

# Strawberry Meadows

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR

7

in Troutdale, east of 6<sup>th</sup> & Sandy Ave., off Beaver Creek Ct.



## BEFORE

*Steep slope covered in Himalayan blackberry*

## DURING

*Slope stripped of blackberry vines and readied for planting native trees and shrubs*



## AFTER

Site was restabilized with rock, large woody debris and native vegetation

The Strawberry Meadows Greenway covers 7.1 acres within a 56 acre watershed. A new residential subdivision within the watershed had introduced storm-water flows into the creek and increased the volume, duration, and velocity of in-stream flow. The streambanks fragile soils began to erode.

Initially, the Strawberry Meadows project had identified a steep canyon for restoration, but increased rainfall, major storm damage, and extreme erosion set the scope of the work beyond the scale of this small project. In July 1999, the Public Works Department stepped in and initiated a large-scale stormwater restoration project referred to as the 'Harlow Canyon Project.'

The Strawberry Meadows Project was altered to address the riparian vegetation mix on a steep slope located west of and uphill from the Harlow Canyon project. Approximately half the greenway, including this slope, had Himalayan blackberry vines encroaching into the natural plant community. The berry vines interfered with plant community succession to mixed forest, contributed to erosion, and degraded water quality and habitat value. During October and November 1999, crews cleared Himalayan blackberry vines from the steep slope and planted 760 native plants (western red cedar, red alder, willow, maple, dogwood, snowberry, salmonberry, and thimbleberry, fern, etc.). Troutdale Grade School's fifth grade class committed to monitoring the project.

### **Benefits**

- Removed exotic Himalayan blackberry, planted native vegetation, and increased diversity of the native plant community and available habitat for aquatic and riparian animal life.
- Increased slope stability, reduced erosion and siltation, and improved water quality.
- Provided hands-on training in urban greenspace restoration to students and environmental crews.

### **Budget**

Total Proposed – \$19,320

Total Actual – \$4,326

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$9,660

Grant Dollars Spent - \$2,150

### **Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't**

- Check with the department or agency with stormwater responsibility before planning a project that involves a drainage issue. They may identify additional problems that will alter, or be beyond the scope of, the original project.
- When relying on youth programs for labor, make sure their services are available during the time period(s) you plan to perform the work.
- Northwest Natives, the nursery selected for plant materials, supplied excellent stock and provided delivery as requested.

## **Partners**

Crew Restoring the Urban Environment  
Multnomah Youth Conservative  
Troutdale Grade School

## **Contact**

Valerie Lantz, Parks and Facilities Superintendent, Parks and Facilities Division, City of Troutdale, (503) 665-5175

### **Timeline and Tasks**

June 1999	Obtained permits; prepared plant list; sought labor sources
July-August 1999	Ordered plants
September 1999	Requested and received approved for a grant extension based on labor availability dates
October-November 1999	Cleared blackberry vines and planted native vegetation; Troutdale Grade School began monitoring visits
December 1999-March 2000	Monitored for erosion; prepared final report; gathered documentation for reimbursement.