments will be served.

The John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center is a five-acre site on the CCC campus at the headwaters of Newell Creek, which flows to the Willamette River through the 1800-acre Newell Creek Watershed, the largest intact green space in the Metro area. The ELC offers environmental education classes for schools, along with activities for families and children.

CCC obtained a $10,000 Metro planning grant last year to redevelop the site into natural, flood-water mitigation and treatment system. Approximately 50 percent of campus stormwater and Oregon City High School stormwater pass through the ELC site. The new concept incorporates principles of biofiltration to cleanse impurities, along with plantings to shade and cool the water prior to release into Newell Creek.

The site plan was developed with guidance from local partners, faculty and staff, with the technical expertise of Yost Grube Hall, Pacific Habitat Services and Lango Hansen Landscape Architects.

For information on the ELC open house, contact Alison Heimowitz at 503-594-3696 or email alisonh@clackamas.edu.