

**PROJECT REPORT**  
**WOODS MEMORIAL PARK RESTORATION PROJECT**  
**METROPOLITAN GREENSPACES PROGRAM**  
**METRO CONTRACT No. 903438, December 1993—June 1996**

**I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Woods Memorial Park is a 45 acre, undeveloped park in SW Portland. It is owned by the City of Portland and managed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. The park is just to the northwest of the intersection of SW Capitol Hwy and SW Taylors Ferry Rd. Woods Creek runs through the park. The creek is a tributary of Fanno Creek, part of the Tualatin River watershed.

The applicant organization is Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI), an Oregon nonprofit corporation. By contract with the City of Portland, SWNI is the neighborhood coalition for 16 neighborhood associations and three business associations in SW Portland. SWNI promotes citizen participation in community affairs, works to improve the livability of the area it serves, and provides support services and information on such issues as crime prevention and land use. Woods Memorial Park is within the boundaries of the Crestwood and Ashcreek neighborhood associations, two of the associations SWNI serves. The staff and volunteers for this project were knowledgeable and dedicated. They were John Alland, former SWNI Land Use Committee chair and current Crestwood Vice-President; Liz Callison, former SWNI Parks Committee Vice-Chair and current member of Friends of West Hills Streams; Kay Durtschi, former SWNI Board president; Patricia Merkle, former SWNI Environmental Enhancement chair; Paul Agrimis, professional environmental planner, engineer, and wetland scientist at David Evans & Associates; Bob Febus, Scout Leader and Woods Park neighbor; and Sylvia Bogert, executive director of SWNI.

This project was planned as a demonstration project for the Fanno Creek and Tributaries Conservation Plan. The purpose was to improve an area of the stream channel and banks on the east fork of Woods Creek within the park that had become severely degraded. An illegal rope swing hung from a tree at the site. Youths swung from the top of one 40-foot bank to the top of the bank on the other side. This activity severely eroded the banks; vegetation was trampled and soil compacted. English Ivy and some blackberries had invaded the area and were displacing native plants that provide nesting materials and food for wildlife. The nuisance plants were killing large trees. The stream needed pools for fish habitat.

Project staff planned the following work:

- Removal of English Ivy, Himalayan blackberries, and other nuisance plants.
- Removal of tires and other litter from the park.
- Purchase and planting of native plants to stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion, and to provide nesting materials and food for wildlife.
- Placement of erosion netting to retain soil until plants are established.
- Careful placement of logs and debris in the stream to create pools for fish, reduce stream bank erosion, and to cool stream water.



The project depended heavily on volunteers from the community. Not all the work was "on the ground." Project staff worked closely with the Parks Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), and obtained a permit from the Division of State Lands to work in the stream. SWNI applied for an environmental review in partnership with the Parks Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services.

## **II. GOALS AND BENEFITS OF PROJECT**

The primary purpose of the project was to repair the eroded streambanks of Woods Creek, to restore trampled vegetation, and to relieve soil compaction. Although the 1996 February floods washed out a significant number of the native plants planted as part of this project, many of the plantings did survive. Of course, the initial removal of nuisance plants was not affected by the floods.

The project had numerous secondary goals and benefits, some of which were thwarted by the floods. On the plus side, the plantings that did survive will help to stabilize the streambanks and will provide habitat for wildlife. The plantings will reduce erosion and in turn lead to improved water quality. The project provided opportunities for community work and education, particularly for local youth. Resident Bob Febus organized a group of Boy Scouts to work on the project and accept year-round stewardship over the park. The scouts, with Park Bureau supervision, have done extensive work defining the trail system throughout the park and repairing broken bridges. Students from Wilson High School took photographs, participated in park cleanups and various grant site planting projects. Smith grade school students took several field trips to the park and started a greenhouse project as part of their studies. The project demonstrated environmentally-sensitive ways stop or reduce erosion, and raised awareness in the community about the kind of human activities that can damage a natural area. Park neighbors and volunteers from all over southwest, volunteer each year to help at the annual park cleanup that has become a tradition. Neighbors take an active interest in reporting vandalism or illegal dumping. Finally, the project helped to foster cooperation between the community, Parks Bureau, and BES.

On the negative side, we did not have an opportunity to place logs and debris into the streambed. The flooding scoured out the streambed, and it is inadvisable to work there until geotechnical and water experts study the situation. Improvements in the streambed would have had the dual purpose of reducing erosive undercutting and creating pools that both provide fish habitat and help to reduce water temperature.

