

Ramsey Lake Pollution Reduction Facility

Constructed Wetland Planned for Ramsey Lake

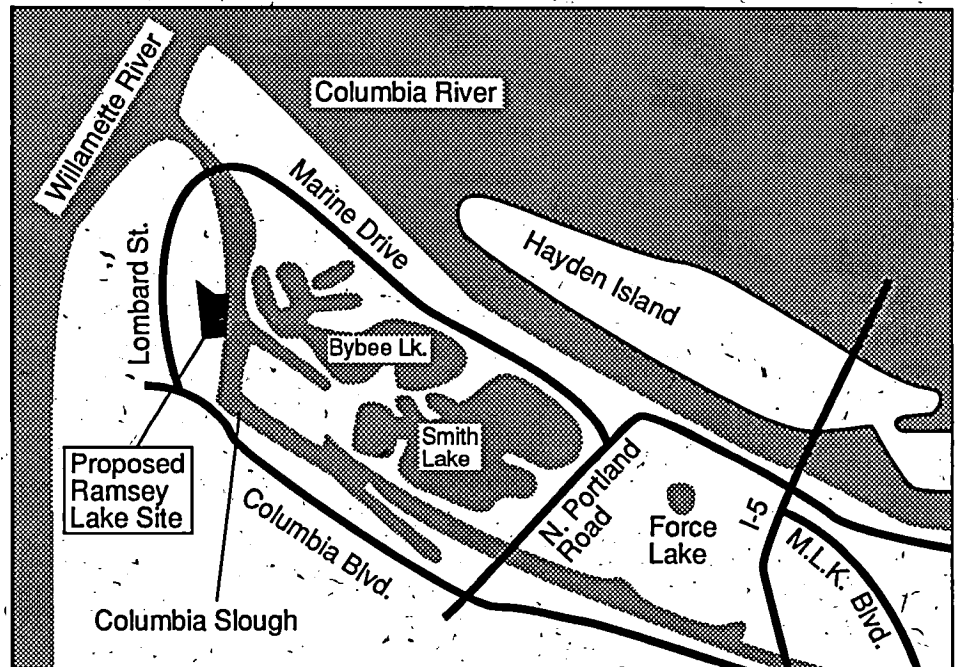
The Ramsey Lake Pollution Reduction Facility is an innovative project that will use the natural processes of a constructed wetland to clean stormwater from parts of North Portland. The Ramsey Lake facility will

Reducing Sewer Overflows

Almost every time it rains, Portland's sewers discharge untreated sewage and stormwater into the river and slough. Reducing sewer overflows is part of the City's Clean Rivers Program and includes installing separate sewers for stormwater and sanitary sewage in some parts of the St. Johns neighborhood. Stormwater from some of these separated areas will flow to the Ramsey Lake facility.

reduce stormwater pollution, enhance wildlife habitat along the Columbia Slough and offer a variety of environmental educational opportunities.

The Ramsey Lake project is part of the City's larger effort to reduce discharges of untreated sewage from combined sewer overflows into the Willamette River and Columbia Slough. The Ramsey Lake facility will work much like a natural wetland. Natural processes will clean the



urban stormwater runoff that passes through before it flows into the adjacent Columbia Slough.

Construction Starts this Spring

Construction is scheduled to begin in late spring 1995 at the 26-acre site adjacent to the slough between North Columbia Boulevard and North Marine Drive, next to the Rivergate industrial district. This area is the historic location of Ramsey Lake, a shallow, seasonal marsh that has been drained and filled with dredge material over

the past few decades. The estimated cost of the Ramsey Lake Pollution Reduction Facility is \$1.3 million, which will be funded through municipal bonds and repaid through residential and commercial sewer rates.

Improved Wildlife Habitat

The Ramsey Lake site as it exists today offers some wildlife habitat, primarily consisting of trees and ground cover with a limited shrub layer. The proposed plantings will enhance wildlife opportunities by establishing and maintaining a more diverse habitat. The stormwater flow will also provide a more varied landscape including dry upland areas, riparian zones and wetlands.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
Mike Lindberg, Commissioner

Public Education

In response to community concerns regarding protection of the constructed and existing wetland systems as well as public safety, the City is proposing controlled public access for educational purposes. While access roads will be gated

