

Stream Restoration Projects

The streams of Corvallis are recognized as a feature of our community and one that the public wants to preserve and enhance. As a result, the City has spent a considerable amount of effort in the recent past on planning projects to determine the best way to meet those community goals. The Storm Water Master Plan, the Endangered Species Act Response Plan, and the Natural Features Inventory are probably the most recognizable of these efforts. The City has now begun constructing projects that were recommended in those plans to address storm water issues and enhance stream habitat.

In general, a typical stream project will serve multiple objectives, such as:

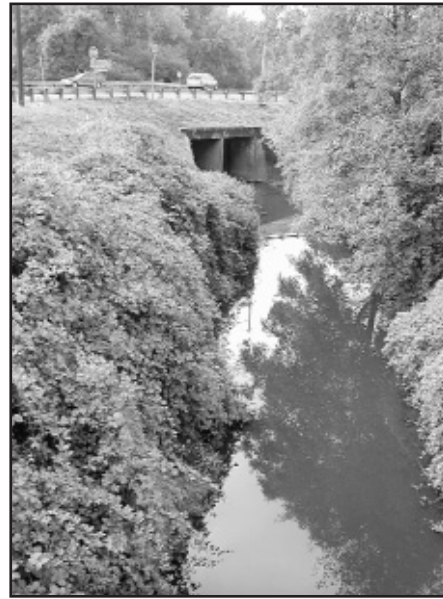
- control storm water runoff pollutants,
- improve passage for fish and the habitat along the stream bank,
- reduce water temperatures,
- improve flood plain and wetland areas, and/or
- address localized flooding and/or stabilize stream banks.

Two storm water projects are currently under construction. The objective of the Stream Bank Re-vegetation project is to plant native trees along sections of streams that have little to no shading. This will control water temperatures in the stream, improve wildlife habitat along the stream, and reduce erosion by stabilizing the bank. Invasive species (mainly blackberries) will be removed and native trees will be planted at Oak Creek along 26th Street, Dunawi Creek (formerly known as

Squaw Creek) at Brooklane Bridge, Dunawi Creek at Sunset Park, Dunawi Creek along Technology Loop, Dixon Creek at Porter Park, Dixon Creek at Ninth Street, and Village Green Creek along Lancaster Drive. The hundreds of new plantings will have two years of care included as part of the project to ensure a healthy start.

The other storm water project currently under construction is the North Bank and East Wetlands Restoration project. The objective of this project is to establish a healthy river bank and wetland habitat along the Willamette River at two different locations: a two-block section on the west bank, north of the Van Buren Street Bridge, and a

Section of Dixon Creek overgrown with blackberries. The re-vegetation project will plant shade trees along entire bank area.



Oak creek before blackberry removal

seven-acre site in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on the east bank. Plants that are not native to this area will be removed and thousands of native trees and shrubs will be planted in their place. The work on the east bank will restore the wetlands by seeding the area with native grasses and sedges. Two years of care will also be included in this project.

Enhancements to the storm piping system can also improve the urban stream system. In one multi-year project, devices will be installed in storm pipes that will remove pollutants from the storm water before it reaches a natural waterway. This project is scheduled to start in the summer and the first sites to be upgraded are pipes that discharge into Dixon Creek at Buchanan, into Oak Creek at 26th Street, and into Dunawi Creek at Research Way. All three of these locations drain storm water from areas with dense population and the storm runoff typically has higher levels of pollutants.

Storm water and stream projects are funded by storm water utility fees and system development charges. These sources are restricted for use on storm water projects and can not be used on other City projects, such as streets, parks, or the Library.

The effort to improve the quality of storm water and the habitat along streams will continue for the next several years. As the projects progress, the community will see the planning efforts come to fruition in actual changes to the systems. For more information, call Public Works at 766-6916.



Bank on Dixon Creek (with blackberries removed) that will be planted this winter