### III. WORK TASKS AND TIMELINES

This project took approximately 3 years. The following is an outline of major events:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| December 1993     | Contract effective from December 1, 1993 to March 1, 1995, later extended.  |
| February 19, 1994 | The kick-off event. The job was ivy removal. Bob Downing of the Parks Bureau wrote a one-page primer for volunteers. Experts first identified and marked desirable plants. Volunteers then used loppers, pruners, and brush to cut ivy to the ground. All tools were hand tools. About three weeks later, Parks Bureau personnel used herbicides to spray fresh ivy that had grown up since the cutting.  |
| March 23, 1994    | Project presentation to SWNI Board. The project committee gave a detailed presentation and slide show outlining the goals of the project. Mel Huie presented an oversized facsimile grant check for \$4,500 from the Metro Greenspaces Program to the Board.  |
| April 16, 1994    | Cleanup. Volunteers removed tires, scrap metal, litter, and yard debris from the park site.   |
| April 30, 1994    | First planting. Paul Agrimis prepared a final plant list. We ordered woody plants from the Parks Bureau and herbaceous plants from commercial growers. Volunteers planted most plantings through a erosion control blanket that they installed on the eroded slope. About 20-30 volunteers worked; the Parks Bureau provided support. Several units of coarse compost was spread on the erosion control blanket and used to help define trails. |
| May 14, 1994      | Second planting. Using workers from Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, we organized a work party was to finish planting and trail work.   |
| July 16, 1994     | Workparty to remove evasive ivy and blackberry vines.   |
| Summer 1994       | Extremely hot/dry weather conditions required frequent watering of all planting areas.  |
| January 1995      | Committee meetings to discuss the physical state of the grant site and followup on permitting process.  |
| March 4, 1995     | Metro Greenspaces Tour (grant site was included in the tour). Project leaders worked with Mel Huie to develop tour sites and narration.   |



- April 15, 1995 Trail workparty. To help define trails and encourage park users to keep to the pathways, a workparty was organized. McFarlane's Bark Inc. donated 4 units of blended compost (mix of medium and coarse) for use on trails and on steep embankments for erosion control.
- April 22, 1995 Cleanup. Volunteers removed tires, scrap metal, litter, and yard debris from the park site.
- Summer 1995 Volunteers continued to monitor and water grant site.
- October 14, 1995 Workparty to remove evasive ivy and blackberry vines.
- Winter 1996 Wind storms knocked down several trees. Woods Creek flooded and washed out much of the project plantings. A major slide occurred, starting on private property adjacent and to the north of the park at the end of SW 44th Avenue. The toe of the slide is in the park. The city hired a logger to fall several trees that were leaning. The logger's heavy equipment damaged the forest floor, leaving deep ruts.
- March 30, 1996 Planting was planned for this day, but because of the flood and logging damage, work was limited to repair of damage caused by logging equipment. Volunteers used hoes to smooth out ruts, and filled rain-caused rivulets with branches.
- April 13, 1996 Cleanup. Volunteers removed tires, scrap metal, litter, and yard debris from the park.
- April 30, 1996: Project staff, Parks Bureau representatives, and Lynn Wilson met at the site. We concluded that no further work could be done under this grant. Geo-technical and hydrology experts need to study the stream before any further work is done.

WOODS PARK

IV. PROJECT BUDGET				
Original Budget				
ITEM	ORIGINAL BUDGET	SWNI MATCH	METRO	ACTUAL TOTAL
1 Personnel:				
<b>SWNI</b>				
Executive Director (16.19 hr)	\$2,000.00	\$2,472.48	\$0.00	\$2,412.48
Land Use Specialist (10.66 hr)	\$0.00	\$746.20		\$746.20
<b>Parks Bureau</b>	\$1,120.00	\$1,354.18		\$1,354.18
Parks Liason				
<b>Oregon Youth</b>				
<b>Conservation Corps/Parks</b>		\$336.00		\$336.00
2 Goods & Services				
Erosion Control Blanket			\$630.00	\$630.00
Plants			\$1,565.30	\$1,565.30
McFarlands Bark		\$28.00		\$28.00
Water Pump		\$422.39		\$422.39
Hose		\$39.22		\$39.22
Photo Documentation			\$330.10	\$330.10
Permit Fees		\$440.00		\$440.00
3 Rental fees			\$0.00	
Tools*				
Wheelbarrows*				
Port-a-potty*				
Trucks*				
(* donated by Parks Bureau)				
4 Professional Services				
Project Planning	\$100.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
5 Volunteer Labor @ \$4.75 hr				
Project Committee Member		\$2,576.86		\$2,576.86
Community Volunteers	\$3,000.00	\$2,308.50		\$2,308.50
Scouts	\$500.00	\$475.00		\$475.00
6 Contingency	\$500.00			\$0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$7,220.00</b>	<b>\$11,198.83</b>	<b>\$3,525.40</b>	<b>\$14,664.23</b>
*Note original Metro Budget			\$4,500.00	

