

Project Report
Oregon Humane Society Watershed Re-vegetation Project
Metropolitan Greenspaces Program
Metro Contract # 921704

I: Project Description

This project was proposed and carried out by the Oregon Humane Society and community volunteers with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funding distributed by the Metropolitan Greenspaces Program. The project involved the re-vegetation of approximately 1.4 acres of upland and riparian area in the Columbia Slough Watershed with 2,800 native trees and shrubs of 19 different species (**see Appendix A for a list of species and number planted**). The site is located on the Oregon Humane Society property at 1067 NE Columbia Boulevard. There is a long-term plan in place both to maintain the plantings and utilize the site as an outdoor educational resource for addressing issues of responsibility and compassion toward living things.

The project was undertaken with the goal of restoring the natural vegetation in a significantly disturbed area with the assistance of youth groups attending schools within the Columbia Slough Watershed. The community involvement on the part of nearly 200 elementary and middle school children from North and Northeast Portland schools was structured so as to build understanding of ecological principles and a sense of responsibility for habitat stewardship.

II: Summary of Project Activity

The Humane Society Wetland Re-vegetation project was scheduled to be complete by summer of 2000, but the issue of potential soil/water contamination that arose during the early winter months of 1999 made adherence to this schedule impossible. The project was delayed until the following planting season (winter 2000-2001). What follows is a summary of the principal events of the project.

December 1999: Project slated to begin during the winter of 1999-2000. In the fall of 1999, several schools are contacted and plans put in place to have students and teachers from these schools assist with the planting.

January 2000: Final contaminant review conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) identifies a site of concern near enough to the Humane Society site to halt all planting activity. Re-vegetation activity on the site is possible only upon completion of a comprehensive contaminant testing of both the water and sediments from a small pond that constitutes a portion of the 1.4-acre site. This development comes

as a shock and a disappointment to all project participants. The estimated cost of contaminant sampling is several thousand dollars. Sources for this funding are, on first examination, nowhere to be found.

May 2000: With donated funding sufficient to complete contaminant testing in place, Environmental Consultant Hahn and Associates is retained to perform necessary tests on water and sediments from the Humane Society pond.

July 2000: Contaminant testing completed. Consultants report no statistically significant levels of contaminants present. USFWS approves continuation of the project.

September-December 2000: Schools contacted, coordination with City of Portland for education and planting dates.

February 2001: Planting and tubing of 2800 trees and shrubs completed over 5 days.

March-June 2001: Monitoring of plants, leaf out estimated in 80-90% of plants. Site treated with herbicide to combat invasive species. Project report completed.

III. Project Goals and Benefits

The primary goals of the project are twofold. First, the project seeks to restore a small section of land close to the main channel of the Columbia Slough. The site consists of a pasture and pond, and has seen considerable disturbance in the past. Non-native species -- most notably Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), Russian Thistle (*Salsola kali*), and Teasle (*Dipsacus sylvestris*) are increasing their coverage. It is well known that the City of Portland has undertaken a multi-year effort to re-vegetate many areas contiguous to the Columbia Slough. The Humane Society Re-Vegetation project fits well in the larger context of Columbia Slough restoration projects.

Secondly, the project opens a new avenue for the Humane Education Program curriculum in place at the Oregon Humane Society. Continued monitoring of the wetland site will be a piece of the humane education experience for many thousand youth participants in the coming years. Students from all over the Metro-Portland area will have the opportunity to learn about humane approaches to both domestic and wild animal communities. In the same way the Humane Society's Education program seeks to plant the seeds of compassion, respect, and responsibility for all living things in the thousands of kids who it reaches, the wetland restoration and monitoring gives these same youth an opportunity to physically plant seedling native vegetation with an eye toward developing the same crucial qualities.

IV: Project Staff, Volunteers

The Oregon Humane Society Staff person involved in this project was Perry Cabot (Project Coordinator). City of Portland staff included Ken Finney (Re-vegetation Team leader), Jennifer Devlin (Clean Rivers Program Educator) and Ry Thompson (Intern). Several Americorps groups assisted with the installation of the trees and supervision of

students over the 5-day planting period. Wildlife Biologist Carole Hallett donated some of her valuable time to help youth participants better understand the unique plant and animal communities present at the site. (See Appendix B for a full list of volunteers).

