

Glenn Otto Community Park, Phase II

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR
6

1102 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy., Troutdale, OR 97060



BEFORE

Understory vegetation was almost entirely comprised of invasive Himalayan blackberry

DURING

Heavy equipment was used to remove blackberry and prepare the site for revegetation





AFTER

Regular maintenance has helped to control blackberry from encroaching again, and native vegetation is thriving

This 6.38-acre park is the most heavily used park in Troutdale. It is bordered by the Sandy River to the east, Beaver Creek to the western edge, and a few residential properties to the south. Past landscaping practices and increased flashiness had channelized Beaver Creek and exposed its banks. Mowed grass grew very close to the edge of the creek on the homeowner's side and contributed to the erosion. Himalayan blackberry vines on the park side of the creek needed to be removed and replaced by native herbaceous and woody plants.

The restoration project was broken down into five tasks and two phases: 1) Himalayan blackberries were removed with a spyderhoe, 2) the area was replanted with native vegetation, 3) the creek bank was reshaped and stabilized, 4) boulders and logs were added to the creek to dissipate stream energy and for fish habitat, and 5) the site was monitored by in-house staff, the Friends of Beaver Creek, and two high school classes. Phase I of the Beaver Creek stream restoration occurred during the late summer and fall of 1996. Phase II extended the stream restoration approximately 500 feet upstream.

The primary objective of the restoration efforts was to improve fish and wildlife habitat. More than 1,200 native plants were planted along the Beaver Creek corridor, increasing cover for spawning salmon. Boulders and logs were placed along the toes of the bank, and three rows of fascines and jute netting were installed along the edge of the bank to reduce excessive erosion.

Benefits

- Increased vegetation and instream diversity, and improved health of stream and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife.
- Enhanced spawning habitat for winter steelhead.
- Increased public access to the stream for wildlife viewing and other leisure activities.

- Provided hands-on education for neighbors, students, and Friends of Beaver Creek on the technical aspects and value of stream/habitat enhancement.

Budget

Total Proposed – \$17,600

Total Actual – \$18,460

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$8,500

Grant Dollars Spent - \$8,500

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- Keep the restoration project manageable. Don't take on more than can be maintained.
- When using youth crews as labor, keep the work day to 3-4 hours; after that they become tired and loose interest.
- The spyderhoe worked well for removing blackberries on steep slopes.

Partners

Boy Scouts

City of Troutdale, Parks and Facilities Division

Cub Scouts

Friends of Beaver Creek

Madison High School

Sam Barlow High School

Contact

Rob Crouch, Project Supervisor, Parks and Facilities Division, City of Troutdale, (503) 665-5175

Timeline and Tasks	
January 1997	Ordered plant material
May 1997	Received permits
August 1997	Placed boulders
October 1997	Picked up and planted native vegetation; installed fascines and netting; secured logs to boulders
March –June 1998	Maintained restoration site