HILLENDALE PARK GREENSPACES GRANT

City of Oregon City

Project Manager: Joe McKinney 657-8241

Project Description

Location of Project: The projectis at Hillendale Park, which is located in Oregon City, Clackamas County, Township 3 South, Range 2E, Section 8B.

The purpose of the project is to enhance and expand the wildlife habitat and water quality at Hillendale Park.

The Hillendale Planned Development was constructed in the late 1970's. The 15+ acre park was dedicated as a park at the same time. Hillendale serves as a community/neighborhood park to a development of over 300 homes. It is developed with passive and active recreational amenities, including playfields, picnic shelter, walking/jogging paths, and the pond.

The native plants were planted near the stream banks and wetland areas. We planted in areas where lawn mowers and other parks equipment have gotten stuck during the years of maintenance at the park.

There are three manmade crossing of the stream, which we hope to replace with wooden and recycled plastics in the future.

Goals and Bennifits of the Project

We plan to monitor the water quality of this stream as one of our N.P.D.E.S. (National Polutant Discharge Elimination System) sample sites.

We hope to replace the existing crossings with wood and recycled plastic structures, and install more bird houses.

The project will enhance and expand the available wildlife habitat, and improve the water quality of Mud Creek, which the project straddles.

The project also increases the native plant diversity in the urban environment and encourages environmental awareness in the neighborhood through using community volunteers during the plantings.

Work Tasks and Timelines

We have a small group of blackberries at the upper end of the project that we are continuing to remove by hand. The plantings have been finished except for our 25 pounds of Tufted Hairgrass seed, which we will plant this spring. We noticed some of the plants were not doing well, so with assistance from our design consultant Kendra Smith from Kurahashi and Assoc., and volunteers from the Crossroads Alternative School, we moved several to more suitable locations in December 1995.

About a quarter of the irrigation system is still lacking at the project, which we had to irrigate with the street flusher last summer. Installation of the new irrigation system is planned for the summer of 1996.

Project Budget

	Total	Metro	City
Personel Costs:	\$5139.55	\$2569.00	\$2570.55
Materials:	\$3380.00	\$1690.00	\$1690.00
Equipment:	\$440.00	\$220.00	\$220.00
Total Costs:	\$8959.55	\$4479.00	\$4480.55

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Project Staff / Workers / Volunteers

City Staff

Joe McKinney, Operations Supervisor, Storm & Sanitary Sewer Division Ron Blake, Operations Crew Leader, Storm & Sanitary Sewer Division Greg Lambert, Parks Specialist 4 Utility crew members

Henry MacEnroth, City Engineer Mary Palmer, Community Coordinator

Community Volunteers

Hillendale Neighbor Hood Group Arbor Day Volunteer Group Crossroads alternative School Volunteers

How Project Relates to the Greenspaces Program

This project is consistent with several goals of the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program, specifically:

- To preserve the diversity of plant and animal life in the urban environment.
- Restore green and open spaces in neighborhoods where natural areas are all but eliminated.
- Encourage environmental awareness so that citizens will become active and involved stewards
- of natural areas.

The project is also consistent with the Master Plan in its discussion of restoration and enhancement of areas deficient in greenspaces. This project involves a City owned park that will always be in public ownership. It is basically the only open space in this neighborhood of 300+ homes. It has been developed primarily for active recreation uses, but the pond has not been developed or maintained to achieve its maximum potential as a natural or educational resource. The project is consistent with the goals of the City's adopted Park Master Plan. During preparation of the Master Plan, many comments were received that the pond would be improved to encourage more birds, fish, etc.. Comments were also made that more trees should be planted.

What Worked / What Didn't / Helpful Hints

Vandalism has been a problem at the park in the past, but since at Park Host has been introduced to this park, we've seen few problems. We had to check the site twice per week to check for damage to plants and to hand water because of lack of irrigation to about a quarter of the project. Initially about a dozen plants were pulled out and tossed into the pond, but with checking the area and replanting frequently, the vandalism has stopped completely.

We did have to do some transplanting, as Lynn Wilson noticed on a visit that some of the plants were not doing well. Some were moved to a dryer location and some to a wetter location. I believe this problem occurred when we ordered our plants, as we had some substitutes that didn't fit the planting design, and for another reason we didn't have enough staff for one of the groups of volunteers that showed up, resulting in some of the plants being moved from the location we staged them.

