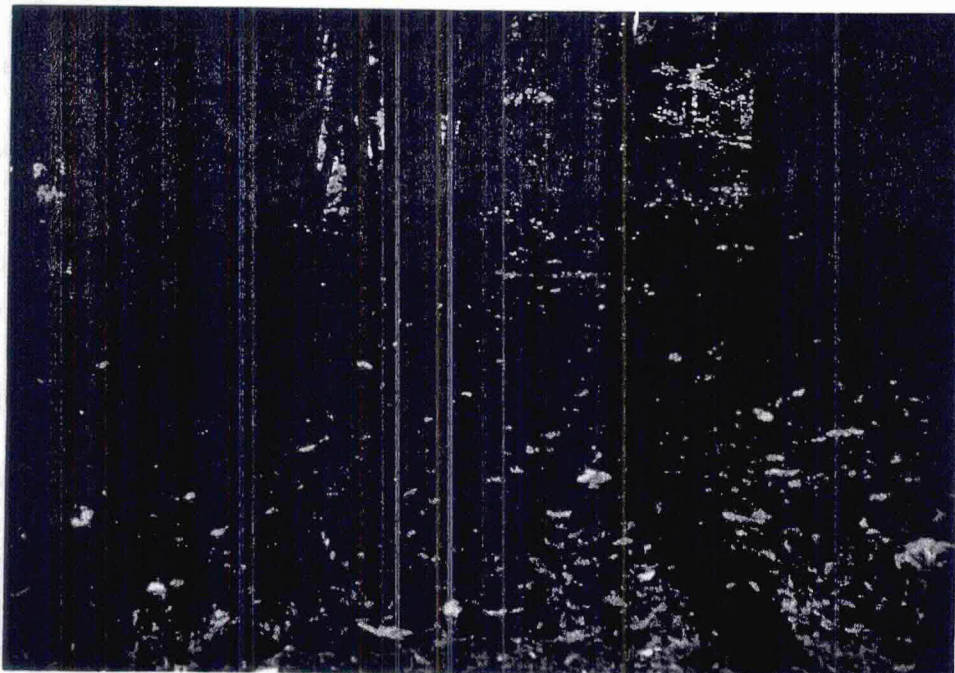


**FINAL REPORT**  
**METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION**  
**PROJECT**

**KELLY CREEK GREENWAY**

**CITY OF GRESHAM**

**MAY 1995**



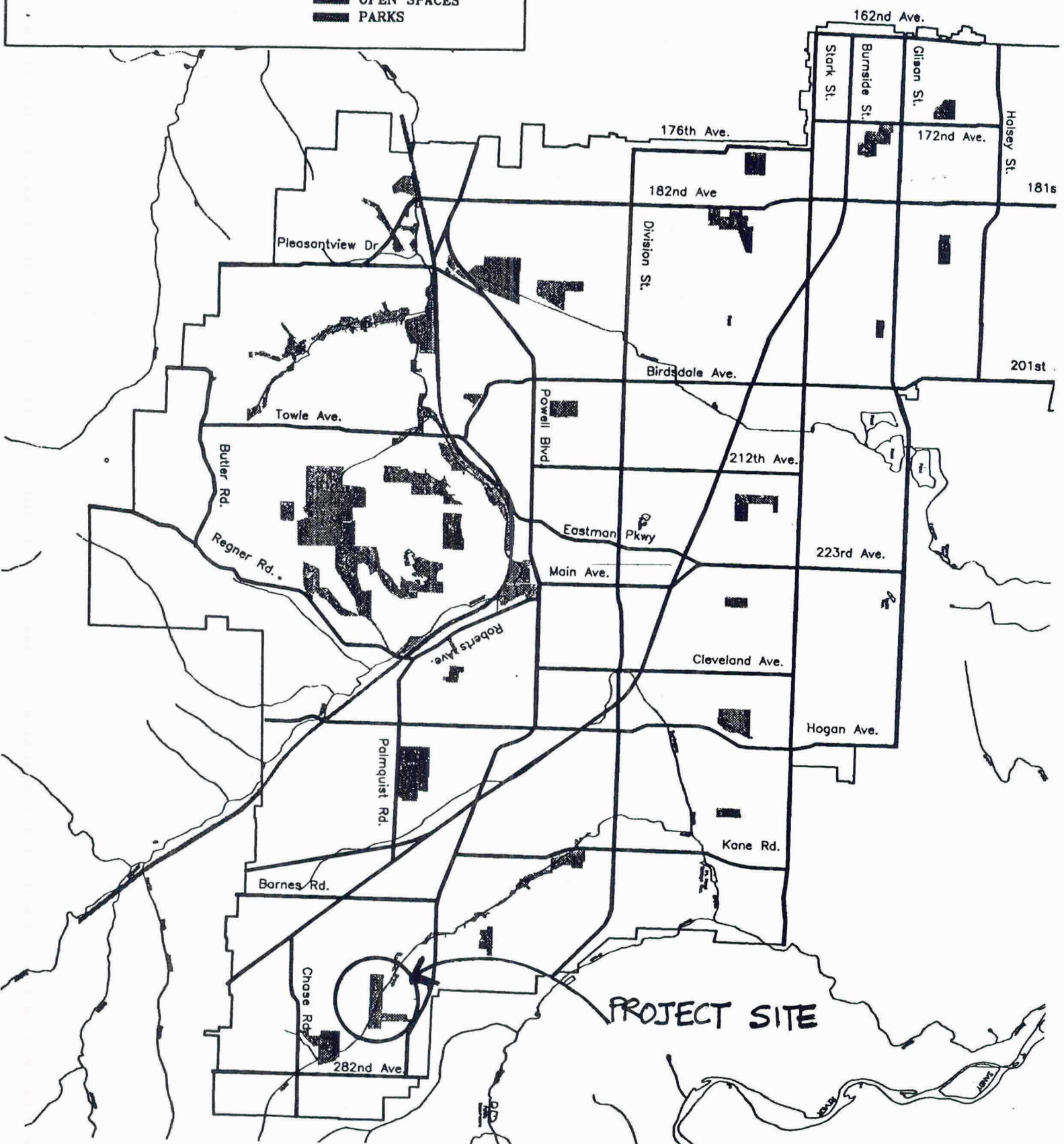
**LEGEND**

— WATER WAY  
— CITY LIMITS

■ ROADS  
■ SPRINGWATER TRAIL  
■ OPEN SPACES  
■ PARKS

**NORTH** 

A-1 VICINITY MAP

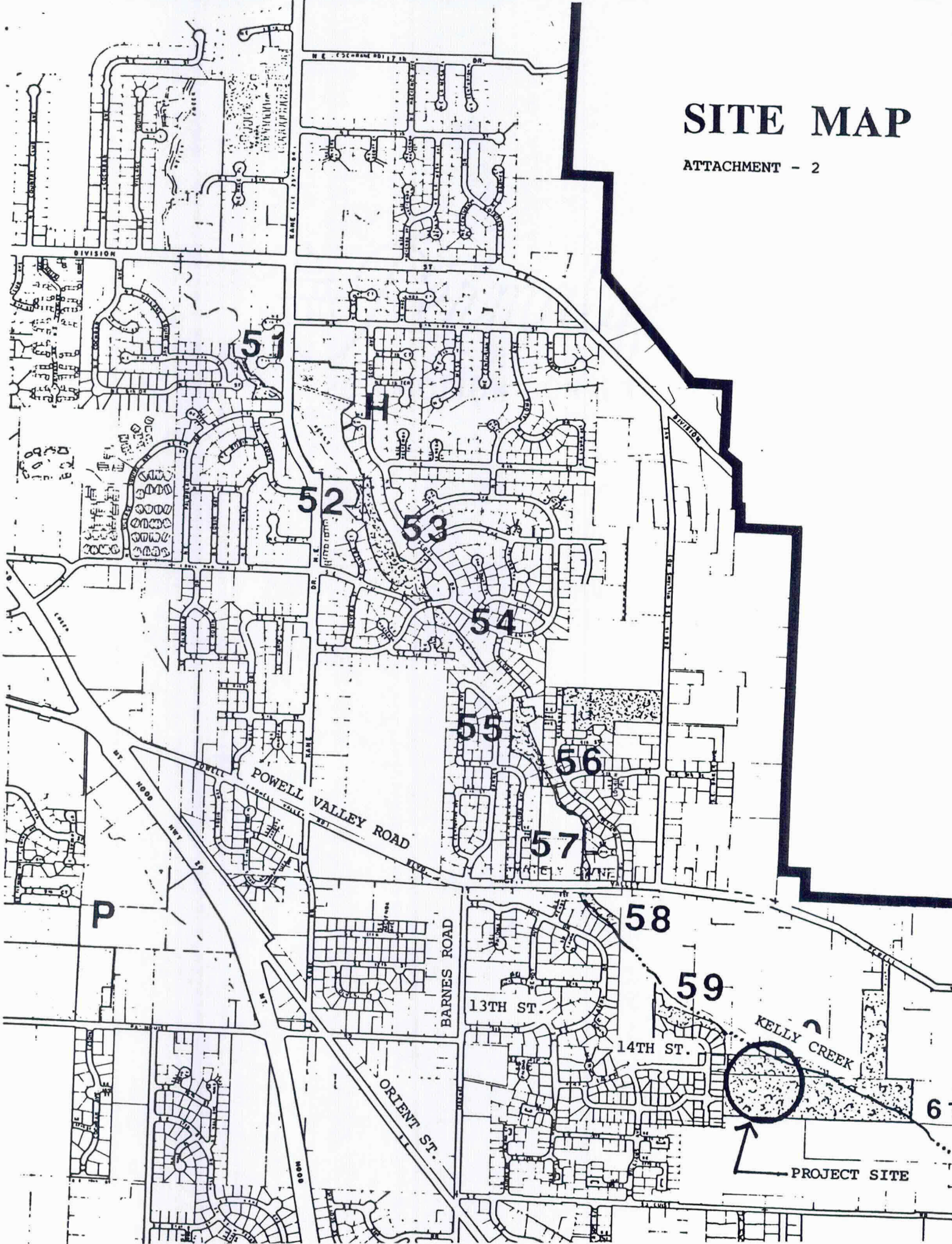


**CITY OF GRESHAM**

**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY**

# SITE MAP

ATTACHMENT - 2



# METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES RESTORATION PROJECT - YEAR 3

## KELLY CREEK GREENWAY CITY OF GRESHAM

### 1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Kelly Creek is a three mile creek in east Gresham which is a tributary to Beaver Creek and the Sandy River, a significant salmon-bearing stream. The upper half of Kelly Creek watershed was primarily agricultural land until very recently. Today, these lands are rapidly being converted into new residential neighborhoods with associated increased impacts on the creek.

The City of Gresham is acquiring lands along Kelly Creek with the goal of preserving a continuous greenway corridor. The project site is a recently acquired 12 acre parcel which contains one of the largest remaining stands of mature upland forest adjacent to the creek. However, two existing conditions were deteriorating