



WWRP Summary Report: 2015-2020

Review & Synthesis to Partnership Next Steps



Prepared by Samara Group
For the West Willamette Restoration Partnership

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	2
Background	2
Current Strategic Plan (2019-2021)	4
RESTORATION	4
PARTNER ENGAGEMENT	4
COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH	4
Report Purpose & Methods	5
Review & Synthesis Methods	5
Partnership Structure & Composition	8
Partnership Meetings	10
Guiding Documents	12
Strategic Plan: 2019-2021	12
Declaration of Cooperation	12
Governance & Operations	12
Communication Plan - 2017	12
Projects	13
Westside Wildlife Corridor for People and Habitat	13
Take to the Trails: SW Portland Survey Results	14
Connect SW PDX Listening Project	15
Connecting Portland's Urban Forest	17
Terwilliger-Marquam Healthy Watershed Engagement Project	19
Cross-Project Synthesis	21
Fundraising Totals	21
Summary of Project Outcomes by Strategic Plan Goals	23
5-Year Project Outcomes	24
Project Partners	24
Vegetation Monitoring	27
Community Listening	29
Take to the Trails! Survey	29
Connect SW PDX Project	32
Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project	35
Conclusion & Next Steps	36

Executive Summary

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership (WWRP) is a coalition of nonprofits, community groups, agencies, and individuals working for their community and restoration of forests and natural areas in Southwest Portland, Oregon. The WWRP has thus far been effective at collaborating and achieving restoration goals. With multiple projects wrapping up and various types of community engagement information available, this five year summary report serves as the basis to evaluate existing information, to guide the group's next steps and provide an overview for those interested in the WWRP's efforts. This report is outlined with the current strategic plan goals in mind as these goals: restoration, partner engagement and communications and outreach, are the cornerstone of WWRP work. Furthermore, this report presents background information that has contributed to the current operations of the partnership as well as details the structure of the WWRP and how partners have leveraged support to complete projects across agencies. The cross project synthesis presents a side by side comparison of project spendings and outcomes. This analysis has allowed WWRP members to prioritize objectives and next steps moving forward.

Background

In 2004 the Three Rivers Lands Conservancy put together a report that detailed the need for controlling invasive plant species within the natural areas in Southwest Portland. In order to develop and analyze the content in this report they partnered with multiple organizations: Portland Parks and Recreation, Oregon Health Sciences University, The Nature Conservancy and Friends of Groups in Marquam Nature Park, Forest Park (No Ivy League) Terwilliger and Tryon Creek State Park. One major conclusion from this report was that there should be a project coordinator for this area in order to implement what they termed an "All Hands on Deck" restoration strategy. This strategy would focus on collaboration between organizations and the community and use a combination of treatment methods in order to keep invasive species under control and promote healthy habitats for wildlife and people alike.

The WWRP was thus founded in 2006 with a primary goal of combating invasive weeds and educating gardeners on responsible practices as the inception of the Backyard Habitat program

within Southwest Portland. The current mission has evolved to include a focus on conservation and enhancement of forests and natural areas of Southwest Portland through the active coalition (see figure 1). Additionally, the partnership strives to engage with the public through active stewardship and outreach.

◀Figure 1. West Willamette Restoration Partnership's current mission.



The partnership benefits multiple organizations with varying goals, in an area that does not have a dedicated watershed council or other non-governmental entity supporting cross-jurisdictional coordination for conservation.

The WWRP focal area spans what has been deemed the “Westside Wildlife Corridor”, a forested wildlife corridor that includes the west hills of Portland, Oregon from the edge of Forest Park to Tryon Creek State Natural Area. This corridor (see figure 2) provides for wildlife movement through an urban area, as well as access to nature for members of the surrounding communities. People benefiting from this corridor include those living in the area, patients and family visiting the regional Oregon Health & Sciences University and Veterans Affairs hospital campuses, and travellers coming to the area for recreation opportunities such as hiking, biking, running, picnics, or birding.



The WWRP has developed a camaraderie and culture that supports partners to achieve their individual organizational goals and take on collaborative projects that will leverage the experience and expertise of the members to move forward the group’s collective mission. Through the collaborative efforts of WWRP members, partners have been able to achieve both exceptional conservation outcomes and advance new community-building efforts that would be difficult, if not impossible, for one single organization to complete.

◀ Figure 2. Westside Wildlife Corridor and West Willamette Restoration Partnership’s focal project area shown between Forest Park and Tryon Creek State Natural Area in the west hills of Portland, Oregon.

Over the years, the WWRP has maintained a strategic plan to set goals for the group that includes restoration, partner engagement, and communications & outreach initiatives (see section “WWRP’s Strategic Plan below). To achieve these goals, the group has facilitated a diverse set of activities. Largely due to limited capacity, the majority of these collaborative activities have been implemented in the Terwilliger-Marquam area of the corridor to intentionally focus on restoration efforts in these forested habitats and radiate restoration efforts out from there as a restoration project progresses. Partners have conducted consistent multi-year vegetation plot monitoring in this area to measure effectiveness. Across a broader set of communities in the corridor, the WWRP has conducted multiple listening projects to allow community members opportunities to voice their ideas about nature and accessible conservation

/ recreation resources. More information about key WWRP projects are summarized below in [Projects](#) and [Cross-Project Synthesis](#).

Current Strategic Plan (2019-2021)



RESTORATION

Goal 1: Enhance and connect habitat in the corridor.

- Support partners' habitat enhancement projects across public and private land in the corridor.
- Work with landowners to survey and treat highly invasive weeds and treat canopy weeds (ivy and/or clematis) on infested trees adjacent to natural areas.
- Define what the corridor means for wildlife, communities, and human health. Identify the gaps we are trying to bridge to create a functional corridor.
- Ensure equitable access in the corridor for wildlife and people to clean water by protecting waterways and managing stormwater impacts. (WWRP Strategic Plan 2019-2021)



PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Goal 2: Increase the capacity of the WWRP to achieve the partners' collective mission and vision.

- Support expansion of the WWRP network to include additional partners such as educational institutions, businesses, nonprofits, community groups, and agencies with shared values and interests in the corridor.
- Recognize the different levels of capacity of partners, identify roles, and balance allocation of resources across the projects.
- Maintain organizational funding to support a part-time coordinator and priority project actions.
- Increase the awareness of the WWRP as a conservation partner in larger Willamette River conservation initiatives.



COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

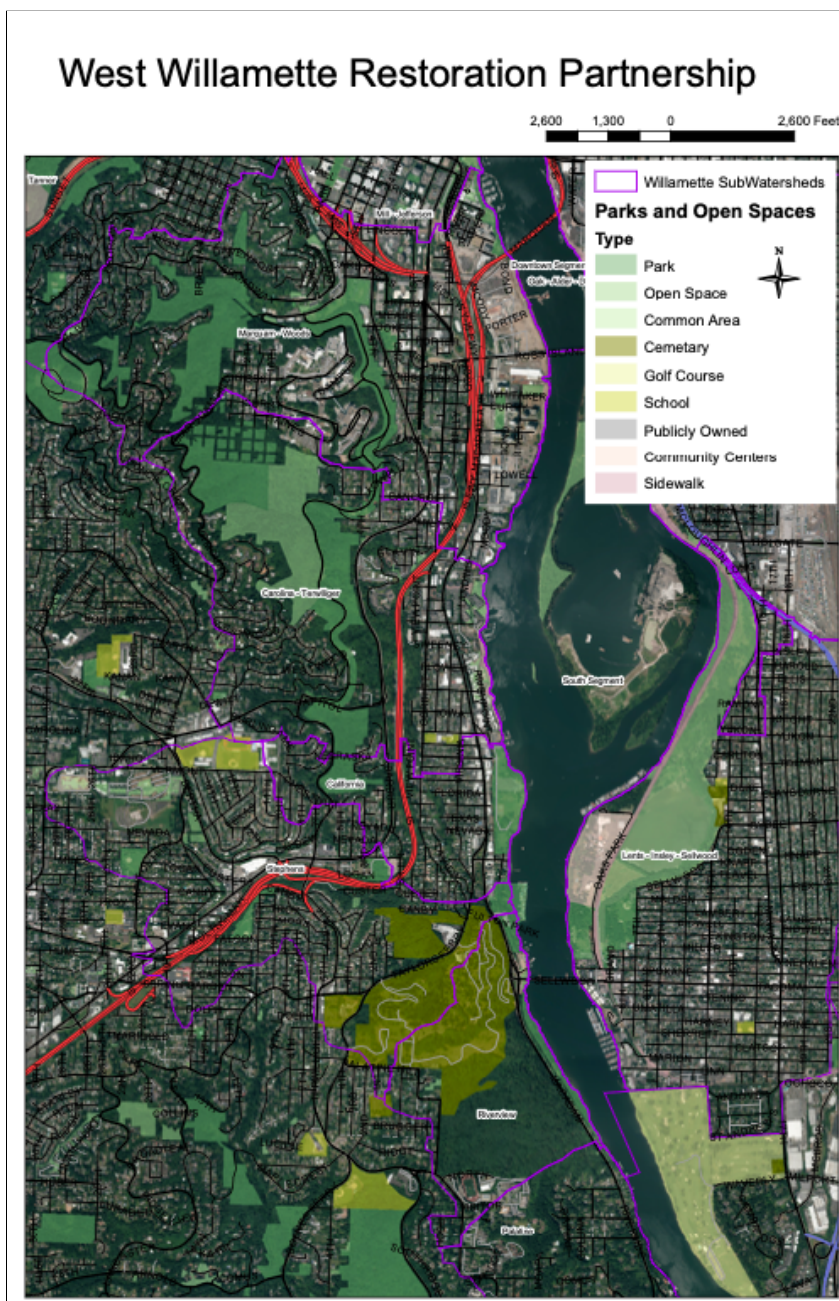
Goal 3: Increase community understanding of and engagement in the corridor.