ITEMIZED PROJECT EXPENDITURES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

DATE	VENDOR/ITEM	COST	DOCUMENT #
04/28/94	Oregon Culvert Co. for erosion control blanket, staples	630.00	0078939
04/28/94	Harold M. Miller Landscape Nursery for herbaceous plants	660.00	4130
04/21/94	Wallace W. Hansen for herbaceous plants	120.00	0253
04/28/94	Parks Bureau for woody plants	418.00	
05/12/94	Mitchell Lewis & Staver for	422.39	220114
05/13/94	Associated Hose Products for PVC	39.22	26701
05/10/94	David Evans & Associates for consulting work	1000.00	SWNI0001
04/27/94	Hobbs & Hopkins for fescue	15.00	20043
07/13/94	Action Fast 1 Hour Photo for photo/slide development	34.10	14693
9/2/94	McFarlands Bark	28.00	Ck#426
09/30/94	Kinko's for copies	34.00	71307
04/11/95	Mt. Tabor Nursery for herbaceous plants	352.30	NA
12/05/94	City of Portland filing fee for environmental review	440.00	109565
6/20/96	Photo Craft for slides & prints	262.00	464871
		<hr/> \$4,455.01	



### TIME EXPENDED (HOURS)

<u>Project Staff:</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Rate/Hour</u>	<u>Total</u>
SWNI Executive Director	141.50	16.32	2,472.48
SWNI Land Use Specialist	70	10.66	746.20
Park Bureau Staff	61.75	21.93	1,354.18
OR Youth Cons. Corps./Parks	48	7.00	336.00
Project Committee Members	Hours	Rate/Hour	Total
John Alland	120.5	4.75	572.37
Liz Callison	109.5	4.75	520.12
Pat Merkle	106.5	4.75	505.87
Kay Durtschi	117.0	4.75	555.75
Bob Febus	20.0	4.75	95.00
Paul Agrimis	69.0	4.75	<u>327.75</u>
			2576.86

Volunteer Events	People	Hours	Participant Hours	Rate	Total
Kick-off	42	2	84	4.75	399.00
SWNI Board	24	1	24	4.75	114.00
Cleanup	19	3	57	4.75	270.75
1st Planting	21	4	84	4.75	399.00
Workparty	25	3	75	4.75	356.25
Trail Work	9	3	27	4.75	128.25
Cleanup	12	3	36	4.75	171.00
Cleanup	33	3	99	4.75	<u>470.25</u>
					2308.50

Scouts Trail Work 5	20	100	4.75	475.00
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### V. PROJECT STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

Project staff were John Alland, SWNI Land Use Committee Chair; Liz Callison, SWNI Parks Committee Vice-Chair, Researcher, OHSU Master Gardener Volunteer; Patricia Merkle, SWNI Environmental Enhancement Chair, SOLV logistical coordinator; Paul Agrimis, environmental planner, engineer, and wetland scientist; Paul Fishman, Senior Ecologist, Fishman Environmental Services; and Sylvia Bogert, SWNI Executive Director. Employees of the Parks Bureau, in particular Bob Downing, worked closely with staff and volunteers.

Many volunteers helped to remove nuisance plants, plant plants and trees, remove rubbish, and do other work. Approximately 30 volunteers worked on April 30, 1994, the first planting. On May 14, 1994, workers from the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps finished the plantings and did trail work. On July 16, 1994, local resident Julie Oiler coordinated a group of volunteers from local churches. About 30 youths (12 to 17 years of age) removed ivy, blackberries, and holly. Local resident Bob Febus organized a group of Boy Scouts, who joined other volunteers in trail work, cleanups and planting.