the site and impacting Kelly Creek. A drainage channel cut across the site (which was formed by accumulated runoff from an adjacent nursery) which carried a large amount of sediment into the creek. In addition, the forest understory was degraded; it was strewn with debris and was heavily worn from bicycle use by neighborhood kids which resulted in an excess of trails, loss of vegetation, compacted ground and additional erosion.

The objectives of this project were first, to control and delineate trail use in order to reclaim and restore the forest floor with vegetation; and secondly to stabilize the drainage channel through bio-engineering techniques, slow runoff velocities and establish native riparian vegetation along the channel and creek banks to minimize erosion and sediment accumulation in the creek. A variety of woodland and riparian native plants were planted that will also improve wildlife habitat.

## 2. WORK TASKS AND TIMELINES:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Work Tasks</u>
March 1994	Delivery of logs for trail edging by Connell Construction. Met with Powell Valley Neighborhood Association.
April	Coordination with Community Development, US Forest Service, Girl Scout Troop, and OYCC coordinator.
June	Prepared and awarded construction contract for Contractor assistance.
August	Reviewed scope of work with NorthWest Service Academy and prepared agreement. Distributed project notices throughout neighborhood.
September 12	Kick off day for site work; media coverage by East Metro Addition- Channel 21.
September 13	Delivered portable restroom for work crew.
September 12 - Oct 5	Northwest Service Academy cleared debris from greenway, determined trail layout, removed excess trails and restored forest floor. Debris removed by Parks Staff. Contractor delivered logs, boulders and drain rock. NWSA improved selected trail by grading, edging with logs and placing base of crushed gravel. Mapped trail. Began stabilization of drainage channel creek banks and construction of footbridge.
November 3	Delivery of plant material by contractor and placement of plants by NWSA.
November 5	Planting of 370 plants by NWSA and Kelly Creek School 5th grade students and parents. Media coverage by the Oregonian.
November 6 - 22	Surface drainage modifications made to trail. NSWA collected willow stakes for channel stabilization and completed channel work. Park Maintenance staff assistance- cut hazard trees which were used for footbridge and more edging. Delivered

more rock for channel work; delivered mulch for forest floor and trail surface.

NWSA planted 170 more native plants.

November 1-20

Development and distribution of informational flier to neighborhood.

December 1-15

Project featured on display at Gresham Public Library  
Follow up monitoring by NWSA.

