

# Rosemont Bluff Park

Final Report  
Metropolitan Greenspaces Restoration  
Project 1996-1997

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Prepared By  
Center Neighborhood Association  
and  
Portland Parks and Recreation

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# **Rosemont Bluff Park**

## **City of Portland**

### **Location and Site Description**

Rosemont Bluff, a small neighborhood greenspace, is a heavily wooded steeply sloped site in Multnomah County within the City of Portland. The park consists of 2.11 acres of land located across from the Juvenile Justice Center between 68th and 69th streets. The site has recently been transferred to the City of Portland from Multnomah County. The site is within the boundaries of the Center Neighborhood (Center), located in Northeast Portland. Center has advocated for the protection and development of the site as a park and natural area.

Rosemont Bluff provides a variety of natural and recreational resources. Rosemont Bluff was identified in the East Buttes and Terraces Conservation Plan (November 1992) prepared by the Portland Planning Department as a significant natural resource. The report along with strong neighborhood support was instrumental in the rezoning of the property to OS (open space) with a C (conservation) overlay zone. This rezoning assures that the site will be protected from development not compatible with the natural area. Once the site was rezoned Center lobbied Multnomah County and the City of Portland to designate the site a public park and push for the restoration of the natural areas of the site. The City of Portland accepted Rosemont Bluff into the City's parks system with the conditions that as partners the Center Neighborhood and the Parks Department maintain and improve the site as a natural area.

A steep hillside dominates the Rosemont Bluff site. This hillside is covered in a second growth of Douglas Fir and Bigleaf Maple forest. Native vegetation makes up the majority of the understory of the site although English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberries have made significant intrusions particularly on the more disturbed portions of the site. Small flat areas are located on the bottom and top of the slopes and are currently maintained as lawn.

### **Project Partners**

Center has lead the partners in the coordination and implementation of the project. Center has worked closely with the Parks Department in the development of the design for the site and the implementation. The City Parks Department has jurisdiction over the property and is responsible for ensuring that the work is performed according to the plan and within city codes and requirements. The Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District will be providing long-term monitoring and evaluation of the project. This work will be performed under an agreement with the Portland Parks Department.

The Center Neighborhood Association has entered into an agreement with Multnomah County to provide the project with labor through the Juvenile Corrections program. The labor provided by the County Corrections programs supplements a neighborhood volunteer program.

### **Project Description**

The Center Neighborhood Association and The Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of Portland have developed a management plan for the Rosemont Bluff Property. This document identifies existing conditions and defines proposed uses and ongoing maintenance. This document is a guideline for all activities on the property including the

work of this restoration grant. The goal of the project is to improve wildlife habitat and improve native plant communities, increase plant diversity and control competition from non-native invasive species. The project focuses on three distinct areas of the site:

- Revegetation of the lower flat area of the site. This area was planted with mixed deciduous and evergreen trees in order to form a forest canopy and extend the upland forest habitat of the sloped area of the site.
- Restore the woodland edge zone on the upper portion of the site. This area was heavily overgrown with blackberry which forced out most of the native edge species. This work will serve two purposes; it will diversify the wildlife habitat by increasing cover, improve food supplies and buffer the wooded area of the site from the passive recreational uses of the site.
- Native understory plants will be added throughout the existing wooded portion of the site where the English Ivy has been removed and little native vegetation remains.

The emphasis of the project is the restoration and planting of these three areas of the site. To properly prepare and protect the sites to ensure a successful restoration effort the following additional work items were completed:

- Install a water supply system for ongoing irrigation of new plantings.
- Place barriers to protect the site from motorized vehicles and illegal dumping.
- Grade some of the areas of the site receiving new plantings.

### **Workplan and Schedule**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Estimated Date</u>	<u>Actual Completion</u>
• Construction documents	1/15/96-2/15/96	2/30/96
• Permits and Review process	2/15/96 - 3/15/96	6/15/96
• water service and quick coupler	3/15/96 - 3/30/96	4/15/97
• telephone pole barriers	3/15/96 - 3/30/96	10/15/96
• site grading	4/1/96 - 4/15/96	3/30/97
• seeding	4/15/96 - 4/30/96	4/15/97
• planting, trees and shrubs	9/1/96 - 10/28/96	5/30/97
• Begin maintenance	10/28/96 -	6/1/97