## VI. HOW PROJECT RELATES TO THE GREENSPACES PROGRAM

The site meets the definition of a targeted site under the Greenspaces Program. The site is within the riparian corridor of Woods Creek, an important tributary of Fanno Creek. One primary objective of this project was to restore an eroded and degraded part of the corridor, by removing nuisance plants and planting native species. The plantings replaced nuisance plants and filled in eroded areas. The newly vegetated site provided more opportunities for nesting and feeding for wildlife. Another primary objective was to place logs and other material in the stream to reduce erosion and create pools for fish. In this case, much of the damage was caused by youths using a tire swing. The fact that we were repairing human-caused damage helped to make people aware of the need for respect for natural areas and stewardship of such areas. SWNI staff wrote about the project in SWNI newsletter, which is well-distributed in SW Portland. Project staff worked closely and frequently with the Parks Bureau, and also worked with the Bureau of Environmental Services.

## VII. WHAT WORKED/WHAT DIDN'T/HELPFUL HINTS

Our most difficult problem was the permits necessary for our work, and securing the funds for the permit fees. When we applied for the grant the Environmental Zones were not in affect and we made some wrong assumptions about the necessity of applying for an environmental review since the grant site was on Park Bureau land. We obtained a permit from the the State of Oregon Division of State Lands to do work in the Woods Creek streambed with no problems. There is a joint application from from the Corps of Engineers and Division of State Lands that needs to be submitted before any fill or removal can be done in waters in the State of Oregon. You may call the Division of State Lands Environmental Permits Section at 378-3805 if you have any questions.

SWNI also experience a high employee turnover for our land use Specialist position during the 3 year grant period, which caused some downtime. We hired excellent people, but our budget does not allow us to pay what other coalitions are paying for the same position and we lost some good folks.

The photography duties also changed hands a number of times and our photo stakes were not as large or clearly marked as they should have been. Also photographers sometimes took closeups or changed angles. To further complicate matters, the film had to be processed in Seattle and volunteers did not request two extra copies or prints until the last minute. We have tons of pictures and our photo album documents our project nicely.

The education piece of the project was wonderful. We opened doors with park neighbors, schools, scouts, church youth groups, bureaus, etc.. Neighbors have really taken stewardship of the park. They watch for vandals, report illegal dumping, participate in plantings or park cleanups, and make sure other park users stay on the defined trails. Neighbors spotted a problem with raw sewage in the creek and worked to resolve the matter with BES.

## VIII. ADVICE FOR OTHER PROJECT MANAGERS



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

If you are a nonprofit organization be sure to understand what is involved in applying for permits (professional knowledge/skills and funds for permit fees). We had a large number of volunteers involved in this project, but their enthusiasm did not extend to tracking hours. It was necessary to constantly remind them to turn in their project hours. We tried notebook logs, which they lost or forgot to record their hours and timesheets which just disappeared. Finally, the project manager took responsibility for having people sign in and recording the hours worked.

## **IX. MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PLAN**

This project helped to restore a low-maintenance, natural system. Required maintenance after several years will mainly involve watering and removal of encroaching nuisance species, as they appear. This will be done by neighborhood volunteers.

As mentioned earlier, due to severe damage from winter wind storms and flood waters the grant site needs evaluation and recommendations by experts to prevent further damage from slides, removal or use of down trees, etc. SWNI is very interested in participating as a partner in the future of Woods Park.

### **Photo Monitoring Points for Woods Memorial Park Restoration Project**

Photographic monitoring is being used as one means of monitoring the project. A total of 4 Photo-points were established at landmarks in and around the project boundaries. Photos have been taken March 1994, July 1994, April 1995, January 1996, and April 1996 from the first three photo points (Photo Station 4 was not used for documentation, instead pictures were taken at the trailhead

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Photo Station 1 | From the northeast bank looking to the west bank  |
| Photo Station 2 | From the northwest bank looking to the east bank showing the main revegetation area directly at the large fallen tree over the creek. |
| Photo Station 3 | From the west bank, showing a close up of the east bank revegetation area.  |
| Photo Station 4 | From the southeast bank, looking at the west and east bank.   |

The following three sets of slides show signs that new vegetation was occurring until the wind and flood waters washed away plants, eroded the stream bank and destroyed the erosion control blanket on the east bank. Slides on the west side caused trees to fall and the entire trail leading to the creek to be destroyed.