### 3. PROJECT BUDGET

	City of Gresham	Metro
<b>PERSONNEL &amp; CONTRACT SERVICES:</b>		
City of Gresham - Project Manager - Maintenance Assistance	\$3,592.00	
Northwest Service Academy Team		\$6552.00
Agro Works, Inc.		\$750.00
<b>MATERIALS:</b>		
Bark mulch	\$250.00	
Crushed gravel	\$117.15	\$126.67
Native Plants - from AgroWorks - from Alpine Nursery		\$1750.00 \$425.00
River Rock	\$100.00	
<b>RENTAL FEES:</b>		
Portable Restroom rental for NWSA Team		\$203.42
<b>VOLUNTEER LABOR:</b>		
NWSA Team of 20 volunteers for 4 hours on Nov. 12	\$340.00	
NWSA Team of 11 for 75 hours	\$3920.00	
Kelly Creek Elementary School - 40 volunteers for 3 hours	\$510.00	
<b>INDIRECT COSTS:</b>		
Photography	\$100.00	
Printing	\$168.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9097.00</b>	<b>\$9807.09</b>

#### **4. PROJECT STAFF/ WORKERS/VOLUNTEERS**

Primary City Staff consisted of Lora Price; Project Manager and Alan Hester; Technical and Maintenance Assistance.

Contractor Assistance was provided by Connell Construction- provision of logs for edging and by Agro Works- supply and delivery of plant materials and rock and delivery of logs.

Staff and volunteers from Northwest Service Academy included: Jay Trowbridge, Project Coordinator and Technical Assistance; Edward Divito, Team Steward; and the 11 member team - George Bean, Reid Cooper, Beth Franklin, Steve Glickman, Ann Goulet, Jennifer Hughes, Michael Lupro, Ann Mohler, Michelle Roberts, Jayesh Palshikar and Luz deLourdes Solar Valverde.

Volunteers from Kelly Creek Elementary School included: Dick Follstad, 5th Grade instructor, his class of 30 students and 8 parents.

#### **5. BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT**

This project helped to improve the water quality of Kelly Creek by reducing erosion in the adjacent upland forest grove and by reducing the flow of sediment and probable contaminants into the stream from the drainage channel.

The project helped to restore the forest grove by removing excess trails and reestablishing native ground cover vegetation. Native riparian vegetation was also restored along the channel and at the creeks edge which enhanced wildlife habitat.

This project fostered community awareness through several means; Northwest Service Academy Volunteers were a positive interface to the neighborhood as they explained their work to neighbors visiting the greenway; children from the local grade school played in the greenway were included in the planting efforts; and finally, an informational flier was developed by NWSA and was distributed throughout the neighborhood.

#### **6. HOW PROJECT RELATES TO GREENSPACES PROGRAM**

This project embodies the goals of the Metropolitan Greenspaces program by addressing an impacted natural area next to a newly developed neighborhood along Kelly Creek which serves as a demonstration project for the Kelly Creek upper watershed which will have continued development along its length; by helping to improve water quality, increasing the diversity of plants and improving wildlife habitat; by incorporating the assistance of other agencies and volunteer groups; and by fostering community awareness through volunteer partnerships and community outreach efforts such as television feature, newspaper articles, and informational notices and fliers to neighbors.

## **7. WHAT WORKED/ WHAT DID NOT/ HELPFUL HINTS**

**Using available resources:** Using free material resources enabled more to be done with less. The logs that edged the paths were donated by a contractor who was clearing a nearby development site. Cobbles that were used in the channel to slow velocity were collected by the volunteers with transport assistance from maintenance staff from another park site, killing two birds with one stone. Maintenance staff also felled some hazard trees on the site which were used for trail edging and the footbridge. Willow stakes were collected and used for much of the stabilization of the drainage channel.

**A motivated team of volunteers:** The young adults of the NWSA were personally involved and very committed to the project which was really essential to the success of the project. A few members asked if they could adopt the site after the project was completed to continue to care for it. They were also a wonderful public outreach presence on the site talking with neighborhood kids and adults. Their interest in expanding public awareness about the environment was genuine and I utilized their interest in having them develop a brochure. They also put up a display at the public library.

**Involving children/neighbors:** Many of the schools in Gresham are beginning to build community service into their curriculums. This project provided a wonderful opportunity for local 5th grade students to do a project that they could get excited about. Many parents were involved too. The NWSA volunteers took charge as supervisors and teachers during the planting operation. There was a 1 to 3 ratio of NWSA supervisor to students which was very effective. They expressed that it was one of their most satisfying work days.

**What didn't work:** Restoration work sometimes proceeded in a two steps forward one step backwards fashion which wasn't all bad. Overtone's opinion mattered; some things were done that proved not to be effective, but that was part of the learning process. The team steward was very strong in some areas, but as it turned out did not have strong bio-engineering experience. The team's work in the channel would have benefited from closer oversight by NWSA's project coordinator sooner. When volunteers sensed that work was not proceeding effectively, moral dropped. The first storm of the fall continued to bring much sediment down the channel. However, it was a very effective illustration and showed very well what water was doing all over the site which allowed small drainage problems to be corrected. NWSA's project coordinator stepped in to provide the expertise necessary to tackle the channel and complete the project successfully.

