

Clackamas River South Shoreline

upstream from the Highway 99E bridge, near the confluence of the Willamette and Clackamas rivers



BEFORE

AFTER

Increased diversity of plants provides habitat

The Clackamas River Riparian Protection and Enhancement Project was a collaborative effort of the cities of Oregon City and Gladstone and the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center to restore severely damaged riparian habitat along the Clackamas River.

The project also proposed extensive riparian habitat monitoring through an assessment of more than 35 miles of the Clackamas River from Oregon City and Gladstone to River Mill Dam. The main objectives were to grade damage done to habitat areas by off-road vehicles, restore wildflower plant communities, create erosion barriers and use volunteer labor from within the community. The project specifically proposed to rehabilitate a 3.5-acre site on the banks of the Clackamas River owned by the cities of Gladstone and Oregon City. This site had been heavily altered through indiscriminate access by off-road vehicles and public misuse that included illegal dumping. Both cooperating cities and the Environmental Learning Center wanted the site rehabilitated as a model riparian enhancement demonstration project.

The center intended for the project to serve as a demonstration riparian enhancement project for the entire Clackamas River green corridor. Several different plants and trees were used to improve and diversify the habitat along the river. Those plants and trees included grand fir, Western hemlock, Pacific yew, Oregon white ash, red alder, Oregon grape, salmonberry, thimbleberry, evergreen blackberry and a variety of native wildflowers. All components of the project were planned to be beneficial to education and linked to the exhibits at the River Resources Museum on the site.

Benefits

The River Resources Museum has established an area rich in educational and awareness resources pertinent to public awareness of riparian habitat. The project has also been a model for further restoration down the Clackamas River and a reference for similar work elsewhere.

Timeline and tasks

September 1992	Procure stock, features, soil amendments
September - October 1992	Design and develop project education exhibits; interior of museum exhibits; exterior site restoration exhibits; exhibits installations
October - November 1992	Outreach assessment and riparian areas surveys; conduct field survey and photo documentation; produce exhibit and survey brochure
November 1992	Commence site revegetation; complete revegetation, mulching and erosion control
March 1993	Review questionnaire follow up
April 1994	Tour of site with Metro representative
May 1994	Documentation photographs taken
June 1994	Final clean up of site
July 1994	Complete program and evaluation

Budget

Proposed – \$46,005

Actual – \$40,256

Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$17,430

Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- Have organized supervisors and reliable volunteers.
- Local scout groups and community volunteers were very helpful, but convict labor was inconsistent and disappointing.
- Some problems were created by wildlife eating or destroying newly planted vegetation. Better use of barriers and shields would prevent this problem.
- It may take several attempts to effectively complete a project with high satisfaction.
- Have the responsibility of the overall project delegated to more than one person.
- 1996 floods destroyed nearly all of the planted vegetation.

Partners

John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center staff and volunteers

Boy Scouts

Friends of Gladlands

Oregon National Guard Construction Battalion

Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism (SOLV)

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Gladstone School District

Oregon City School District

City of Oregon City Public Works Department

City of Gladstone Public Works Department

Clackamas County Stormwater Management Program

Columbia River Corrections Facility

Youth Conservation Corps of Oregon

KWJJ

Albertsons

Coors Pure Water 2000

United Grocers

Bud's Towing

Evan's Farms & Nursery

Canby Wholesale Nursery

Enviro-Urban Landscapes

Contact

John LeCavalier, director, John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center, 657-6958, ext. 2351