

**Gillespie, Danielle. "UO Group Cleans up the Willamette." *Oregon Daily Emerald*, 29 Apr. 2002.**  
(Reviewed by Sarah A. Koski)

In 2002, the University of Oregon research interest group OSPIRG signed a two-year contract with Eugene Stream Team to organize events focused on repairing the riparian areas along the Willamette River. The Eugene Stream Team is an organization that focuses on education and repair of the river. The contract states that OSPIRG will provide volunteers for two events a year, while the Stream Team provides the supervisors and equipment.

During the specific event reported in the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, students removed blackberry bushes from water sources near Autzen Stadium. The university members then collected seeds from native plants in order to restore the riverbanks.

According to the article, members of OSPIRG were also collecting signatures to show solidarity regarding the Clean Water Act during the gubernatorial elections.

## **Critique**

According to the Eugene Stream Team's website:

"Volunteers participate in hands-on enhancement projects related to water quality and fish and wildlife habitat; train as trail guides and lead groups of all ages on tours of local wetlands and river systems; stencil storm drains; adopt a pond, stream or wetland; collect seeds; learn about and tend plants at the Native Plant Nursery. No experience is necessary and all gloves, tools, and equipment are provided."

OSPIRG is continually stressing the importance of students to "honor our river." These events signify that their campaign is more than just placing posters on bulletin boards and handing out flyers. As for their continual advertisement of working at the state level and speaking with the governor, I have many doubts that their efforts actually make a drastic impact. However, it is refreshing to see student groups interested in the restoration of the Willamette River.

You may find more information on the Eugene Stream Team by following this link:

<http://www.ci.eugene.or.us/parks/stream/index.htm>

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