V: Successes/ Failures

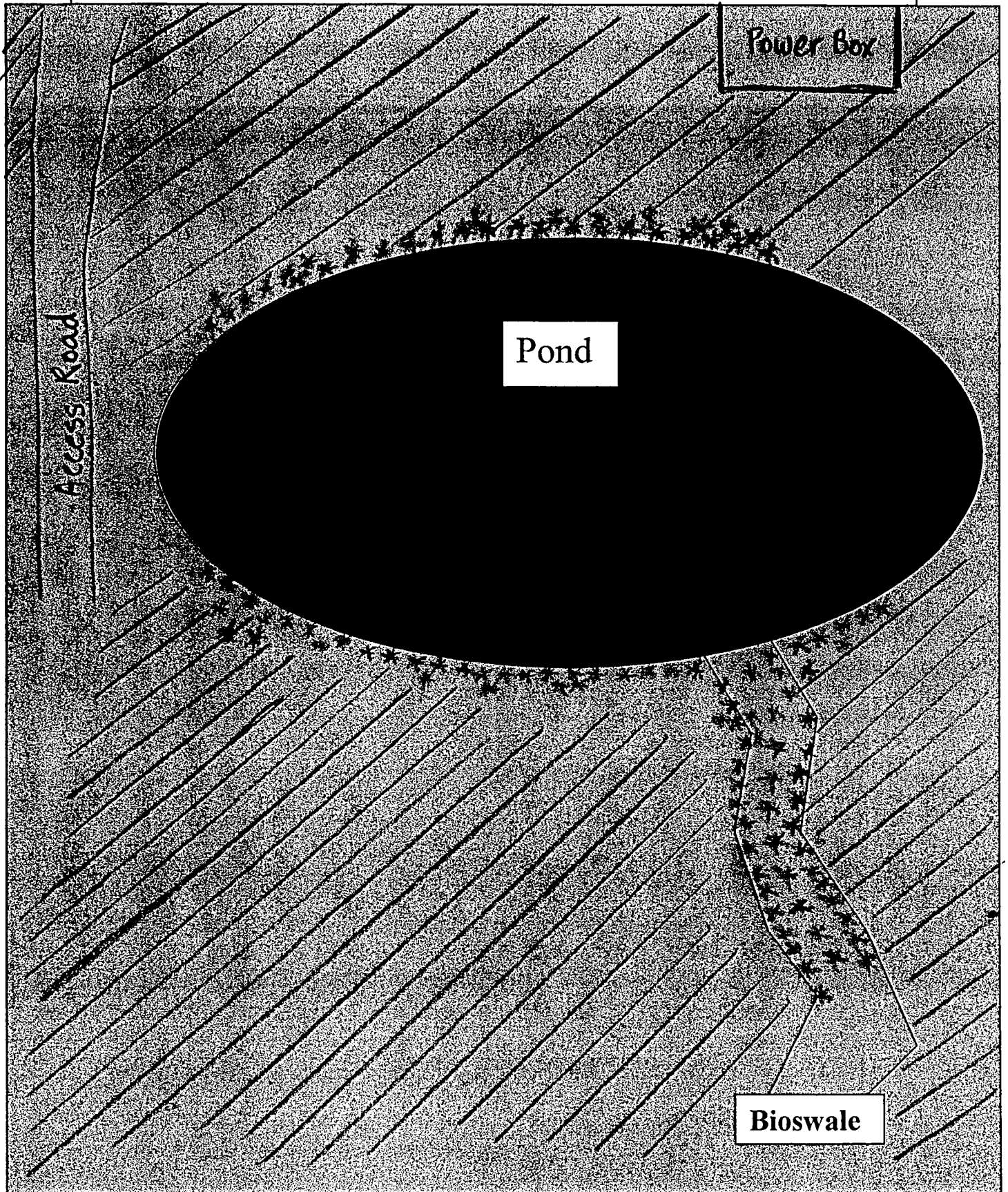
This project was a great success! We managed to plant more trees and shrubs than was originally expected (2918 vs. 1570). Weather for planting was extraordinary, and supervision and staffing of the many school kids was excellent. We are greatly indebted to the Americorps volunteers for adding crucial supervisory aid. A key to the success of the planting effort was adequate adult assistance. With the classroom size groups (25-30 kids), we found it very effective to break the kids into groups of 2-3 with an adult leader who could guide the kids in proper technique for planting bare root trees.