## **8. ADVICE FOR OTHER PROJECT MANAGERS**

I find the nature of these projects require resourcefulness and flexibility to reach successful completion. Adjustments inevitably need to be made from the original proposal, and also new opportunities arise that can be capitalized on. Having volunteers that are committed to and have ownership in the project makes a tremendous qualitative difference in the process and the results. It was very beneficial to have our maintenance staff meaningfully involved in the project; i.e. they gave constructive input on the trail and footbridge construction and became part of the solution.



## **APPENDIX**

**Photos, news articles and flyers**

Outlook - 11/24/93

## Gresham receives grant for creek

The city of Gresham last week received an \$8,250 Metro Greenspaces grant for a restoration project along Kelly Creek.

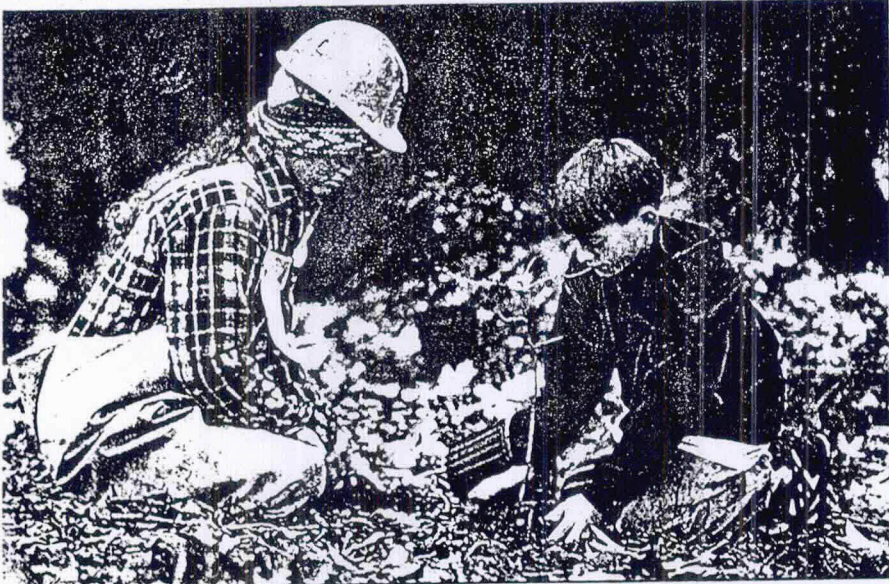
The grant, funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be used to restore and eroding drainage channel feeding into Kelly Creek and to repair compacted soils by delineating paths in a cedar grove near the creek.

Work will take place on one of the recently acquired open space parcels and will be the first project of its kind for Kelly Creek. City officials say development is affecting the creek and wildlife. The improvement project is designed to improve water quality and fish habitat by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation.

The Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, Sam Barlow High School and the Powell Valley Neighborhood Association will participate in the project.

# METROEAST

Community news and features



ROGER JENSEN/The Oregonian

Northwest Service Academy worker Anne Mohler and fifth-grader Michael Retterer plant a snowberry.



ROGER JENSEN/The Oregonian

Fifth-grader Dolly Sellers struggles to free a plant from its pot so she can plant it along the banks of Kelly Creek as part of restoration work.

## SEEDLING IS BELIEVING

“When we’re done, it’ll look like we haven’t done a thing.”

Edward DeVito,  
team steward

”

Greenery along Gresham’s Kelly Creek restored by a public crew and youths

**JAMES SINKS**  
The Oregonian staff

GRESHAM — Stroll behind some of the sprawling new suburban homes lined along Condor Avenue and you’ll step into another world. Take a few paces and the gravel driveway is lost under a carpet of mossy, multicolored leaves. A few more steps and the sunlight fades. Hidden behind a dense vaulted canopy of branches and pine needles, birds chirp overhead and a brook, lately by recent rains, skips down a hillside. No traffic, no bustle — even with a new subdivision next door. Just the occasional whisper of leaves as a soft, cool breeze tries to push through their branches. To the untrained eye, this grove of towering trees and drooping vines along Kelly Creek appears almost untouched by humans, except for a winding path and a narrow

footbridge across a gully carved by rain runoff. And that’s the way it’s supposed to look, said Edward DeVito, a team steward for the Northwest Service Academy, part of President Clinton’s fledgling Americorps program. For the past month, an 11-member team led by DeVito has been working to rejuvenate this site, which he says used to look more like a garbage dump than a serene forest. The 20 acres, owned by the city of Gresham, is a part of the Kelly Creek greenway project, a swath of trees and foliage that follows the meandering stream through town toward Beaver Creek. The restoration, which the city hopes will be a continuing community effort, was made possible by a \$9,600 grant from the Metro Greenspaces Restoration Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Much of the work is done.

