

Rosemont Bluff Park

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR
5

in northeast Portland, north of NE Hassalo, between 68th and 69th



AFTER

New native plantings restore the woodland edge zone and protect wildlife and their habitats

Rosemont Bluff Park is 2.11 acres of heavily wooded, steeply sloped land located in the Center Neighborhood of northeast Portland. The Center Neighborhood Association and the City of Portland Parks Department co-manage the park with the goal to maintain and improve the site as a natural area.

A steep hillside dominates the Rosemont Bluff site. This hillside is covered in a second growth of Douglas fir and bigleaf maple forest. Native vegetation makes up the majority of the understory. However, English ivy and Himalayan blackberries have made significant intrusions on the more disturbed portions of the site. Small flat areas are located on the bottom and top of the slopes and are currently maintained as lawn.

Restoration of this site focused on three distinct activities: Crews (1) planted mixed deciduous and evergreen trees on the lower flat area to form a forest canopy and extend the forest habitat along the sloped area of the site, (2) restored the woodland edge zone on the upper portion of the site, (3) planted native understory vegetation throughout the existing wooded portion of the site where the English ivy had been removed and little native vegetation remained. In addition, a water supply system was installed, barriers were placed on site to protect the park from motorized vehicles and illegal dumping, and some areas that received new plantings were graded.

The Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation service provided all required site monitoring of the project. This work was done under contract with the Portland Parks Department who is committed to the continued management of the site. In addition, juvenile corrections crews will provide ongoing site cleanups, and monitoring of new plants.

Benefits

- Increased wildlife habitat and improved food supplies.
- Diversified wildlife habitat, increased native plant diversity, controlled exotic vegetation.
- Buffered the wooded area of the site from the passive recreational uses of the site.
- Provided opportunity for over 200 youth to fulfill their court ordered community service.
- Involved over 25 community volunteers in the restoration of a public park and increased awareness of the importance of natural areas within their neighborhood.

Budget

Total Proposed – \$16,520

Total Actual – \$19,451.

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$4,950.

Grant Dollars Spent - \$4,903

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- Before undertaking a major planting, spend plenty of time removing non-native plant species and preparing the site. In areas where invasive plants were removed prior to planting native species, the new vegetation grew well and required little or no replanting.
- Follow-up an initial exotic plant removal with a second removal to eliminate regrowth of the non-native plant. Allow one full growing season to see what germinates and resprouts.
- There was a tremendous growth of clematis and morning glory in many areas where blackberry was removed. They are more aggressive and harder to control than blackberry.
- The log barriers installed by the parks department have eliminated a persistent dumping problem and have had the added benefit of drawing positive attention to the park.
- Our public outreach and volunteer coordination efforts needed improvement. A future goal is to develop a Friends of Rosemont Bluff group that takes over the coordination of restoration and park development efforts from the neighborhood association.

Partners

Center Neighborhood Association

Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Center

Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District

Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation

Contact

Brian Bainnson, Chair, Center Neighborhood Land Use Committee, (503) 256-8955

Timeline and Tasks

February 28, 1996	Completed construction documents
June 15, 1996	Reviewed project and obtained permits
October 15, 1996	Installed telephone pole barriers
March 30, 1997	Graded site
April 15, 1997	Obtained quick coupler, installed watering system, and seeded site
May 30, 1997	Planted trees and shrubs
June 1, 1997	Began maintenance program