We also had a problem with time and staff changes resulting in an extension of the completion date.

We also had to move our plant storage area because it was first set up in an out of the way place where they were getting forgotten about when they needed to be watered, so we moved them to a fenced sewer lift station site, and watered twice per week during our bi-weekly lift station maintenance.

We had some problems with our photo points. They needed to be redone because the person doing the original photos used a variable telephoto lens.

Advice For Other Project Managers

Make sure the project is manageable for you and your staff.

Set up a neighborhood or other support groups before starting the project.

Store plants where they will get attention and care till planted.

Plant closer to the fall if there is no irrigation available.

Use a fixed lens camera (not a variable telephoto) for photo points.

Have Parks Department more involved, or have someone from Parks Department be the project manager.

Monitoring and Maintenance Plan

We have a pump station in the neighborhood that we maintain Mondays and Fridays. The monitoring of the project is done during the pump station visits, which includes checking plants, cleaning up litter in and around pond.

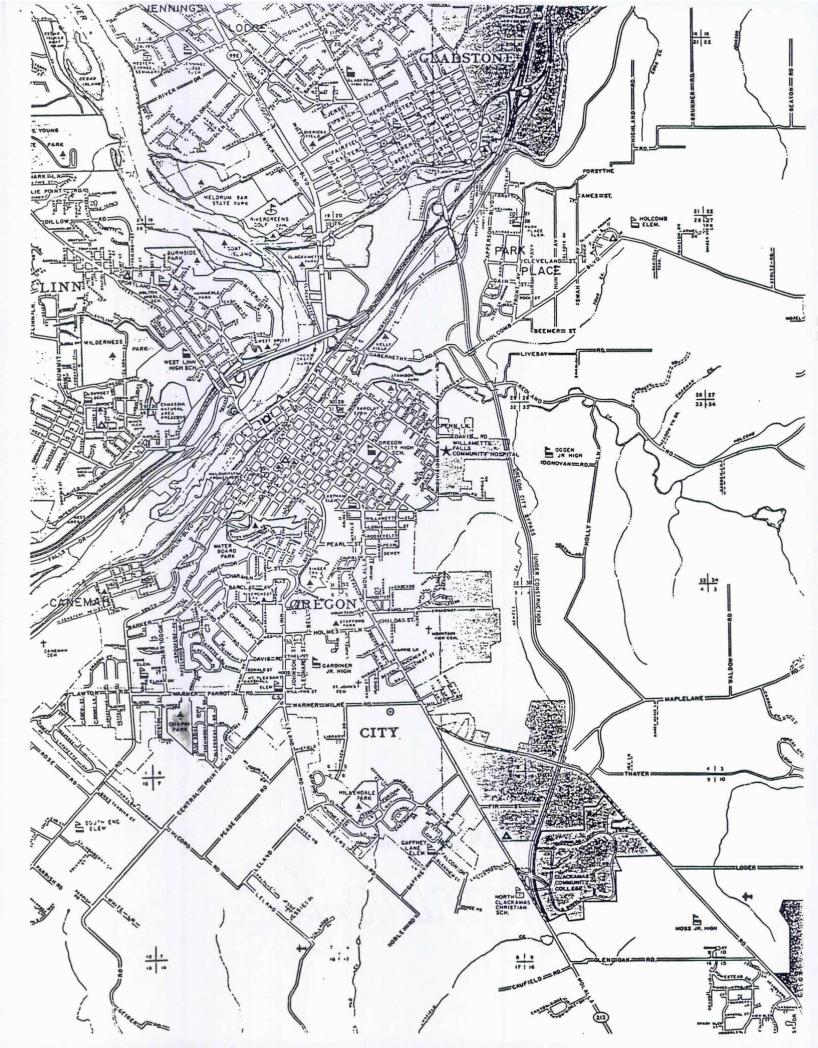
We will be monitoring the stream water quality down stream near the pump station as part of our N.P.D.E.S. (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit.

