



**7/1/09 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***\*Photo Opportunity***

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## **U.S NAVY "SEABEE" CONSTRUCTION BATALLION VOLUNTEERING AT JACKSON BOTTOM JULY 11-12**

**Hillsboro, OR** – On July 11 & 12, 2009, a group of up to 25 Navy Reserve Seabees from the Portland area will descend upon Jackson Bottom Wetland Preserve to perform some needed reconstruction of the upper trail area and the wood stairs from the parking lot to the Tualatin River.

Formed during World War II, the Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (Seabees) are tasked with providing wartime construction support to Navy and Marine Corps combat and combat support units. The Seabees have typically constructed airfields, runways, barracks and shower facilities, and ship offload facilities. Since the 1980's, their responsibilities have expanded to humanitarian assistance and construction services to civilians in war or disaster areas.

The Seabees coming to Jackson Bottom are a Portland detachment of a Navy Reserve Seabee Battalion stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. They will be called to active duty and will deploy to Afghanistan early next year. During the time they are not deployed to war, they train and practice their construction skills by performing volunteer construction projects for local governments and nonprofit organizations.

"Not only will the Seabees' work be beneficial to Jackson Bottom and the Hillsboro community, but it is a vital part of their training and preparation for active duty," says City of Hillsboro Facilities and Fleet Department Director David Robinson, who is also a commander in the Naval Reserve. This group of Seabees reports to Robinson as their regimental training officer.

The City of Hillsboro Facilities and Fleet Department, in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Department, is coordinating the design, pre-planning, and material acquisition aspects of the Jackson Bottom Seabee project. The City is providing the materials and equipment, and local material suppliers including Parr Lumber are providing discounted and donated materials to help improve Jackson Bottom's trail system and to assist the Seabees in maintaining important skills they will need when deployed next year.

The work will start at 7:30 am on Saturday, July 11 and will be complete by 5:00 pm on Sunday, July 12. Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve will be open to the public normal hours during this time; however, parking will be very limited.

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