- Develop ways that community members can identify themselves as part of the corridor and identify ways that people can participate in improving the corridor.
- Organize habitat enhancement and monitoring information to be a resource for partners and for the public.
- Promote an understanding of the multiple objectives for the corridor including wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, community connection, and natural area protection.

- Update the WWRP website so as to keep the public as well as new and existing partners informed on WWRP activities.

Report Purpose & Methods

The WWRP has thus far been effective at collaborating and achieving restoration goals. With multiple projects wrapping up and various types of community engagement information available, this summary report serves as the basis to evaluate existing information, to guide the group's next steps and provide an overview for those interested in the WWRP's efforts.



Review & Synthesis Methods

In order to catalogue & organize project materials efficiently, a systematic approach was taken to identify important materials for primary collaborative WWRP projects. Materials reviewed included project or grant reports, maps, charts, the most current or active version of relevant plans or guiding documents, and meeting notes between approximately 2015 - 2020, including a portion of the beginning of 2021 since the fiscal year and contractual efforts often operate between July - June. There is an emphasis on summarizing final deliverables so that the partnership could reflect on accomplishments, gaps, and tangible actions as a way to move forward. Each section highlights possible discussion topics, reflection questions, and/or ideas about next steps resulting from the information reviewed (see figure 3 for icons for each highlight). Whenever possible, the information is tied

back to the achievement of WWRP goals or gaps to address (see figure 4 for icons noting strategic plan goals). To conclude, the report narrows in on the resulting discussion topics and ideas for next steps. This information was reviewed by WWRP members to edit, adjust, and identify priorities that will add specific measurable action items to the current strategic plan and advance the group's mission without the need for undertaking an intensive planning effort.



▲ Figure 3. Icon key from left to right: (1) Discussion Topic, (2) Reflection / Questions, (3) Idea for next steps.

▼ Figure 4. Icon key for noted achievements or gaps from the strategic plan (from left to right): (1) goal #1 'Restoration', (2) goal #2 'Partner Engagement', and (3) goal #3 'Communications & Outreach'.



▼ Figure 5: Project Milestones



Partnership Structure & Composition

The WWRP could not function without the hardwork and dedication of committed partners. Over the past five years WWRP has made decisions and taken actions using a consensus-driven model of engagement. The WWRP has operated as a cohesive organization with limited coordination capacity and utilizing the support of multiple fiscal agents to accomplish grant and contract work within the corridor. Over time, the terminology within the partnership has evolved as needs presented or new partners were involved. According to the Governance and Operations document (updated as of 2019) the partnership includes four primary structural components:

1. **Partnership:** *Any organization or individual can join the partner network or join as a WWRP Core Partner with a commitment and investment to the mission and values of the WWRP.*

The term ‘Partners’ has included volunteers, community groups, landowners and organizations. All of these groups come together in some way to preserve and strengthen the wildlife corridor in SW Portland, however there have been various definitions of partners within WWRP with varying levels of involvement. Historically, ‘core’ partners are those signed on to the WWRP’s Declaration of Cooperation, attend Quarterly Partnership meetings, work towards fundraising goals, maintain organizational capacity by supporting the coordinator or managing projects.

I. Core Partner Commitments & Benefits

- A. Core Partners commit to** *investing in the mission and values of the WWRP, regular attendance at Quarterly Partnership meetings, and participation in joint WWRP projects as applicable by contributing time and/or financial resources.*
- B. Individual commitments represent a public statement** *of intent to participate in the partnership, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other participants in promoting the success of the WWRP and its projects.*
- C. Core Partners are recognized** *for their commitments through promotion on the WWRP website (www.westwillamette.org), annual reports, and outreach. Core Partners benefit from partnership coordination, networking, collaborative fundraising, and collaborative project development and outreach.*

(Governance & Operations, 2019)

‘Educational’ partners have assisted WWRP in on-going research projects within the corridor as well as mentored students and provided classroom learning opportunities. ‘Regional’ partners have attended annual meetings, provided feedback or input on projects, and provided information to support WWRP efforts. Additional edits to the language about core partners is proposed in a not yet approved version of the Governance & Operations document dated March 2021.

2. **Project Teams:** collaborative teams of individuals and organizations that manage projects in the WWRP corridor.

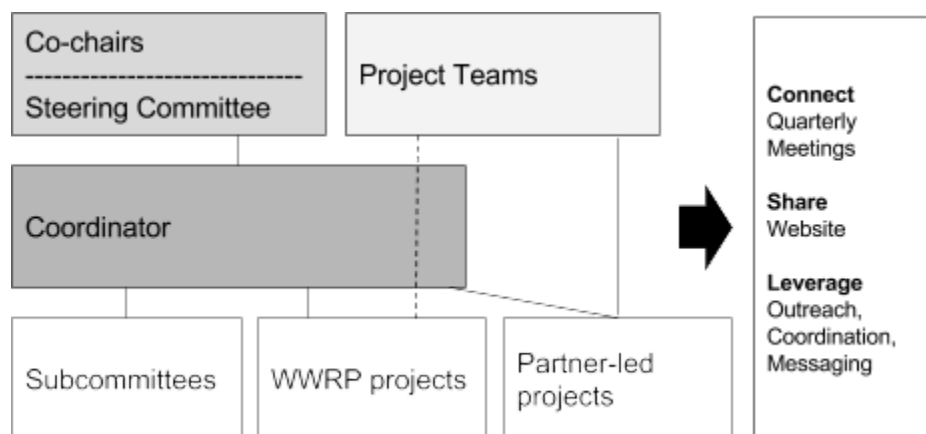
Project teams have been essential for the conservation projects that take place within the corridor and the composition of the teams are based on project needs. Due to extremely limited hours in the WWRP Coordinator's contract, project teams have collaborated and shared both the coordination and implementation workload to manage the projects that WWRP takes on as a group. A significant effort has been extended recently to build additional lasting relationships with community organizations in the corridor, particularly those that serve communities of color.

3. **Steering Committee:** The WWRP's steering committee shall be organized and operated exclusively for managing the day-to-day functions of the partnership.

The steering committee supports decision making in between full partnership meetings and members have been instrumental for effective support of the coordinator. Steering committee members have attended regular meetings facilitated by the coordinator. They allocate funds for the coordinator's scope of work, provide regular feedback for the coordinator, and set the WWRP meeting agenda in accordance with WWRP's current priorities.

4. **Coordinator:** The WWRP shall hire a WWRP Coordinator on an annual contract basis and determine an appropriate scope to coordinate the necessary activities of the partnership.

The WWRP has contracted a coordinator to provide ~12-15 hours/month of support for the WWRP and associated projects. The coordinator's scope of work has included tasks within the following categories: communications, facilitation, fundraising, data and research, and organizational capacity building. Overall, the primary objective of the coordinator has been to work with a diverse group of partners and move the strategic plan forward while adhering to budget constraints. (RFP 2017)



▲ Figure 6: Chart representing the WWRP structure from the Governance & Operations document dated October 2019.

A new partner application has been added to the WWRP website, as of November 2021, that allows interested organizations to fill out and await placement within the partnership by the following quarterly partnership meeting.

The Partners

Core Partners: West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Columbia Land Trust, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, Friends of Terwilliger, Westside Watershed Resource Center, Oregon Health and Science University and Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Educational Partners: Portland State University, Portland Community College, Pacific Northwest College of Art and Lewis and Clark College.

Regional Partners: Forest Park Conservancy, Friends of Tryon Creek, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, Intertwine Alliance, SW Trails, Friends of Gabriel Park, Friends of Riverview, Wisdom of the Elders Workforce Development Crew, Community Engagement Liaisons, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, Southwest Watershed Resource Center.

Steering Committee Members: Colleen Mitchell City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Maha Guliani City of Portland Parks and Recreation and Mary Logalbo West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

WWRP Coordinator: Samara Group: current (as of June 2021) Fiona Smeaton, Past: Adriana Escobedo-Land, Jalene Littlejohn.



How do we define a partner or WWRP member? How are the terms defining levels of partnership shaped by involvement?

Partnership Meetings

Partnership meetings have been essential to the success of WWRP. These meetings have been an important channel for sharing information across organizations and throughout the corridor. Additionally, they allow open communication between WWRP partners so as to maintain relationships, support collaboration, and identify priorities for the corridor.