## Project Budget

<u>Category/Item</u>	<u>Request Of</u> <u>Metro</u>	<u>Cash</u> <u>Matching</u>	<u>In-Kind</u> <u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>a) Personnel: N/A</b>					
<b>b) Materials:</b>					
Plants	\$2,500.00			2,500.00	2,807.20
Fertilizer/Soil Amendment	\$200.00			\$200.00	41.00
Stakes, Guys, etc.	\$250.00			\$250.00	54.00
<b>c) Rental Fees: N/A</b>					
<b>d) Purchase of Irrigation:</b>					
New Water Meter	\$2000.00			\$2000.00	2,313.00
Quick Coupler Plumbing; Labor, (Parks Department)					
8 hrs @ \$30.00			\$240.00	\$240.00	320.80
Materials (by Parks Dept.)			\$150.00	\$150.00	356.00
<b>e) Rental of Irrigation: N/A</b>					
<b>f) Purchase of Water for New Plants: (Parks Department)</b>			\$300.00	\$300.00	156.00
<b>g) Maintenance Costs:</b>					
Multnomah County Juvenile Justice					
Staff 20 @ \$30.00 hrs			\$600.00	\$600.00	350.00
Labor 100.00 @ \$4.75			\$475.00	\$475.00	200.00
<b>h) Professional Services</b>					
Brian E Bainnson, Landscape Architect			\$1000.00	\$1000.00	1,327.00
<b>i) Volunteer Labor Hours at \$4.75 hr.</b>					
Neighborhood Volunteers: Coordination 20 hrs @ \$4.75			\$95.00	\$95.00	\$481.25
Labor 200 hrs @ \$4.75			\$950.00	\$950.00	1,200.00
Multnomah County					

Community Corrections			
Staff 20 hrs @ \$35.00	\$700.00	\$700.00	0
Labor 150 hrs @ \$4.75	\$712.50	\$712.50	0

Multnomah County			
Juvenile Corrections			
Staff 40 hrs. @ \$35.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$4,200.00
Labor 250 hrs @ \$4.75	\$1,187.50	\$1,187.50	\$3,200.00

**J) Indirect  
Costs/Overhead:**

Parks Department			
Coordination			
Staff Time (Jim Sjulín)	\$560.00	\$560.00	\$175.00
16 hrs @ \$35.00			

Park Department Overhead			
20 hrs @ 20.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$1,200.00

South East Uplift			
Overhead			
20 hrs @ 20.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$120.00

**k) Miscellaneous  
Expenses**

Site Grading (Parks			
Department)			
Machine and Laborer 8 hrs	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
@ \$50.00			

Wood Barriers (Parks			
Department)			
Machine and Labor 24 hrs	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$750.00
@ 50.00			

Total	4,950.00	\$11,570.00	\$16,520.00	<b>19,451.25</b>
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**\* Maintenance work on-going**

The total construction cost for the restoration work was \$19,451.25 which exceeded original estimates by 2,931.25. The increase in the project budget was primarily due to additional volunteer and staff time needed to complete the project, material cost overall where less than anticipated. As part of the project we spent \$4,902.50 of the original Metro grant of \$4,9050.00.



## **Project Staff**

### **Brian E Bainnson, ASLA - Project Coordinator for the Center Neighborhood**

Brian is currently the Chair of the Center Neighborhood Land Use Committee and has been a committed neighborhood volunteer since moving into the Center Neighborhood four years ago. Brian has taken the lead in mobilizing the volunteer effort that has begun to transform the Rosemont Bluff site and has lead the steering committee that is developing the site management plan. In addition to his volunteer work Brian is a Landscape Architect in private practice.

### **Jim Sjulín - Natural Resources Supervisor, Bureau of Parks and Recreation Portland, Oregon.**

Jim has seventeen years of experience with the Parks Department and has been natural resource supervisor for the past eight years. Jim has been the lead contact between the City of Portland and the Center Neighborhood. He has been responsible for overseeing and approving all activities that have taken place on the project site.

### **Steven E. Bricker - Natural Resources Foreman, Bureau of Parks and Recreation Portland, Oregon.**

Steven has eighteen years of experience with the Parks Department and has been natural resource foreman for the past three years. Steven has overseen the construction activities that have taken place as part of this project. He has provided support to the neighborhoods volunteer work efforts and coordinated the construction activities for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

### **Jody Darr - Community Service/Restitution Volunteer Services Juvenile Justice Division, Multnomah County**

Jody is the liaison for the juvenile crews that performed most of the work on site. She has coordinated with the Center Neighborhood the scheduling of crews and the work that has been performed.

## **Project Relation To The Greenspaces Program**

This project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Metro Greenspaces program by:

- Beginning the restoration process of a highly disturbed and visible urbane natural area.
- The project has helped to control non-native invasive species, helping on site native plants and replanting with native species found in or near the site.
- The project has involved over 200 youth as some or all of their court ordered community service as well as the volunteer efforts over 25 neighborhood volunteers who worked alongside county juvenile crews and city staff.
- Increasing the public awareness of the importance of natural areas within their neighborhoods.

