

Sunrise Nature Pond

in Troutdale, northwest of Beaver Creek and Stark Road between Buxton Road and 257 Avenue



AFTER

Native vegetation rehabilitated a man-made pond

The topography of the Sunrise Park site consists of an open upland of approximately 16 acres. A steep slope goes downhill toward a small seasonal pond; a gradual 3 to 4 percent slope extends from the pond site upward and outward over another 10-plus acres. An additional five acres extend north, however it slopes away from the pond site and there are future plans for a street bisecting this area. Gravel mining and landfill activity previously took place on the site.

The 1995 master plan for Sunrise Park called for converting the area into a 17-acre multi-use park. Two-thirds of the land was identified to be enhanced as a natural area, including creation and enhancement of the nature pond, upland meadow and upland shrub areas.



BEFORE

Man-made pond

The original intent was to begin land closure in September 1993, design the storm water control, pond shape, hydraulics and specifications for the liner in fall 1993 and construct the project in spring 1994. Due to stormwater and transportation plans that affected the same area, the project needed more comprehensive planning and design. The revision of the project plan allowed for a bigger

Timeline and tasks

January 1994 - present	..... Weekly monitoring
February 1994	..... Intergovernmental agreement with Metro
September 1994	..... Request for proposals prepared for pond design
December 1994	..... Review and select consultant
March 1, 1995	..... Consultant begins pond design and engineering
April 25, 1995	..... Amendment to extend project to June 30, 1995
May 1995	..... Master planning for Sunrise Park site with Draggo & Associates
May 11, 1995	..... Select and order native wildflower seed
May 16-17, 1995	..... Spider hoe work to stabilize west slope
May 24, 1995	..... Troutdale Grade School weed and plant wildflower seed
June 1995	..... Public review process
June 1995	..... Amendment to extend project to Nov. 30, 1995
June 1995	..... City Council postpones adopting park plan until city-wide transportation plan addresses 21st street issue (recreation vs. transportation)
October 1995	..... Emerald Hydroseed seeds bare area
November 1995	..... Seeding bare areas on west slope for erosion control
November 1995	..... Plant materials ordered and picked up
November 1995	..... Wetlands Conservancy crew planting
February 1996	..... City Council adopts Sunrise park topographic/master plan with natural area; finish grade plan is next step; developer of subdivision south of Sunrise Park proposes developing two acres of south Sunrise Park as natural area and provide storm water to wetland at Sunrise Park
March 1996	..... Developer of mall in Troutdale begins planning mitigated wetlands installation at Sunrise Park
April 1996	..... Developer begins grading work on south end of Sunrise Park
April 1996 - on going	..... Maintenance for litter pick up, watering regime especially in summer, replacement of plants, weed eating tall weeds and grasses
Oct. -Nov. 1996	..... Developer plants south end two acres with native plants.

picture approach, enabling it to fit into and interact with the larger landscape. The revision has improved the project design, gained more public support for the project and increased the number of project partners and available funds.

Benefits

Park development, natural area creation and stormwater, transportation and subdivision activities have forced expansion of individual project boundaries. Overlaps and partnerships were explored, allowing the project to be more comprehensive and better planned and designed.

Adjacent neighbors benefitted and have been involved in the process and support a more natural area in the park.

Once constructed, the pond can serve the park site as a detention area for storm and surface run-off. Storm water enters Beaver Creek, so improving the water quality and on-site detention will also benefit the creek. Wildlife values will also increase. The current standing water attracts many birds, frogs, rabbits and occasional raccoons. The pond and upland meadow plantings will improve the overall wildlife habitat diversity, quality of the site and the Beaver Creek watershed.

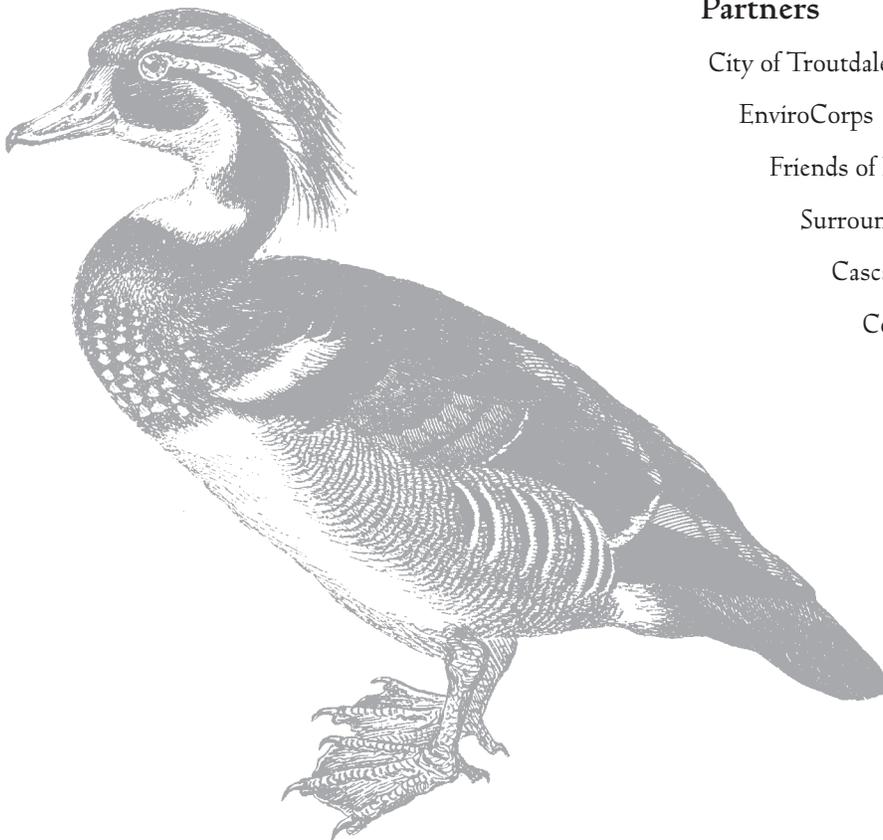
Plantings around the pond will be used as a demonstration for appropriate landscaping for natural values.

Budget

Proposed – \$26,720

Actual – \$8,928

Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$10,000



Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- When working on a project that includes a water body, it is important to look at a bigger picture than just your site boundary. In an urban area it is also important to look at other larger city programs and plans (e.g., zoning, transportation and storm water) and incorporate their requirements into your design.
- Select projects where master plans are complete and engineering and permits are well on their way to completion. Those steps take time.
- The spider hoe was very effective for working on steep slopes. The equipment was capable of moving and placing large boulders and logs.
- Work with adjacent developers. Discuss your park plan and vision with them early in their design process when possible. The developer to the south began his project knowing the park was being developed as a natural area and has done improvements and landscape changes to his design to fit into the tree, shrub and meadow plantings in the park.
- If you are attempting to reclaim an old landfill, DEQ approval is required.

Partners

City of Troutdale

EnviroCorps

Friends of Beaver Creek

Surrounding neighbors

Cascade Communities, Inc.

Columbia Gorge Mall

Reynolds School District

Contact

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