Quarterly Partnership Meetings

Topics discussed in these meetings have been centered around:

- Partner updates with specific timely project needs
- Marketing and maximizing social media -- creating a story of how the corridor and the coalition; web traffic statistics

- Finance/Funding: how to show value of the partnership, how the partnership's projects are funded, and fiscal sponsorship
- Presentation of project results including Connect SW PDX, annual report development, and trails survey
- Priorities for enhancing habitat in the corridor
- Ways to increase WWRP capacity; funding for connectivity assessment
- How to expand the WWRP and the network of partners
- Steering focus towards underserved communities and access to parks -- providing equitable access, increasing awareness, trails survey data to inform efforts
- Available signage, messaging, and materials
- SW Corridor light rail project assessment of plans for conservation impacts

Steering Committee Meetings

These meetings also provide an opportunity for discussion to take place about new projects to pursue that align with the WWRP mission.

Meeting topics have covered:

- Coordinator's scope of work and reaching goals within a limited budget
- Restructuring coordinator's scope of work to reflect new goals of the organization
- Discussion of funding sources and opportunities
- Organization of materials for successful projects
- Discussion of efforts to pursue that align with goals and advance the mission



Are meeting topics and information that is being shared effective for partners? Are there ways partners would like to adapt meeting agendas to meet current needs and maintain an action-oriented approach?

Guiding Documents

WWRP has a number of guiding documents that are central to the group's function, form, and effectiveness. Most documents are up to date. The most out of date guiding document is the communications plan last updated in 2017.

1. Strategic Plan: 2019-2021

The most current Strategic Plan was updated for 2019-2021. Past versions exist to give additional detail. As outlined above, this current plan showcases the mission of WWRP and approaches used to carry out appropriate application of these goals. The natural spaces within the wildlife corridor are valuable in cleaning our air, providing habitat for native plants and animals and fostering an extensive trail network that allows humans to engage with nature. WWRP is unique in that it focuses on a specific geographic region and uses multidisciplinary strategies to accomplish goals. It addresses conservation needs by supporting collaborative community partnerships. This plan identifies goals to move forward with. Firstly the plan to advance WWRP starts with enhancing and connecting habitat within the corridor. This will happen through supporting partners restoration projects and removal of invasive weeds. Secondly WWRP will increase its capacity to reach partners goals. Thirdly, WWRP will work to increase community engagement and understanding about the corridor. These broad strategies will help to guide individual actions.

The WWRP Strategic Action Plan provides a guide for project priorities within the bounds of capacity and funding options. A strategic planning survey is conducted to gauge public interest surrounding opportunities and challenges within the corridor. There are discussions at partner meetings that facilitate the direction of this interest. The steering committee recommends updates as opportunities arise. This allows for a set of goals and objectives to guide future planning for the partnership.

2. Declaration of Cooperation

The original Declaration of Cooperation document was drafted in 2009 and has been updated as of 2019. This version will be in effect through 2024. This document serves to outline the roles and responsibilities for WWRP network participation as well as provide accountability to those partners that have signed on. The current list of partners on the 2019 document is listed below, though this list is not fully inclusive and needs to be updated:

- Backyard Habitat Certification Program - Columbia Land Trust: Susie Peterson, Backyard Habitat Certification Program Manager, Signed 12/19/2019
- City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services: Jane Bacchieri, Watershed Services Group Manager, Signed 3/11/2020
- City of Portland Bureau of Portland Parks & Recreation, Tonya Booker, Division Manager, Signed 1/13/2020
- Columbia Land Trust: Ian Sinks, Stewardship Director, Signed 12/20/2019
- Friends of Marquam Nature Park: Robin Jensen, Board Vice President, Signed 2/6/2020

- Friends of Terwilliger: Anton Vetterlein, Board President, Signed 12/12/2019 – see copy of signature attached
- Oregon Health & Science University: Marta Szabatin, Environmental Compliance Program Manager, Signed 3/4/2020
- Watershed Resource Center: Erik Horngren, Watershed Resource Center Manager, Signed 12/5/2019
- West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District: James F. Cathcart, District Manager, Signed 12/9/2019

3. Governance & Operations

The current WWRP Governance & Operations document was adopted in 2017 and revised in 2019. This document reviews the organizational structure of the partnership as well as the partner commitments and benefits. The purpose is to have a consistent record of core partner and steering committee responsibilities. Steering committee members are to be elected by the larger WWRP group and must be able to commit to actively participate in at least one two-year term to be considered, as well as have their organization signed onto the Declaration of Cooperation.

4. Communication Plan - 2017

A 2017 write up focused on social media platforms and how to amplify the impact made. The cornerstone of these social media accounts is to highlight work that is being done by various partners as well as the collaborative projects that have been done by the partnership. WWRP communication channels include the website, Twitter, Instagram and a select listserv.



Where will limited partner time and energy be most effective to update out of date plans? Are these guiding documents clear for existing and new partners' commitments and roles?



What elements of these guiding documents need to be updated and which can be maintained?



Update communication plan so as to set feasible SMART goals for reaching communities within the WWRP service area.



Extend the strategic plan through 2022 and identify specific action items to achieve that leverage the work done so far to advance goals and fill any remaining gaps. Include measures for success.

Projects

To achieve collective WWRP’s conservation and outreach goals, partners collaborate on specific projects to leverage funding, expertise, experience, and achieve a greater amount of work together. The WWRP has taken on three primary projects over the last five years that included a variety of activities encompassing conservation, restoration, and engagement outcomes. The primary on-the-ground projects are listed here in order by most recent.

For a tally of project outcomes, description of project teams, and fundraising totals, see Synthesis section below.

Projects Table of Contents	15
Westside Wildlife Corridor for People and Habitat	16
Take to the Trails: SW Portland Survey Results	17
George Himes Park Forest Enhancement	18
Connect SW PDX Listening Project	19
Connecting Portland’s Urban Forest	21
Terwilliger-Marquam Healthy Watershed Engagement Project	23
Marquam Headwaters Forest Restoration	24

Westside Wildlife Corridor for People and Habitat

Project Timeline: 2019-2021

Source: NIN 2019 Grant Application & Progress Reports Submitted through Zoom Grants

This project started in 2019 with funding from the Metro’s Nature in Neighborhoods Grant and will work through 2021. Its goal was to “enhance 20 acres of forest habitat in SW Portland and implement a community engagement project with culturally-specific organizations to inform planning for trails and access to nature” This project was developed to build off lessons learned in past projects so as to further restoration, planning and outreach efforts in the corridor. This new phase of restoration has controlled invasive plant species through targeted treatments and native plantings. Photo and vegetation monitoring was conducted to track progress. Community engagement activities focused goals around relationship building, developing a better understanding of community members’ needs for accessing nature, and evaluating feedback to inform planning efforts.

Specifically, the project’s goals over the 2-year grant period include:

- 20 acres of steep or difficult to access areas treated twice by contract crews
- 8 volunteer work parties
- One planning meeting, 4 work days paired with 4 educational events with Central City Concern’s volunteer corps crew in partnership with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership



- 4 work days with PP&R's Youth Conservation Crew (8-person crew)
- 2400 trees and shrubs installed
- Photo monitoring completed twice per year; photos labeled and stored on WWRP website
- Community engagement design & implementation:
 - 1-2 meetings with WWRP partners and CELs; scope of work for community engagement
 - 1-2 meetings with WWRP partners to design outreach strategies to connect to local communities about trails and access to natural areas, and obtain feedback on planned improvements to the trail system, including a new trail in a natural area owned by CLT in the project area.
 - Invested time in relationship building with community organizations; implement culturally specific engagement activities to address guiding questions about trails and natural area access (anticipated 2-4 meetings or events); compile and review findings
 - Implement outreach strategy to local stakeholders; compile and review feedback from stakeholders
- WWRP partners participate in community events and projects throughout the year to support local community organizations.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges, this project has still been successful and meeting targets. The project team requested (and was granted) an extension to the timeline for activities and will wrap up restoration activities in fall/winter 2021. The project team has submitted four progress reports so far during the project. Reported measures are summarized in table 1 below.

Take to the Trails: SW Portland Survey Results

The Take to the Trails! Survey was conducted as the community engagement effort for the Westside Wildlife Corridor for People and Habitat project. A 10-minute online survey was distributed in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Slavic, and English with help from the Community Engagement Liaison program. Respondents to this survey were mostly people who use trails in parks and natural areas daily or weekly. Most respondents either walk or drive to access trails, 25% reported having “some difficulty” getting to these trails. The reasons for visiting these trails were for exercise, to be in nature, health benefits and to spend time with friends or family. The information on posted signs was evaluated by asking participants to list what they looked for or what questions they had before using a trail. Houseless communities on trails were frequently brought up by respondents. Demographic information was collected to understand the reach and perspective of survey participants.

QUICK STATS

1. 543 people responded to the survey between February and July 2020.
2. Over one third of respondents live in SW Portland.
3. 80% of respondents were interested in being entered into a survey giveaway for a backpack or gift card.
4. 66% of respondents wanted to, "Learn more about upcoming changes to trails in SW Portland."

DEMOGRAPHICS

Approximately 45% of respondents participated in an optional demographics survey.