“We’ve pulled truckloads of trash out of here,” DeVito said, including tires, cans and bottles, and construction debris. Walking through the area, he points to where once-trampled foliage is showing signs of recovery and to where barren scars carved by bicyclists are now buried under dark mulch and leaves. It looks, well, natural. DeVito smiles and nods. “When we’re done,” he said, “it’ll look like we haven’t done a thing.” Another goal of the project, explained Gresham parks planner Lora Price, is to cut down erosion that has been stripping soil from the site and clogging Kelly Creek with silt. “If we clean the creek, maybe we can help bring back the fish population,” Price said. Recently, a group of fifth-graders from nearby Kelly Creek Elementary School joined the Northwest Service Academy crew for some of the finishing touches of a process DeVito calls “speeding up nature.” Armed with shovels and thick jackets to ward off the finger-numbing, nose-sniffing cold, the fifth-graders planted 350 new

shrubs, plants and ferns in the soft mulch. The 15 varieties of plants — including snowberry, Oregon grape, willow and sword fern — are kinds of vegetation that grow in the area, DeVito said. The project leaders said the plants would both hasten the area’s return to a more “natural” appearance and also will help keep topsoil from washing into Kelly Creek. And the students, who took the morning off with teacher Dick Follstad, began to develop a sense of responsibility for this nature preserve in their neighborhood. “They were very enthusiastic about this, and so am I,” Follstad said. “This project is helping them develop a respect for nature and for their own community. And that’s hard to do when kids stay in the classroom.” Nearby, a sniffing Kristin Rice, 10, struggled with a red currant vine as she lifted it out of its bucket. “This is a really good idea,” she said, pushing her strawberry-blond hair away from her face. “We’re doing something for nature and for other people — I like that.” J.J. Olson, 11, said he’s done yardwork at home but hasn’t planted ferns before. “This is fun, except for being a little cold,” he said. But the field trip might have an adverse effect: “Now my dad is going to want me to show him everything I learned about how to plant stuff,” Olson sighed. Parks planner Price said the city was fortunate to own such a large parcel along Kelly Creek and that the restoration project will be a model for the city to follow as it manages the waterway. “We’re really happy to see this kind of a partnership in our back yards,” Price said. “The schoolkids and the service academy have shown how the community can be an effective steward of these areas.” The Northwest Service Academy is a division of the Americorps program initiated by President Clinton and enacted by Congress in the Corporation for National Community Service Act in September 1993.

Planting volunteers from Kelly Creek Elementary School were helped by the Northwest Service Academy team.



# GREENWAY ENHANCEMENT NOTICE

## TO: Neighbors of Kelly Creek Greenway

The City has an upcoming restoration project that we want to let you know about. It will be taking place in your Greenway just inside the 14th St. and Condor Street public entrance. This project, which will address erosion problems in the greenway, is funded by a grant from the Metro Greenspaces Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The work will be carried out by college age volunteers of the Northwest Service Academy, which is part of President Clinton's Americorps service program.

### *What the Enhancement Activities will entail...*

On Monday, September 12, 1994, the Northwest Service Academy volunteers will be kicking off the project by clearing debris from the greenway and beginning prep work to establish a defined trail. Their work will continue for the next five weeks. Environmental enhancements will include addressing drainage problems at the entrance to the greenway, bioengineering of a runoff channel to reduce the velocity of runoff and stop erosion, trail improvements that will help define paths so other areas can be restored, and finally re-establishing native forest and stream-side vegetation.

