# East Powell Butte Restoration Project

## **Schweitzer Phase**

**JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED** 

2009

working for clean rivers, healthy watersheds, and a livable, sustainable community

This project increased habitat for fish and other wildlife, and stabilized and shaded stream banks to improve water quality. The project also added about 74 acre feet of flood storage in the Johnson Creek floodplain. That's enough to cover the 30-acre site with about two-and-a-half feet of water. The design allows silt to settle on the floodplain, rather than in the creek, when water is high.



## Habitat and Water Quality Improvements

The project mimics the features of a natural stream and includes hundreds of pieces of large wood, some salvaged during construction. The project added thousands of native trees and shrubs, and tons of gravel and boulders, some salvaged from the creek walls the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built in the 1930s to try to control flooding.



## **Project Funding**

The Schweitzer Phase is the largest part of the East Powell Butte Floodplain Restoration Project, and cost about \$5 million to design and construct. The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services acquired the site through its Willing Seller Acquisition Program with Metro, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Environmental Services funds. Environmental Services funded construction with proceeds from bond sales and stormwater fees collected from Portland sewer ratepayers. About \$700,000 in Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant funds also helped pay for construction.

## **Protecting Fish**

The work included diverting Johnson Creek flow from its old channel to a newly-constructed stream channel. Before the diversion, Environmental Services staff collected and inventoried fish in the old channel and moved them safely downstream. Staff rescued nearly 1,400 fish. All but 25 species were native to Johnson Creek.



#### **Public Access**

The project includes a public viewpoint from the Springwater Corridor Trail, west of Circle Avenue. The viewpoint features an area for people to sit on WPA rock recovered from the creek, and art tiles of native plants, fish and wildlife.

### **Future Activities**

Environmental Services is planning two more phases of the East Powell Butte Restoration Project. There are no construction dates scheduled yet for the Brunkow and Hammersmith phases.



June 2008

#### **Schweitzer Restoration Area**



## **For More Information**

Environmental Services, 503-823-7740 www.portlandonline.com/bes

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