OIP Cleanup Update
December 15, 2010

Have you noticed the 95 foot long dump trucks leaving the Oakridge Industrial Park? Did you wonder what was in them and where was it going?

The City of Oakridge received $160,000 from the Oregon Business Development Department coming through the American Recovery and Reinvestment of 2009 to clean up the environmental contamination in the Oakridge Industrial Park. This funding will clean up the former storm water detention ponds located near Salmon Creek Estates and the former cooling water ponds located near the steam tunnels on the upper level of the industrial park.

Detention Ponds

Just east of the intersection of Roaring Rapids Way and Coho Lane are two ponds that historically detained storm water to allow the settling of contaminants from the runoff of water coming from the Pope and Talbot mill site. This process deposited contaminated material on an asphalt liner at the bottom of these ponds over the 50 years the mill was in operation. The City had fenced the area off and a pretty good crop of blackberry bushes prevented most people from entering the cells. At the November 18 City Council meeting, the City authorized Debbie Petree Construction to remove all of the contaminated material and transfer the material to the Riverbend Landfill in Yamhill County. 59 truck loads removed 1,831 tons of material over a five day period in December. The City will contour the now cleaned area to something more aesthetically pleasing and park-like when we get some sustained dry weather. When completed, this will provide unrestricted land use property.

Cooling Ponds

The former cooling water ponds located west of the steam tunnels will be filled in this spring. Some mitigation work will be done to the creek running through the lower portion of the OIP property in exchange for filling in these ponds. This work will enhance the creek and provide more useable land in the OIP.

The Community Action Plan will be available on the City’s web-site at www.ci.oakridge.or.us.