1. Over 10% of respondents reported speaking a language other than English most often in their homes. Common languages included Spanish, Arabic, Russian, and Ukranian.
2. Majority of survey respondents (65%) identified as female.
3. Over 12% of respondents reported living with a disability.
4. The most well-represented age group was 68-79 year olds (32%); the second most was 35-54 year olds (28%).
5. 70% of respondents reported owning their own home, 25% rent, & 5% reported a different living situation (e.g. "living with parents/relatives").

Figure 7. Take to the Trails! Survey Report snapshot highlighting respondents and demographics.

George Himes Park Forest Enhancement

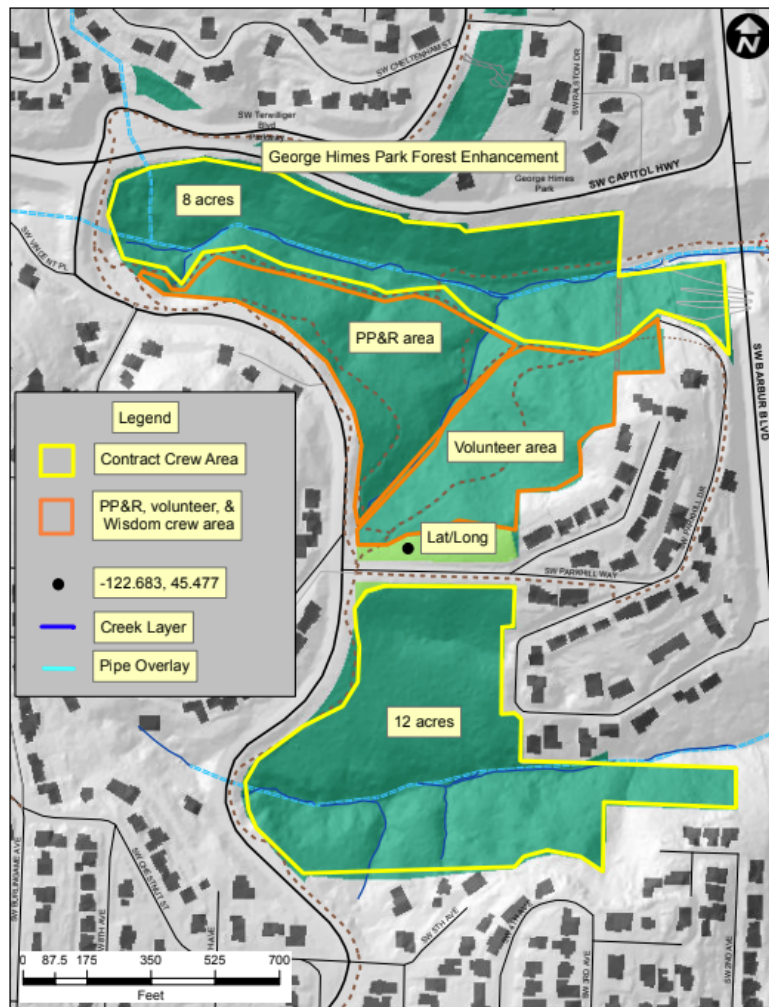
Project Timeline: 2017-2019

Source: OWEB Small Grant Application, Final Completion Summary

In 2017, WWRP was awarded the OWEB Small Grant to manage invasive plant species at George Himes Park. This additional OWEB funding was directed at restoring a further 20 acres within the park. Previous restoration work had taken place through the Bureau of Environmental Services to maintain canopy weeds. Portland Parks and Recreation, WMSWCD, Friends of Terwilliger and Wisdom of the Elders had collaborated for work crews to manage 5 acres of George Himes park. The OWEB funding supported planting of native species to control erosion and removal of invasive species, mostly ivy, clematis, prunus sp., and non-native maples.

In total this project managed weeds on 22 acres of the George Himes Park. This collaborative effort was achieved through the hard work of contract crews, PP&R staff, Wisdom crews and volunteers. The steep slopes in the park required more time to treat but where ivy was successfully removed there was a great native plant response.

Figure 8. Map of 20 acres within George Himes Park where restoration work took place from 2017-2019. According to the final completion summary this treatment area was shifted to account for difficult terrain.



Connect SW PDX Listening Project

Project Timeline: 2016-2018

Source: Connect SW PDX Final Report

In 2016, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District was awarded a Metro NIN grant for their ‘Creating Community Natural Area Stewardship’ application. This application was submitted to support a community engagement project in SW Portland within and adjacent to the WWRP area. The project was rebranded “Connect SW PDX” during the course of the project to provide an easily referenced project name that could be used for the survey and outreach through social media.

This project was developed based on the success of the Listening Project and Action Pledge model developed by NICE and piloted for the Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project (see summary of this 2015-2016 project below).



◀Figure 9. Connect SW PDX project team. A celebratory moment as Connect SW PDX partner wrap-up the Survey Debrief & Input Community Celebration at Jackson Middle School, May 31, 2017. Photo credit: Ping Khaw, Community Engagement Liaison Services.

The Listening & Action Pledge model was further enhanced to reach multi-lingual participants. Community Engagement Liaisons were hired to engage with residents in Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali and English. The focal area was the West Portland Park neighborhood, with an added focus on partnering with historically underserved communities. A postcard was sent out to residents to attend listening events with liaisons. Liaisons helped provide the listening project and action pledge in Vietnamese, Arabic and Somali as well as English.

Project summary from the final report (summary statistics are provided in the Synthesis section below):

“Over 100 people participated in the Connect SW PDX Listening Project. Individuals participated by taking a uniquely designed survey and action pledge about the environmental health of the West Portland Park (and other SW Portland) neighborhoods. Additionally, the partners that implemented the project participated as community and resource experts who shaped the survey, the action pledge, and the outreach. During the spring of 2017, Liaisons were hired through PKS International LLC’s Community Engagement Liaison Services to talk to residents about the environmental health of their neighborhood and connect them with local resources.

Listening Project participants answered questions such as, “Where do you spend the most time outdoors” and “What resources have you used to address your environmental concerns.” Participants expressed a consistent gratitude for the available parks and trees in the neighborhood and regularly experienced the outdoors in their own backyards and on walks through the neighborhood. The issues of stormwater runoff, fallen trees, and poor sidewalk conditions were mentioned multiple times, as well as mentions of feeling that the City would not help them due to lack of resources or eligibility. People regularly identified a lack of time as the reason they had not sought support for their environmental concerns. This on-the-ground

project created opportunities for people to talk to each other about the environmental assets and concerns in the neighborhood. The connections made and the survey results will stand to guide projects and partner programming in the near and long-term.”

Connecting Portland’s Urban Forest

Project Timeline: 2015-2018

Source: WWRP BES NIN Final Grant Report 190620

The goal of this project was to improve the habitat within the WWRP corridor by increasing native plant diversity in focal areas, controlling invasive plant species and engaging with community members. The main objective was protecting and enhancing regional connectivity between established natural areas. This project not only met restoration goals but also engaged communities through various outreach activities. CPUF was funded in partnership with Metro NIN Grant as well as other funding sources and partner contributions. This project was successful in treating over 80 acres within the corridor for weedy trees, canopy weeds and ground ivy. In addition to this there were over 60 acres planted with native trees and shrubs.

Summary outcomes are noted below, as excerpts pulled from the final report:

Small private property restoration:

“Southwest Watershed Resource Center has worked with 3 private property owners that live adjacent to the Terwilliger Parkway to remove invasive species. Restoration on these properties is complete with planting and mulching happening in spring of 2017. The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is growing in the area and continues to support homeowners in the enhancement of their yards. From January 1st 2015 through December 31st 2020 the BHCP provided 534 initial site visits to community members in West Portland and 189 certification visits.

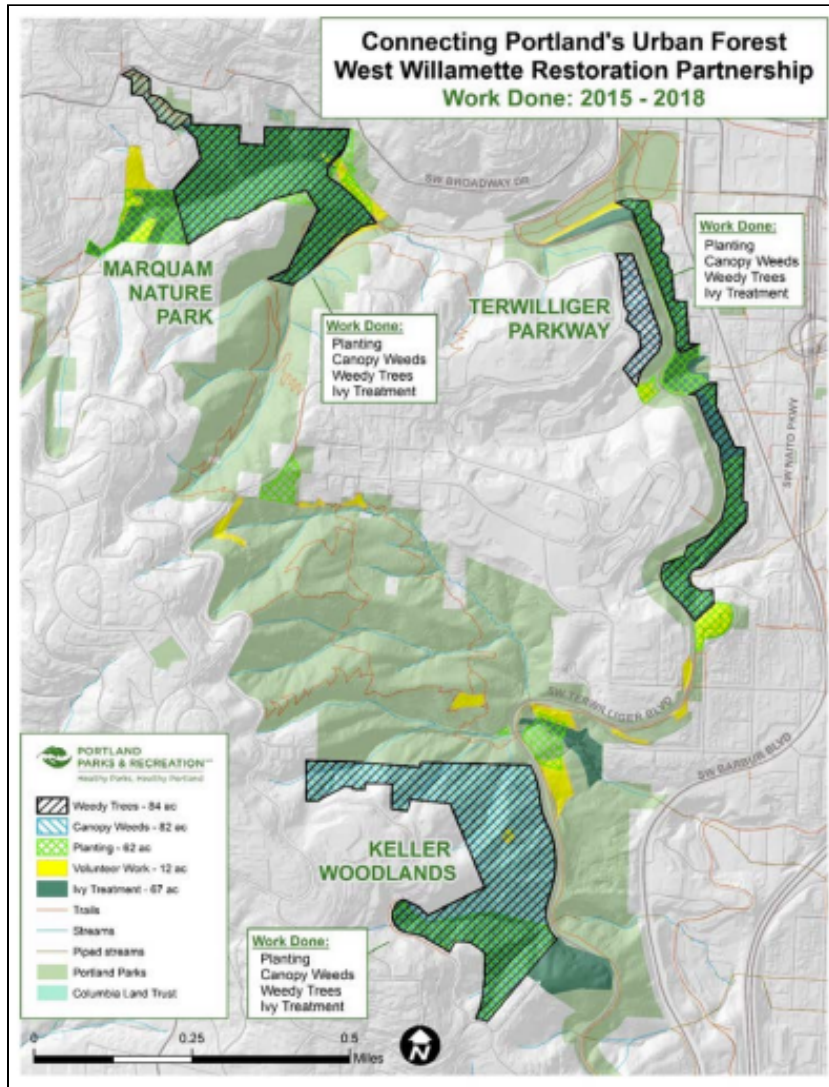
Large private and public land restoration:

Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) had contractors scheduled in September and October 2017 to treat canopy weeds, weedy trees, and blackberries between the OHSU campus and Terwilliger Blvd. Columbia Land Trust (CLT) treated the entire Keller Woodland property for weedy trees. During the fall of 2016, 2017, and 2018, project areas in Marquam Nature Park and Terwilliger Parkway were treated with herbicide applications under Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) supervision to target English/Irish ivy, blackberry, and other invasive weeds [see map included in attachments for locations and acreage information]. During the winter of 2016, weedy trees were treated or removed and native plants were installed. Over 30,000 native plants were installed at these sites. A new partnership between Southwest Watershed Resource Center (SW WRC), Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R), and African Youth Community & Organization (AYCO) was put on hold after AYCO underwent organizational changes and found that the nature and timing of the restoration work did not fit with the crew’s availability.

For the entire grant period, the following objectives were met through restoration work:



- Area of invasive canopy weeds treated = 82 acres
- Area of ground ivy treated = 67 acres
- Area of weedy trees treated = 84 acres
- Area of tree and shrub planting = 62 acres



◀Figure 10. Map of restoration work areas 2015-2018 implemented for the Connecting Portland's Urban Forest project

Volunteer work parties:

PP&R, Friends of Terwilliger, and Friends of Marquam Nature Park have actively hosted year-round volunteer work parties, preparing for and treating ivy and weedy trees and planting thousands of native shrubs and trees. Friends of Terwilliger and Friends of Marquam Nature Park have stewardship agreements to continue work parties in conjunction with areas currently being treated by contractors via PP&R. Each year these organizations host upwards of 10

work parties. For the entire grant period, the area of volunteer hand removal and/or planting = 12 acres

Outreach events:

During an outreach event held by Friends of Terwilliger in July along the Terwilliger Parkway, over 400 trail users were talked to, with representation from Southwest Portland neighborhoods. During the summer of 2018, Columbia Land Trust and Friends of Marquam Nature Park hosted a public tour of Marquam Nature Park as part of Get Outdoors Day organized by the National Coalition of Land Trusts.

Interpretive signage:

A total of 20 temporary yard signs have been printed and installed in the corridor, with an additional 20 printed as extras to replace those that go missing. The signs in the corridor consist of 4 sets of 5 unique illustrations that tell the story of restoration. Visit <https://www.westwillamette.org/education> to see examples of these educational outdoor signs.”

Terwilliger-Marquam Healthy Watershed Engagement Project

Project Timeline: 2015-2016

See additional results in Community Listening section below

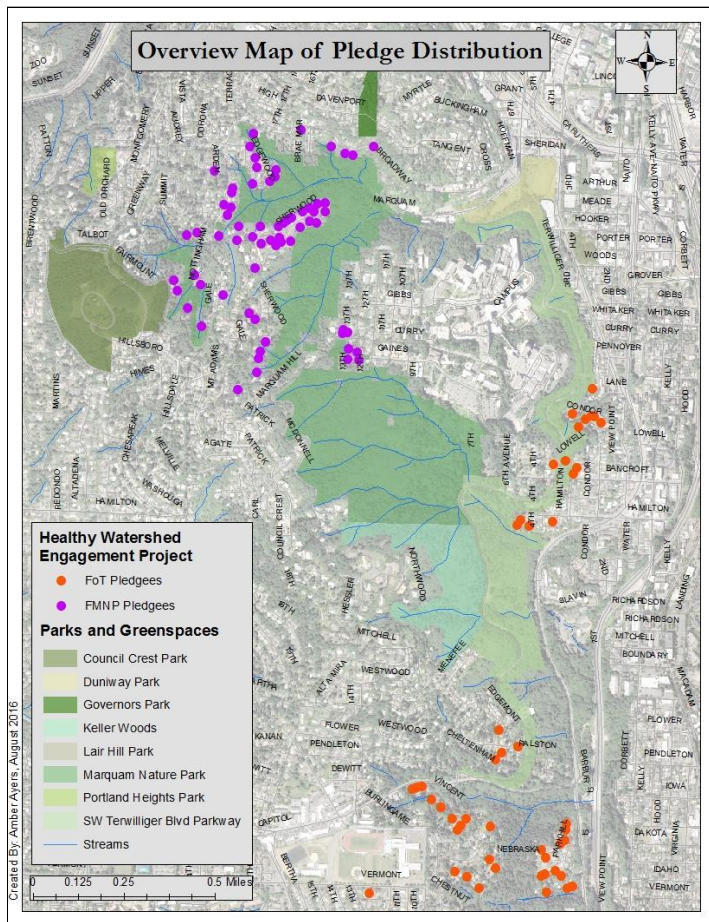
This pilot listening project was conducted by Friends of Terwilliger, Friends of Marquam Nature Park, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, SW Watershed Resource Center and WWRP. The outreach supported in-kind match and outreach for WWRP’s Connecting Portland’s Urban Forest Project.

► Figure 11. Door-to-door canvassing volunteers from FoT, FMNP, WWRP, and NICE who went door-to-door to reach out to neighbors and talk about watershed health (November 2015)



This project was developed based on the success of the Listening Project and Action Pledge model developed by NICE and utilized for the Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project (see summary of this 2015-2016 project below). The model developed by the NICE allowed for participating organizations to provide support for the community members. They coordinate groups of volunteers to go door to door and engage with residents in person, offering supporting resources or incentives to pledge their efforts for the cause. Interested residents are asked to respond to a short set of discussion questions and take an “action pledge” in which they check off the list of actions they will personally take to advance the community effort. By providing incentives or quick access to information, the goal is to inspire and build on small individual household contributions to create a bigger impact.

▼ Figure 12. Overview map of pledge distributions. Actual points are blurred to maintain privacy for individual households.



In total, Friends of Marquam and Friends of Terwilliger reached over 400 households and a total of 124 pledge participants. The response from the door-to-door canvassing was very encouraging and shows that this type of engagement is needed more to unite the neighborhood around the habitat corridor. The results for each of FoT and FMNP follow.

Marquam Headwaters Forest Restoration

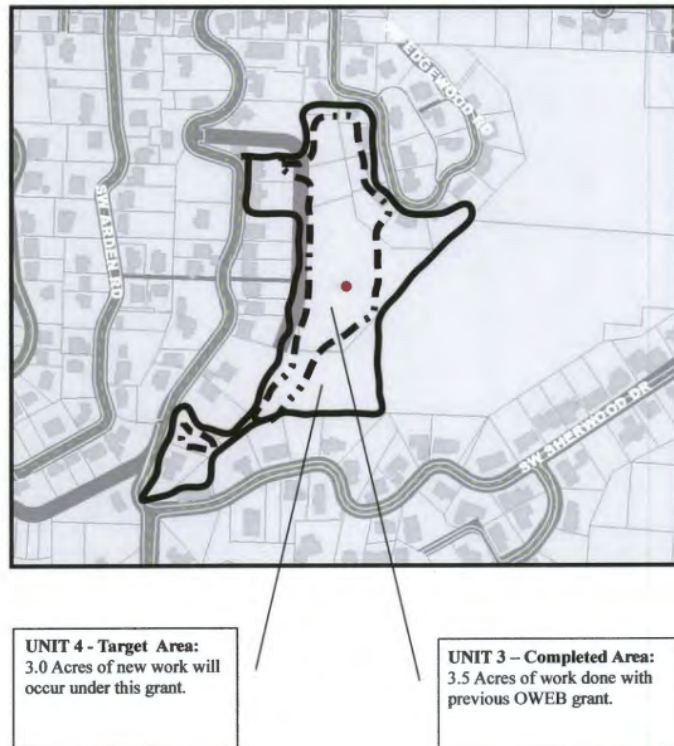
Project Timeline: 2013-2015

Source: OWEB Small Grant Program Application, Year-Two Status Report

This restoration project was directed at controlling invasive species within Marquam Park and preserving native species connectivity between Forest Park. Previous efforts have managed the spread of these invasives, this additional funding was used to target new acres of steeper terrain with heavier invasive tree cover and dense ivy patches. The goal was to work on 2.2 acres of public land and 0.3 acres of private land to remove invasive species and plant natives. This work was performed by contract crews alongside volunteers to effectively remove ivy, Himalayan blackberry, clematis and other invasive trees. When necessary licensed applications performed spray treatments, making sure to avoid times where birds were nesting and minimizing damage to native vegetation. Volunteer work parties were held and outreach materials were distributed to encourage community support.