### *What the Project will do...*

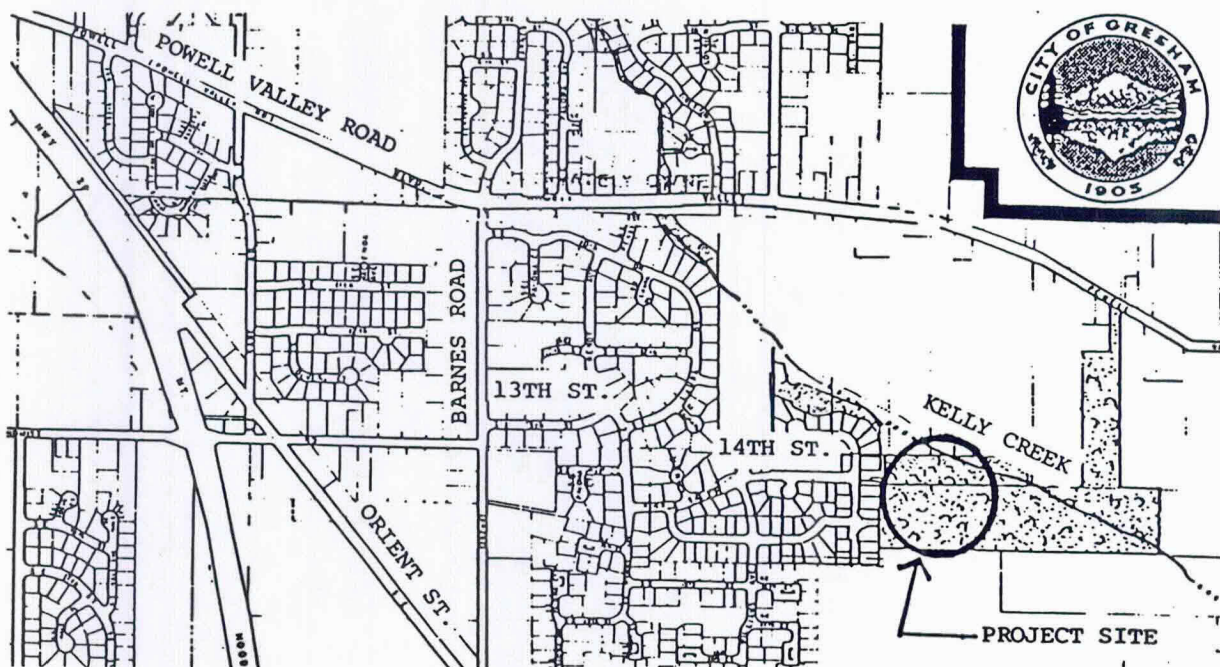
The broad goal of this project is to help improve the water quality and fish habitat of Kelly Creek (and Beaver Creek which it flows into) by reducing soil erosion which results in sediment buildup in the creeks. In addition, the wildlife habitat in the greenway will be enhanced by planting a variety of native shrubs that will provide additional food and cover.

### *For more Information...*

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Lora Price, Park Planner with the Parks and Recreation Division at 669-2659. *Thank You for Working With Us!*

Lora Price  
Parks and Recreation Division

CITY OF GRESHAM  
Department of Environmental Services



## HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO KELLY CREEK

**Stay on the trails.** When hiking or biking please keep to the marked paths. Creating shortcuts and paths damages wildlife habitat and causes erosion and silting of the stream.

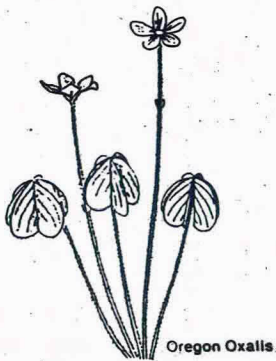
**Don't dump yard debris or grass clippings into streams.** These materials deplete the stream of oxygen as they break down. They also are unsightly. Oxygen is necessary to support animal life in the stream.

**Respect the stream habitat.** The creek is home to crayfish, frogs, fish and other aquatic life. Please do not muddy their homes unnecessarily or throw garbage into the stream.

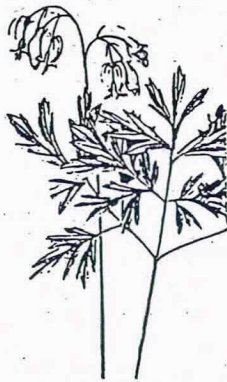
**Avoid or limit the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.** Please don't dump into storm drains. When these substances are used carelessly they can poison the waters of the creek, plants and wildlife that live there. Please be careful if using them.

**Please report any illegal dumping or chemical spills.**

**Get to know the natural area in your neighborhood. It's a valuable resource!**



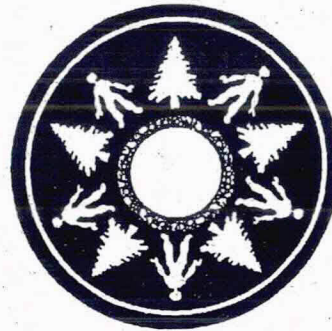
Oregon Oxalis



Bleeding Heart

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about Kelly Creek Greenway or if you want to report any illegal dumping, please call the City of Gresham Department of Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation Division at 669-2531.



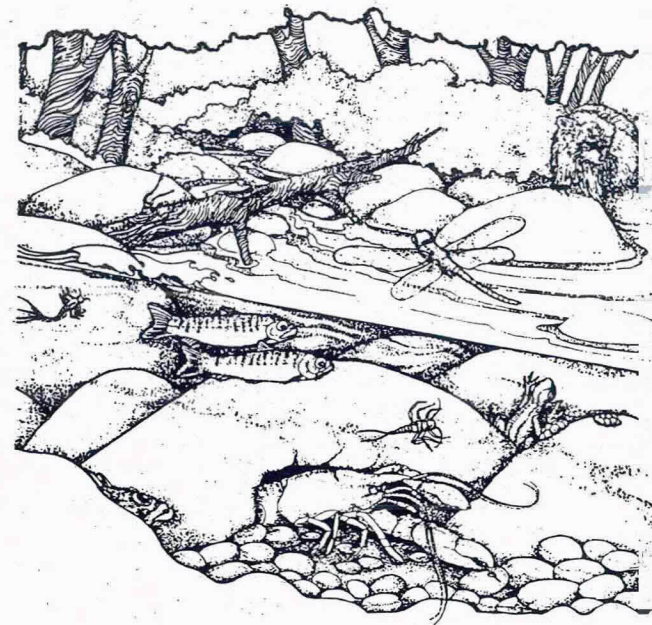
Northwest Service Academy  
An Americorps Program

