

Gabriel Park Vermont Creek Riparian Zone Protection Project
13420-04-J434
2004-2007

- 1) The project area is 1.7 acres within the woods of Gabriel Park, southwest Portland, and adjacent to Vermont Creek. Portland Parks wanted to enclose the area with fencing, to protect Vermont Creek, and replant the area with native plants. Funding and community buy-in was a challenge. This grant allowed us to do just that. The magic word 'Grant' helped explain to our park users why a fence was keeping their doggies out of the water and allow dialogue on; water quality, pets on leash, erosion and native plants. Signage helped to answer questions and provide contract information to volunteer. Soon the public was volunteering to plant, water and weed, and the complainers were admiring our hard work.

Gabriel Park, in Southwest Portland, is 92 acres with about 20 acres maintained as natural forest. After permitting with the City of Portland, the fence was installed, closing off the preexisting three-side fenced area (installed in 1999), and then we fenced off three separate areas, allowing open trail access and stream flow. The areas are 50,000+21,000+3,875sqft., for a total of 74,875sqft. of Class I riparian habitat. This area was a heavily used part of an urban park, along the banks of Vermont Creek. This heavy use had eroded the banks causing erosion and muddy water.

Park staff had hoped this project would protect Vermont Creek and help provide wildlife cover. The project far exceeded our goals. The area was totally bare earth with tall tree canopy cover. The banks of Vermont Creek were eroded, and the upper slopes were compacted bare dirt. Dogs and bikes were loving the area too death. After spreading mulch the first summer with volunteers and with prisoners, the fence was installed. That first winter plants and woody debris were added to the site, tree duff started to accumulate and creatures were showing up. We have salamanders to an Elk on site. The fence had some damage that first winter, but after that the plants really put on a show and the fence was respected.

Each winter for the last three years Portland Parks has sponsored plantings. Some with adults and with school groups. 'Friends of Vermont Creek' started in response to our work on getting this grant. And they in turn have been active in the Vermont Creek reach and other areas of Gabriel Park, mainly the off leash area. Louise Shorr with Park Natural Resources, Volunteer Coordinator has organized a variety of groups. Louise has also worked with Lynn Vanderkamp, Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Environmental Ed. Specialist with local school groups on an ongoing water quality/restoration program in Gabriel Park. This last fiscal season volunteers put in 481 hours of labor.

This is an ongoing project with the City of Portland Parks, maintenance will continue, plantings will be expanded into the areas outside the fence as invasive are removed. Parks Staff will upkeep the fence and will reevaluate each year if the plantings are ready for the fence to be removed. The fence was the key factor in the success of this project.

Gabriel Park Vermont Creek Riparian Zone Project 2004-2007

July-June 04 **Done**
Mulch and fence site
Plant Nov.

June-July 05 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Update signage
Water and weed as needed

Aug.-Sept. 05 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Water & weed as needed
Summer Camp group tours and Plant ID

Oct.-Dec. 05 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Planting Parties with Volunteers (containers & bareroot)
School Group Planting & Water testing

Jan.-Feb. 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School groups planting and water testing

March-April 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School groups planting and plant ID
Water testing
Update signage for Volunteers

May-June 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School group's tours and plant ID
Water testing
Planting with Volunteer groups

June-July 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Manual weed control
Water as needed
Summer Camp group tours and Plant ID

Aug.-Sept. 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Water as needed
Plant count
Summer Camp group tours and Plant ID
Update signage

Oct.-Dec. 06 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
Planting with Volunteers (fill-in)
School group's tours; water testing & plant ID

Jan.-Feb. 07 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School group's tours; water testing & plant ID

March-April 07 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School group's tours; water testing & plant ID
Update signage

May-June 07 **Done**

Monitor site/Maintain Fence
School group's tours; water testing & plant ID
Site Tour

C. Wright

8/14/07

City of Portland, Parks

GREENSPACES CONSERVATION & RESTORATION GRANT**Gabriel Park Vermont Ck. Riparian Zone Protection Project #13420-04-J434**

		Budget	Grant	Match	Actual Exp.
Personnel					
	Park Bureau Staff	\$ 28,296.00		\$ 28,296.00	\$ 16,869.75
Volunteer Labor					
	ACS & School Groups	\$ 19,890.00		\$ 19,890.00	\$ 11,508.00
Professional Services					
	Park Bureau Equipment	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,966.38
	Environmental Services	\$ 6,000.00		\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Materials & Services					
	Park Bureau Districts	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,153.25
	Park Bureau Hort. Services Plants	\$ 6,200.00		\$ 6,200.00	\$ 12,137.01
Other					
	Park Bureau Equipment mulch hauling	\$ 6,500.00		\$ 6,500.00	\$ 3,599.24
	Total Project	\$ 76,886.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 66,886.00	\$ 52,233.63

Cindy Wright 10/4/07

Gabriel Park
Greenspaces Grant
Project Photos

By Cindy Wright
August 2007

Coop Agreement #: 13420-04-J434







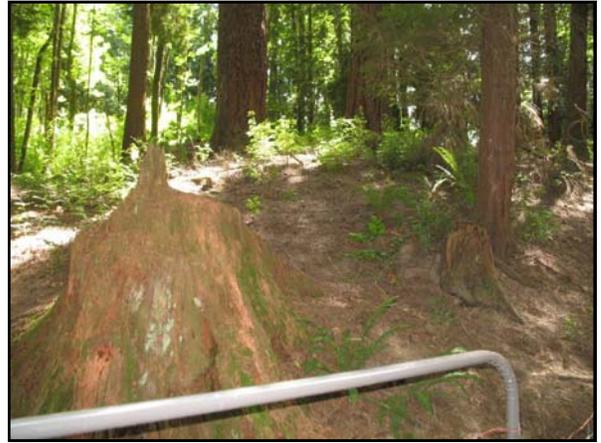






Photo by Jennifer Thompson,
8/19/05

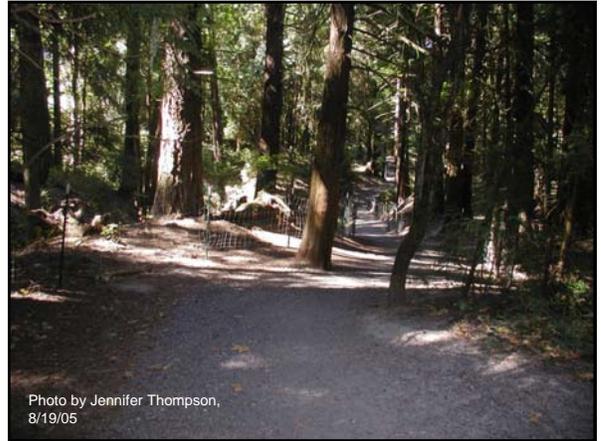


Photo by Jennifer Thompson,
8/19/05