The two year status report described the successes of this collaborative effort. A total of 3 continuous acres of both public and private land were cleared of invasives. The native trees and shrubs were thriving and forbs and ferns filled in areas previously dominated by ivy. This work inspired new restoration efforts within the park at an additional 25 acres. The outreach and education efforts were successful at reaching 235 landowners adjacent to the park.

▼ Figure 13. Marquam Headwaters and Forest Restoration target and completed areas 2013



Cross-Project Synthesis

Fundraising Totals

Table 1: Fundraising Totals for the 5-year period

Contribution	Amount	In-Kind Match	Description
Coordinator Support <i>Itemized by fiscal year:</i> FY 2015-2016 FY 2016-2017 (\$13,300) FY 2017-2018 (\$14,500) FY 2018-2019 (\$14,500) FY 2019-2020 (\$13,650) FY 2020-2021 (\$13,100)	\$69,050	n/a	Sum of contributions from participating organizations for contract coordination of the partnership. Support from Portland Parks & Recreation, Bureau of Environmental Services, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District every year in this record. In more recent years, additional support from Friends of Marquam Nature Park and Friends of Terwilliger.
2013-2015 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Program Marquam Headwaters Forest Restoration	\$9,000	\$14,621	Removal of invasive species on 2.5 acres of land in Marquam Park. Coordinated effort between private landowners and public land to preserve native habitat connectivity and engage community support.
2015-2016 FISH grant funding for the Terwilliger-Marquam listening project	\$5,575	\$6,765	Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats (FISH) grant from West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District to support door-to-door outreach, listening survey, and healthy watershed pledge in the Terwilliger-Marquam area.
2015-2019 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration grant funding for the "Connecting Portland's	\$98,500	\$203,226	Enhancing regional habitat connectivity through invasive vegetation removal and native plantings. Coordinated effort to complete vegetation monitoring

Urban Forest” project			and sharing of knowledge with partners and community.
2016-2018 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant funding for the “Connect SW PDX” project	\$50,000	\$37,782.12	Administered and led by Mary Logalbo at West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District with support.
2017-2019 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Program George Himes Park Forest Enhancement	\$14,970	\$6,720	Invasive plant removal and native plantings in 20 acres of George Himes Park.
2019-2021 Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration & Community Stewardship grant funding for the “Westside Wildlife Corridor for People & Habitat” project	\$63,000	\$65,730	Enhancement of 20 acres of forest habitat and implementation of a community engagement project about SW Portland trail usage and improvements.

*This is not a comprehensive list of all funding spent in the corridor; additionally, some projects were captured in match.

Summary of Project Outcomes by Strategic Plan Goals

Table 2: Cross-walk of project outcomes by WWRP strategic plan goals

Project	Goal 1: Restoration	Goal 2: Partner Engagement	Goal 3: Communications & Outreach
Connecting Portland's Urban Forests	-82 acres of invasive canopy weeds treated -67 acres of ground ivy treated -84 acres of weedy trees treated -62 acres of native trees and shrubs (30,000) planted	-3 year vegetation monitoring performed, data compiled and shared with the partnership -11 partners contributed to project outcomes	-Door-to door outreach to 400 households -120 participants in conversations to answer listening questions -20 temporary sign installations -Total volunteer hours: 3,200 with activities across 12 acres
--Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project	-Delivered native plants to first 100 participants	-Evaluated pilot outreach model created for future partnership listening projects	-Over 400 households reached through canvassing -124 households pledged participation
Connect SW PDX		-7 partners contributed to the project outcomes -29 people (including partners) attended wrap-up event to share and discuss results and next steps	-Over 100 participants in the project -49 pledges total -47% participants took action -Listening Project and Action Pledge were provided in Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali and English
George Himes Park Forest Enhancement	-22 acres managed for weeds -17 acres of ground ivy treated	-Collaboration between PP&R staff, Wisdom Workforce and contract crews to remove invasive species in difficult terrain	-Public outreach and volunteer engagement through PP&R and Friends groups
Westside Wildlife Corridor for People & Habitat	-Over 10,700 native plants planted -Over 48 acres of invasive species	-Collaboration with Wisdom Workforce to remove ivy and blackberry as well as	-Volunteer groups of 3-31 people contributed over 450 hours

	<p>removed -492 trees released from ivy</p>	<p>conduct vegetation monitoring at 12 sites -Engagement with youth YCC crew members -New partnership with Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Central City Concern's volunteer crew</p>	<p>-In person outreach day event on the west side of Keller Woodlands with informational fliers to neighbors and trail users</p>
<p>--Take to the Trails Survey</p>			<p>-543 Responses to survey -Translation was provided in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic and Slavic -80% of respondents were interested in the survey giveaway -66% wanted to learn more about upcoming changes to trails</p>

Project Partners

Table 3: Crosswalk of project partners by project roles

Partners	Connecting Portland's Urban Forests & Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project	Connect SW PDX	Westside Wildlife Corridor for People & Habitat + Take to the Trails Survey
WWRP Coordinator	Project administrator with Portland Bureau of Environmental Services.	Project support for outreach with WMSWCD.	Project support for grant tracking and outreach with Columbia Land Trust.
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District	Assists with private land restoration activities adjacent to natural areas and supports outreach efforts.	Lead organization receiving funding and project management.	Support vegetation monitoring and relationship building.
Columbia Land Trust	Manages contract crews, hosts restoration work parties, includes the Backyard Habitat Certification Program that provides assistance, incentives and resources on native wildlife.	Supports outreach efforts.	Fiscal agent, support grant tracking, coordinate restoration work and community partner engagement on CLT property. Co-lead community engagement to develop trails and access plans.
Portland Parks & Recreation	Coordinates volunteer stewardship and manages contract crews, assists with treatment planning.		Coordinate restoration work and community partner engagement on PP&R property. Co-lead community engagement to develop trails and access plans.
Friends of Marquam Nature Park	Provide resident engagement through hosted work parties and guided hikes.		Plan and host community volunteer restoration events.
Friends of Terwilliger	Provide resident engagement through		Plan and host community volunteer

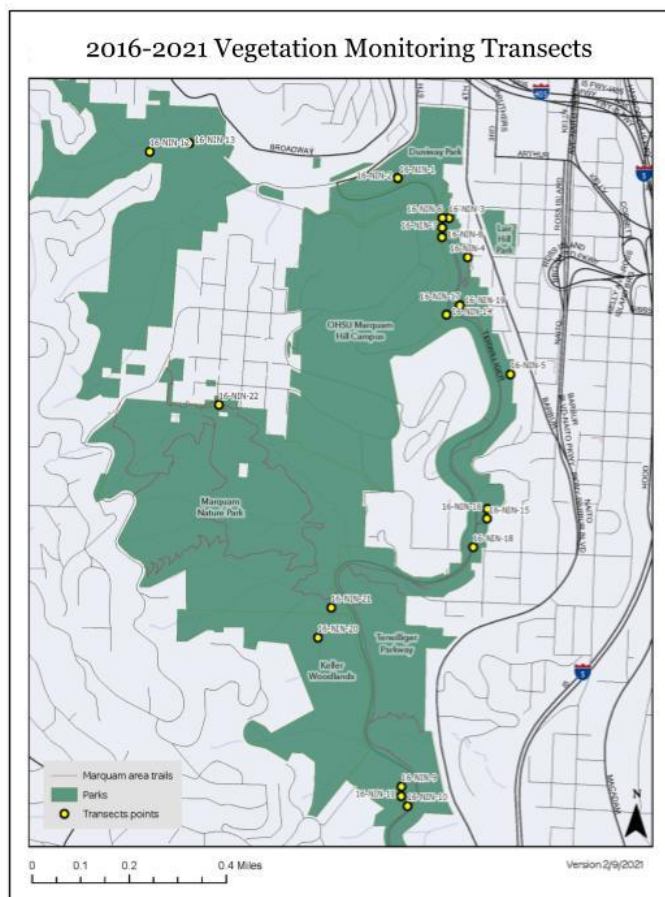
	hosted work parties and guided hikes.		restoration events.
Wisdom of the Elders Workforce Development Crew			Implement restoration and monitoring activities
Community Engagement Liaisons		Participates in “Listening & Action Pledge” scoping, training and delivery.	Guide and support development and implementation of engagement projects focusing on access to nature.
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership			Coordinate Central City Concern’s volunteer crew work days and environmental education.
Bureau of Environmental Services	Coordinates contracts and funding distribution and helps manage contract crews.	Participates in coordination and scoping meetings, and provides technical support.	
Tryon Creek Watershed Council		Participates in “Listening & Action Pledge” training.	
Southwest Watershed Resource Center	Coordinates private property projects adjacent to natural areas.	Coordinates with neighborhood associations and other groups to provide watershed project support.	
Jackson Middle School Sun Program		Hosts partner meetings and listening project events.	
Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU)	Manages contract crews on OHSU property adjacent to public properties.		

