

Englewood Park

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR

7

in Tigard, southwest of intersection of Scholls Ferry Rd. and Nimbus Ave., at SW Springwood Drive.

BEFORE

Lack of structural diversity and natural drainages are contained in a culvert that discharges directly to creek



Fanno Creek flowing through project site. A new floodplain bench will be created in this area

AFTER

Historic meander was rebuilt, native vegetation was planted, and large woody debris was added to restore the site



This habitat restoration project was led by the Fans of Fanno Creek. Together with their partners they returned approximately 2.5 acres of wetland and riparian habitat of Fanno Creek to a more natural state. Urbanization in the areas surrounding the park in the 1970s and 1980s had degraded the site: reed canary grass had invaded, the creek lacked shade to protect water quality, floodplain and wetland connections to the creek were diminished, and fish and wildlife habitat had been substantially reduced.

The goal of this project was to re-establish functioning wetland and riparian habitats. As such, the restoration team reestablished creek channel meanders and channel width variations, added large woody debris to restored meanders and floodplains where hydrologic and hydraulic conditions were favorable, day-lighted 1,500 feet of existing storm drains, graded and planted a 500-foot section of streambank with 4,700 native scrub-shrub and forested wetland plants (swamp rose, spire, willows, red osier dogwood, snowberries, salmonberry, Oregon ash, and western red cedar), erected two perches using tall snag trees brought in from off-site, and placed 15 wood duck, songbird, and bat houses. In addition, a 1/8-acre area was planted for native pollinators to address the substantial loss of native pollinator habitat and corridors in the Willamette Valley.

Benefits

- Removed invasive reed canary grass, planted native trees, increased plant diversity, provided cover for fish and wildlife, and more diverse water quality enhancement capabilities.
- Reestablished channel meanders and flood inundation areas to help reduce flashiness and scouring after storm events, and to help reduce turbidity downstream.
- Removed storm drains and restored meander swales for surface water treatment.
- Restored a wetland and riparian area to a more natural and functional condition and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat.
- Created native pollinator feeding and nesting habitat in the Fanno Basin.
- Friends of Fanno Creek expanded their volunteer base and continued to promote creek stewardship through community planting, monitoring, and maintenance efforts.
- USA and the City of Tigard used the project to train park operational and maintenance staff in environmentally sensitive methods for stream enhancement activities.

Budget

Total Proposed – \$47,600

Total Actual – \$47,600 (estimated)

Metro/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant award – \$12,000

Grant Dollars Spent - \$12,000

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- Build on your successes and learn from failures: protect new plantings, plan and provide for ongoing irrigation of new plantings, begin recruiting volunteers early-on and provide adequate, responsible leadership for work crews

- Successful in maintaining funding and support base over a number of years. Englewood Park has benefited from returning volunteers, and the continued participation and cooperation of numerous public agencies.
- The project was noticed and elicited support from a wide variety of public and private citizens. Governor John Kitzhaber toured this “exemplary project” as part of his salmon habitat restoration platform.

Partners

Albertson's
Beaverton High School
Boy Scouts
Bridlemile School
Cascade Education Corps
City of Tigard
Friends of Beaverton's Johnson Creek
H.D. Fowler
Julio Construction
Northwest Natural Gas
Odwalla
Oregon Community Foundation
Oregon Division of State Lands
Oregon Episcopal School
Samuel J. Rich Nursery
Stephen Buchmann, Entomologist
Sunset High School
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Unified Sewerage Agency
West Sylvan Middle School
Wild Bird Unlimited

Contact

Dennis O'Connor, Wetland Restoration Ecologist, Fans of Fanno Creek, (503) 617-6553

Timeline and Tasks

June-October 1997	Planned and designed first phase of the project; developed site maps; developed project logistics; applied for permits; cleared planting area; secured seed, plants, compost and other supplies; held first planting day.
October 1997-February 1998	Seeded and provided erosion control; coordinated volunteer labor; ordered plants and protection materials; held annual Tree Planting Festival; installed protection devices around new plants; developed a maintenance and monitoring program.
February-May 1998	Held annual Tree Planting Festival with special focus on this site; conducted volunteer planting and project maintenance; evaluated project performance and opportunities to date; prepared grant proposal for next phase; planted native pollinator habitat; installed two perch snags, installed protection devices around plants; designed and ordered water meter and irrigation system
June-October 1998	Refined site maps; assessed placement of utilities to ensure avoidance; graded portions of site; added a high flow channel meander; day-lighted two storm drains; removed reed canary grass; added large woody debris and snags to area; held annual tree planting festival; installed protection devices around plants; installed irrigation system.
Spring 1999	Secured seed, plants, compost, coir, large woody debris, plant protection devices and equipment and operators for grading; held annual tree planting festival; installed plant protection devices; adjusted the maintenance and monitoring program; prepared second monitoring report; continued project maintenance; prepared project report