**Set 1 (Photo-point 2 March 94—April 96)**

This set shows the east bank pre-project conditions, new plantings, plant growth and existing conditions after winter storms.

**Set 2 (Photo-point 3 March 94—April 96)**

This set shows closeups of the east bank pre-project conditions, new plantings, plant growth and existing conditions after winter storms.

**Set 3 (Photo-point 1 March 94—April 96)**

This set shows the west bank pre-project conditions, planting, protection of new plants by limbs across the trail, new growth, and existing conditions after winter storms caused slides and down trees.

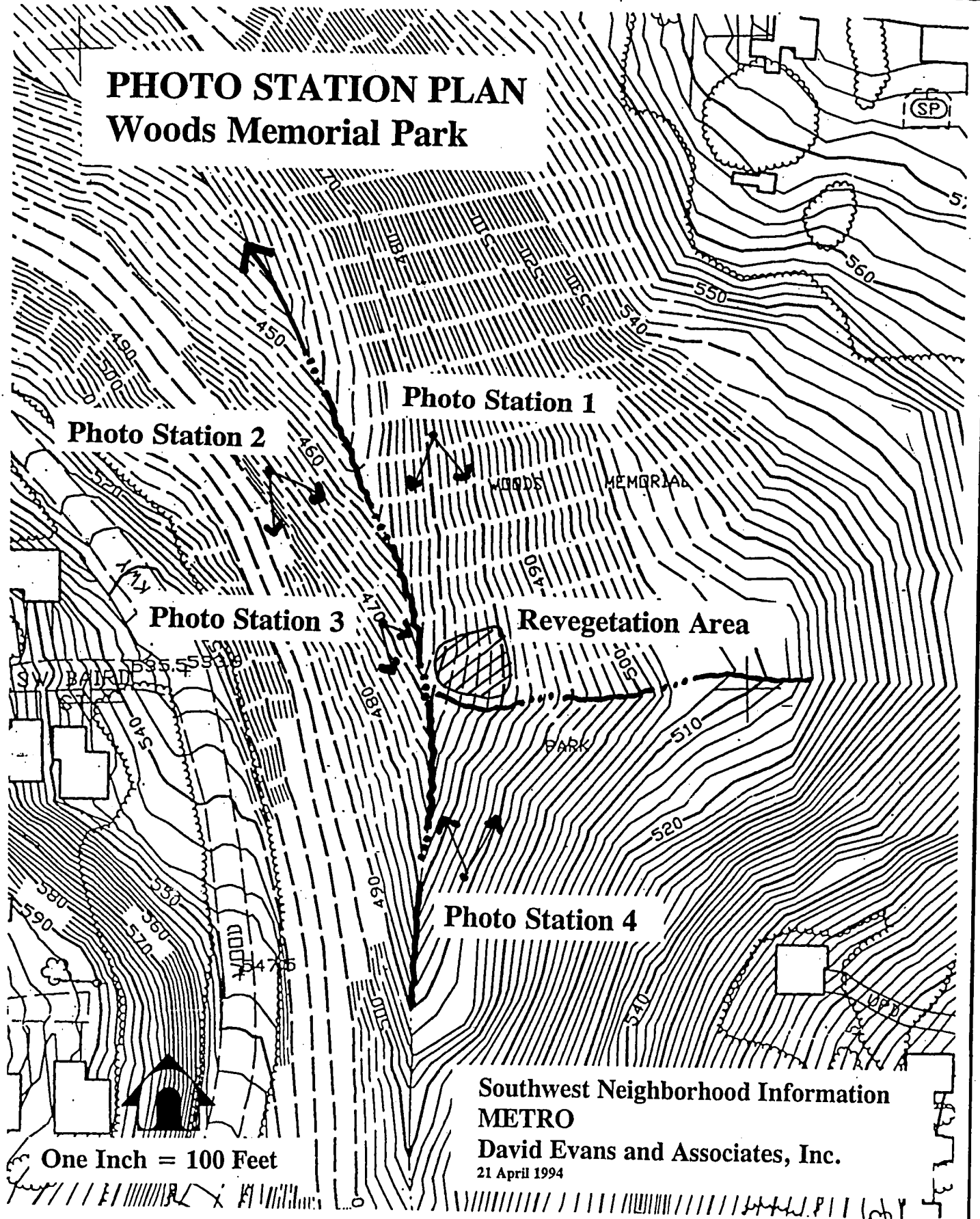
**Set 4 (Trailhead from Woods Parkway and SW Plum St.— March 94—April 96)**

This set shows our Kick-off event pulling ivy and blackberries from the trailhead. It also shows scouts working to improve trail conditions. The trail leading to the creek showed marked improvement before the winter storm. The last slides show trees that fell over the trails and destruction by log trucks that illegally went into the park and took out the timber.



