Crystal Springs Creek Habitat Restoration Projects

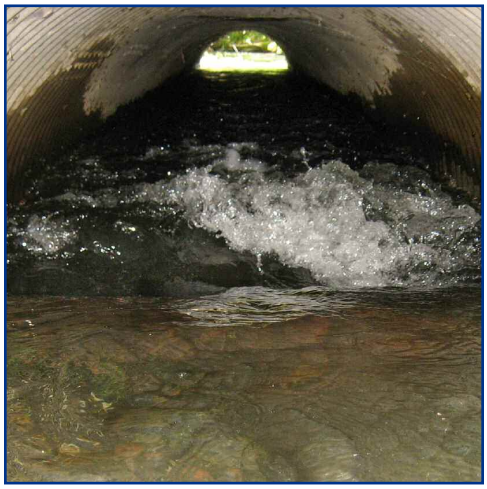
JULY 2010

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

Crystal Springs Creek is a tributary of lower Johnson Creek in southeast Portland. The creek originates from a spring near Reed College and the Eastmoreland Golf Course, an area that was once primarily marshy wetlands. Before development, the wetlands retained excess water from flood events and provided important rearing and refuge habitat for salmon, and foraging and nesting sites for beavers, birds, turtles, frogs, and other wildlife.

The Glenwood Street culvert restricts fish passage

Crystal Springs is spring fed, which keeps water temperatures cool and stream flow uniform throughout the year. This adds cool water to Johnson Creek in the summer when stream flow can be low and warm. Fish and amphibians thrive in cool water. Crystal Springs is home to coho and Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout. All three species are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and Crystal Springs is designated as critical habitat.



The Tenino Street culvert has no place for fish to rest

Culverts as Barriers

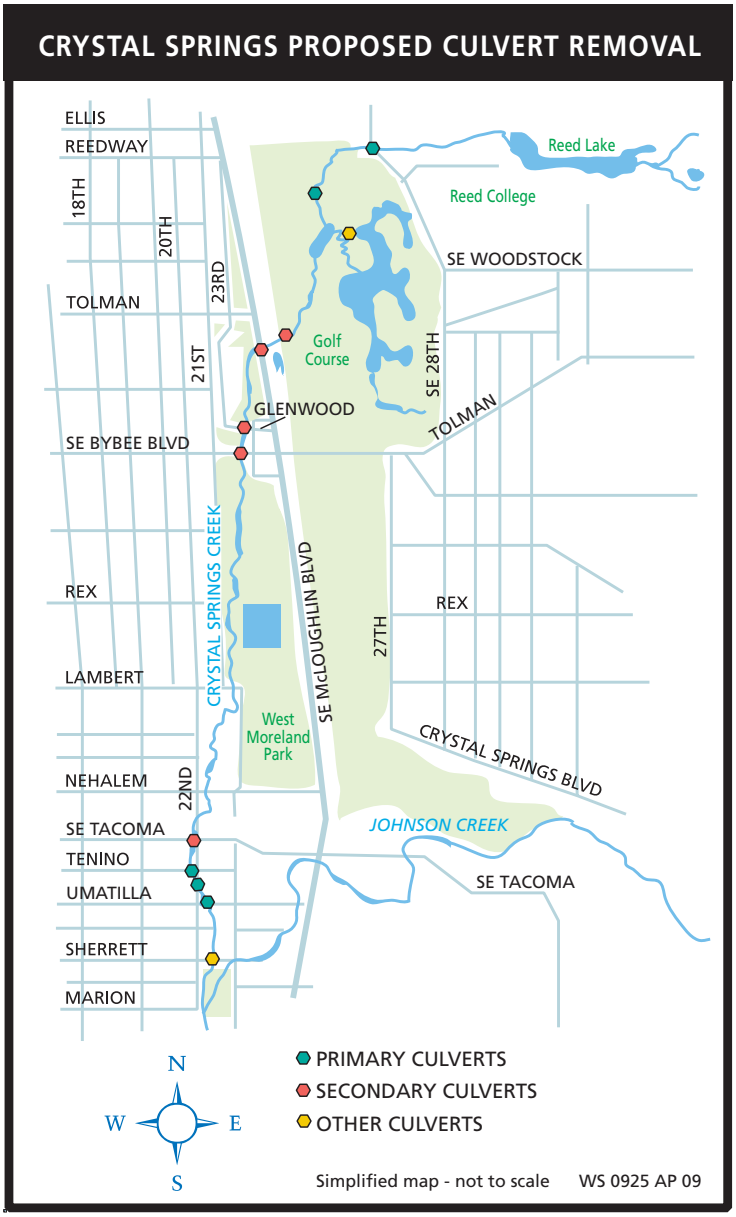
Several culverts carry Crystal Springs Creek under roads, but block fish from swimming upstream to reach spawning and rearing habitat (see map). One goal of Portland's Grey to Green Initiative is to replace eight culverts that block fish passage. The projects will make nearly three miles of prime habitat accessible to salmon and steelhead. Environmental Services is seeking funding for several culvert removal projects.

Existing Restoration Efforts

Reed College is restoring the 27-acre canyon area surrounding Reed Lake. In 1999, Reed College installed a fish ladder to connect the creek's lower spawning beds to the upper rearing pond, and a fish ladder at the Eastmoreland Golf Course dam to connect salmon to the east fork of Crystal Springs. The work includes restoring native plants, enhancing wildlife habitat and improving water quality.

For more information

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



Primary culverts will be replaced in 2010 and 2011.

Secondary culverts are being considered for future replacement.

Other culverts are not targeted for replacement.

(Culvert replacment priorities are subject to change.)

To help ensure equal access to city programs, services and activities, the city will reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities. Call 503-823-7740 or 1-800-735-2900 with such requests. TDD 503-823-6868.

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