

working for clean rivers

Stephens Subwatershed

Improvement Strategies

2009

Stephens Subwatershed at a Glance

Subwatershed covers 754 acres

144 acres are forested

3.7 miles of natural stream channel

Threatened Chinook, coho and steelhead use Stephens Creek as off-channel habitat

Impervious area, mostly streets, covers nearly half the watershed

168 acres of parks and open space

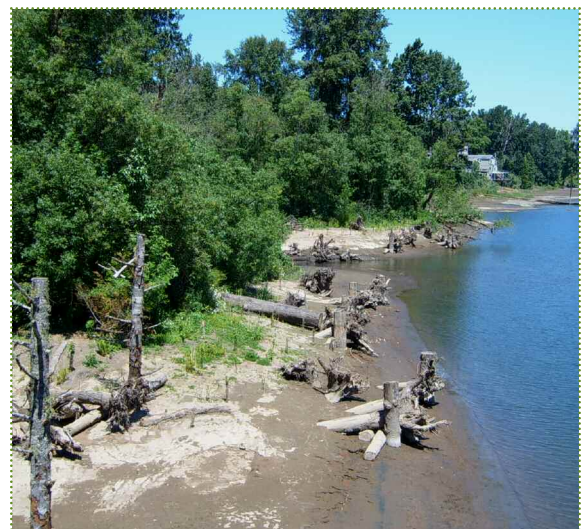
66 acres in public ownership

The Stephens Subwatershed is one of 27 subwatersheds of the Willamette Watershed in Portland. The subwatershed includes 754 acres. Stephens Creek begins at a steep ridge south of the Hillsdale Neighborhood center and flows about two miles to the Willamette River just north of the Sellwood Bridge.

The Environmental Services Willamette Watershed team worked with local citizens and numerous partners using a watershed planning approach to identify opportunities to better manage stormwater runoff, protect and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat, and revegetate natural areas in the Stephens Subwatershed.

Environmental Services has identified opportunities to improve watershed health in the Stephens Subwatershed. The project opportunities are presented in the Stephens Creek Subwatershed Improvement Strategies (IS) Report which will help guide Portland's ongoing efforts to protect and improve watershed health. The report builds on the principles of the Portland Watershed Management Plan.

The Willamette Watershed in Portland covers 69 square miles. This subwatershed is in the southwest corner.



Stephens Creek confluence with the Willamette River after restoration



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Dean Marriott, Director

Implementation of potential projects presented in the report will include collaboration and partnerships with other city bureaus, willing landowners, neighborhood groups, non-profits and local, state and federal agencies to achieve the greatest overall watershed health benefits.

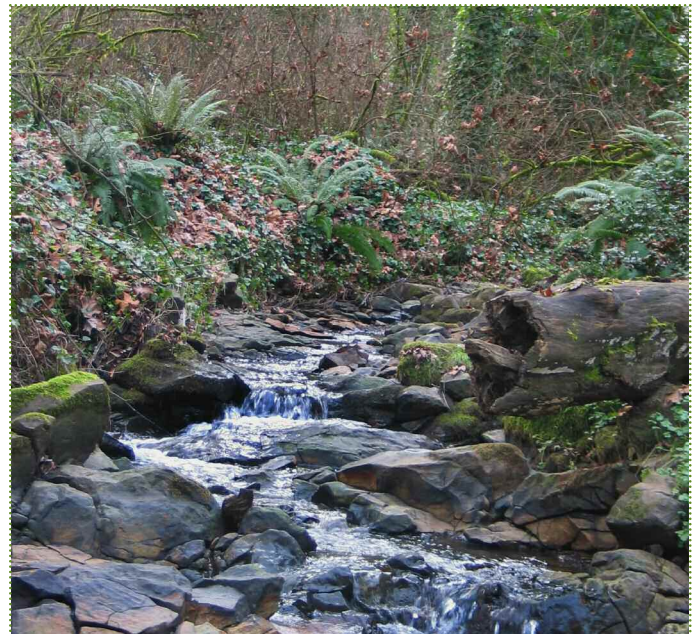
Environmental Services originally published the Stephens Creek IS Report in 2004 and updated it in 2009. Environmental Services has implemented many of the opportunities outlined in the report in the Stephens Creek Central Canyon area, at Texas Wetland and at the Stephens Creek Confluence.

The Willamette Watershed team will continue to work with partners to develop opportunities for improvements in Stephens Creek Subwatershed in the following areas:

- ✓ Implementation of ecoroofs, green streets, parking lot retrofits and other stormwater management opportunities throughout the subwatershed
- ✓ Continuation of restoration projects in the Stephens Creek Natural Area
- ✓ Expansion of revegetation projects underway along the creek and in the uplands, such as removing ivy from tree canopies
- ✓ Improvements to aquatic habitat through culvert replacements and stream restoration



Removal of decommissioned CSO pipe with streambank restoration at Stephens Creek confluence.



Stephens Creek natural habitat, one of the few remaining free-flowing surface streams in SW Portland

Get more project information and view the Subwatershed Improvement Strategies Reports at www.portlandonline.com/bes/subwatersheds. For more general watershed information, visit www.portlandonline.com/bes/watershed/willamette or call 503-823-7740.