The involvement of schools that are situated within the Columbia Slough Watershed was also key to our success. The youth who participated were mostly "local" kids. Engaging the students in a project involving hard and dirty work was made more feasible by the fact that the students knew the area and could more easily identify with the long-term benefits of habitat restoration if it was close to home.

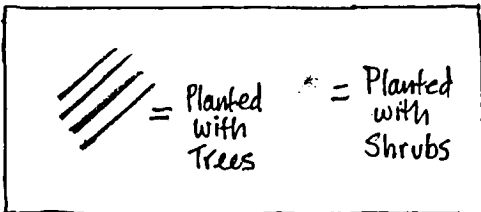
If there was a negative to the project, it was not a "failure." The greatest obstacle to the successful completion of this project was the unforeseen contamination issue. However, this issue served to solidify the resolve of some of the core participants to see this project succeed. The contamination issue gave the kids a challenge and stimulated civic action to such an extent that their letter writing effort resulted in Senator Wyden calling to the City of Portland to inquire about the availability of funding for the needed contaminant testing. It was this determination in the face of adversity (the testing was estimated to cost up to \$3,000) that pushed this project forward to its successful completion. To recognize the sustained effort of this core group of students, the same donor who provided the funds needed to complete the contaminant testing arranged for a 1500-pound rock with two plaques to be placed on the site. A photo of this rock is included with this report.

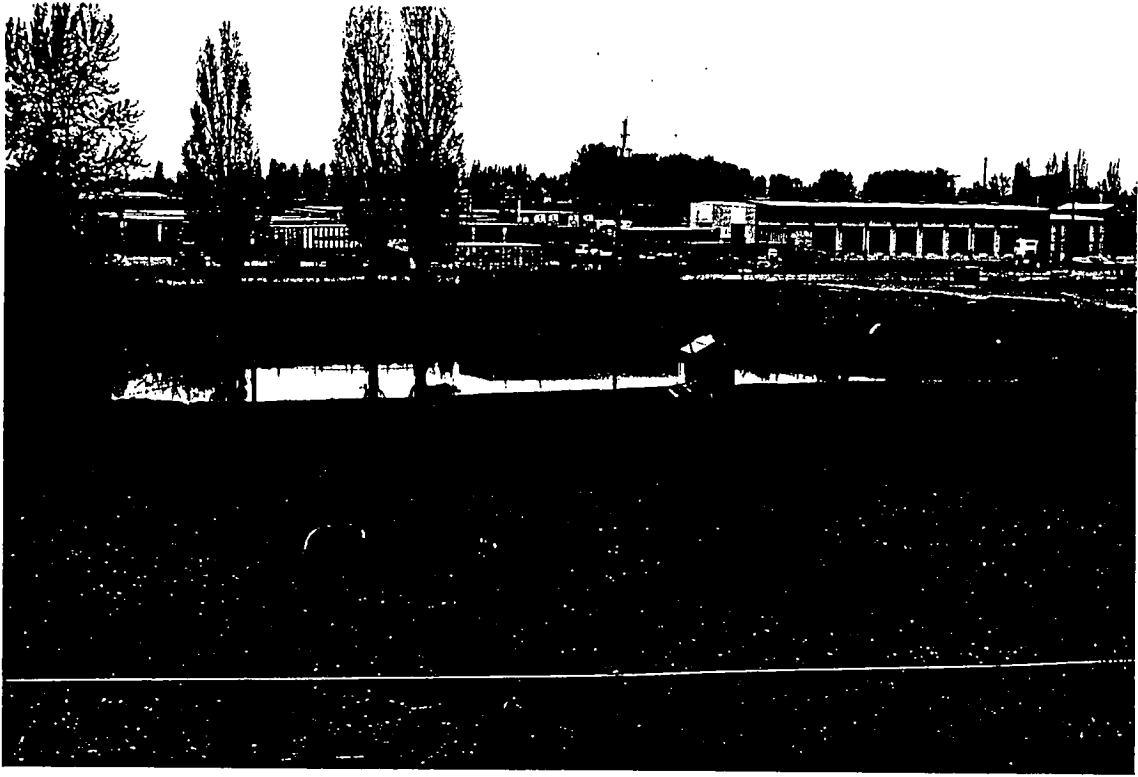
VI: Maintenance Plan / Follow-up Activities