# PHOTO STATION PLAN

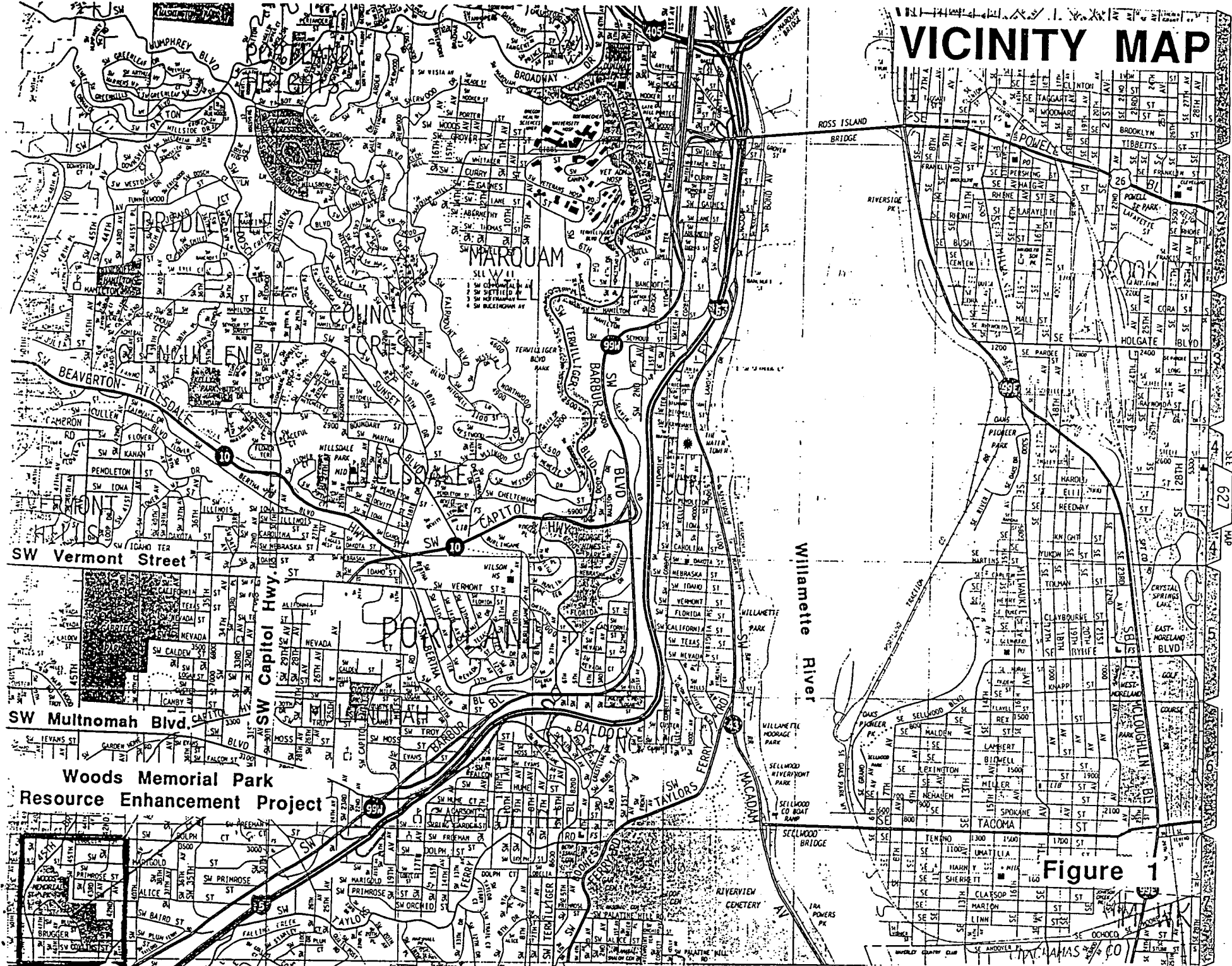
## Woods Memorial Park



One Inch = 100 Feet

