# working for clean rivers TABORto the RIVER

Partnerships for sewer, stormwater, and watershed improvements

The City of Portland is building hundreds of sewer, stormwater and watershed improvements in the Tabor to the River community to reduce sewer backups, manage stormwater more naturally, and improve watershed function for clean rivers and streams.

# **Program Background**

he Tabor to the River Program area covers about 2.3 square miles from Mt. Tabor to the Willamette River between SE Hawthorne and SE Powell boulevards, covering the Richmond, Hosford-Abernethy, Brooklyn and Mt. Tabor neighborhoods. The combined sewer system in

the program area mixes sanitary sewage with stormwater runoff from streets in the same pipes. Because of increases in pavement and other impervious surfaces and decreases in tree canopy, the volume of stormwater going into the pipes is much greater than the system was designed to manage 100 years ago. Very rains can cause sewers to back up into basements, flood streets, and

heavy rains can cause sewers to back up into basements, flood streets, and overflow to the Willamette River. Through the Tabor to the River Program, the city works together with community members, neighborhood groups, businesses, and other organizations to improve watershed health.

# **Program Description**

The Tabor to the River Program is:

- planting 3,500 trees
- adding 500 Green Streets
- building 100 private stormwater projects
- repairing or replacing 81,000 feet of sewer pipe
- removing invasive plants from parks and natural areas
- improving wildlife habitat, cleaning the air and making neighborhoods healthier



green streets

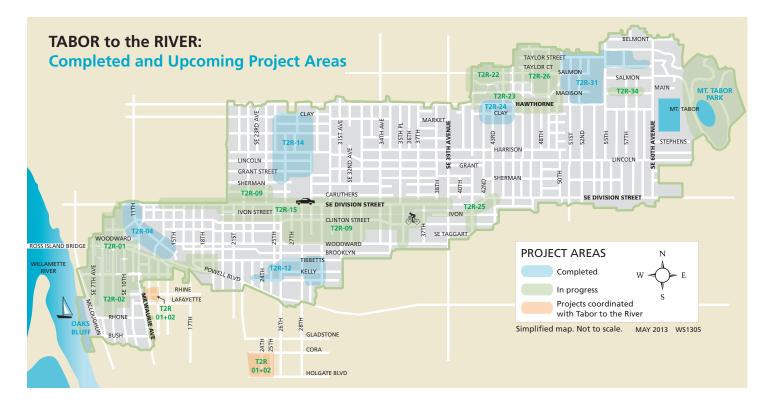


Resolving the sewer system problems in the Tabor to the River Program area with only pipe solutions would have cost an estimated \$144 million. Adding green infrastructure projects reduces the estimated cost to \$81 million and multiplies the benefits.





sewer improvements



### **Progress**

Tabor to the River began in 2009 and will take more than 15 years to complete.

Since 2009, the city and its partners have:

- constructed 137 green street facilities and 32 private stormwater facilities
- planted 660 street trees
- replaced or repaired 8,000 feet of sewer pipe
- removed 61 acres of invasive plants
- planted 6,000 native shrubs and trees in natural areas

## **Community Involvement**

Community members and groups work with city staff to improve watershed health throughout the project area. Please join in the fun and help the river!

- Friends of Mt. Tabor Park Weed Warriors remove invasive plants from the park's natural areas.
- Students from several schools remove invasive plants, mark storm drains with no dumping messages, and plant native vegetation.
- Community members plant trees, build rain gardens, add native plants to their yards, depave driveways and sign up to be Green Street Stewards.

### **Additional Information**

Go to **portlandoregon.gov/bes/tabortoriver** for project updates and information about Green Streets, becoming a Green Street Steward, planting trees, volunteer opportunities and upcoming classes and events.



tree planting



restoration



private facilities