

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Historical Preservation Project

Community Engagement Report



Environmental Learning Center



OUR STORY....

In fall 2015, CCC undertook a vast community engagement effort to secure a slice of the Environmental Learning Center's rich history in honor of the college's 50th anniversary.

The process included one-on-one interviews, workshops and open-houses.

To date we've had conversations with retirees, students, faculty, donors, elected officials, alumni, Board of Education and Foundation Board members, and of course, ELC founders.

The conversations will help the college understand the best of the ELC's past and present, while envisioning a bright new future for the site once it is restored.



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Project outcomes include:

- Record significant ELC milestones and memories
- Understand the relevance of the ELC's past, present and future
- Evaluate and strengthen relationships with community, college and ELC
- Create a shared vision for preserving the rich history of ELC
- Develop a community-giving campaign that reflects the vision
- Identify champions for driving the vision forward

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THANK YOU!
Community Co-Chairs
Jerry Herrmann and Sha Spady

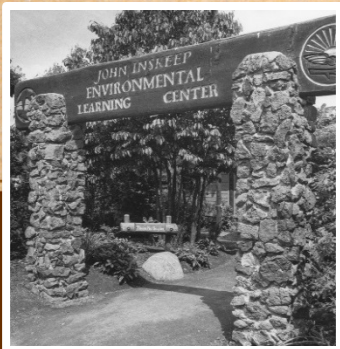


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The Environmental Learning Center, located at CCC, is a 5-acre natural area containing the headwaters of Newell Creek. It was named after Clackamas County's first extension agent, John Inskeep, an early advocate for protecting natural resources.



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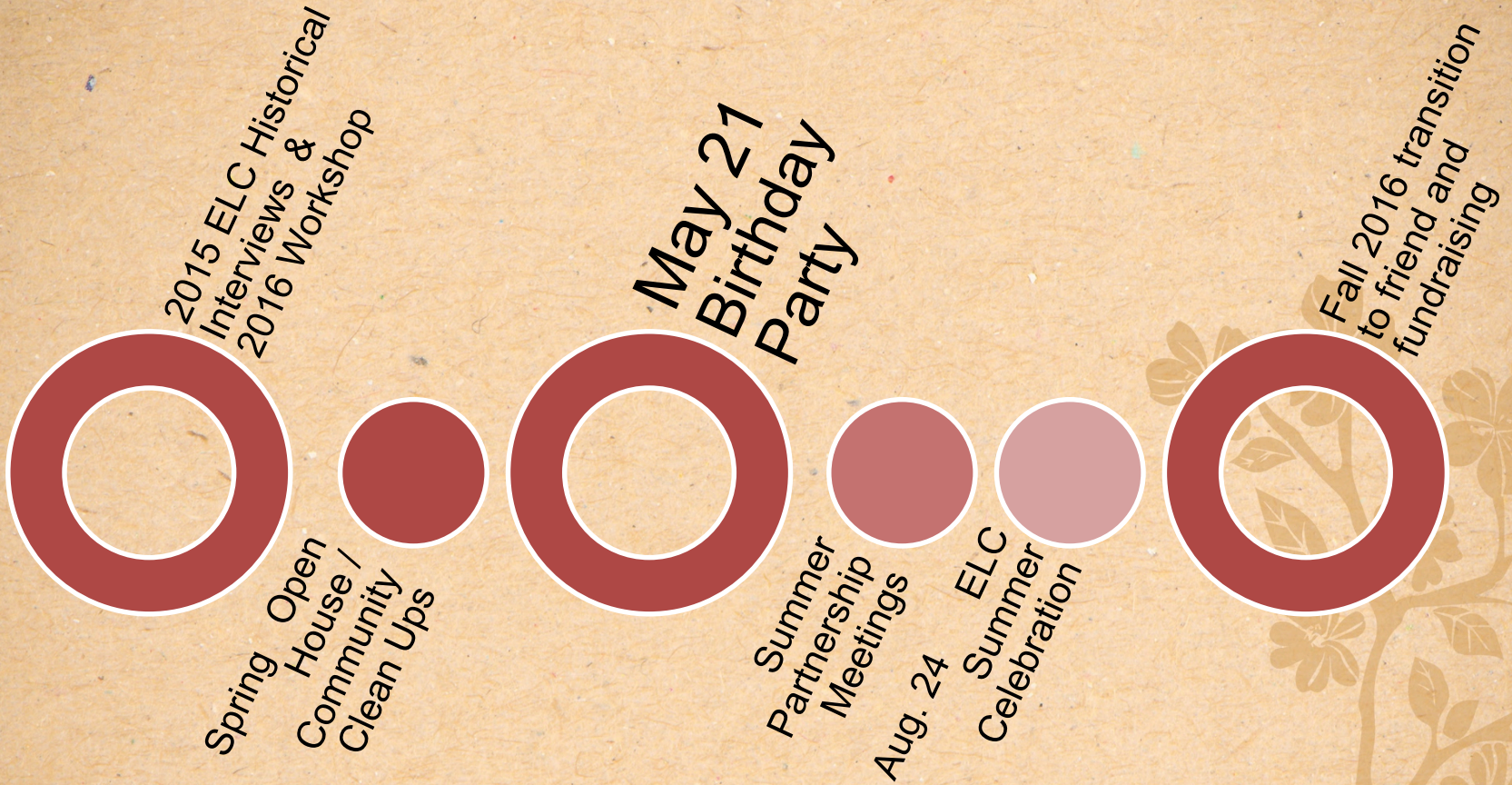


