



## Columbia Slough Watershed

The Columbia Slough begins at Fairview Lake and meanders west for 19 miles to Kelley Point Park where it empties into the Willamette River. The watershed covers nearly 33,000 acres.

# another rain project

## BIG FOUR CORNERS LAND ACQUISITION

In fall 2005, the City of Portland acquired 115 acres of wetland, wooded wetland, waterway, and rare white oak habitat areas in the Big Four Corners area near NE 174th Avenue and Airport Way. It presents opportunities for significant streamside vegetation enhancements. Metro, the City of Portland, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council have identified the area as critical to protect and preserve. Big Four Corners is Portland's fourth largest natural area.

### **Project Description**

The Bureau of Environmental Services bought the 115-acre parcel in Big Four Corners in 2005 from Catellus/ProLogis, a distribution facilities and services corporation. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board granted Environmental Services \$150,000 for restoration projects to restore wetland functions, add streamside vegetation, and improve water quality in the Columbia Slough. Portland Parks and Recreation will own and manage the site as a natural area. The city now owns 165 acres in Big Four Corners.



Big Four Corners is bordered on the north by Marine Drive, on the east by NE 181st, on the south by railroad tracks, and on the west by NE 170th

### **Major Benefits**

Big Four Corners is one of Portland's core habitat areas. It provides important habitat for deer, coyotes, river otter, and a variety of birds and amphibians. More than 175 species of birds use the Columbia Slough Watershed. Water quality benefits include protecting cold water sources to the Slough and providing the opportunity for restoration work to shade the Slough.



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### **Costs**

The total acquisition cost was \$440,000. Environmental Services contributed \$200,000, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board granted \$200,000, Portland Parks & Recreation contributed \$40,000, and Catellus/Prologis donated the remaining property value, worth over \$208,000.

### **Partners**

Catellus/ProLogis, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, Portland Parks and Recreation

### **Lessons Learned**

One of the challenging aspects of this project was satisfying Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant requirements for clear title and easements on a piece of land with multiple easements and restrictions. The possible donation of this parcel has been under discussion for more than a decade. Persistence, commitment, and the ability of all the partners to act quickly during short windows of opportunity led to a successful acquisition.



aerial of part of Big Four Corners looking west

### **Timeline**

The site was acquired in September 2005. Discussions with the owner and previous owner occurred over more than a decade. Revegetation and site management for restoration began immediately.

### **Additional Information**

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