

# Burnt Bridge – Meadowbrook Marsh

along channelized section of Burnt Bridge Creek immediately south of its crossing under Burton Road (approximately RM 7.8)



## BEFORE

*Lack of  
plant  
diversity  
and cover*

The project would have created approximately eight acres of wetlands on a 17-acre site surrounding a channelized reach of Burnt Bridge Creek. The objective was to make use of the construction of a stormwater retention facility by Clark County Public Services to recreate a natural wetlands reflecting the original wetland habitats of the upper Burnt Bridge Creek watershed. The recreated wetlands would have retained floodwaters efficiently and provided water quality improvement and natural habitats.

The site consists of two impoundments with separate water control structures. Wetland plant communities would have been established in the impoundments. Plans for the upper impoundment were to plant giant bulrush and in the lower impoundment ash and alder to form a wooded swamp with a herbaceous layer. Logs were to be anchored in the wooded wetland area. Both impoundments were to contain islands for shelter and refuge for waterfowl and wildlife.

Two separate upland forested communities were to be established. A mixed coniferous/deciduous community was to be planted with Western red cedar, Douglas fir and big leaf maple along with associated understory plants.

The second site was to be planted with white oak with an understory of serviceberry and snowberry. The dominant plants for each community were to be supplied by commercial growers and planted by a professional landscape contractor. A volunteer effort was to be coordinated to salvage plants from development sites and county public works projects to provide plant material for the understories.

The plan also called for in-stream structures to back water from Burnt Bridge Creek into the marsh area and water control structures. Unfortunately, fish passage became a concern and the wetlands design was called into question especially regarding the water control structure.

## Benefits

The project was to restore natural wetlands communities to an area that has suffered almost complete destruction of these habitats. The wetlands was to restore to an area of metropolitan Clark County a much needed place of tranquillity as well as a place for natural history appreciation and education. In addition to augmenting the wetlands' primary function of flood protection and

groundwater recharge, plant communities would have contributed to the removal of suspended and dissolved solids and provide opportunities for the conservation of natural species and communities.

## Budget

Proposed – \$56,311

Actual – withdrawn

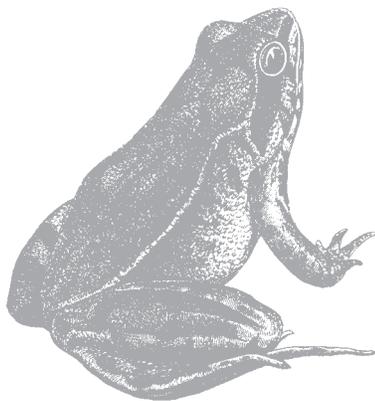
Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$20,500

## Reason for withdrawal

Design problems for fish passage could not be worked out between various agencies. The project was completed with other funds.

## Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- Establish direct lines of communication with agencies involved in resource issues from the local to federal level, especially where water and fish are concerned.
- Clearly understand the stipulations that the particular granting agency(s) has upon its money.
- Think ahead, design your photo points and monitoring plan along with your project.
- Get help from your local horticulturist about placement and plant needs. Have a contingency plan to replace dead plants. Analyze the possible reasons for mortality.
- Be aware of differing attitudes and philosophies toward natural resources and restoration.
- Realize that attitudes toward stormwater management are in a state of change and old ways die hard.
- It takes time and energy to get people used to new ideas and ways of doing things.
- Vandalism was a problem to the landscaping.
- Volunteers take energy and structure and it is challenging to keep their interest for the long term maintenance of a project.



## Proposed timeline and tasks

May 1991 .....	Grant/work plan development
August 1991 -	
September 1992 .....	Project administration
August and	
September 1991,	
January 1992 .....	Neighborhood meetings, volunteer workshops
August 1991 .....	Landscape design
Aug. 15 - Sept. 15, 1991 ..	Develop and let landscape design contract
August 1991 -	
September 1991 .....	Design trail and parking
October - December 1991	Landscaping
November 1991 -1995 .....	Monitor plant survival
January - May 1992 .....	Volunteer work sessions to salvage native plants and transplanting
February - April 1992 .....	Design interpretive signs
Mid-1993 .....	Construct trail and install interpretive signs

## Partners

Clark County Public Service

National Marine Fisheries

Washington Department of Fisheries

Local high school

## Contact

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