

Hillendale Park

in Oregon City at Wassail Lane and Rosenberry Avenue



AFTER
Vegetation provides stabilization and wildlife cover

The purpose of the project was to enhance and expand the wildlife habitat and improve water quality at Hillendale Park and Mud Creek. The 15-acre park was dedicated in the late 1970s as the Hillendale Planned Development was constructed. Hillendale serves as a community/neighborhood park for more than 300 homes. It was developed with passive and active amenities, including play fields, picnic shelters, walking/jogging paths and a pond.

Native plants were placed near the stream banks and wetland area. In the past, these areas had been a nuisance for the maintenance staff who mow and maintain the riparian edge. In addition, existing crossings over the pond were replaced with wood and recycled plastic structures. More bird houses were installed to improve habitat. A small number of blackberry plants also had to be removed by hand. The project increased the native plant diversity in this urban environment. Environmental awareness was encouraged by soliciting local community volunteers for the plantings and exotic removal.



BEFORE

Benefits

The project has enhanced and expanded the wildlife habitat along Mud Creek. It has helped to promote environmental awareness and stewardship in the neighborhood using community volunteers in the plantings and patrols.

Areas planted along the stream bank and wetland areas used to be mowed and the lawn mowers would often get stuck. Now, there is no need for lawn mowers to enter these sensitive areas.

Timeline and tasks

Winter 1994	Develop plan
Spring 1994.....	Minor grading of site
Earth Day 1995	Volunteer planting day
Fall 1995	Moved and staked plants, planted emergent wetland plants, added willow staking along the edge of bank

Budget

Proposed – \$10,250

Actual – \$8,959

Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$4,479

Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- Prior to beginning the project, make sure the project is manageable for you and staff. Have someone from a parks department involved because much of the actual project tasks relied on expertise in landscaping, plant materials, irrigation and ongoing park maintenance.
- Make sure plants are stored in a convenient place for care and watering, prior to planting. If you are going to plant in early spring and summer, make sure that the irrigation system is designed, installed and functional, prior to planting.
- Set up a neighborhood or other support group before starting the project. Encourage neighbors to be involved in project design, installation and long-term stewardship. Prior to installation of the project, the park experienced many vandalism problems. Working with the neighbors, a park host program was initiated that has resulted in far fewer vandalism incidents.
- Resourcefulness, creativity and flexibility are the keys to success of these types of projects. Adjustments to the original project are inevitably made at the same time new opportunities arise. Having volunteers that are committed, have ownership in the project and who are well supervised will assure the success of the project. Involve maintenance people early in the project. They often have good design and maintenance ideas and suggestions.

Partners

Oregon City Storm and Sanitary Sewer Division

Oregon City Parks Department

Utility crew

City engineer

Community coordinator

Hillendale Neighborhood Group

Arbor Day volunteer group

Crossroads Alternative School volunteers

Contact

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