



Summer Report 2007

West Willamette Restoration Partnership

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The West Willamette Restoration Partnership began in fall 2006 to combat invasive weeds and to promote responsible residential gardening in southwest Portland. Our focus is a 300 acre corridor from Council Crest Park to George Himes Park, including Marquam Nature Park, the Terwilliger Parkway, Keller Woodlands, and neighboring residential and commercial properties. Previous volunteer efforts were failing to reverse the tide of invasives. Thus, the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association, Friends of Marquam Nature Park and Friends of Terwilliger formed a partnership with Three Rivers Land Conservancy to bring professional management and expertise to the effort. A three year management and leadership budget was structured at \$37,000 per year. This cost was underwritten by 'selling' 10 subscriptions to community stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, government agencies, corporations, and individuals (see insert). Each has funded their first year commitment, with the intent to renew for two additional years.

Our program strategy is to:

- 1) increase volunteer participation to remove invasives;
- 2) seek grants to hire contract crews to remove invasives;
- 3) start a Backyard Habitat program to promote responsible gardening by all residents.

Our efforts are measurable, accountable, and transparent.

Contract Crew Report

Through mid-May, four previous AmeriCorps volunteers experienced in invasives removal worked 280 hours in George Himes and Marquam Nature Parks removing tree ivy. Despite discovering a large amount of 10+ year old ivy in the northwest quadrant of Marquam, they completed lifesavers on 544 trees in Marquam and 399 in Himes over an area of 20 acres. Their work has been funded by a \$5,000 grant from Portland General Electric. Laura O'Leary oversees scheduling and measurement.



Volunteer Report

Melanie Truhn joined Three Rivers in March to energize the West Willamette Restoration volunteer recruiting effort. To date over 1,876 hours have been contributed by over 200 volunteers at 35 hosted work days, and momentum has been building. Work parties are scheduled at different sites most Saturday mornings. Contributing groups include Hands on Portland, Catlin Gabel, Portland YWCA, Robert Gray M.S., and REI.

Also, an Adopt-a-Plot program has begun, whereby a group takes responsibility to keep an area invasive free, once the initial work has been completed. Contact Melanie for details on the volunteer work schedule and for Adopt-a-Plot opportunities.





Backyard Habitat Program

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program helps individual homeowners to remove aggressive weeds, and to use native plants in their gardens and backyards for ideal urban habitat. Gaylen Beatty manages the program, which has the following materials: Backyard Boxes (educational and how-to information), Criteria Assessment sheets, and Backyard Certification Signs (at gold, silver, and platinum levels, depending upon the use of native plants). The initial outreach to homeowners began in May, with the first certification awarded (at the platinum level!). Home visits and recruitment of 'block captains' will begin this summer. Planned additional program features include: homeowner 'rewards', free workshops, and landscape design and contractor participation.

Grants Received

At the May 24 Council meeting, Metro awarded the West Willamette Restoration Partnership \$37,050 from their Nature in Neighborhoods program. Metro Council members expressed enthusiasm about WWRP's neighborhood partnership approach. With \$30,000 dedicated to the removal of tree ivy, different approaches are being evaluated.

Total confirmed grants to-date are:

OR Department of Agriculture	\$10,000	2006
Portland General Electric	\$5,000	Spring 2007
NW Natural	\$3,000	Spring 2007
Metro	\$37,050	May 2007

Reports from The Field

– Four miles of garlic mustard infestation were mapped along Terwilliger Boulevard, with location data stored in a pocket GPS unit, to allow WWRP to quantify and spatially relate infestation occurrences to City of Portland Bureau of Maintenance which then treated garlic mustard in May. Additionally, 2.5 acres of garlic mustard were hand-pulled and bagged with 1st year rosettes spot sprayed along SW Fairmount Blvd. and SW Marquam Hil Rd.

– *"Thanks to Melanie! I believe this project was well organized and we made a lot of progress on that Ivy."* -Shelly Kott, returning Marquam volunteer

–The final herbicide application to 20 acres of ground ivy and blackberry was completed at Keller Woodlands. A report submitted in April to the US Fish and Wildlife Service summarized the 30 month program utilizing a variety of methods to remove invasives (available on request).

– *"I think it went well, I enjoyed myself and felt I accomplished something."* -Max Gideonse, Catlin Gabel student

– A website has been created to engage residents and volunteers. A logo, as well as complimentary banners and signage, have been created.

Base Underwriters

Friends of Marquam Nature Park	\$3,700
Friends of Terwilliger Park	500
Southwest Hills Residential League	3,700
Bureau of Environmental Services	3,700
Department of Transportation	3,700
Department of Water	3,700
Portland Parks and Recreation	3,700
Oregon Health and Science University	3,700
Charlie Swindells	3,700
Wardin Estate	1,000
Don Baack, Bruce Murray, Carole Kelly	4,900
Robin Jensen, Roger Brown, Claudia Kelly	
Not yet subscribed	1,000
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	\$37,000