The site is part of the 1800-acre Newell Creek watershed, a steep forested canyon that is bordered by the neighborhoods and businesses of Oregon City.

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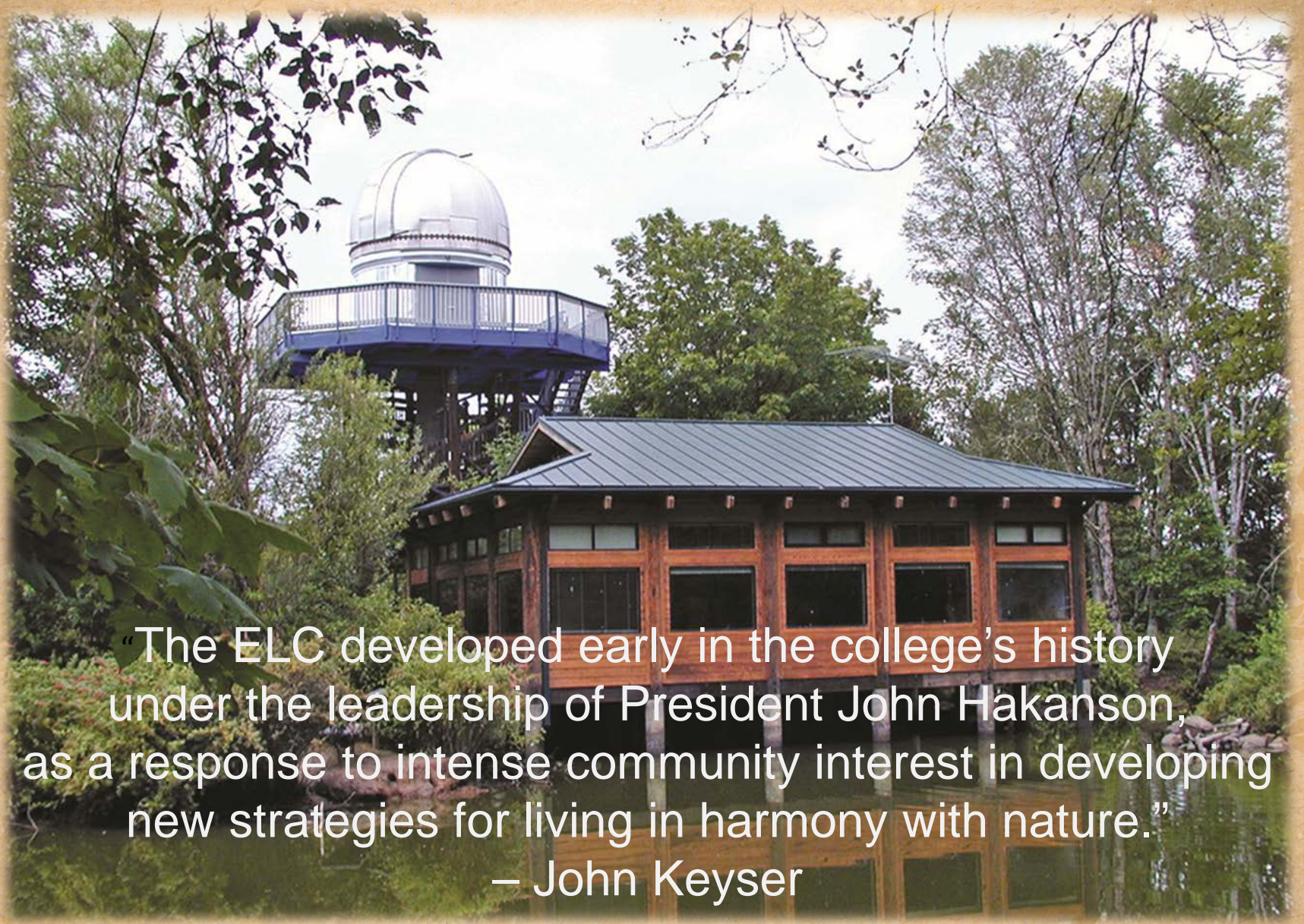


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“The ELC developed early in the college’s history under the leadership of President John Hakanson, as a response to intense community interest in developing new strategies for living in harmony with nature.”