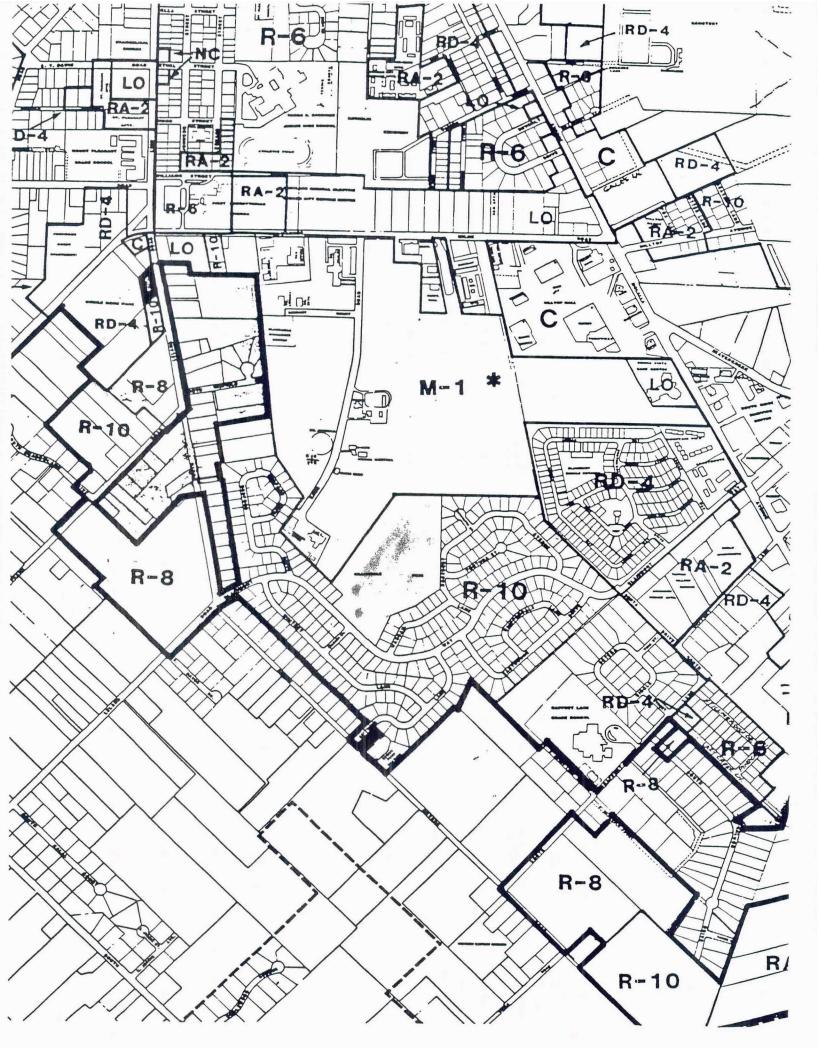
The Parks Department will do most of the maintenance after plants are established.

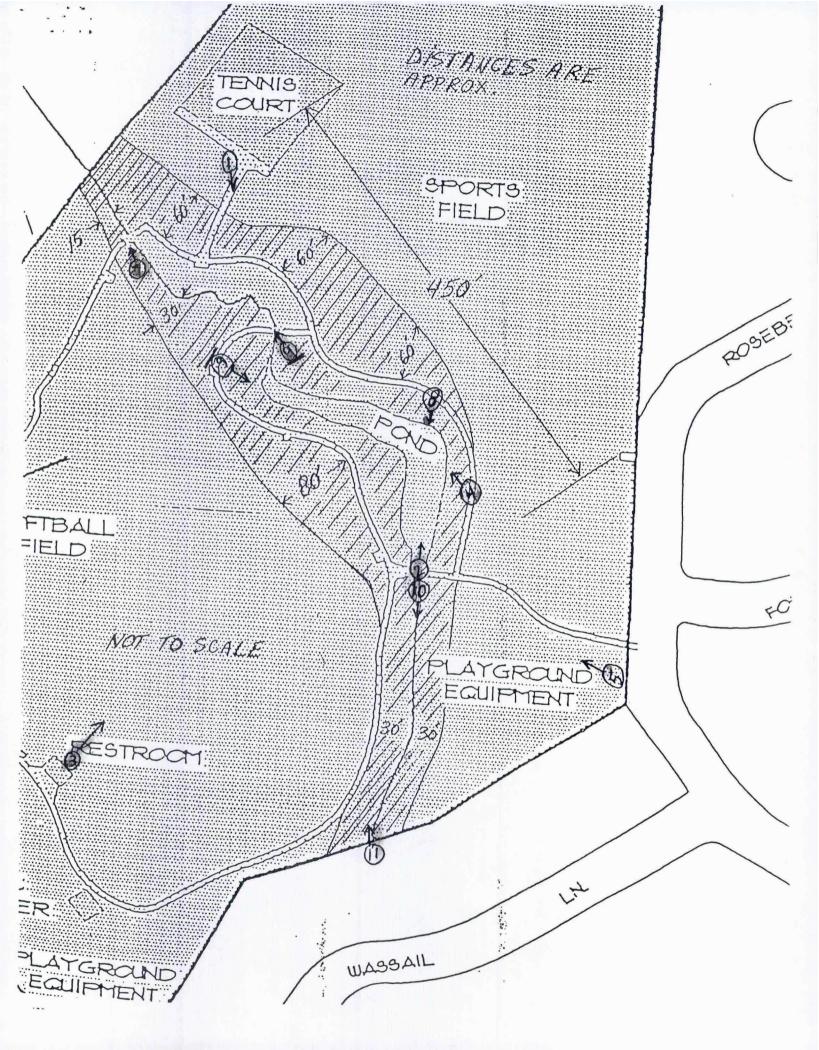
The Storm and Water Divisions of Public Works will complete the irrigation system this summer.

