

Glenn Otto Community Park, Phase III

by Shelley Matthews

YEAR

7

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



BEFORE

Spyderhoe used to remove Himalayan blackberry from banks of Beaver Creek

AFTER

Boulders and native plants support streambank and enhance wildlife habitat



This is Phase III of a project to remove Himalayan blackberry vines and to restore native vegetation along the banks of Beaver Creek within the 6+-acre Glenn Otto Park. Glenn Otto is the most heavily used park in Troutdale. It is bordered by the Sandy River to the east, Beaver Creek to the west, 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 homeowners 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.

Phase I of the restoration focused on the north section of Beaver Creek in late summer and fall of 1996. Phase II (1997-1998) started on the south end of the site and extended the restoration approximately 500 feet upstream. Phase III began where Phase II ended and extended the restored area north 350 ft. to the Phase I location.

Since the creek bank is quite steep (80%+), a spyderhoe was brought in to remove blackberry vines and to regrade the bank to a more manageable slope. Jute netting was placed over the bare soil to prevent erosion and holes were cut in the netting for each plant. Boulders were placed along the stream edge to help protect the bank. A few boulders were also placed in the creek to improve fish habitat. Bioengineering techniques were used to stabilize the bank as well as to provide shade to the creek. Fascines of willows and cottonwoods and willow stakes were placed along the stream edge.

Benefits

- Removed invasive blackberry, established native plants, and increased instream and vegetation diversity.
- Stabilized the creek bank and improved fish and wildlife habitat.
- 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 – \$24,000

Total Actual – \$20,238

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

Grant Dollars Spent - \$8,872

Helpful Hints – what worked, what didn't

- The spyderhoe worked well in removing Himalayan blackberry vines.
- Provide an incentive to volunteers. Friends of Beaver Creek provided lunch.
- Keep volunteer hours to four or less per day.
- Resist the temptation to complete the entire project the first year. Break the restoration area down into more manageable units with specific goals in mind.
- Stay on top of the maintenance.

Partners

City of Troutdale, Parks & Facilities Division
Cub Scout Pack #174
Friends of Beaver Creek
Madison High School
Multnomah Youth Cooperative
Reynolds School District
Sam Barlow High School

Contact

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

Timeline and Tasks

April-August 1998	Permits Approved
June-august 1998	Secured materials
August 1998	Himalayan blackberry removed and bank regarded; logs cabled to boulders
October 1998	Plants delivered; fascines and netting installed; native vegetation planted
March-June 1999	Ongoing maintenance