

# Hedges Creek, Phase II

by Shelley Matthews

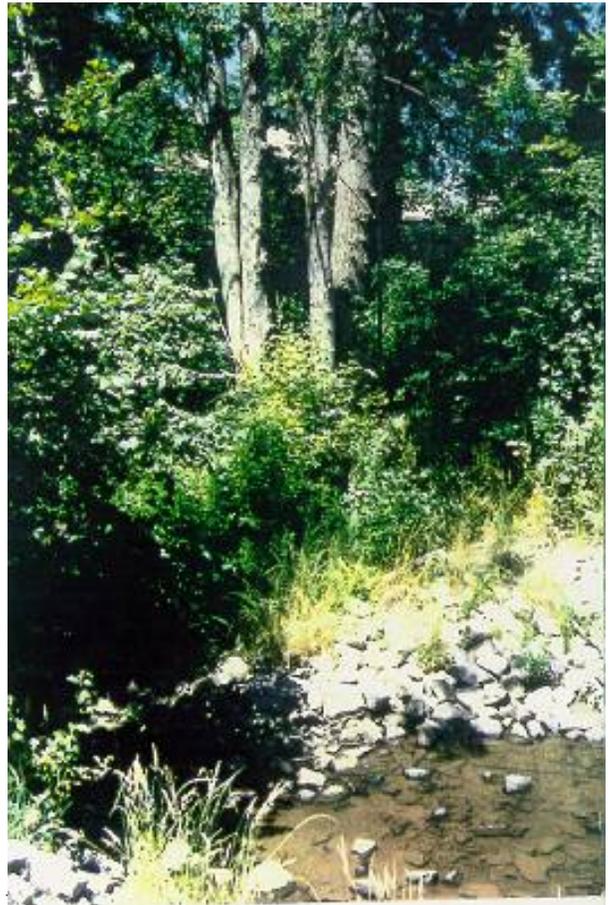
YEAR  
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at the southern end of Tualatin, from 105<sup>th</sup> Ave., north of Ibach Park, to Indian Meadows Greenway, north of Alsea Court



## BEFORE

*Site lacked plant diversity and cover*



## AFTER

*Native plants improve banks and habitat*

This portion of Hedges Creek and the surrounding floodplain are owned by the City of Tualatin and have been designated a “greenway.” The creek meanders through a heavily wooded area, dominated by a mixed forest of bigleaf maple, western red cedar and Douglas fir. Sword fern, snowberry, and other small shrubs are also present. The creek is fairly shallow and narrow and is home to crayfish, frogs, birds, raccoons and other small animals. Single family homes border the creek on both sides, except for the Ibach Park area. The greenway is used by local residents, especially children, as a place to walk and play.

Prior to this project, non-native plants like blackberry and ivy had decreased plant diversity, degraded wildlife habitat, created erosion problems, and diminished the natural beauty of the creek corridor. Blackberry bushes were also making the area impassable. Further,

undetained storm water was rapidly eroding the creek's banks, exposing pipes and impacting the water quality.

The objectives of this project were to enhance wildlife habitat, water quality, and aesthetics of the Hedges Creek Greenway by restoring the creek to a more natural state. Restoration of the greenway required removing the non-native plants, re-establishing native species, reducing the risk of non-native species invasion in the future, and stabilizing the stream banks. The Park's maintenance crew and the People for the Planet, a high school environmental group, monitored and maintained the greenway following completion of the project.

Enhancement of this creek's riparian zone had already begun with previous grants. Another portion of the creek corridor had been cleared of blackberry and native plants were established. Further downstream, slopes were stabilized to prevent erosion. This project continues restoration work on the Hedges Creek Greenway.

## **Benefits**

- Restored the Hedges Creek Greenway to a more natural condition.
- Enriched wildlife habitat by increasing plant species diversity.
- Reduced soil erosion and improved water quality.
- Provided the community with a natural area just a short walk away.
- Encouraged stewardship of the greenway by local residents.

## **Budget**

Total Proposed – \$34,300

Total Actual – \$30,481

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$10,000

Grant Dollars Spent - \$7,626

## **Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't**

- Work with really good base and vicinity maps. They are very useful for displays, flyers, meetings, and recording work progress.
- To obtain a large volunteer contingent, invest an adequate amount of time and energy.
- Provide good leadership and adequate supervision and direction to work crews to ensure a quality, timely product.
- When removing invasive plants, consider removing vegetation piles from steep slopes where the debris would get in the way of future work.
- Research, understand, and adjust for stream dynamics and basin hydrology prior to planting, to avoid the effects of unanticipated events (i.e. storms, heavy rainfall, flash floods) on newly planted vegetation.
- Be aware that plant removal sites may become an attractive nuisance for children and create problems for property owners. A bare steep slope can be a great place to slide down, trespass on private property, get hurt and cause erosion. Install a temporary wire fence or other form of protection until the new plants can grow.
- Consider planting in the Fall when the rainy season arrives so that plants are well established by summer.

## **Partners**

City of Tualatin, Parks and Recreation Department  
Kurahashi & Associates  
The Wetlands Conservancy CRUE

## **Contact**

Virginia Dodson, City of Tualatin, Parks and Recreation Department, (503) 692-2000

### **Timeline and Tasks**

July – August 1996	Planned and coordinated restoration project
August 8-15, 1996	Ordered native plants and other supplies
August 15, 1996	Completed newsletter
September 5-15, 1996	Contacted schools
September 9-20, 1996	Mailed letters and handled other publicity
September 12, 1996	Ordered dumpster
September 12, 1996	Held neighborhood work party
September 13,16,17,20,23	Removed non-native plants
October 4,7,8,14,15	Planted native species
Ongoing	Monitored and maintained restoration site