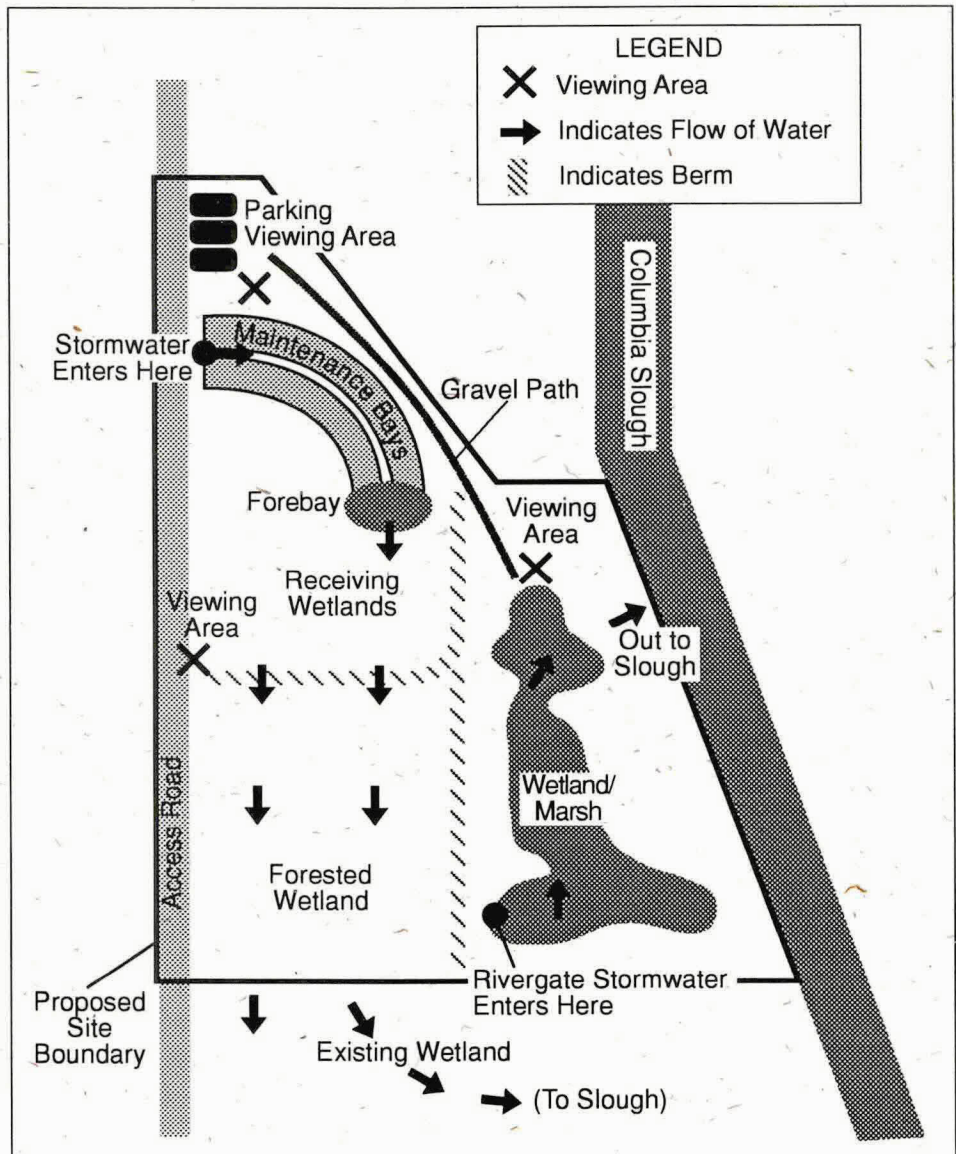
and locked to prevent vehicles from entering, limited pedestrian access will be allowed. Some areas will be fenced for public safety. Tour parking and viewing areas will be provided for pre-arranged tours conducted by Environmental Services.

How the Constructed Wetland Works

The constructed wetland will remove pollutants as the stormwater flows through sections of the facility.

The facility's key features:

- Concrete channels will capture heavy contaminants and floating debris; these channels will be periodically cleaned to remove pollutants.
- Native wetland plants, including deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs, as well as herbaceous marsh and pond plant species will remove pollutants from the stormwater as it flows through the constructed wetland.
- Treated stormwater will be discharged into the adjacent Columbia Slough.
- On-going water quality monitoring will ensure the protection of wildlife, the adjacent existing wetland, groundwater and Columbia Slough.



Want to know more? Call Heather Clish at 823-5334.