

Coming Soon is a New and Exciting...



January 2009

WATER EDUCATION CENTER

The LOTT Alliance is building a dynamic regional Water Education Center at its Budd Inlet Treatment Plant site in downtown Olympia. Interactive activities and displays for all ages will address the importance of clean water, how we use science to clean used water, and what we can all do to conserve this precious resource. The Education Center will provide a new opportunity for students, families, and the public to learn what LOTT does, how individual actions affect water quality and the health of Budd Inlet, and much more.

The Education Center exhibits will be interactive, fun, and thought-provoking. Examples of activities include:

- An interactive Water Conservation Home with life-size appliances, household fixtures, and hints for saving water
- A computer interactive called "Follow your Flush" for you to identify your home, school, or workplace and see the actual travel path and time it takes for your "flush" to reach the treatment plant
- A giant Wastewater Production Calculator, so you can add up all the activities you do in a day to find out how much wastewater you and your family create
- A Mini Treatment Plant with opportunities to stir up wastewater to see "floaters and sinkers" in action, and view microscopic organisms that do much of the treatment work
- A Career Center interactive where you can choose a LOTT career and work through daily challenges, like how to handle the "Super Bowl Flush"
- An outdoor Fountain and Pond featuring reclaimed water that stretches along the front of the building, into a landscaped area, and, after future construction, across the street to the East Bay Public Plaza.



This new Water Education Center is the centerpiece of an expanded education program.

Timeline

Why an Education Center?

Public education is integral to the success of LOTT's mission, and has been an important part of all major LOTT programs and projects. Tours of the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant, located on the same site as the new Education Center, have been popular with school groups, professional visitors, and the public for years. The Education Center gives us an opportunity to expand our educational reach, providing a more complete picture of how wastewater treatment fits into the water cycle and the overall health of our environment. By encouraging water conservation, one of the main messages in the Education Center, we can delay the need to build costly new treatment capacity. We can also encourage youth to take an interest in science and consider career choices that may lead them to work for LOTT someday.



Construction of the building that will house the Education Center has begun, and is scheduled for completion

in April 2010.

Design of the exhibits is being finalized by Aldrich Pears Associates.

Fabrication of the exhibits will begin mid-2009 and installation will be timed to coincide with completion of the building construction. A Grand Opening celebration will be planned for Spring 2010.

Hope to see you there!

How will the Center be used?

This new Education Center is the centerpiece of an expanded education program, which will include:

Close partnerships with local schools to draw students to the Education Center – LOTT will develop a variety of on- and off-site educational options to meet the needs of different schools, grades, and teachers.

Enhancement of Budd Inlet Treatment Plant tours – The Education Center will serve as the starting point for tours of the treatment plant, a popular activity for 5th grade through college-level classes and other groups.

Collaboration with the neighboring Hands On Children's Museum – This unique partnership is underway to ensure that the new Museum, with its focus on water topics and a younger audience, and LOTT's Education Center, which is geared more toward older children and adults, will complement and build upon each other.

Partnerships with others – Many opportunities exist to collaborate with LOTT's partner jurisdictions (Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, and Thurston County), non-profit groups, and other agencies to incorporate common messages, piggy-back on existing programs, and draw visitors to the Education Center.



Learn More

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