## **What worked / What didn't / Helpful Hints**

In general the project to date has been a great success. After an initial scheduling setback due to project sign off by USFW, the project proceeded with few problems. We have had a high survival rate with all plant material installed in the fall of 1996, the few plants we did lose from the fall planting were due to vandalism and accidental trampling. It is too soon to tell if the spring planting will have equal success but with the wet spring and summer watering we expect similar results.

As with most restoration projects weed control is the biggest problem we are and will experience. In the areas on the wooded slope where we were able to do an initial ivy removal and a second ivy clean up 3 months later we have had virtually no regrowth of the ivy. In areas that only received an initial ivy removal but no followup prior to planting we are experiencing a 10-20% regrowth, but we feel we will be able to control this with a followup ivy removal this fall. That we removed blackberry by cutting and then hand grubbing of the roots we have seen good results and have been able to do spot removal of plants that were missed in the first go around. The biggest problem we are having now is that in many areas where we removed blackberry we have seen a tremendous growth of clematis and morning glory, which so far seem much harder to control than the blackberry and ivy. Primarily because they are more aggressive.

From our experience with this restoration we will be looking to change our approach to the restoration efforts on other parts of the site. Before undertaking another major planting effort we will spend more time preparing areas to be planted. It was found that areas that had the ivy removed had a tremendous number of native plants growing and need little or no additional plantings. In order to adequately assess the scope of planting it is felt that at least one full growing season should be allowed to see what germinates and resprouts. It also will give adequate time to do at least one follow up removal of non-native plants.

The installation of the log barriers by the parks department seems to have eliminated a persistent dumping problem, they have also given the site some identification from the street, people have begun to notice the changes taking place on site.

This project has been and will continue to be reliant on work crews from the Multnomah County Juvenile Corrections program. The crews consist of between 8-12 youth who range in age from 12 years to 16 years old. Most of the youth are first time offenders who have been sentenced to between 20 and 40 hours of community service by a judge. In general the youth work hard and listen to instruction. To work effectively the crew needs a tremendous amount of supervision, the youth tend not to ask questions or ask for help if they are not sure what they should be doing, rather they just keep working sometimes doing work that needs to be redone or in some cases work that damages existing native plants. The crews worked best during the planting sessions, the youth took a great deal of pride in their work when they could see a change to the site. We have instituted a number of changes in how the crews operate to insure better supervision and more efficient operations. Brian Bainson was asked to sit on a stakeholders taskforce that review the operation of community service and recommends changes to the program.

One area where we could have done better, was with our public outreach and volunteer coordination. Because of the amount of work necessary in coordinating the project and keeping on schedule the volunteers had little time to do additional recruitment. The fliers we put out in the community and the articles in the newsletter did little to bring in new volunteers. We relied on the core group that started the project. We are not sure how to improve this in the future. One goal we have is to develop a friend group that takes over



the coordination of restoration and park development efforts from the neighborhood association.

### **Long Term Management**

Under the framework of the management plan prepared by the Center Neighborhood and the Portland Department of Parks and Recreation the site will be maintained for the continuing improvement of the native habitat found on the site. The Parks department has a commitment to the continued development of the site. In addition Juvenile Corrections labor will be used to provide ongoing site cleanups and monitoring of new plantings. As part of this project water service was provided to the site. The Juvenile Corrections crew will hand water all new plants on a schedule determined by the Parks Department. Since these crews operate out of the facility located directly across the street from the site, crew leaders will be able to provide ongoing observation of the conditions of any new plantings.

In addition the Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation service will provide all required site monitoring of the project. This work will be done under a contract with the Portland Parks Department. Currently these agencies are successfully working under similar arrangements on past Metro Greenspace Grant Projects.

## PLANT SCHEDULE

KEY	Plant Name	Size
<i>Trees</i>		
AC	Acer circinatum Vine Maple	4'-5' Ht.
AM	Acer macrophyllum Big-Leaf Maple	5 Gal
PM	Pseudotsuga menziesii Douglas Fir	4'-5' Ht.
<i>Shrubs</i>		
HD	Holodiscus discolor Oceanspray	1 Gal.
MA	Mahonia aquifolium Tall Oregon Grape	1 Gal.
OC	Oemleria cerasiformis Indian Plum	1 Gal.
RS	Rubus spectabilis Salmonberry	1 Gal.
SA	Symphoricarpos albus Snowberry	1 Gal.
VP	Vaccinium parvifolium Red Huckleberry	1 Gal.
<i>Herbaceous/Ferns</i>		
WG	Asarum caudatum Wild Ginger	1 Gal.
AR	Heuchera micrantha Alum Root	1 Gal.
TF	Linnaea borealis Twinflower	1 Gal.
TB	Lonicera involucrata Twinberry	1 Gal.
SF	Polystichum munitum Sword Fern	1 Gal.

# ROSEMONT BLUFF PARK PORTLAND, OREGON

## MASTER PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 50'-0"  
DATE:

