



## Linnton Mill Restoration Project

### Creating habitat for fish and wildlife injured by hazardous releases in the Portland Harbor Superfund site

The Linnton Mill restoration project will provide high quality habitat for salmon, lamprey, mink, bald eagle, osprey, and other native fish and wildlife living in this otherwise heavily developed stretch of the Willamette River.

The project is being completed by RestorCap, a habitat development company. Demolition of structures at the site began in fall 2017. The planned restoration includes:

- Removal of multiple buildings, 2 docks, and 700 pilings to permanently transform this industrial parcel into a natural area
- Restoring access for salmon, lamprey, and other fish to a section of Linnton Creek that is currently confined to a pipe
- Planting thousands of native plants across the site
- Removing invasive vegetation and laying back the banks along the Willamette River to improve riparian and shallow water habitat for fish and wildlife
- Placing logs in the creek for small fish to hide, rock piles in the uplands for mink to den, and snags for bald eagles and other birds to perch and hunt

The completed project will also include a path and viewing platform for recreational use. This part of the project is designed to provide the public with an opportunity to be close to the river, while protecting the fish and wildlife that depend on it.



Aerial photo of the project site before restoration.



Artist's rendering of the project site after restoration.

## Site Background

The Linnton Mill restoration project is located on the west bank of the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon's Linnton neighborhood, downstream of Forest Park. The property was developed into a sawmill in the late 1800s then functioned as a plywood mill during the later half of the 1900s. After sitting vacant for over a decade, RestorCap purchased the property in 2015 and began planning to restore habitat at the site. RestorCap intends to sell natural resource "credits" from the project to potentially responsible parties to help those parties meet their obligations for environmental damages resulting from hazardous releases in the Superfund site.

Portland Harbor was designated as a national Superfund site in 2000. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality are working with potentially responsible parties to clean up contaminated sediment and control sources of additional contamination. Cleaning up Portland Harbor is vitally important, but it doesn't cover everything. Cleanup does not completely restore natural resources or compensate the public for their inability to fully use those resources in the past and going forward into the future; that's the purpose of restoration.

The Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council (Trustee Council) is leading restoration efforts in Portland Harbor. In 2002, the Trustee Council formed to develop and coordinate natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) activities at Portland Harbor and to plan restoration of injured natural resources. The NRDA process is separate from the EPA clean-up activities. The Trustee Council is evaluating how natural resources - such as salmon, lamprey, mink, and bald eagle - were harmed by contamination over time, and is planning restoration to compensate the public for those losses.

As part of their restoration planning efforts, the Trustee Council identified numerous projects that could restore natural resources that were injured at Portland Harbor. Linnton Mill is one of those projects. The Trustee Council worked closely with RestorCap on the planning and design for the Linnton Mill project to make sure that the benefits to Portland Harbor's injured resources are maximized.

## For more information

To learn more about the Linnton Mill Restoration Project, restoration planning, and the Portland Harbor Superfund site, please visit the following websites:

- Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustee Council  
[www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor](http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor)
- RestorCap  
[www.restorcap.net/portland-harbor](http://www.restorcap.net/portland-harbor)
- Environmental Protection Agency's Portland Harbor website  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/portland-harbor)



Map showing Linnton Mill project location within the Superfund Study Area.



View of the Linnton Mill site from the Willamette River, prior to demolition of the buildings and docks.



Bald eagle, one of several potentially injured fish and wildlife species that will benefit from the Linnton Mill project.