

Stormwater runoff can impact water quality in rivers and streams. Natural resources, like urban streams, forests, and wetlands manage stormwater naturally to protect water quality, public health, and the environment. Green infrastructure reduces flooding and erosion, provides cool, clean water to our rivers and streams, and adds wildlife habitat and urban green space for healthier watersheds.



Photo by Naim Hasan for Environmental Services

East Powell Butte Restoration Project

Schweitzer Phase

JOHNSON CREEK WATERSHED

This project restored 22 acres in the Johnson Creek watershed to increase habitat for fish and other wildlife; and to stabilize and shade stream banks to improve water quality. The project added about 74 acre feet of flood storage in the Johnson Creek floodplain. That's enough to cover the site with over three 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 restored the features of a natural stream and added 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 including rocks that were part of the creek walls built by the Works Progress Administration 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. Environmental Services acquired properties for the site through its Willing

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Seller Acquisition Program with Metro, Portland Parks & Recreation, and Environmental Services funds. Environmental Services funded construction with proceeds from bond sales and stormwater fees collected from Portland sewer and stormwater rates. About \$560,000 in Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant funds also helped pay for construction.



June 2008

Protecting Fish

The work required 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 30 fish (2 species) were native to Johnson Creek.

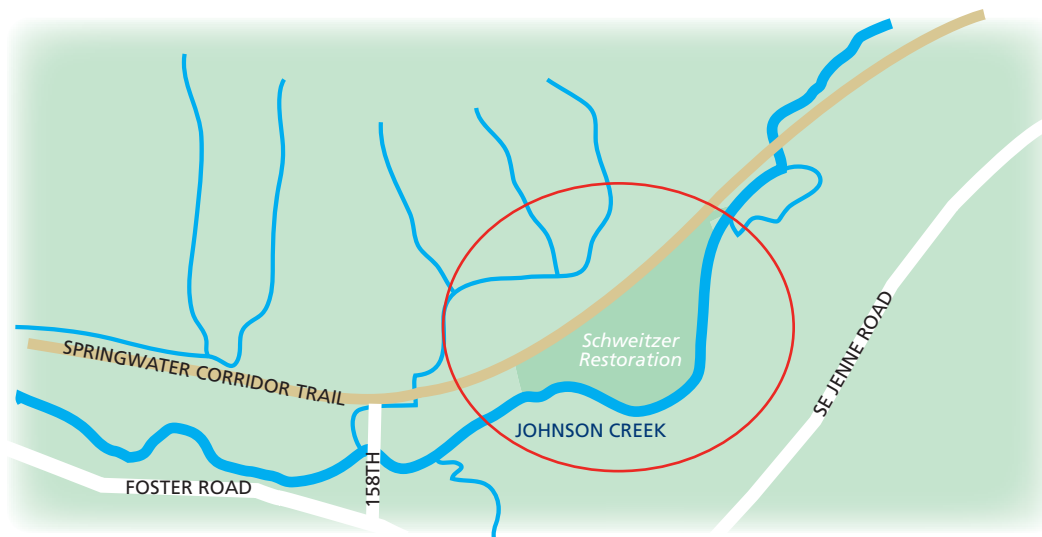
Public Access

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 for future phases of the East Powell Butte Restoration Project. There are no construction dates scheduled.

Schweitzer Restoration Area



For More Information

Environmental Services
503-823-7740
www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/JohnsonCreek

The Bureau of Environmental Services is committed to providing meaningful access. For accommodations, modifications, translation, interpretation or other services, please call 503-823-7740, or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service 711.