— John Keyser

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“At the ELC, art, community and the environment came together in a singularly unique way celebrating all three because people were willing to work together for the benefit of their creation”

Jerry Herrmann
Founder, 1973

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The first efforts to make changes to the Smucker's settling ponds came when Art Instructor Leland John attempted to change the shape of the square ponds to make them round.



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“The goal was to create an educational wildlife habitat on an industrial site.”

“In essence to recycle the industrial site itself.”

Nan Hage
ELC Builder

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The ELC was a full-service recycling center in the early 1980s, one of the most successful in the state at the time.

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“In its day, the ELC was cutting edge. I used to take my kids there to recycle and explore the ponds. I liked that it had a learning component to it. That was important to me.”

Nancy Hungerford
Early Recycler, past ELC Board Member
Current Foundation Board Member

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Around 1987, the ELC received a \$430,000 grant from AMOCO Form Co. to become a test site for the use of plastic lumber. The lumber was used to build Lakeside Hall.

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The Haggart Observatory opened for the first time on March 7, 1989 so the community could view the partial eclipse of the sun occurring that day.

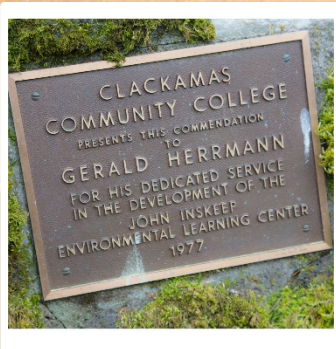
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In 1984, Dean “Hawk” Edwards managed the Birds of Prey exhibit at the ELC, housing owls, hawks and eagles. Most were rehabilitated and released.



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The ELC has many legacies....

Industrial Restoration - Oregon Trail Pageant and Outdoor Historical Drama
Haggart Observatory – Recycling Center – Birds of Prey Exhibit
Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program – Home Orchard Society
Clearing Magazine - Environmental Education - Outdoor Classroom



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*It's a place with multiple elements
that work together.*

*ELC was the hub of
community involvement, creativity
and expression.*

*Be a good steward of what
nature has given you.*

*Environmental Learning never
goes out of style.*

*It can play a part in the movement to
make education more life centered.*

*Showcase the methodology
of how to restore an area that
has been compromised.*

*It's really good for the
college.*

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PROJECT WORKSHOP
Historians gather to review
findings, share stories and
discuss the future of the
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Community Conversations Spring Open House



BIG IDEAS

Interpretive Signage: history and learning

Cultural inclusion: Native American and Art

Service learning: youth and community

Environmental Education: youth, college, adults

Recreate: Environmental Tourism

Preservation: Maintenance Endowment

College Connections: walking, learning, partnering



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May 21 CCC Birthday Party!



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Summer Conversations with Partners

Clackamas River Water Providers

City of Oregon City

Clackamas County

Oregon State University – Extension

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District

Greater Oregon City Watershed Council

Metro

ELC Friends

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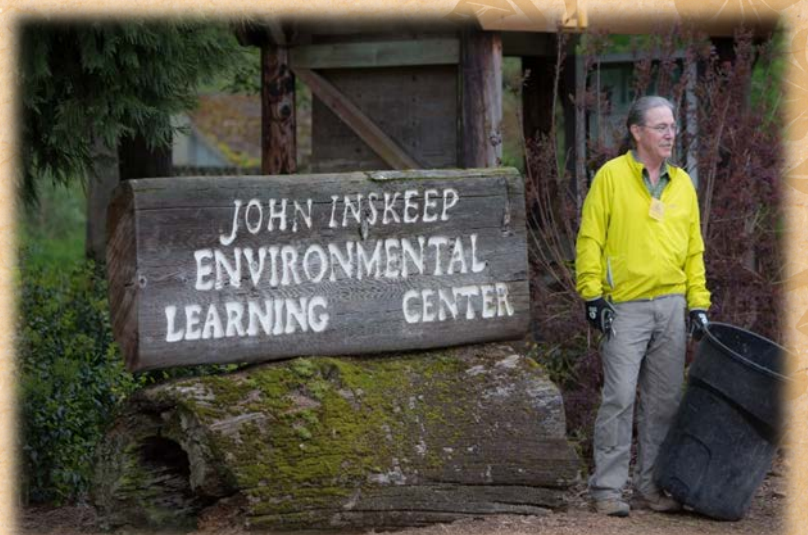
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SPRING & SUMMER CLEAN UP



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**ELC Summer Celebration and
Salmon Bake, Wednesday,
August 24, 4-7 p.m.**

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Marching forward...

Headwaters at Newell Creek Restoration Team

Bob Cochran
Renee Harber
Jennifer Nelson
Shelly Parini



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Stay Engaged!

www.Clackamas.edu/ELC

Facebook: ELCatCCC

#ELCatCCC

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