

Howell Territorial Park

on Sauvie Island, one mile north of bridge on Howell Park Road



AFTER

Fencing and pumped water provide year-round wetland habitat

The project entailed enhancement of approximately nine acres of natural wetlands and 25 acres of uplands at Howell territorial park located on sauvie island. The purpose of the grant was to demonstrate proper grazing techniques, rehabilitate a degraded upland pasture and wetland perimeter planting.

First the cattle were fenced away from the wetlands. Second, supplemental water was installed for cattle during dry months while discharging water in the wetlands for wildlife use. Third, the pasture grasses were replaced with grasses and legumes preferred by waterfowl. And last, the riparian and upland zone were replanted with native vegetation.



BEFORE

Highly impacted seasonal wetland

A 7,600-foot, four-strand barbed wire fence with post and bracing to exclude cattle was installed. An 87-foot well with a 7.5 HP submersible well pump was installed with 700 feet of three phase electrical line, two transformers, two electrical concrete vaults, control panel, meter box cabinet and other necessary equipment were installed to provide supplemental water for cattle and wetland wildlife. Pasture grasses were replaced with native grasses, legumes preferred by waterfowl and clover.

Plants planted included: big leaf maple, Pacific willow, Oregon ash, red alder, red osier dogwood, thimbleberry, salmonberry, Douglas' spirea, red elderberry, serviceberry and nookta rose. The pasture was reseeded in native grass and clover.

Volunteers assisted with the design review, planting and maintenance of the native plants. Public education and awareness was enhanced by media events, walks and questions answered by staff.

The site now provides a unique opportunity to learn about the historical significance of our natural heritage by providing a site to view a diverse range of native wildlife, wetlands and upland plant communities.

Benefits

The well-enhanced wildlife use of the wetland during the dry summer months by maintaining some open water area for nesting and foraging waterfowl. The plant material increased the biological diversity of the wetland ecosystem by expanding the number of different plant species in the riparian zones surrounding the wetland. The fencing limited the amount of bank erosion and riparian damage done by cattle pasturing on land adjacent to the wetland. The pasture renovation improved waterfowl foraging areas, thereby increasing viewing opportunities.

Budget

Proposed – \$49,302
 Actual – \$51,943
 Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$10,000

Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- If at all possible wait until fall to plant. Material planted in April and May did not have time to establish before the dry summer months, and survival rate was 70-75 percent. Pasture seed was redrilled in early October because of a 50 percent failure rate.
- Even with experienced park staff it took longer than anticipated to do certain components of the project. Allow yourself plenty of extra time if projects are done in-house.
- Timing is important when using park staff. Summer months are very busy and minimal time was spent on

Timeline and tasks

January 1992	Fence installation
January - March 1992	Well drilled, utility vaults installed, pump installed
January - April 1992	Plant material delivered
March - May 1992	Pasture renovation
April - May 1992	Plant material planted
June - October 1992	Electrical work installed, pump start-up checked
October 1992	Pasture seed redrilled; wetland project completion ceremony/dedication

the enhancement during those peak times. The project was scheduled to finish in June, but due to other more critical concerns elsewhere, the project was set back.

Partners

Multnomah County Parks staff
 Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department staff
 Sauvie Island Conservancy

Contact

Dan Kromer, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department, 797-1844