Pacific Northwest College of Arts (PNCA)	Assisted in developing interpretive signage and facilitating dialogue.		
Portland State University (PSU)	Enhancing monitoring within the corridor.		
Portland Community College (PCC)	Student support in the creation of restoration maps.		

Vegetation Monitoring

Vegetation monitoring within the corridor started in 2016 and has continued through 2021 twice yearly for photo monitoring and once annually for vegetation monitoring at plots using the Unified Monitoring Protocol originally developed by Greater Forest Park partners. In 2016-2018, vegetation monitoring was funded by the Metro NIN grant that supported the Connecting Portland's Urban Forest project and conducted by the WWRP coordinator alongside volunteers. In 2019, Portland State University stepped in to cover monitoring activities as a learning opportunity for undergraduate students. In 2020, the WWRP Coordinator alongside Robin from Friends of Marquam Nature Park trained members of the Wisdom Workforce Development Crew to conduct the monitoring using the same protocol. The same WWD crew returned in 2021 to conduct the monitoring. Monitoring efforts for this area typically involve a crew of 3-4 people for an 8-12 hour effort.

Vegetation monitoring transects were established in the WWRP corridor in areas with varying amounts of invasive species cover. Treatments have been and continue to be conducted to combat these invasive species and this monitoring effort provides a valuable tool to evaluate the success of these treatments.



◀Figure 14. Map of vegetation monitoring transects 2016-2021.

Results from monitoring efforts have been analyzed by Samara Group staff using a change over time approach. A cumulative analysis for the 5 years of monitoring will be finalized in spring of 2022. Funding for further vegetation monitoring in 2022 has not yet been identified.

? Will vegetation monitoring of these sites continue in future years 2022 and beyond? If so, how will monitoring be done/ funded?

How might these monitoring results inform future restoration actions in the corridor?

Community Listening

Take to the Trails! Survey

Excerpts from the Take to the Trails Survey Report below:

“The majority of respondents use trails in parks and natural areas in SW Portland daily (34%) or weekly (41%); 15% visit these areas monthly and 10% visit these areas only a few times a year.

- In response to the open-ended question, “How do you get to trails in SW Portland?” Most respondents reported walking or driving (reported by 70% and 62%, respectively); 15% reported biking and fewer than 10% reported running or using Trimet buses/Max to get to trails.
- 25% of respondents have “some difficulty” accessing trails. The topics they mentioned that cause challenges include trailheads being hard to find, lacking safe walking routes to parks, poor signage (maps, at trailheads, and on trails), missing trail links, difficulty parking (car & bike), traffic, limited Trimet bus service on weekends & to Tryon Creek, and wheelchair/stroller access.
- The most common places people go to find out information on trails include online searches (reported by 50%), friends & family (40%), Map apps (Waze, Google, Apple, etc.) (37%), the SW Trails website (30%), trail books (22%), and the City of Portland website (18%).
- The top reasons why people reported using unpaved trails are, (1) For exercise - walking or hiking: (91%), (2) To be in nature (84%), (3) For health benefits (57%), (4) To spend time with family, friends, and coworkers (52%), and (5) To escape noise/traffic (45%). Other common responses (indicated by more than 10% of respondents) include Bird/wildlife watching, Dog walking, Exercise - running, Photography, To volunteer/give back to the community, To get to nearby destinations (shopping, businesses, Zoo, doctors, etc.), To learn more about Portland, Spiritual practice, and To exercise with a team or group.”

“WHAT KIND OF FEATURES OR AMENITIES WOULD MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO VISIT A PARK, NATURAL AREA, OR OTHER OUTDOOR SPACE WITH AN UNPAVED TRAIL?”

The following responses were reported by 35-70% of respondents. Responses are organized in descending order with most commonly reported amenities on top.

1. Free/no fee to use
2. Native plants, big trees, wildlife
3. Bathrooms
4. Free parking
5. Trailhead near my residence

6. Cleanliness
7. Few people using the area
8. Trailhead easy to find
9. Trailhead marked on Google Maps or other online map
10. Trail is long

RESPONSES TO: “WHAT KIND OF FEATURES OR AMENITIES WOULD MAKE YOU LESS LIKELY TO VISIT A PARK, NATURAL AREA, OR OTHER OUTDOOR SPACE WITH AN UNPAVED TRAIL?”

The most commonly reported reason that people are less likely to visit a park is if, “[there are] lots of people using the area” (67%).* To a much lesser degree, people selected the following other reasons that make them less likely to visit a park: Trail is paved (34%), Dogs not allowed (21%), Trail is steep (19%), Trail is short (18%), Dogs allowed (14%), and Organized events (13%).

Examples of responses to “Other:”

- Concerns about encountering unhoused people or seeing campsites [see note below]
- Use of pesticides
- Litter
- Presence of predatory animals
- Cost
- People playing loud music

*This survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic and comments suggest people were particularly concerned about crowdedness on trails at this time.

UNIQUE FINDINGS

Almost all 500+ respondents seek out unpaved trails for exercise. The survey findings suggest that access to trails can be improved by enhancing trailhead wayfinding, expanding trail signage, supporting trail connections, and addressing safety concerns. The results demonstrate the value of parks and natural areas to their neighbors and the greater Portland Metro community.

NEXT STEPS

The survey results will help inform new trail improvements, trail maintenance, outreach, and community engagement priorities of the West Willamette Restoration Partnership. Site-specific concerns provided by respondents will be shared with land managers who are responsible for the parks or natural areas cited. Community members that expressed interest in staying involved will be contacted in 2021 regarding the proposed trail in Keller Woodlands. Engagement does not end here. Based on the responses heard, future engagement could focus on specific groups, including unhoused people living in natural areas, the LGBTQ+ community, racial or cultural groups that were underrepresented in our survey respondents (such as African Americans or the Somali community in SW), people who need support finding and navigating to

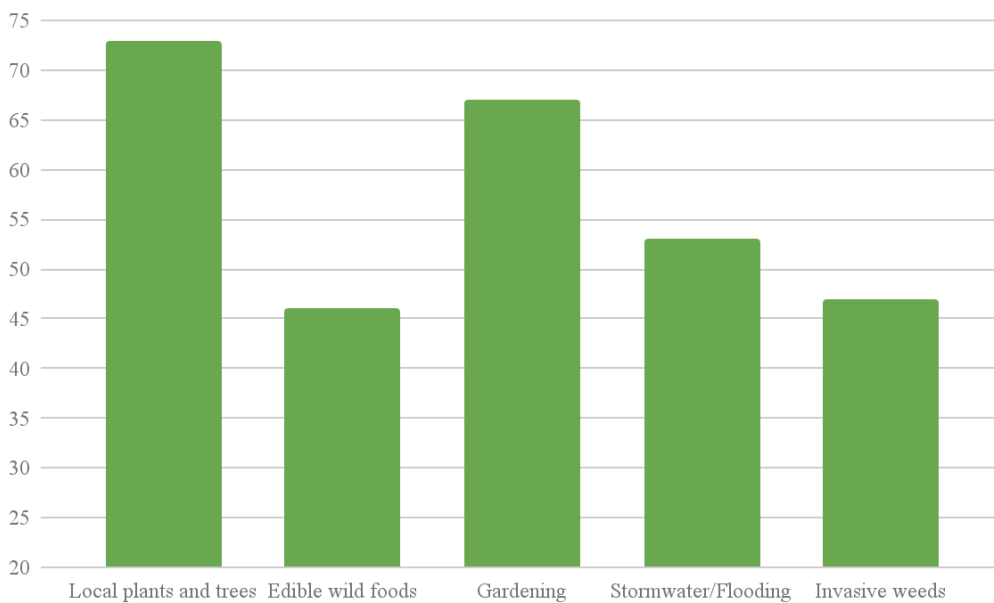
trailheads, and people who prefer to visit natural areas and trails as part of organized events or affinity groups.”

