



20 Facts About THE ELC

The ELC is entering a new phase with the restoration of the Newell Creek headwaters at the ELC. Here are some facts about the Environmental Learning Center that you may not know...

1 The John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center is named after Clackamas County's first extension agent, John Inskeep, an early advocate for protecting natural resources.

2 CCC President John Hakanson suggested creating an environmental learning center at the site of the Smucker's Jelly cannery settling ponds.

3 The first efforts to make changes to the Smuckers settling ponds came when art instructor Leland John attempted to change the shape of the square ponds to make them round.

4 In 1974, the Oregon National Guard donated manpower and heavy equipment to develop the ELC site.

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

6 In 1989, with an incentive grant from Metro, the ELC opened a recycling museum in an old trailer next to the recycling center.

7 Around 1989, the ELC received a \$30,000 grant from AMOCO Form Co. to become a test site for the use of plastic lumber.

8 More than 50 companies and 300 individuals participated in the construction of the ELC pavilion, which opened in 1981. It was constructed from materials donated or purchased at cost.

9 The Lakeside Education Hall opened in 1987 and 80 percent of construction material was repurposed from the old Smuckers warehouse.

10 Area law enforcement agencies donated recycled marijuana grow lights to provide lighting in Lakeside Hall.

11 The Home Orchard Society test garden, arboretum and community gardens at CCC grew out of the ELC.

12 The Haggart Observatory opened in 1989. During its heyday in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the observatory was open every Friday and Saturday and on many Wednesdays. Big nights would bring 100 people to the observatory. An annual Astronomy Day was held at the ELC.

13 In the early 1980s, the ELC participated in the Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program (STEP), acquiring a tank for rearing fish and preparing fish spawning beds on the ELC site.

14 Between 1985 and 1989, 200,000 salmon and steelhead were released into Newell Creek.

15 In 1984, Jerry Herrmann established the Birds of Prey exhibit at the ELC, housing owls, hawks and eagles. Most were rehabilitated and released.

16 In the early days, community members came to teach classes at the ELC, based on their knowledge and interests.

17 From 1987 to 1993, under the leadership of Alice Norris, community members performed a three-act play, the Oregon Trail Pageant and Outdoor Historical Drama at the ELC. The Smuckers platform was remodeled into an amphitheater where 400 people would attend the performances each evening.

18 In the late 1990s, the ELC and the Wetlands Conservancy in Portland formed the Urban Watershed Institute as part of the ELC. The UWI offered classes for planners, engineers and developers in the emerging field of storm water management. The UWI closed in the mid 2000s.

19 More recently, educational partnerships were developed with several local government and non-profit organizations to facilitate delivery of environmental education programs, both on-site and at elementary schools throughout the county.

20 CCC is a recipient of a \$868,342 Nature in the Neighborhood grant from Metro to restore the Newell Creek headwaters at the ELC. CCC is contributing matching funds for the project. The restoration work is the college's gift to the community as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in May 2016.