City of Portland/BES will provide comprehensive 5-year maintenance on the site. This includes mulching with organic mulch, watering, vegetation management (control of invasive plants with chemical or mechanical intervention), and replanting. At the end of the five-year "establishment" period, BES and the Oregon Humane Society will prepare a long-term management plan and insure the attainment of the project goals. Management beyond the five-year establishment period will be funded by the Oregon Humane Society.



Site = 1.4 Acres

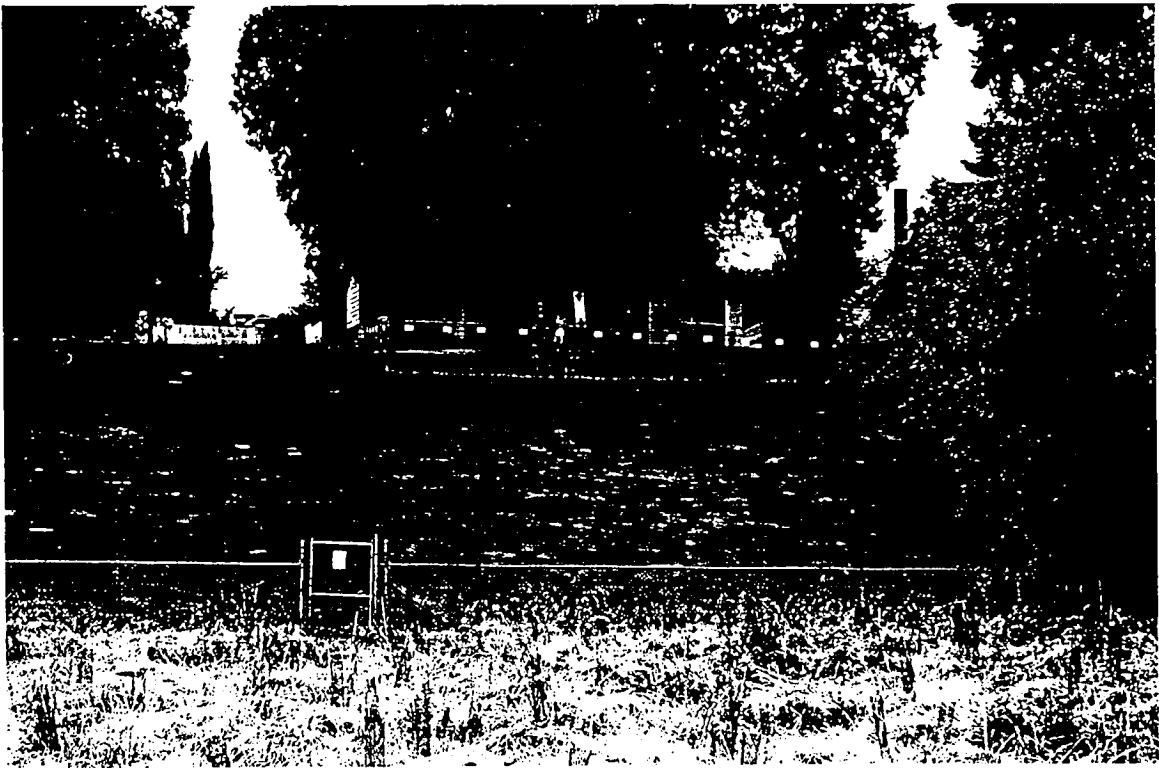




Re-vegetation
site (several ye
prior to plantin



Recent photo
post-planting



Man standing
at photo point



pond and rock



1500 lb rock with two bron: plaques to thank project supporters and volunteers.