Southwest Neighborhood Information  
METRO

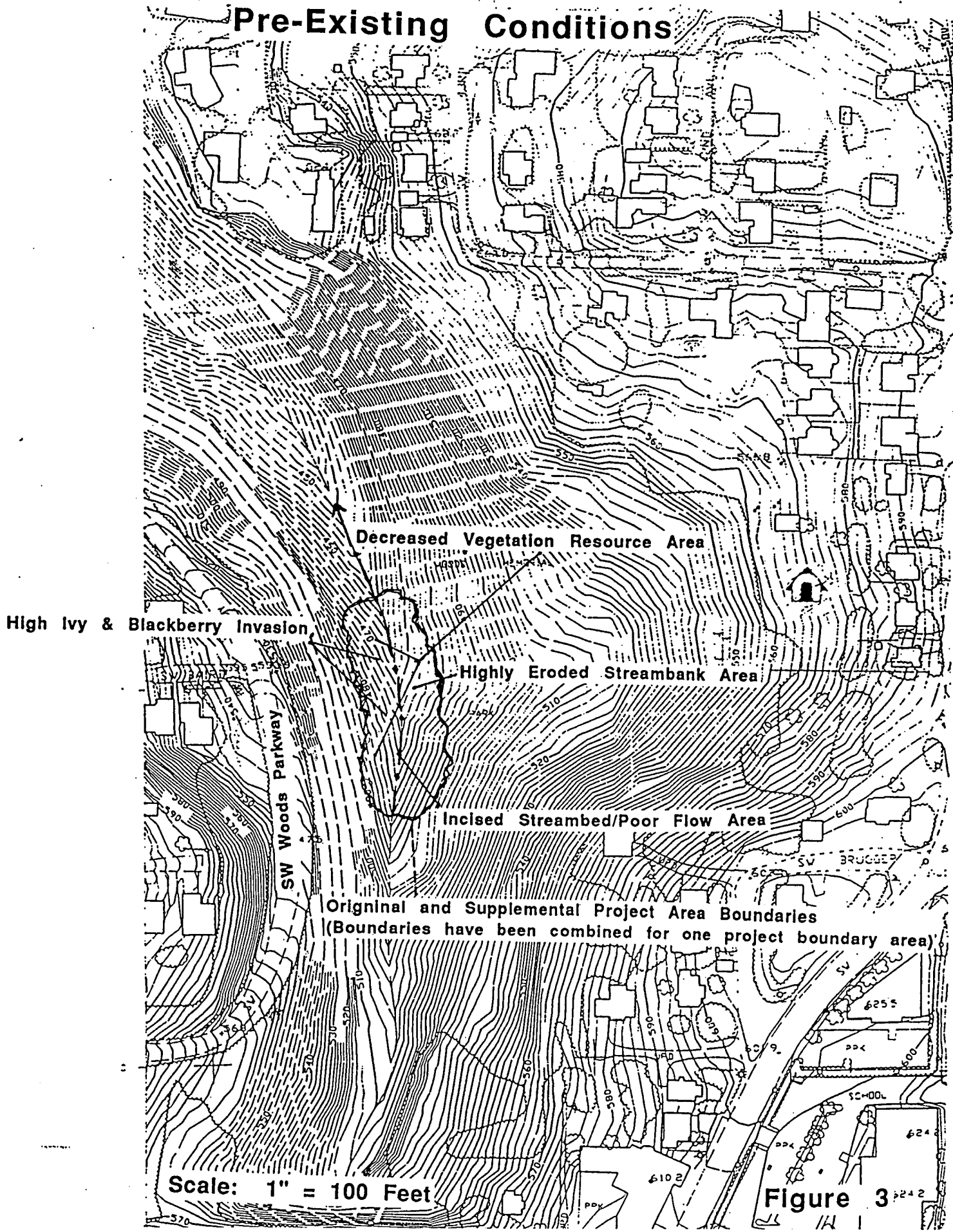
David Evans and Associates, Inc.  
21 April 1994



