



Whitaker Ponds Entry Improvement Project

Project Description

The improvements planned include sidewalks, a parking lot, stormwater treatment facilities, accessible routes to the educational facilities, and a small natural gathering area. Local students, community members, and project partners will contribute by installing natural landscaping in the area around the parking lot to enhance wildlife habitat and improve water quality. The Nature in Neighborhoods grant funding will be supplemented by an allocation from PP&R's Systems Development Charges program.

The improvements will increase park user safety, access and aesthetics, while creating a more inviting public entry. The effect will be to allow expansion of the scope of the educational, recreational and stewardship activities at the Nature Park.

Project Timeline

Upcoming Informational Meeting: December 2015, Location and time to be announced

Timeline may shift based on unforeseen circumstances.

- Design Fall 2015 – Summer 2016
- Permitting Summer 2016 – Winter 2016
- Construction Spring 2017 – Fall 2017
- Dedication Fall 2017

Background

Whitaker Ponds Nature Park, master planned in 1995 and 2006, contains ponds, sloughs and associated natural areas that are used for educational purposes, birdwatching, access to the Columbia Slough for light watercraft, and other nature-based recreation. Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) actively invite school groups, volunteers, and other partners to the site for educational and volunteer programs. However, access to the site is difficult since there is no developed parking or sidewalks.

In 2012, the CSWC, partnering with BES, produced a concept design for improvements to the entry area off of NE 47th Avenue. PP&R, partnering with the two groups, applied for and has received a grant from METRO Nature in Neighborhoods to help fund the project, which will implement the 2012 concept in an environmentally responsible manner.

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<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/69131>