Photos will be taken annually in the summer months from the photo points.

Plant description signs will be installed during the summer.







CITY OF OREGON CITY

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

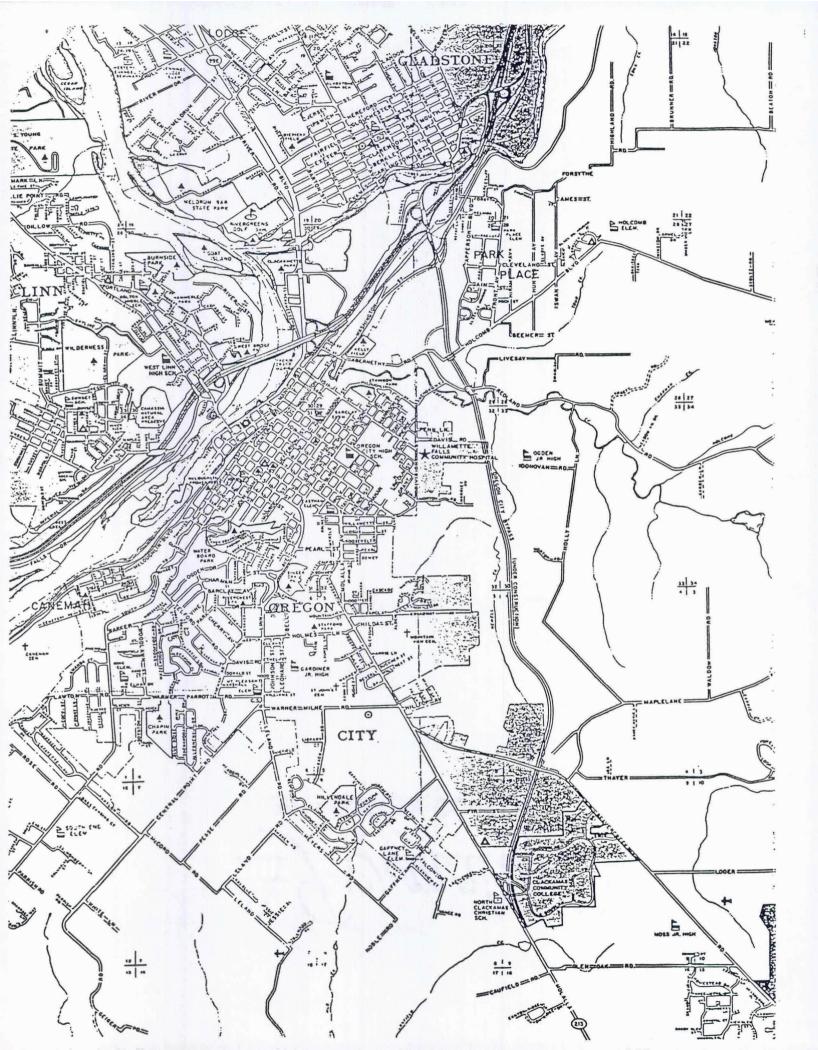
Water - Street - Storm - Sewer - Fleet - Parks - Memorials 122 South Center Street • Oregon City, OR • 97045 (503) 657-8241 • FAX (503) 650-9590

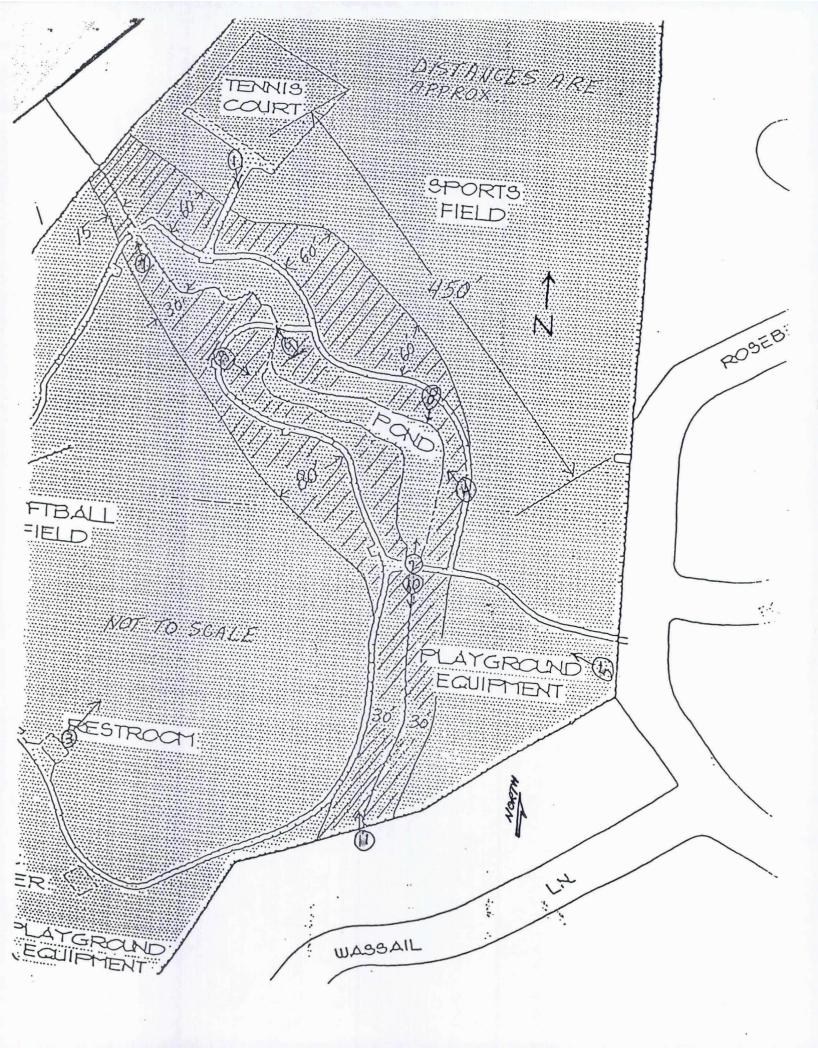
August 10, 1998

METRO/FISH & WILDLIFE Greenspaces grant

CITY OF OREGON CITY

ANNUAL REPORT





Name of Project: Hillendale Park

Year Started: Spring of 1995 Year Completed: Fall of 1995

Sponsoring Jurisdiction: City of Oregon City Public Works Department

Project Manager: Joe McKinney, Operations Supervisor

Date of Report/Observation: 8-10-98

Assessment of the project condition: Fair

Notable Successes:

- ♦ There is more wildlife. Birds, and unknown species of fish and frogs. Unknown persons have put up more birdhouses this year.
- Plants in and on the waters edge look healthy.
- Area residents and students have more interest in the park, especially those who volunteered in the planting.
- Plant vandalism has decreased probably because of acceptance of the plants over time and the introduction of the Park Host program.
- We replaced \$100 worth of plants this year from Northwest Native Plants and even a little patch of wild flowers near the lower crossing (planted to late, didn't do well).

Problems Encountered:

- We planted \$100 worth of replacement plants late this fall, but are going to move some farther apart to avoid mower damage.
- Due to a shortage of staff we have been unable install the needed irrigation system as of yet and are still watering by hand, but still hope to get it in this summer.
- Due to lack of funding we have been unable to do improvements to the stream crossings.

Estimated % of survival following first year of planting: 80%

Replace/replant after first year? \$100 worth of plants from NW Native Plants was planted as replacements this last fall.

Estimated % of survival to date: 70%

Species with highest survival rate: Vine Maple, salmon berries, willow, and grasses.

Which species seemed to have highest mortality? Cedars planted in wet soils.

What type of irrigation/watering regime used: About 3/4 of the area is irrigated automatically with the rest of the park. 1/4 of the area has no irrigation, which crews have had to water by hand. We hope to get in the extra irrigation this summer.

What type of exotics are we controlling for? We have been working on removing the blackberries since the project began. They were all pulled by hand last year, but a few have returned that we are going to pull again this summer. (on going).

Maintenance plan for these exotics: We plan to remove the blackberry plants annually until they are gone for good.

Estimated % of exotics: They are down to a few new plants that came up this year.

Our maintenance plan is to replant any lost plants, put names on the plants for our inventory identification as well as public education, and to improve the irrigation. We will also be looking at increasing birdhouses and other nesting sites.

The maintenance of the project is poor due to shortage of staff. We need to establish a boundary of mulch around the plantings to avoid mowers from getting too close. (Continuing.)

We do not have a wildlife-monitoring component yet, but plan to do so when birdhouses and other nesting sites are improved. So far I have noticed Starlings, Black Birds, Ducks, a Weasel, Crows, Wood Pecker, Frogs, and an unknown species of small fish.

Are there any scientific studies on going in the project area? None at this time, but have talked to schools about having interest in adopting a stream and doing water quality monitoring with a field Hach kit.

What if any additional costs have been incurred on this project since completion? \$100 other than the cost of labor & equipment(1 to 2 personnel and street flusher) to water plants during dry spells until irrigation improvements are completed, and the cost of the photo points. We plan to do more replanting this fall.

Please breakdown between staff time and material: Staff time has been an average of 2 hours per week to this point including watering, picking up papers and debris in and around pond, photo points, pulling blackberry plants by hand, and putting cover(willow starts) around the edge of the pond. One day was spent last Fall replanting.

If you have any questions please call Joe McKinney at Oregon City Public Works Department at 657-8241























