

Mt. Scott Creek

in Milwaukie, in North Clackamas Park off Highway 224



AFTER

New trees will add to cover of streamside



BEFORE

Himalayan blackberry crowded native vegetation

The project took place within a park setting that had a variety of community uses from ball fields to picnic sites. The priority task was to remove invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and reed canary grass from along Mt. Scott Creek. This was accomplished with volunteer help; no machinery or herbicides were used. The original plan was to purchase trees and native plants for the riparian area to provide a vegetative barrier between active and passive recreation. An anonymous donor gave more than 1,000 native ash, alder and cedars trees to the project. The Clackamas Corrections crew was to salvage native plants from a nearby site. The bank was also staked with native willow, rose and other natives from the salvage area. An Eagle Scout project was to build and install bird, bat and wood duck houses to enhance habitat. There was minor re-contouring of a swale in the park to provide extension of the wetlands. A butterfly garden was planned and implemented with limited success.

There were also plans to construct two at-grade rock dams to create in-stream diversity. Permits and local opposition to in-stream work held up this part of the project. There are still plans to reconstruct the stream banks to prevent further erosion and add in-stream structures to create pools.

Timeline and tasks

September 1991 - Aug. 31, 1992 blackberries and reed canary grass removed; trees planted; bird and bat boxes placed; swale re-contoured; Butterfly meadow seeded

Benefits

The primary goal of the project was to provide a natural barrier of plants and trees to separate active from passive recreational use in the park. These plants separated the ball park from the passive picnic area and improved the buffer area for wildlife. Riparian plantings provided erosion control and shade for the stream bank and stream. Plants contributed to wildlife habitat value and increased plant diversity. This project also provides the park the opportunity to develop community ties and stewardship possibilities in the neighborhood.

Budget

Proposed – \$34,166

Actual – \$1,692

Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$14,455

Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- Tasks should be delegated to appropriate groups. Correction groups may need specific tasks that are more structured.
- Permits need to be secured in advance of project. Timing of in-stream work can cause the project to be delayed or modified.
- Get 100 percent buy in from friends groups before you proceed. This is especially important when it comes to projects around water.

Partners

Friends of Mt. Scott and Kellogg Creeks

Milwaukie Neighborhood Girl Scouts

Eagle Scout

Lynn Sharp

Clackamas County Corrections

Contact

Don Robertson, North Clackamas Parks District,
794-8002