This brochure was prepared by Elizabeth Franklin, Luz de Lourdes Solar Valverde, Jennifer Hughes, and Anne Mohler of the Northwest Service Academy.  
November 1994.

kellbrof.wpd1194

Printed on recycled paper.

# Kelly Creek Greenway



*Your Neighborhood  
Natural Area*

## KELLY CREEK HISTORY

In 1990, the citizens of Gresham approved a \$10.28 million bond measure to preserve significant natural areas in the city as public open space. The purpose of this bond was to purchase and preserve open spaces with the overall goal of seeing the natural areas reach their full potential for wildlife and human recreation. In 1992, the city purchased one of the last remaining large stands of forest next to Kelly Creek, a 20 acre woodland which contains an impressive grove of mature red cedars. A public access is provided to this woodland at SE 14th and Condor streets.

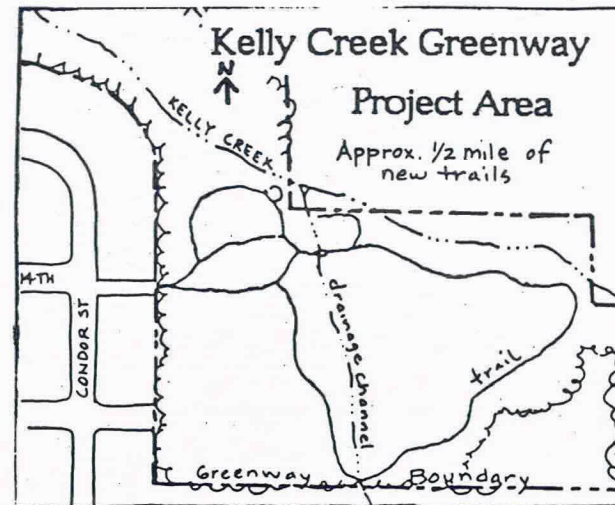
Kelly Creek was named after the Kelly family who were early pioneer settlers in the Gresham area. This family owned over 2400 acres that were to become East Portland, Gresham and Troutdale. When they first arrived to this area surrounding Kelly Creek, it was covered with forests of large red cedars, cottonwoods, and red alders. This woodland was originally cleared by the settlers to harvest timber and clear the land for agriculture. Springboard marks can still be found in some of the large old stumps remaining near the creek as evidence of early logging. Today, much of the farmland along Kelly Creek is being converted once again into new neighborhoods.

## GOALS FOR KELLY CREEK

The purpose of this brochure is to educate others on the importance of the Kelly Creek Greenway. It also will point out a few things you can do to preserve the natural area in your neighborhood.

This fall, the NorthWest Service Academy (NWSA) worked with Gresham Parks and Recreation Division to rehabilitate an eroded area in the greenway.

Improvements included defining a trail system, removing excess paths, stabilizing a drainage channel and revegetating the forest floor and stream edge with a variety of native plants such as dogwood, willow, thimbleberry, elderberry, and red currant. The end result will be to improve wildlife habitat, water quality of Kelly Creek and enjoyment by the public. This work was funded by the Metro Greenspaces Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



The NWSA is the first AmeriCorps program in the Pacific Northwest. AmeriCorps is a new national service program created by President Clinton's National Service Act that was passed in the fall of 1993. The purpose of the NWSA is to provide community service that meets environmental needs that are not currently being met. The people in the program come from a variety of backgrounds and bring many different skills and experience to it. However, we all share the common goal of wanting to better our social and natural environment.



## RIPARIAN VALUES

Riparian areas are among the most sensitive and threatened types of habitat. Because streams collect water from a larger surrounding area and concentrate it into a channel, many forms of pollution are also concentrated. This can have a devastating effect on plant and animal communities that rely on healthy riparian areas for their homes.

Vegetation along the banks of a healthy stream helps prevent erosion and sedimentation. It also cools the water for fish and provides cover, nesting sites and food for wildlife.

Kelly Creek drains a watershed of approximately three square miles. It is a tributary to Beaver Creek and the Sandy River which are both salmon-bearing streams.

