North Clackamas Central Park – Mt. Scott Creek

YEAR 6

by Shelley Matthews

in Milwaukie, Oregon at 5695 Kellogg Creek Drive, in the west section of North Clackamas Central Park

BEFORE

Excessive streambank erosion due to lack of native vegetation to stabilize soils and flashy stream flows.

AFTER

Himalayan blackberry was removed, the toe of the bank was stabilized, coir matting was installed and native grasses, trees and shrubs are being planted

This restoration site consisted of a 200-foot section of heavily-eroded and undercut streambanks along the south side of Mt. Scott Creek. Erosion had increased as a result of changes in stream hydrology due to rapid development in the upper part of the watershed, and by flooding during high rainfall events the past three winters. Existing riparian trees were in danger of being lost, and both sides of the stream were infested with Himalayan blackberries and reed canary grass. The proposed project would stabilize the eroding streambank, remove invasive blackberries and grass, and increase native riparian plant cover.

The eroded section of streambank was graded to a lesser slope and bioengineering techniques were used to stabilize the bank. A crib wall was constructed along the stream bank. Large boulders were placed at the toe of the slope, smaller rocks were placed between the large boulders, and brush and topsoil was placed and compacted. Blackberries and reed canary grass were manually removed and the site was seeded with native grass. A 900-coir matting was installed over the grass and staked with live willow cuttings. Western red cedar and red alder trees were later planted within the boundaries of the project to restore vegetation at the edge of the stream.

Benefits

- The streambank was restored in a manner that allows access and viewing of the creek, but prevents bank degradation in this high-use area.
- Improved the aesthetic appearance of the eroding streambank by reestablishing vegetation.
- Reduced erosion, improved water quality, and increased riparian shade for fish.
- Restored native riparian vegetation and enhanced habitat quality for wildlife.
- Educated the public on what can be done to enhance and improve a stream in an urban area.

Budget

Total Proposed – $17,489
Total Actual – $15,521
Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – $7,343
Grant Dollars Spent - $7,343

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- If you don't have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to design and supervise a restoration project, hire a consultant that does.
- Make sure you have the proper equipment, and adequate volunteer or paid workers.

Partners

Clackamas County Department of Corrections' Community Service Program
Friends of Kellogg and Mt. Scott Creeks
Friends of Trees
North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District
North Clackamas Parks Foundation, Inc.
Watershed Applications

Contact

Thom Kaffun, Park Services Manager, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, (503) 794-8002

Timeline and Tasks

September-October 1997	Removed blackberries and reed canary grass; constructed crib wall, seeded exposed areas, and installed erosion control matting and willows.
Spring 1998	Planted cedar and alder trees.