



South Waterfront Greenway Construction Update October 26, 2012

Here is the latest information on the progress of the project.

Construction

- The vault wall installation has been completed. The vaults have been filled with soil and the willows planted. Additional native plants will be placed in the vaults over the next few weeks.
- The bank restoration at the north end of the site, next to the barge slipway, is also complete except that the riprap zone above Ordinary High Water will receive a blanket of soil and native plantings next spring/summer. This is also where the Osprey Pole will be installed next month.
- South of the Vault Wall, and along its base, the work zone has been buttoned up for the winter's high waters using a temporary layer of rock and, in some places filter fabric.
- Uphill of the Vault Wall, construction of the Gabion Walls has begun that will make the final grade change up to the upland. Gabions are long lengths of wire baskets filled with rock that are tied into the bank and form a porous kind of retaining wall. Next spring/summer, the areas around the gabions will receive a blanket of topsoil and native plantings.
- Prior to the recent wet weather additional erosion control measures were installed.
- We continue to test soil for contaminants as we excavate.

Water Levels

- The Willamette is starting to slowly rise with the wet weather. We are still working on Saturdays to button up the riverbank for the season, but this is winding down.
- No Sunday work will be required, and the Contractor expects to work on Saturdays for only a few more weeks.
- The river did not come down low enough soon enough for us to build the shallow-water habitat (the "beach"). That construction will take place in summer 2013 and extend the duration of the construction through fall 2013.

Fencing

- The fencing will remain around the construction site through fall 2013. The contractor is responsible for the site through completion of the project. Removal of the fencing would release them from responsibility prior to completion of the project. In addition, the upland area is unsafe, with a muddy, rocky surface that is slippery and that will be blanketed in erosion control mulch until the contractor returns to the site next summer.

We were honored to host a visit from three U.S. District Court judges from the District of Oregon on October 15. The visitors included Judges James Redden, Malcolm Marsh, and Michael Simon as well as OSU fisheries professor Howard Horton, who toured the project and discussed project goals and challenges with PP&R Director Mike Abbate, Office of Healthy Working Rivers Director Ann Beier, and staff. Judge Redden commented that he appreciates what we are doing and doing right, and that "it will be tremendously helpful to our salmon."

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, 503-823-5113 or Elizabeth.kennedy-wong@portlandoregon.gov