Bioswale



Looking South
across pond
towards main
planting area



Kids need
practice
digging "slit
trenches" for
bare-root plants

Appendix A. Species List

Tree Species	
<i>Abies grandis</i>	100
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	200
<i>Alnus rubra</i>	100
<i>Crataegus suksdofil</i>	100
<i>Fraxinus-Slough 1-1</i>	500
<i>Malus fusca</i>	125
<i>Poulus trichocarpa</i>	450
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	100
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	320
Total	1995
Shrub Species	
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	50
<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	48
<i>Berberis aquifolium</i>	50
<i>Oemlaria cerasiform</i>	50
<i>Physocarpus capitatum</i>	100
<i>Rosa nutkana</i>	100
<i>Rosa pisocarpa</i>	175
<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	100
<i>Spirea douglasii</i>	100
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	50
Total	823
Cuttings	
Willow	100
Total	100
Grand Total	2918

Appendix B. Personnel Time and Expenses

Group/Individual Name	# of Volunteers	Hours	Personnel Costs (x \$5.50/hour)	Professional Services
Alicia Martinez	1	3	X 5.50/hour = \$16.50	
Carole Hallett (Wildl. Biol.)	1	10		X 20/hour = \$200.00
Envirocorps/Americorps	15	18	X 5.50/hour = \$1485.00	
Gately Academy	17	20	X 5.50/hour = \$1870.00	
George Middle School	74	12	X 5.50/hour = \$4884.00	
Jennifer Devlin	1	80		X 20/hour = \$1600.00
Jessica Rojas	1	3	X 5.50/hour = \$16.50	
Kenton Elementary	49	6	X 5.50/hour = \$1617.00	
Laurie Miskimins	1	3	X 5.50/hour = \$16.50	
Mei Zhao	1	3	X 5.50/hour = \$16.50	
Olga Tureyster	1	3	X 5.50/hour = \$16.50	
Perry Cabot	1	80		X 11/hour = \$ 880.00
Ry Thompson	1	40	X 5.50/hour = \$220.00	
Woodlawn Elementary	20	3	X 5.50/hour = \$330.00	
Total	184	284	\$10,488.50	\$2,680

May 30, 2000

921704

**Oregon Humane Society
Wetland Re-vegetation Project Summary**

While it remains "unofficial," the Oregon Humane Society wetland restoration project has already taught participants a great deal in the areas of general ecology, toxic contamination, hydrology and the power of civic action.

In December 1999, as we were poised to begin introducing North and Northeast Portland school groups to our wetland area along Columbia Boulevard, we learned a startling piece of news from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some twenty years ago, one of our neighbors here in the light industrial area managed to spill some lead solvents into the soil. The standard Environmental Contaminants review conducted by the permitting agent identified this spill site as a potential problem for our project due to the northwesterly flow of ground water, and the proximity of the spill(s) to the Humane Society property.