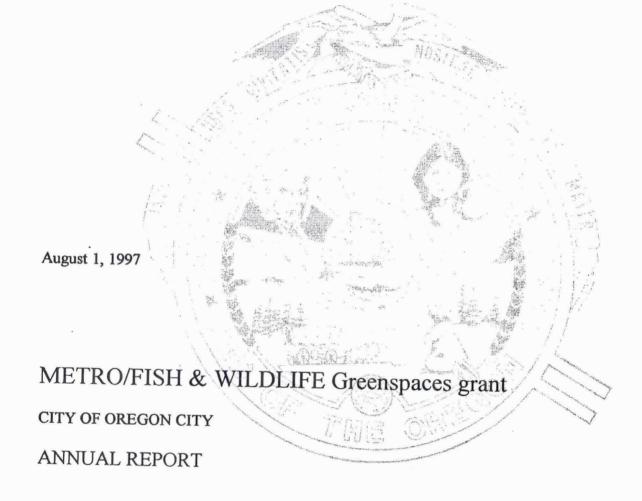


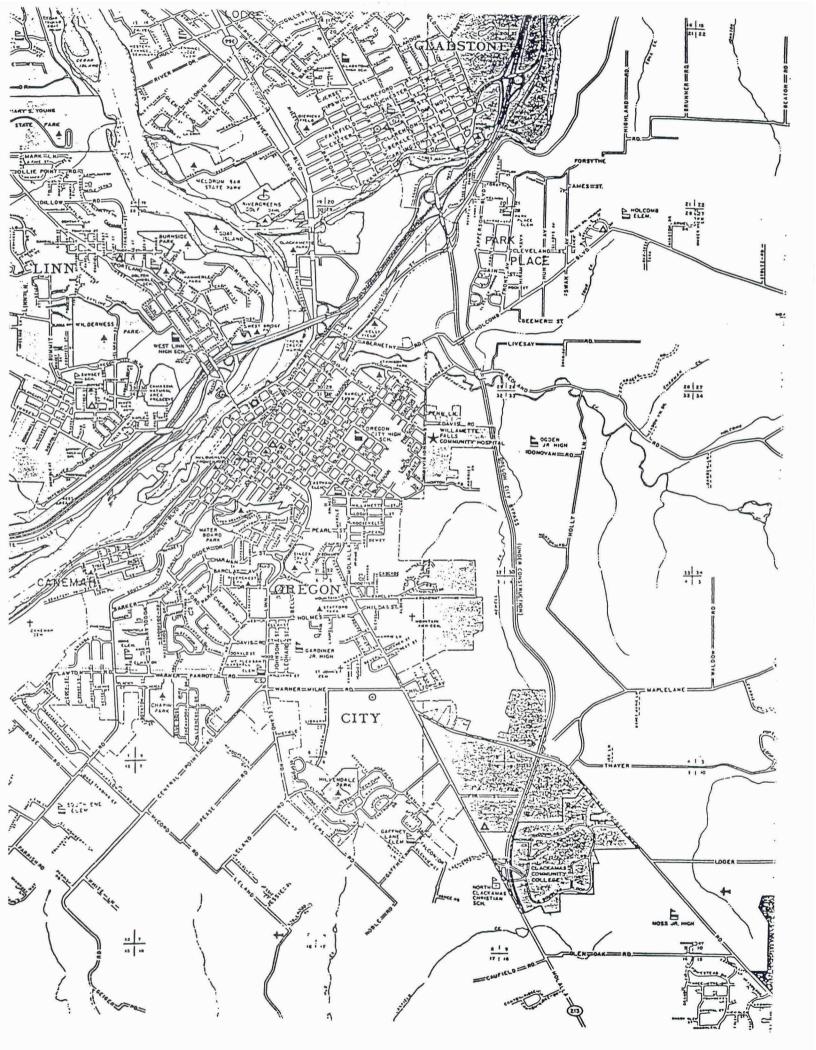




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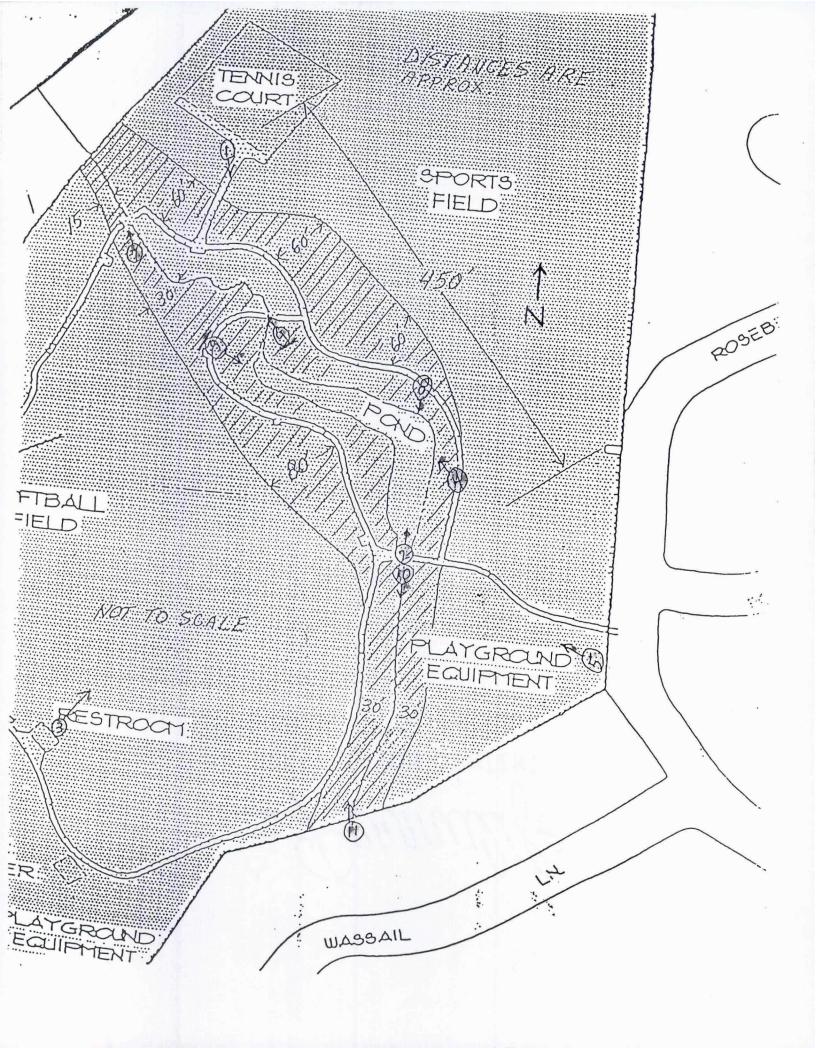


