

# Kelly Creek Greenway

in southeast Gresham in the upper watershed, midway between Powell Valley Road and Salquist Road. Access is from a public pedestrian entrance at 14th and Condor streets



## AFTER

*Excess trails have been removed and the forest floor is rehabilitated to a more natural state.*

A 12-acre forested site along a degraded portion of Kelly Creek has been restored and enhanced. The site contains one of the largest remaining stands of mature upland forest adjacent to the creek. Two existing conditions were deteriorating the site and impacting the creek. A drainage channel cut across the site and carried a large amount of sediment into the creek, and a degraded forest understory, strewn with debris, was heavily worn by the bicycle use of neighborhood children. The result was an excess of trails, loss of vegetation, compacted ground and additional erosion.

The project was completed within the time and budget constraints of the restoration grants program. All project goals have been addressed. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance during the next three years will help further evaluate the success of the project.

## Benefits

The water quality of Kelly Creek was improved by reducing erosion in the adjacent upland forest grove and by reducing the flow of sediment and probable contaminants into the stream from the drainage channel.

The forest grove was restored by removing excess trails and reestablishing native ground cover vegetation. Native riparian vegetation was restored along the channel and at the creek's edge. This also enhanced wildlife habitat.

Northwest Service Academy volunteers (an AmeriCorps program) contributed to community awareness and education by explaining the project to neighbors and site visitors. Students and their parents were involved in planning and planting. The Gresham Parks Department distributed informational flyers.

## Budget

Proposed – \$11,534

Actual – \$18,904

Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$9,807

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

- Students, parents and neighborhood volunteers work well but require supervision. On student planting days, Northwest Service Academy volunteers supervised students at a ratio of one volunteer to three students.
- Northwest Service Academy volunteers were a great source of creativity, labor, public education and outreach. Their enthusiasm and commitment to the project during design and installation, as well as future monitoring, made a positive impact.

## Timeline and tasks

- March 1994 ..... Delivery of logs; met with neighborhood association.
- April 1994 ..... Coordination with Community Development, Girl Scouts, US Forest Service and Oregon Youth Conservation Corps
- June 1994 ..... Prepared and awarded construction contract for contractor assistance
- August 1994 ..... Reviewed scope of work with Northwest Service Academy for services to be rendered by AmeriCorps volunteers; distributed project notices throughout the neighborhood.
- Sept. 12 ..... Kick off day for site work; media coverage by East Metro Edition and Channel 21
- Sept. 13 ..... Delivered portable restroom for work crew
- Sept. 12 - Oct. 5 ..... NSA volunteers cleared debris from greenway, determined trail layout, removed excess trails and restored forest floor; debris removed by Parks staff. Contractor delivered logs, boulders and drain rock; selected trail was improved by grading, edging with logs and placing a base of crushed gravel; began stabilization of drainage channel creek banks and construction of footbridge.
- Nov. 3 ..... Delivery of plant material by contractor and placement of plants by NSA volunteers
- Nov. 5 ..... 370 plants planted by NSA volunteers and Kelly School fifth grade students and parents
- Nov. 6 - 22 ..... Surface drainage modifications were made to trail; NSA volunteers collected willow stakes for channel stabilization and completed channel work ;park maintenance staff cut hazardous trees used for footbridge and more edging; delivered more rock for channel work; delivered mulch for forest floor and trail surface; NSA volunteers planted an additional 170 native plants.
- Nov. 1 - 20 ..... Developed and distributed informational flyer to neighborhood
- Dec. 1 - 15 ..... Project featured on display at Gresham Public Library
- Dec. 1 - ongoing ..... Monitoring and maintenance of site

- Be creative when looking for materials. Logs were donated by a contractor clearing a nearby development site. Cobbles used in the channel to slow velocity were collected by volunteers at another park site (they needed to be removed) and transported by maintenance staff. Willow stakes were collected and used for much of the stabilization of the drainage channel.
- Resourcefulness, creativity and flexibility are the keys to success. Adjustments to the original project are inevitably made at the same time new opportunities arise. Use volunteers that are committed, have ownership in the project and are well supervised. Involve maintenance people early; they often have good design and maintenance ideas and suggestions.

## Partners

Gresham Parks and Recreation Division  
Northwest Service Academy (staff and volunteers)  
Kelly Creek Elementary (one teacher, 30 fifth grade students, eight parents)  
Connell Construction  
Agro Works

## Contact

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