Inskeep Environmental Learning Center gets $863,000 Metro grant to redevelop the site

Clackamas Community College's John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center received a $863,342 Metro grant that will help pay for redevelopment.

The Inskeep center offers environmental education classes for schools, along with activities for families and children.

The grant will help fund redevelopment of the five-acre site into a "regionally important outdoor learning laboratory," said college spokeswoman Janet Paulson.

The natural area will showcase innovations in stormwater management, landscape design and sustainable living practices, Paulson said.

The terms of the grant require the college to provide $1.7 million in matching funds. The college's CCC Foundation is expected to raise the money.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for May 2016 to coincide with the college's 50th Anniversary. The project would be completed in 2017.

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program has awarded $5.2 million in capital improvement and conservation education grants to a variety of projects in the greater Portland. The money comes from Metro's 2006 natural areas bond measure.

-- Steve Mayes

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