PHOTO POINTS

- NO. 1 Good growth can be seen around water. The park beyond the stream is mostly obscured by growth.
- NO. 2 Riparian growth is increasing, island needs to be increased in size for nesting. Wild flowers are planned for the right side of the stream.
- NO. 3 It is difficult to see any growth from this photo point.
- NO. 4 Good growth can be seen here, need to continue working on removing blackberries from behind the utility pole.
- NO. 5 This side of creek needs irrigation improvements.
- NO. 6 Shows better ground cover and aquatic plants.
- NO. 7 This photo point shows northern end of project (upstream) culvert crossing (pedestrian bridge).
- NO. 8 Shows more plants in and around stream pedestrian crossing culvert in center of picture. Holds back water for detention basin. (Shows both islands).
- NO. 9 Center pedestrian bridge doesn't show much change (looking upstream).
- NO. 10 Biofiltration swail looking toward culvert at fence. Fence is southern boundary of the project, Looking downstream.
- NO. 11 Looking upstream from downstream culvert at fence. Biofiltration swail obscured by growth.

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Assessment of the project condition: Fair

Notable Successes:

There is more wildlife. Birds, and unknown species of fish and frogs.

Plants in and on the waters edge look healthy.

Area residents and students have more interest in the park, especially those who volunteered in the planting.

Plant vandalism has decreased probably because of acceptance of the plants over time and

the introduction of the Park Host program.

We successfully planted 100 willow starts around the pond this winter which are doing well.

Problems Encountered:

We had to move some plants to more suitable locations because of too much or too little water, which messes up the photo points this year.

Due to a shortage of staff we have been unable install the needed irrigation system as of

yet and are still watering by hand, but still hope to get it in this year.

Due to last years budget problems (flooding expenses) we have been unable to replace plants, but plan to this fall.

Estimated % of survival following first year of planting: 80%

Replace/replant after first year? No replacement yet, but plants have been replanted that were in an unsuitable location or not planted correctly. Replacement will begin this fall.

Estimated % of survival to date: 60%

Species with highest survival rate: Vine Maple, salmon berries.

Which species seemed to have highest mortality? Unknown, need further investigation.

What type of irrigation/watering regime used: About 3/4 of the area is irrigated automatically with the rest of the park. 1/4 of the area has no irrigation, another 1/4 has had mechanical problems with the system, which crews have had to water by hand. Crews were scheduled to install additional irrigation this summer but have been unable to because of overload of work being done on the flooding problems of last winter that we are trying to remediate this summer.

What type of exotics are we controlling for? We have been working on removing the blackberries since the project began. They were all pulled by hand last year, but a few have returned that we are going to pull again next week.

Maintenance plan for these exotics: We plan to remove the blackberry plants annually until they are gone for good.

Estimated % of exotics: They are down to a few new plants that came up this year.

Our maintenance plan is to replant the lost plants, add some wild flowers and to put names on the plants for our inventory identification as well as public education, and to improve the irrigation. We will also be looking at increasing bird houses and other nesting sites.

The maintenance of the project is poor due to shortage of staff. We need to establish a boundary of mulch around the plantings to avoid mowers from getting too close. (Done)

We do not have a wildlife monitoring component yet, but plan to do so when bird houses and other nesting sites are improved. So far I have noticed Starlings, Black Birds, Ducks, a Weasel, Crows, Wood Pecker, Frogs, and an unknown species of small fish.

Are there any scientific studies on going in the project area? None at this time, but have talked to schools about having interest in adopting a stream and doing water quality monitoring with a field Hach kit.

What if any additional costs have been incurred on this project since completion? Only the cost of labor & equipment(1 to 2 personnel and street flusher) to water plants during dry spells until irrigation improvements are completed, and the cost of the photo points. We plan to start replanting this fall.

Please breakdown between staff time and material: Staff time has been an average of 2 hours per week to this point including watering, picking up papers and debris in and around pond, photo points, pulling blackberry plants by hand, and putting cover(willow starts) around the edge of the pond. Little or no cost of materials this year at this date, but plan to begin replacement soon.

If you have any questions please call Joe McKinney at Oregon City Public Works Department at 657-8241



Photo point 1



Photopoint 2: Aspen



Photopoint 1: Scattered trees







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