Connect SW PDX Project

Excerpts from Connect SW PDX Final Report below:

Survey Results:

“Reported interest in the following environmental topics shown in [Figure 15], in mid-way results local plants and trees and gardening were similarly ranked, but as there were more surveys to analyze, local plants and trees became the predominant answer:

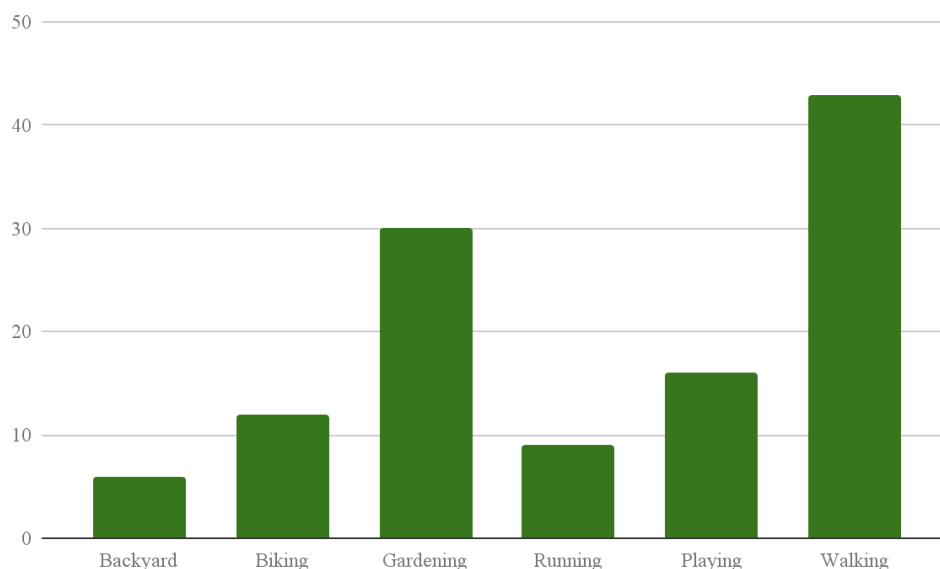


[Fig 15]. Summary of answers to the question, “Which of these environmental topics interests you the most?”

Of the places visited in the Falling Creek area of Capitol Hill Park, Jackson Middle School, Holly Farm Park, Markham School, and Loll Wildwood park, Gabriel Park was reported most often.

Common responses for, “where do you spend the most time outdoors” include:

My backyard, my neighborhood, city parks, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Jackson Middle School, and school running tracks. The results from the follow-up question, of what you most often do when you are outdoors, can be seen in [Figure 16].



[Fig 16]. Answers to question 4b of the survey, summary of the 6 most common answers to “What are you most often doing outdoors, additional answers include a variety of sports (e.g. basketball, soccer) and many walkers reported walking their dog or walking to stores.

The question, “What about your nearby environment negatively or positively impacts you” and, “What resources have you used, and what has kept you from finding/using resources” elicited a range of responses that are summarized here when mentioned at least twice.

- Common answers as to **what negatively impacts people about their environment**: lack of safe sidewalks, trash in the streets, invasive weeds, toxics/pollutants in water, falling trees, air pollution and residential use of pesticides.
- Common **reasons that people reported kept them from finding or using resources** to address their environmental concerns include: lack of time, ineffectiveness of government, no inclination, not sure where to look, and cultural barriers.
- Common **resources that were reportedly used** to address environmental concerns, include: online resources/the internet, city parks, SWNI/SWWRC resources, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, and Bureau of Environmental Services.

Action Pledge Results:

- “An additional 28 people will be added to the Southwest Watershed Resource Center’s monthly e-newsletter mailing list.
- A total of 24 pledges requested technical assistance through either West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Backyard Habitat Certification Program, or Bureau of

Environmental Services. The majority of those that requested technical assistance at their residence were interested in services to address stormwater concerns.

- A total of 24 individuals pledged to attend a hands-on stormwater workshop, some pledged to attend both for a total of 34 pledges.
 - Some partners used translation services for the first time to provide their services.
 - One partner, the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, began working with a new partner, the Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization (IRCO), to provide translation services to pledges that expressed a desire to get a site visit on their property that had expressed language preferences other than English.”
-

Lessons Learned:

“In order to have active involvement of key southwest Portland partners, the timeframe of the Listening Project was shorter than initially planned, with most of the work taking place over the course of 3 months. Future projects would benefit from having more time to allow for partner collaboration and meetings mid-project to improve communication and refine implementation strategies. A longer timeline would have also allowed for more resources to be invested in researching outreach options (e.g. connecting to Next door sooner) and greater reach. The short timeframe was not an issue in reaching and surpassing set goals, thanks in part to the clear division of labor among coordinators from the start, and definitive project descriptions and logo prior to creating materials. Overall, this project was a success. One participant of the Celebration stated, “I know it’s only a pilot project, but you’re off to a great start” and partners recognized the event as a way to build meaningful engagement. Community engagement liaison responses to a debrief on the project, conducted in 2018, reflected that this project was well-received by the liaisons and community members surveyed. One community engagement liaison responded, “I thought this project was great and we encouraged and recruited many communities to participate happily and successfully. GREAT PROJECT.” Another community engagement liaison responding to that same debrief suggested that we may consider follow up surveys as a next step “to document changes being made to take care of residents’ concerns.”

The majority of the Falling Creek watershed falls in the West Portland Park neighborhood, with some portions of the watershed lying in the Multnomah, Markham, and Crestwood neighborhoods. Of the 101 total people surveyed, 42 lived in West Portland Park, 6 lived in Multnomah, 2 in Markham, and 2 in Crestwood. The remaining 49 people surveyed reported living in other parts, including southwest, northeast, and southeast Portland. This was a foreseen consequence of conducting conversations at events rather than door-to-door and if anything provided inspiration to see the pledge implemented in other parts of Portland.”

Final partner debrief notes December, 2018:

This meeting discussed the successes and challenges of this project and lessons for the future. The geographics of where the project excelled included George Himes park and schools, however

it was less successful in apartments. Language on survey work was discussed, it was recommended that instead of using the terms immigrants and refugees, “new Portlanders” would be better phrasing.

Terwilliger-Marquam Listening Project

Excerpts from Connect SW PDX Final Report below:

Action Pledge Results:

“From the 124 participants interested in further action or involvement:

- FMNP sent out their first electronic newsletter! ([link here](#))
- FoT added 46 people to their email list, including their quarterly newsletter distribution.
- FMNP added 50 people to their email list, including their quarterly newsletter distribution.
- 40 people were interested in the Backyard Habitat program.

Project Lessons Learned:

Plus (Positive Aspects / Worked Well)	Delta Δ (Aspects to Improve / Adapt)
Conversations & Listening Model	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Conversations! Learning opinions and understanding concerns and motivations - People interested in restoration! - Connection to neighborhood and neighbors - Strengthen people’s connections to local parks - More empowered to talk with neighbors in future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance Data management: clear plan for data needed, how to document and organize it. - Restructure some question wording for clearer, more useful summaries. - Make response options more straight-forward; Leaving room for conversing going beyond that
Pledge Model	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 canvassers (scribe and talker) worked well - People were happy with Friends groups efforts - Lots of participation. Exceeded Goal in this area! - Delivered Information about activities/organizations to individuals who did not know about them - Coordinating resources for neighbors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timely follow-up is essential. Phone #s in addition to email addresses would be helpful. - Ways to get more specific info for the follow up organizations, without over-extending conversations - Need better ways to facilitate private property actions: easier next steps, clarified pledge items. - Organize routes for easy tracking - Listening questions could spark action
Structure of Project	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Useful comparisons between orgs/sites - Having neighbors do outreach (“neighbor-driven”) - Email lists for future connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How/If to incorporate students (e.g., as scribes)? - One project evolved into two distinct projects with unexpected obligations

- Exceptional effort and range of contacts for pilot project	- Plan for volunteer safety on routes - Improve workshop structure and prep - More outreach training, less materials prep
Partners	
- Great example of collaboration - Student volunteers worked hard and were dedicated	- Enhance communication among team - Identify early the clear roles for follow-up - Expand engagement with other partners: OHSU, colleges/universities
Materials	
- Full page survey for scribe to write in details - Short list of questions	- Give canvassers a map <u>plus</u> address list - Design & train for consistent survey completion - Make it easier to capture participant questions - Record property info for those not home: landscape, Backyard Habitat, etc. - Information gaps, not all info was captured - Increase signage - Additional resources to give at the door



How can we use the results from these listening projects to inform future efforts?

Conclusion & Next Steps

The work done in the Westside Wildlife Corridor by the WWRP within the past five years has helped to preserve native habitat and wildlife and has improved the community relationships with natural spaces. Preserving these natural areas from urbanization and development is inextricably valuable for human health as well as wildlife. There are numerous health benefits associated with access to nature including physical and mental connections to the land. Not only does the Westside Wildlife Corridor provide access to nature for humans in this Portland Metro area, it also provides valuable habitat connectivity, urban cooling, and respite for wildlife passing through. Native wildlife faces increased difficulty navigating spaces as they become more urbanized.

WWRP's projects are focused on restoration work to successfully reduce the amount of non-native plant species and encourage native species that provide valuable habitat. Listening projects have provided an opportunity to hear from people of communities in and around the corridor. These recorded responses are invaluable to continue adapting the on-the-ground work to meet the needs of both people and wildlife.

The WWRP's 2019-2021 strategic goals remain relevant into 2022, yet they can be strengthened to account for shifting priorities. The partnership will continue to use these guidelines in prioritizing efforts. Updates to this document as well as the Governance and Operations document and the Communications Plan will allow the WWRP to expand the goals of restoration, partner engagement and communications and outreach to have a greater impact and reach a wider audience.

By consolidating and analyzing the results of past projects this summary report will allow WWRP to easily reference strategies used and therefore target new projects and priorities. The WWRP will continue to reference past restoration work and listening projects in order to inform future efforts. The reach of activities accomplished by the WWRP in the past five years has been incredibly impactful to the natural areas of West Portland and the community members surrounding them; these efforts will only continue to grow in future work.