FINAL REPORT

METRO GREEN SPACES THIRD YEAR GRANTS

DAIRY BARN SITE RESTORATION
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AT VANCOUVER

RICHARD HANSIS
GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

Project Description

The entire southern and eastern end of the new WSU campus is to be retained as open space. In this area a fomer large dairy operation, which was closed because of manure contamination problems, has been cleared of a large barn, shed and silos. The built upon area has been graded and left as an area with small but significant elevation differences which nearly correspond to prebuilding conditions. The northwest and northeast portions of the site lie slightly lower than the former barn site to the south but blackberries and other exotics, especially grasses, and some native plant species were left behind. A ditch from the uplandsto the north supplies surface water. With the buildup of the campus further north and upslope, a somewhat flashier water regime, as well as some more water, may be expected for the wetter areas of the site.

The two wetter areas of the site were planted to native species selected with the aid of a volunteer botanist employed by the J. D. White Company of Vancouver, the environmental consulting firm for the new campus. These included Red osier dogwood, Pacific ninebark, and Pacific and Sitka willow. In the slightly higher and drier portions of the site, Western red cedar, Black cottonwood, Quaking aspen, Vine maple, Blue elderberry, and Grand fir were planted.

Goals and Benefits

The goal of the work was to apply low technology habitat rehabilitation techniques to a wetland environment to restore the degraded wetland area to more natural conditions. Native vegetation which provides wildlife habitat has been planted. The project also has served as a tool to show students, faculty, staff, and local residents that it is possible for people of many skill levels to be involved in habitat restoration.

Work Tasks and Timelines

The three tasks for the project were planning, planting, and watering. Planning began before the grant application was turned in. It involved consultation with Todd Moses, several Metro Greenspaces staff, and Kathleen Kollock, botanist from the J. D. White Company. Information collected consisted of water table and standing water as

well as sites suitable for different types of native plants. Planting took place at tw times separated by a year. In March of 1994, WSU volunteers and Friends of trees combined to plant 500 Western red cedar donated by Friends of Trees and 100 Red osier dogwood donated by the Southwest Washington Fish Enhancement Project. In March of 1995, the additional species, bought from the Clark County Conservation District, plus donation of 100 alder seedlings from the Western Hardwoods Association, were planted. The dry latter part of the summer was hard on the 1994 plantings since watering did not get underway as soon as it needed to .

Budget

WSU contributions	
Staff: Richard Hansis, Jerry Hull	3000
Volunteers: 2240 hours	10640
Equipment: pickup and tank	400
Mileage: 322 @ .30/mile	96.60
Indirect costs @45%	6575.20
Total	20711.80
METRO contributions	
Labor and benefits	44.74
Materials, Plants, and Supplies	430.21
Total	474.95

Project Staff

Richard Hansis, Project Coordinator
Jerry Hall, Grounds Maintenance

Volunteers

WSU students
WSU faculty
Friends of Salmon Creek
Friends of Trees
Ft Vancouver high school students
Interested citizens

Relation to Greenspaces Program

The project used METRO Greenspaces money a a seed for the mobilization of substantial amounts of university, public, and private resources in support of restoration of a former wetland and surrounding area. It generated a number of donations of plant materials and, in doing so, minimized the cost of doing the restoration. Education of volunteers and neighbors also was an important product of the effort. In the future this wetland will absorb much of the runoff from the built on portion of the campus and allow for slower release of the water into Salmon Creek, helping to decreade the high flows and increase the low flows downstream from the wetland. This type of information will be especially useful for students who will begin attending classes at the new campus in January of 1966.

Helpful Hints and Advice

1. Fall planting is better; the plants have a better chance to establish their root systems for the sometimes dry, hot summers.

2. Planting in sod requires a 3 foot diameter scalping.

3.. More effective monitoring of young workers is needed to make sure the work is carried out properly.

4. Ask around for donations of plant materials.

Monitoring and Maintenance Plan

Since the faculty, staff, and students of WSU will be located near the restored area, casual monoitoring is assured. As a natural resource major is added to the campus curriculum, students in that program will be able to use the project as a source of study t see the effects of wetland restoration on wildlife and water. Ongoing study of the site will allow for monitoring of changes as the vegetation matures.