



**Project Title: Stephens Creek Nature Park East Trail**

**Public Involvement Plan**

June 23, 2011

Project Manager: Allison Rouse  
PI Coordinator: Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong  
PI Start: April 2011  
PI Complete: end of project

**Project Scope:** Develop a north-south trail roughly parallel to Stephens Creek that provides an accessible route from the east end of the boardwalk up to SW Bertha Boulevard. Add a naming sign for the park that calls out the name of the crossing from SW Capitol Hill to SW Bertha.

**Project Background**

The 2005 Functional Plan for Stephens Creek Nature Park was developed by a citizen and city staff partnership that included representatives from the Southwest Neighborhood Incorporated (SWNI) Parks Committee, Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, the Friends of Stephens Creek Nature Park (a subcommittee of the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association) and staff from the PP&R Natural Resource Program, now known as City Nature. The Functional Plan places habitat value and environmental function as the highest priority for the site but also anticipated creating both a direct and a more accessible route across the Park.

Stephens Creek Nature Park is an approximately 4-acre site located in the Hillsdale neighborhood in Southwest Portland, west of SW Bertha Boulevard and east of SW Capitol Hill Road. Stephens Creek, a perennial creek with an average depth of 6.5 inches, is part of the Willamette watershed and is one of three major watersheds in Southwest Portland. The creek is in the center of the park and flows in a northwest to southeast direction. Custer Creek empties into the park also, and the confluence of Custer and Stephens Creeks is located within the park. Two municipal storm drains originating in the residential area east of SW Bertha Boulevard empty into Stephens Creek.

The site is owned by the City of Portland and managed by Portland Parks & Recreation City Nature West. However, the Bureau of Environmental Services has an easement encompassing the creek and its banks for stormwater purposes. A 55 ft wide undeveloped public right-of-way bisects the site and the easement east to west. Adjacent parcels to the north, west and south are owned by several private landowners. The entire site has a restrictive environmental zoning overlay.

The site is a nature park and is managed for its habitat value. Its primary amenity is its natural character. But it is also valuable as neighborhood open space and for the connectivity it provides between neighborhoods along SW Capitol Hill Road and the schools across Bertha, and for the access along Bertha to Hillsdale and the Terwilliger area. The park is under renovation by City Nature to improve its ecological functioning, with the assistance of neighbors and other interested stakeholders. In 2007, the SW Trails group accomplished a major project to build the stairs and boardwalk that form the present east-west path system between Capitol Hill and Bertha.

## **Project Direction**

A portion of PP&R's share of Metro's 2006 Greenspaces Bond Measure was allocated to pay for installation of a path to make a more accessible north-south connection through the Nature Park. Design goals include:

- a. Preserve the functional and scenic values of the Nature Park as dictated by its Environmental Zoning Overlay, BES drainageway regulations and Urban Forestry tree protection requirements;
- b. Follow the 2009 PP&R Trail Design Guidelines to ensure long term maintainability; and
- c. Provide an accessible route from the east end of the boardwalk up to SW Bertha.

The landscape architects are Group MacKenzie, and surveying has been provided by Kpff Consulting Engineers. The Total Project Cost estimate is approximately \$125,000 including administration, design, permitting and construction costs.

## **Project Schedule**

Complete design:	July 2011
Complete permitting:	September 2011
Procure contractor:	October 2011
Construction:	October – November 2011, weather permitting

## **Public Involvement Overview**

The local community has historically been very involved in the development of the Nature Park, and quite interested in the planning of this trail.

The preliminary alignment proposal was presented in April at the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association and SWNI Parks meetings, followed by an e-mail update when the design changed to incorporate their comments. PP&R's project manager has been communicating with BES, PBOT and Urban Forestry to be sure that the design coordinates with their requirements as well.

The project was presented to the PP&R Disability Advisory Committee in April and June, and will be presented a final time in August.

A project website has been developed to post the revised design, and to post updates as the completion milestones are finalized.

## **Stakeholder Outreach**

SWNI Parks Committee  
Hillsdale Neighborhood Association  
Hillsdale Business Association  
PP&R Disability Advisory Committee  
Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Bureau of Environmental Services

## **Publications/Notification**

### ***Newsletters/Postcards***

SWNI newsletter, 15<sup>th</sup> of the month

### ***Meeting***

Present project to SWNI parks and Hillsdale NA – *April 2011 (completed)*

***Website*** – online late June 2011

Post project information on our website

***Signage***

On site in conjunction with permitting process

**PI Schedule**

***April***

6 – Hillsdale NA meeting

7 – SWNI Parks Committee meeting

21 – email communication concerning design decisions

***July***

SWNI newsletter article

Imagery posted to website (once design is confirmed)

***Late August***

Signs on site

***October***

Begin construction, weather permitting