

THE JOHNSON CREEK FLOOD

1980
1979
1978
1977
1976
1975
1974

If you're part of the basin,
you're part of the problem

...and the solution



JOHNSON CREEK...

THE JOHNSON CREEK BASIN COVERS 54 SQUARE MILES AND CONTAINS OVER 100,000 RESIDENTS. Any rainfall or other water in this basin drains to a common low point — Johnson Creek.



A scenic and pleasureable spot.

For most of the year, the Creek is a scenic and recreational spot. But when it floods (which it does every year), it causes tremendous damage and creates serious problems for people and businesses throughout the Basin.

Those of you along its banks suffer greatly: you lose property as ground erodes; you lose your belongings, and often times you are forced from your home — for days or even weeks.

If you live elsewhere in the Basin, you, too, are affected. You are deprived of the benefits a natural stream can provide in the community — such as parks and hiking trails. Flooding and water damage negatively affect your property



In winter, Johnson Creek brings damage.

values. And all of us, as taxpayers, lose millions of dollars with every flood. 1974 was a particularly bad year: flooding costs were estimated at 8 million dollars.

FOR OVER 30 YEARS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS HAVE SOUGHT A SOLUTION TO THE YEARLY JOHNSON CREEK FLOODING. But until now, it was not possible to plan and finance improvements for the *entire* Basin.

Johnson Creek flows through six separate jurisdictions: Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, and the cities of Portland, Gresham, Milwaukie and Happy Valley. None of these local governments have the authority or the financial resources to solve the problem alone. It can only be solved with improvements along the entire Creek.

The water causing the drainage problems and flooding comes from all over the basin, not just from the property along the creek. As property within the Basin is developed, the land's ability to absorb water is greatly reduced. Rain-fall and other water, instead of soaking into the ground, runs off roofs, drive-ways, streets and parking lots, pouring into the Creek. Not only does more water go into the creek, it also travels at a much faster rate causing greater erosion and damage.

Everyone who lives in the Basin is a part of the problem.

METRO (THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT) HAS INITIATED A PLAN WHICH ASSURES AN ON-GOING SOLUTION TO JOHNSON CREEK'S FLOODING. METRO was created and authorized by the voters as a *regional government* to address issues which cross traditional city and county boundaries — issues like Johnson Creek.

IN MARCH, 1979, METRO CREATED THE JOHNSON CREEK TASK FORCE. The Task Force includes representatives from the METRO Council, the six local governments in the Basin, and interested citizens

The Task Force set to work immediately, gaining approval for interim development guidelines to control future development in the Basin until needed improvements can be completed.

However, the major effort of the Task Force has been development of an equitable method for financing the necessary improvements which must be made to stop Johnson Creek's flooding once and for all.

THE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE FINANCED THROUGH FORMATION OF A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (LID). An LID is used by governments to finance a specific local project. The LID is a mechanism to obtain the necessary funds to construct and maintain Johnson Creek improvements. The METRO Council will oversee implementation of the improvements funded by the LID.

The six local governments in the Basin have approved creation of the LID and have loaned METRO the necessary funds to initiate its formation. The proposed LID would include all property owners within the Johnson Creek Basin.

THE PROPOSED JOHNSON CREEK IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THREE PHASES.

Phase I: Planning and Initial Channel Clearance

METRO and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will work together on updating the planning and engineering for specific channel and drainage improvements. Initial clean-up of the lower portion of the Creek will also take place during Phase I.

Phase II: Major Drainage and Channel Corrections

These could include such things as constructing reservoirs or retention ponds, lining the channel to prevent erosion, raising bridges or building culverts.

Phase III: Maintenance of Improvements

This will include operations to maintain channel improvements and protect the surrounding environment.

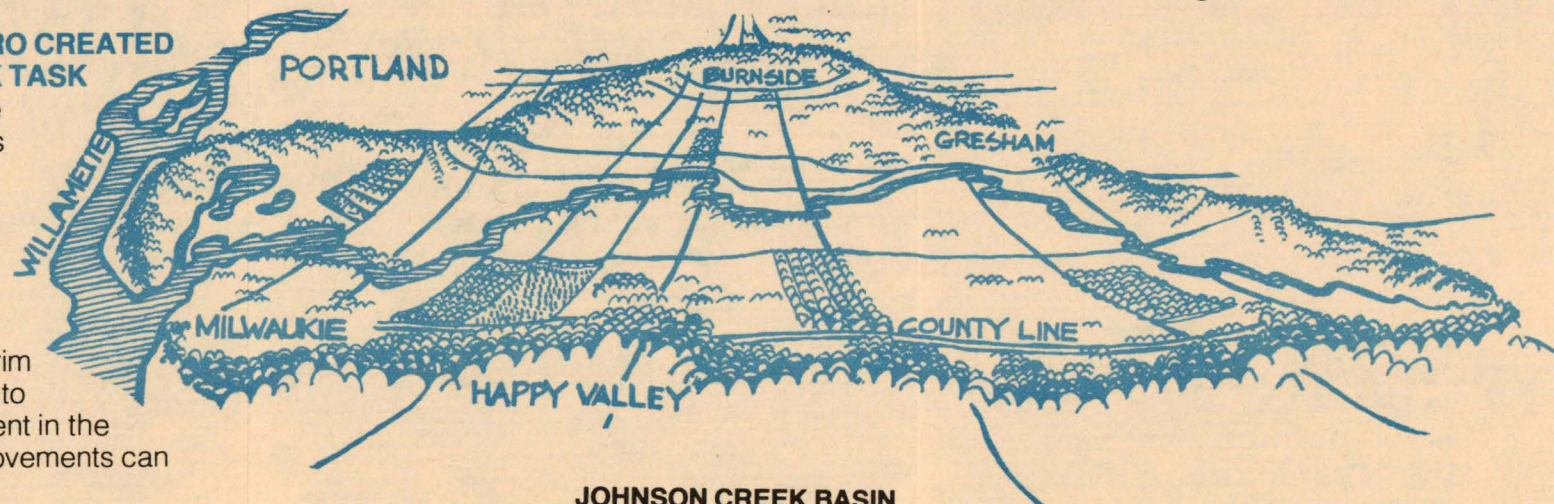
ALL RESIDENTS OF THE JOHNSON CREEK BASIN WILL BE NOTIFIED IN WRITING BEFORE THE LID'S FORMATION. The LID process provides an opportunity for property owners to remonstrate in writing. Remonstrances will be accepted at the METRO office or at the public hearing. The METRO Council will conduct the Johnson Creek LID public hearing in June.

A number of smaller community meetings will be held prior to the public hearing. Residents are encouraged to attend those meetings and have a voice in the LID process.

The total estimated costs of each of the three phases will be calculated prior to the formation of the LID. Residents will receive these estimates with their LID hearing notification. Deferred payment of assessment costs can be arranged for citizens who are 62 or older.

METRO is anticipating solving the problem with the cooperation of the six jurisdictions in the Johnson Creek Basin as well as the citizens who live there. If we all work together, Johnson Creek can be a pleasurable spot the entire year.

For more information on the formation of the Johnson Creek LID, call METRO, 221-1646.



JOHNSON CREEK BASIN

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