

Fall Report 2008

West Willamette Restoration Partnership

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The West Willamette Restoration Project is a coalition of neighborhood organizations, non profits, private individuals, OHSU, the City of Portland, and the West Multnomah County Soil and Water Conservation District committed to eliminating invasives and noxious weeds from 300 acres of public parks and adjoining neighborhoods in southwest Portland over ten years. The Partnership was formed in September 2006, with the coalition committing to fund three years of management support from the Three Rivers Land Conservancy. Program efforts have been focused on the Backyard Habitat Program, Volunteer work parties, and Contract work. As the Partnership begins its third year, this newsletter will highlight program objectives and results.

Backyard Habitat Program Gains Momentum

In its first 15 months, the West Willamette Restoration Partnership's Backyard Habitat Program has certified 17 individual homeowners as having removed all invasive properties from their property, and having replanted with natives; an additional 25 homeowners have started the process. All certified homeowners are proudly displaying the Partnership's handsome yard sign, with the silver, gold, or platinum tag indicating the level of native plant restoration.

The Backyard Habitat Program was designed to complement the Volunteer and Contract Work Programs which remove invasives from the public parks in our target area. The Partnership determined early on that it was equally important to remove invasives from private commercial and residential properties, otherwise the restored parks will continue to be threatened. There have been important additional benefits from residents



learning of the threat from invasives and taking action on their property – these actions have led to increased participation in Volunteer efforts, and to the support of additional government efforts

Be sure to check out the October 2008 issue of Portland Monthly Magazine which features the Backyard Habitat Program in "Not in My Backyard" on p 88.

and funding.

Help and advice for your backyard project is available from the Partnership by contacting the Three Rivers Land Conservancy. A network of resources, contacts and information has been established to support your efforts, including many local landscape designers and contractors. The goal is to establish a plan that can be started with confidence. The result will be an invasives free home, a yard sign signifying certification, and the satisfaction of joining this important community effort.

Volunteer Neighborhood Leadership is critical to the growth and success of the program, whereby inspired individuals can lead efforts to gain participation from their neighbors. These volunteers can leverage the limited available staff time, and thereby significantly add to the program's momentum. Please contact Three Rivers to discuss this opportunity.

Certified Homeowners

Carole Kelley & Philip Pedigo
Janet McLennan
Paul Raether
Jayne Cronlund & Patrick O'Neill
Stephanie Kioski & John Strother
Robin & Jeff Jensen
Julia Harris
Courtie Bassarab



Carol Hall & Arnie Rowland

Steve Wagner
Cathy Biber
Roger Brown & Denise Carty-Brown
Bob Pfohman
Jim Futner
Dan Caufield & Kathryn Hill
Helene Hughart
Gaile & Don Baack



Volunteers

Volunteers continue to be the heart of the effort to remove invasives from the public parks within the West Willamette Restoration corridor. Our very limited grant funding is focused on using contract crews for difficult terrain and for skilled services. Volunteers focus on removing invasive infestations from sensitive areas populated with native plants, and on restoration.

In the past two years, 86 work parties have contributed over 5,600 volunteer hours to the removal of invasives. Participating groups include St. Thomas More, Portland State, Catlin Gabel, Sunset Presbyterian Church, HDR Engineering, Lewis and Clark College, U. of Portland, Homestead Neighborhood Association, McClenahan Bruer Communications, and Hands On Greater Portland.

Key to the success and enjoyment of these work parties is the participation and leadership of neighborhood residents. The Partnership thanks Robin Jensen, Robin Vesey, Bruce Murray, Don Baack, Bill Buckley, Roger Brown, and Tom Guinan for their continuing efforts to lead the volunteers.

Volunteer work parties begin at 9 a.m. on the first, second, third and last Saturday of each month at (respectively) Keller Woodlands, Terwilliger Parkway, George Himes Park, and Council Crest Park. Specific information is at the WWRP website.

Come join us! We provide gloves, tools, water and snacks. All you need to do is dress for the weather and bring your energy. Soon afterwards, as you hike the trails of your parks, you will see native plants reclaim the area you have cleared. This accomplishment brings a smile to us all.



PGE SOLV-it Day: April 19, 2008

The Partnership salutes the PGE employees who donated more than 150 hours to the removal of invasives at Council Crest Park last spring, removing ivy from trees and cutting holly trees with chainsaws. Portland Commissioner Sam Adams and PGE VP Joe McArthur welcomed and thanked all volunteers.



Grants

The West Willamette Restoration Partnership solicits targeted grants to supplement the Volunteer and Backyard Habitat initiatives. These grants are used to hire contract labor to complete specific initiatives, particularly on difficult and hard to reach terrain, and for tasks requiring technical expertise.

Grants have been received from Metro to support the removal of tree ivy, and from the State of Oregon to combat garlic mustard and for restoration work at Council Crest and Keller Woodlands. Continuing grants have been received from Pacific General Electric (\$15,000 over 3 years), and from NW Natural (\$6,000 over 2 years).

Results to date from contract work include the removal of tree ivy from 8,463 trees on 188 acres (cutting the ivy chest high, and then pulling it back and cutting it again about 5-6 feet from the base of the tree). People hired to date have been graduates of the AmeriCorps program. Their commitment and progress have been remarkable, given that in some areas of Marquam Nature Park they encountered tree ivy vines 6 inches in diameter!



The Keller Woodlands site is an example of how a combination of chemical and mechanical treatment methods, utilizing both paid work crews and volunteers, can be effective.



Certified crews, hired with Grant funds applied herbicide and hand pulled in steep areas not appropriate for volunteers. Volunteer efforts were focused in easier to access areas closer to parking and on less steep slopes.