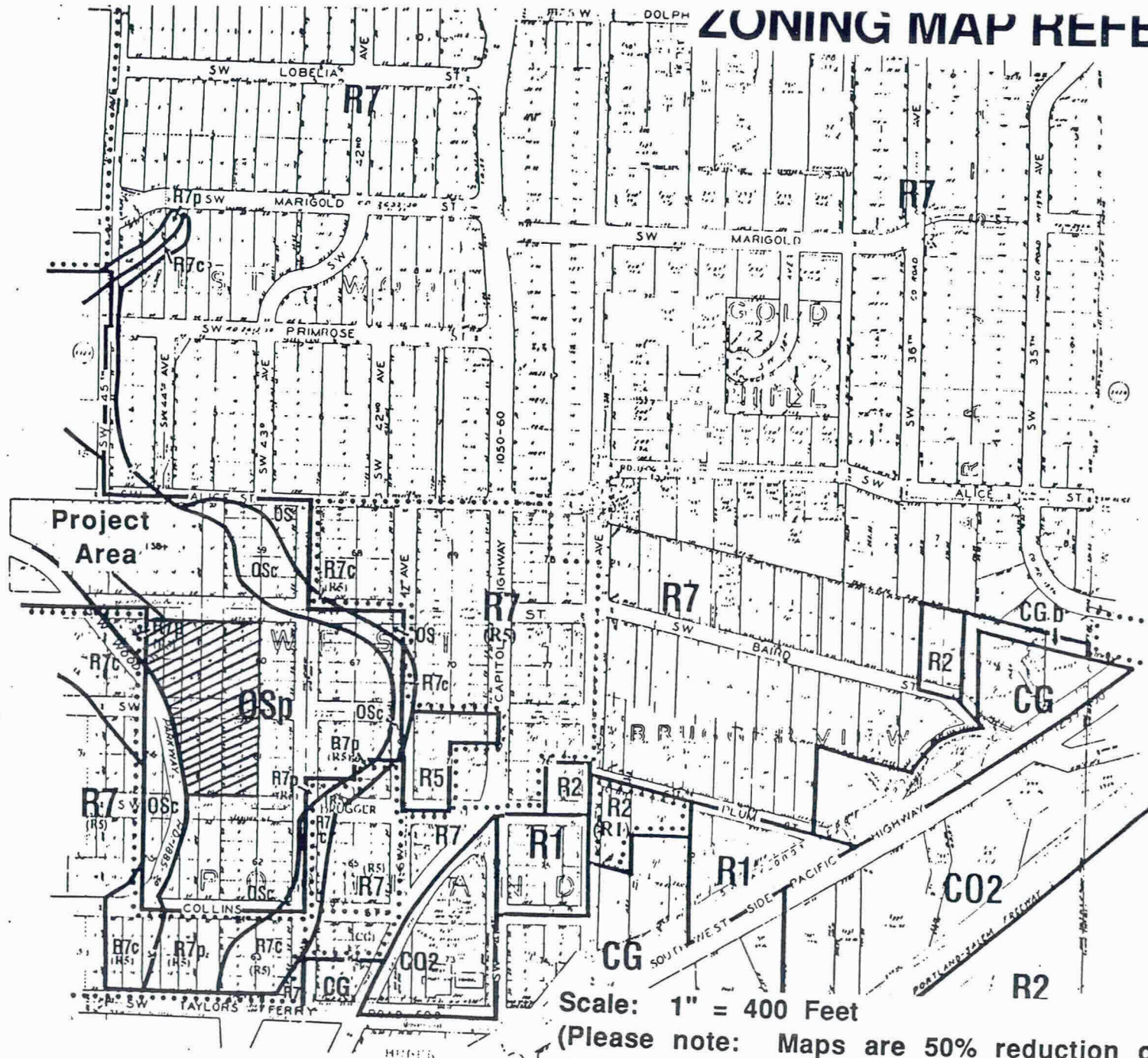


# Woods Memorial Park Restoration Project

## Pre-Existing Conditions



# ZONING MAP REFERENCE



NOTE: Zoning designations are subject to change; verify zoning prior to development or sales.

<b>R10</b> Current Zoning  ..... Maximum Potential (R10) Zoning as per ..... Comprehensive Plan	ZONING REVISED 1-94	CITY OF PORTLAND BUREAU OF PLANNING	
	BASEMAP ACQUIRED 5-89	0 100' 200' 300' SCALE IN FEET	
	LEGAL DESCRIPTION NW 1/4 SEC. 24-18-1E	<b>3925</b>	

Source: 10 Creek and Tributaries Conservation Plan, Volume Four:  
Revised Zoning Maps, City of Portland, Bureau of Planning, January 1st, 1994

Figure