

Withdrawn

December 17, 1996



**Tigard-Tualatin
School District 23J**

Fowler Middle School
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Commitment to Excellence

To: Lynn Wilson
Restoration & Education Grants Coordinator
Metro Parks and Greenspaces
600 Northeast Grand Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736
Ph #: 797-1700

From: Doug Gravatt
Technology and Environmental Education

Re: Final Report on Education Grant

Dear Lynn,

This is the final report on progress made to the Education Grant Project, funded by Metro parks and Greenspaces. Unfortunately, I was unable to use the money awarded to my school due to the lack of ability to acquire needed permits from the City of Tigard. Shortly after Metro awarded Fowler the grant, I learned that costly engineering was required for permitting in stream work. Since that time I have been working very hard to overcome this major hurdle. I was optimistic up to the start of this school year. About a year and a half ago I was contacted by SRI /SHAPIRO consulting firm. SRI /SHAPIRO was working for the City of Tigard in planning realignment of Tiedeman street which runs next to Summer Creek and Fowler Middle School property. They were interested in realigning Summer Creek to allow the street to be moved and widened. Knowing the creek at that location had been poorly realigned sometime in history and that changing it back to a more natural configuration would probably benefit the creek in the long run, I was anxious to work with them. I described my goals to SRI /SHAPIRO, and they felt that the company doing the engineering for the city road project could probably do the engineering for my project at the same time. I contacted OBEC Consulting Engineers, and we began to work together on the projects. OBEC Consulting Engineers sent two of their employees to take measurements needed for my project. The plan was to get separate permits for the Fowler project and the Tiedeman project, but put them through the process at the same time so the City of Tigard would approve them as one package. It appeared that everything was going to work out, but delay after delay pushed the Tiedeman street project back on the calender thus, my project was pushed back also. It became

obvious at the start of this school year that my portion of this package was not going to happen.

I did not feel I could use the money awarded to my school. Although in stream work was only one of the many goals involved in my project, it was the reason for applying for grant money. Even though we were not able to do the in stream work, I am happy to say that all of the goals listed in my grant application were met to some extent. Below is a list of accomplishments realized during the past two years.

Development of a successful Environmental Studies curriculum, with primary focus on watershed resources.

Successful application of stream side restoration work to include clearing of blackberries, planting trees, and maintenance of restored sites. (Trees were provided by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District)

In stream clean-up and removal of garbage and stream barricades, This is an ongoing maintenance project.

Development of "The Friends of Summer Creek" watershed watch group. This is an extension of Fowler middle Schools Environmental Studies class in efforts to reach and educate the local community.

Development of new partnerships with the Unified Sewerage Agency and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Obtaining an in-class fish egg incubation system to raise salmon and steelhead. The steelhead are released into Summer Creek. (The incubator was donated by the Tigard Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders)

Guest speakers used in the curriculum:

Dan Domina, Portland General Electric fisheries biologist.
John Harrison, Northwest Power Planning Council.

Field trips used in the curriculum:

Bonneville Power and Fish hatchery
Unified Sewerage Agency, Durham Treatment Station.

Off campus service learning work

We work with the Bonneville Fish hatchery to help with preparation for their Free Fishing Day in June.

Storm Drain Marking program in the local area.

Community watershed awareness displays developed and presented by the students every semester.

As you can see, Fowler Middle Schools Environmental Studies program is successfully developing into a viable and productive education program. It is unfortunate we were unable to do in stream work, As a substitute to doing in stream restoration, students in Fowlers Environmental Studies classes develop models of Summer Creek. These models actually pump water and simulate conditions in our stream. Once the models have been constructed, students can then apply restoration techniques to problems, watch the results and analyze the outcomes. I have found this to be a very effective way to teach many of the concepts behind watershed resources.

I know my students complete this elective class with an increased awareness and vested interest in watershed resources as well as the environment.

Thank you
Douglas Gravatt