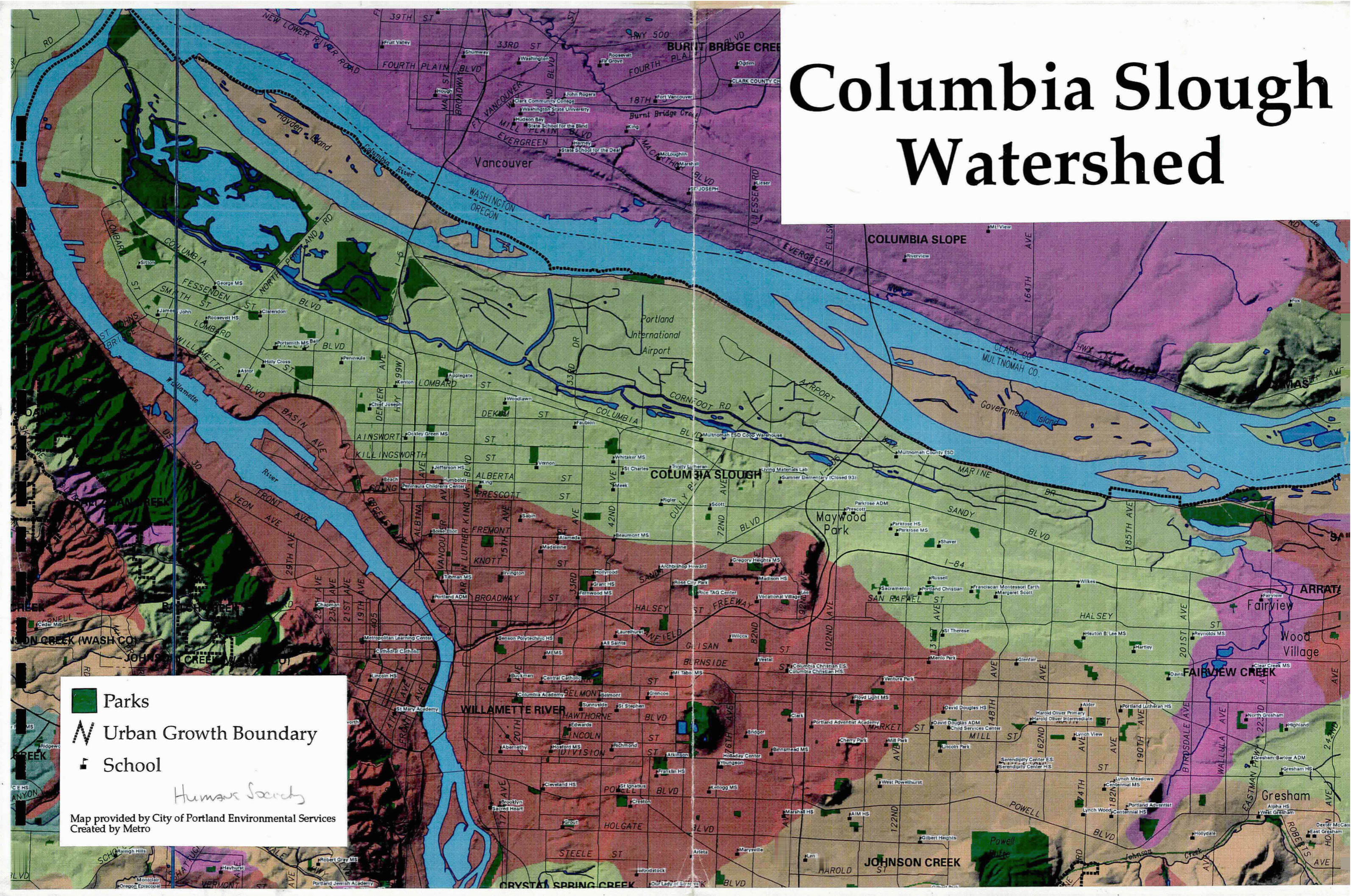
At the time the notification came to us that we would be unable to pursue the project until the contamination issue was resolved, we were within one day of beginning the planting of 2,200 trees in our small wetland. The emergency chute was deployed, and we all began the process of adapting to the new circumstances. Instead of donning overalls, boots and leather gloves, the students involved in the project picked up their pens and wrote letters to the Oregonian, the company that spilled the toxins, and state senators and representatives. The students shared their enthusiasm for the project and asked for help in getting the project back on track.


Recently, funding for contaminant testing was acquired from a private source, and the machinery for both testing and analysis of results was set in motion. Oregon State University will be collecting sediment and water samples from the small pond on the Humane Society property, and samples will be evaluated for metals, volatile and semi-volatile compounds. Results of the sampling should be in hand by the end of June or beginning of July. When the results are in, and if they indicate safe conditions, we will continue to cultivate the project as in the earlier stage, before the contamination issue reared its ugly head. For now, we move forward with guarded optimism and applaud the efforts of all those people who made hope possible.


Special thanks go to Tracy McClafferty and her students from Gately Academy for their dedication to the project despite adversity, and Jennifer Thompson from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for her special handling of our unique dilemma. Thanks also to George Middle School and James John Elementary School students for being poised to plant. We look forward to working with all of you in the fall!


Perry Cabot
Oregon Humane Society

Columbia Slough Watershed



 Parks

 Urban Growth Boundary

 School

Humane Society

Map provided by City of Portland Environmental Services
Created by Metro

Combined
Sewage
overflow

