

Fanno Creek Park

between Southwest Main Street and Southwest Hall Boulevard in the Tigard downtown area, 330 feet of stream channel between stream miles 4.50 and 3.86.



The project goal was to encourage native plant species diversity and appropriateness in order to improve the site's ability to support wildlife and fish. This would have been achieved by replacing invasive plants, such as Himalayan blackberries, with indigenous and appropriate wetland species.

Three areas would have been used to conduct experiments to control reed canary grass. A different planting scheme was planned for each area, including: tree and shrub planting only; tree, shrub, wildflower and desirable grass plantings; burn and chemical control measures.

The site lies within the 100-year floodplain and eventually will contain approximately 35 acres. The eastern portion was the proposed project site consisting of 15 acres. A continuous corridor of natural vegetation was proposed along the stream channel. In the areas of high erosion, bioengineering techniques were to be used. A 50-foot planting buffer is proposed in most areas.



AFTER

(top) Native plants along the streambank

BEFORE

(above) Lack of plant diversity and cover

City Park maintenance personnel were to work with three local groups to maintain the plants. Maintenance was to consist of watering during the first two summers, fertilizing, and manual weeding and mulching tree wells. Protective staking as well as environmental controls such as wrapping or protective screening were to be used to protect trees from beaver and nutria damage.

Two ponds adjacent to City Hall were to be connected to the main channel through series of in- and outflow channels and pipes to help improve water quality in the ponds and improve passage from wildlife. A berm was to be constructed to create a new wetlands area. This wetlands would have increased the diversity of habitats in the area and functioned as a detention facility for storm water runoff. Planting around and in wetlands enhances the water quality and habitat value.

Benefits

Although designated to be a nature preserve, large areas of the project site have been altered and few typical species are left. Exotic species such as reed canary grass, blackberries and black Hawthorn have crowded out native species. Some of these, the reed canary grass in particular, have little benefit for wildlife. This problem was to be addressed through the replacement of non-native by native species. A related problem in this stretch of Fanno Creek is lack of shade. Native trees were to be planted along the stream to provide the necessary shading. The plantings would have improved the natural character of the project site and its ability to support the area's wildlife inhabitants. The area would have served as a test plot for the control of reed canary grass. As such, the project would have provided valuable data on the most effective methods for restoring native species to areas dominated by this grass.

Budget

Proposed – \$51,308
 Actual – withdrawn
 Metro/US Fish and Wildlife grant award – \$23,138

Reason for withdrawal

Staff did not have time to manage grant administrative procedures. The original project manager was replaced. However, re-vegetation of native plants along the creek site was made possible with money from the city of Tigard.

Helpful hints – what worked, what didn't

- The project was withdrawn because there was not enough staff to manage the grant procedure, including the coordination of administration and field work.
- Grant projects take a lot of time and work. Ensure that staff has adequate time.
- Scale the project to a doable size.

Partners

Fans of Fanno Creek
 Ti Tu Mi Girl Scouts
 Tigard Garden Club

Contact

Duane Robertson, city of Tigard, 639-4171

Proposed timeline and tasks

October 1992 - January 1993 Clearing invasive grass, plants and trees
 November 1992 - April 1993 Planting native plants and trees
 October - December 1992 Stream clean up
 January - April 1993 In stream work
 June - November 1993 Watering and weeding, pond and channel modifications