

Miller Property / Brown's Ferry

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR
8

The site was an 8.5 acre parcel, single family residence, acquired by Metro and the City of Tualatin to expand Brown's Ferry Park and preserve a substantial portion of the Tualatin River Greenway. Much of the site was relatively undisturbed, aside from a small shed and the family home. The property is situated adjacent to the Tualatin River, which makes the restoration of this site a high priority.

The objective of this project was to remove 90% of the ivy, blackberries, and other non-native vegetation from a two-acre portion of the Tualatin River bank, meadow, and upland area. This area was planted with nearly 1,400 native plants, trees, and shrubs, with a goal to establish a 25% ground cover within three years. In addition, maples affected with *Verticillium* were removed and replaced with cedar and firs, which are much more resistant to infection. This enhanced the survival potential for the remaining maples and diversified the vegetation in the area. Many of the non-native hawthornes were also removed and replaced with a native variety of hawthorne and other similar fruiting native shrubs that hold the same food value for wildlife. Non-natives were also eradicated from a pond located near the Tualatin River and across from the existing home. Native species were planted in and around the banks of the pond. Lastly, where feasible, wood from unhealthy trees was left for habitat value.

Benefits

- Removed invasive plants, planted native species, and restored habitat diversity to a portion of the Tualatin River Greenway.
- Provided thousands of volunteer hours to the community and two Eagle Scout projects.
- Created a partnership with Americorps.

Budget

Total Proposed – \$30,000

Total Actual – \$35,122

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$10,000

Grant Dollars Spent - \$9,937

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- Establish a notebook when the application is made that has tables for application, budget, invoices, correspondence, maps, reports, etc. This will help keep the project organized and on track.
- Establish a schedule of events early on in the sequence of the grant and seek out volunteers/groups to help with various aspects of the restoration.
- Implement at least one innovative idea with your project. For example, we installed small "water bags" to help feed trees over the warmer months, and reduce maintenance costs.
- Network.

- Publicize your project.
- To aid future maintenance efforts, use brightly colored flagging to mark native plantings. The flagging will provide a 'touch/don't touch' guide when eradicating new growth invasive species.

Partners

Bridgeport Elementary School
Cascade Education Corp
City of Tualatin, Parks and Recreation Div.
Eagle Scouts
Earth Day and SOLV Volunteers
Girl Scouts
Northwest Service Academy, Americorps
People for the Planet

Contact

Justin Patterson, 692-2000, Ext. 936

Timeline and Tasks

April-June 1999	Removed ivy, blackberry, holly, and other invasive plants
May-June 1999	Planted native vegetation