

# 2021–2022 Columbia Slough Sediment Cleanup Program Highlights

The City of Portland (City) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) continued their ongoing collaboration to clean up the Columbia Slough (Slough) in 2021–2022. Over time, the City and DEQ have worked cooperatively to define the nature and extent of contamination, assess and reduce potential risks to human health and the environment, and identify and control contaminant sources discharging to the Slough.



East Whitaker Pond sediment cleanup.

## Key Accomplishments:

DEQ ACTIVITIES	Sediment Characterization and Cleanup	20	Properties (approximately) are undergoing source control evaluations and/or cleanup actions to prevent sediment recontamination.
		1	Sediment characterization evaluation is underway.
		1	Sediment cleanup is in process at Pacific Carbide.
		3	In-water sediment caps conducted effectiveness monitoring.
DEQ ACTIVITIES		1	Sediment cleanup completed at <a href="#">East Whitaker Pond</a> .
	Natural Resource Fund	2	Sites are undergoing habitat improvements.
	Community Outreach/Education	1	Interactive Columbia Slough <a href="#">Story Map</a> is available online, highlighting Slough history, source control, cleanup framework, fish advisory, and specific in-water cleanup site updates.
CITY ACTIVITIES	Source Control Evaluation and Management	13	Priority outfall basins are undergoing continued characterization and stormwater treatment design to improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff from selected City rights-of-way discharging to the Slough.
		6	Multi-disciplinary City teams collaborated to develop new solutions, policy changes, and operational recommendations for reducing pollutant discharges to the Slough. Information will be used to improve future citywide stormwater management.
		198	1200-Z stormwater permit violations were documented for facilities that discharge to the Slough.
		80	Inspections of non-permitted sites were conducted in the Slough watershed.
CITY ACTIVITIES		32	City stormwater basins were sampled to characterize stormwater discharges and identify sources within the basins. Data collected in 2021–2022 will be submitted to DEQ in early 2023.

CITY ACTIVITIES	Long-term Monitoring	<b>1</b>	Discussion initiated between the City and DEQ regarding the objectives of future long-term monitoring (10-year intervals) of slough-wide fish tissue and sediment contamination levels. Recent sediment and fish tissue results suggest that metals and pesticide concentrations are decreasing, while polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) concentrations have remained consistent.
	Fish Advisory Activities and Community Outreach	<b>15</b>	Community Engagement Liaisons (CELs) representing refugee and immigrant, indigenous, people of color and disabled communities, were briefed on Oregon Health Authority's fish advisory update for the Slough per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to continue the City's outreach efforts. CELs also collected information from their communities about desired future recreational and educational uses of the Slough.
	Citywide Programmatic Source Control Activities	<b>80+</b>	<p>Fish advisory signs were inspected, cleaned, and repaired/replaced on the Slough.</p> <p>The City continued to implement a wide-range of source control actions to reduce pollutant discharges to the Slough, including multiple best management practices (BMPs) required under the DEQ-issued Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, spill response, green street stormwater facility maintenance, erosion control, and other BMPs to prevent and limit pollutant discharges to the Slough's MS4 outfall basins from City rights-of-way.</li> <li>• Unpermitted site inspections were performed in <b>5</b> Columbia Slough priority basins</li> <li>• <b>708</b> trees and <b>48,855</b> shrubs planted in the Columbia Slough Watershed.</li> <li>• <b>16</b> schools/organizations received in-person education.</li> <li>• Developed a virtual field trip to Whitaker Ponds Nature Park in the Slough that was watched by all second and third grade students in Portland Public Schools.</li> </ul>

## Planned Activities for 2022-2023

- DEQ-led sediment cleanup adjacent to the former Pacific Carbide facility in the Lower Slough and DEQ oversight of sediment investigation in Elrod Ditch in the Middle Slough.
- DEQ-required upland source control actions at one Lower Slough site, one Whitaker Slough site, and one Middle Slough site.
- City-integrated planning for stormwater treatment in 9 basins and continued engineering design for stormwater treatment of selected City rights-of-way in 4 basins.
- City inspections and technical assistance of private facilities within priority outfall basins.
- City stormwater sampling planned at 43 outfall basins between September 2022 and June 2023. An update of the Columbia Slough database planned for winter 2023.
- Inspection and repair/replace fish advisory signs as needed in the spring of 2023.



More detail can be found in the full document, *2021-2022 Annual Report Columbia Slough Sediment Cleanup Program*.