The Keller Woodlands has recently been selected as a 4 County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) demonstration site. It is described on the CWMA website <<http://www.4countycwma.org/committees>> and will soon be part of an auto tour of demonstration sites.

Another exciting effort of the grant program has been the restoration effort enabled by the Oregon State Weed Board Grant, whereby Metro's Native Plant Nursery and Partnership volunteers collected herbaceous plant seeds onsite at Council Crest Park this past spring. The Nursery then will germinate the seeds over 18 months, growing them to plant ready plugs for planting in fall 2009 in areas at Council Crest cleared of invasives. We are excited by this pilot effort to produce local plant material for restoration at that local site.



Adopt A Plot !!

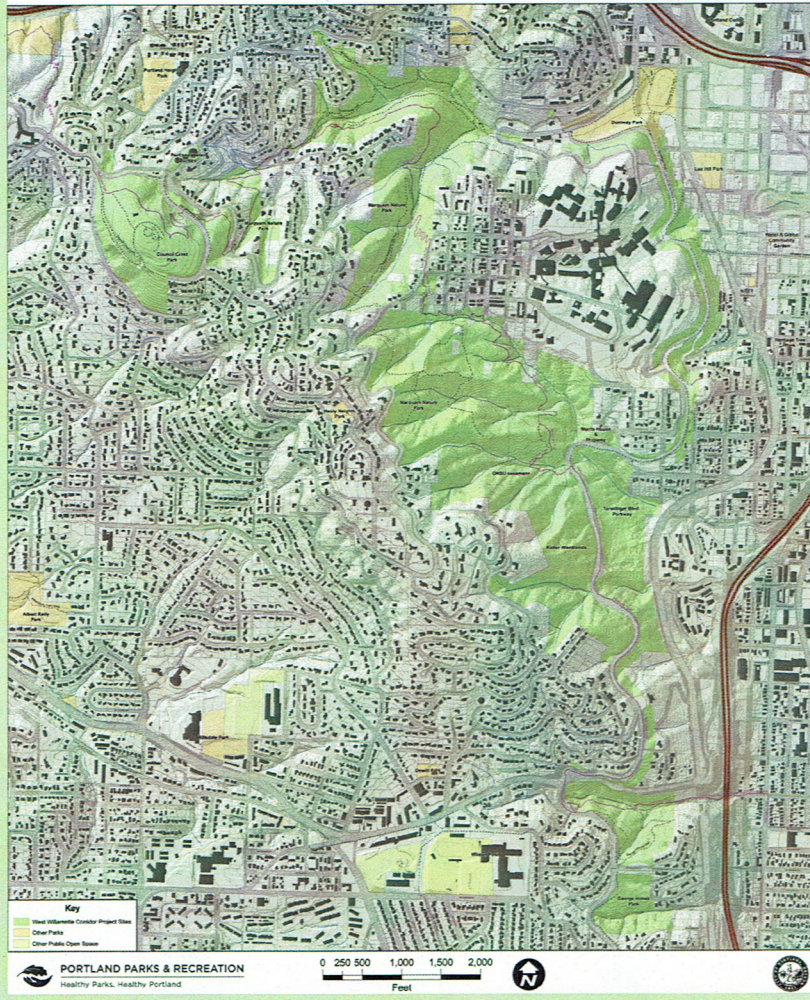
Opportunities now exist for individuals or groups to *Adopt a Plot!!* and to commit to keep invasives off areas that have been cleared. This periodic inspection and follow-on work (if any) will ensure that our progress is maintained. The Homestead Neighborhood Association and Shelly Kott are initial participants. Contact Amanda Wilson at awilson@trlc.org for opportunities in your neighborhood.

Work Party Schedule

- * Keller Woodlands Restoration Work Party - First Saturday of every month
- * Friends of Terwilliger Restoration Work Party - Second Saturday of every month
- * Hillsdale Neighborhood Association Restoration Work Party - Third Saturday of every month
- * Marquam Nature Park Restoration Work Party - Last Saturday of every month

See <http://www.trlc.org/westwillamette/> or call 503.699.9825 for details.

West Willamette Restoration Partnership Project Area



Base Underwriters

- Friends of Marquam Nature Park
- Friends of Terwilliger Parkway
- Southwest Hills Residential League
- City of Portland
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Water
 - Portland Parks and Recreation
 - Bureau of Environmental Services
- Oregon Health and Science University
- Charlie Swindells
- Wardin Estate
- West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District
- Don & Gaile Baack, Roger Brown & Denise Carty-Brown, Robin and Jeff Jensen, Carole Kelly & Philip Pedigo, Bruce Murray & Valerie Ilsley

Grants Received

Metro - Nature in Neighborhoods (tree ivy removal)	\$37,050
Oregon Department of Agriculture State Weed Board Grant (garlic mustard)	\$38,030
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (restoration)	\$9,949
Portland General Electric (tree ivy removal)	\$15,000
NW Natural (all invasives)	\$6,000

Three Year Goal	Two Year Results
Remove all tree ivy from 300 acre project area	188 acres (8,463 trees)
7,500 volunteer hours	5597 hours (86 work parties)
8 certified Backyard Habitats, 25 in process	17 certified Backyard Habitats, 32 in process
50 acres cleared of ground ivy	53 acres
Acres cleared of garlic mustard	51 acres

West Willamette Restoration Partnership Steering Committee

- Jayne Cronlund**, Executive Director, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- Laura O'Leary**, Stewardship Director, TRLC
- Gaylen Beatty**, West Willamette Outreach Director, Backyard Habitat Coordinator, TRLC
- Amanda Wilson**, Volunteer Coordinator, TRLC
- Bruce Murray**, Friends of Marquam Nature Park
- Robin Jensen**, Friends of Marquam Nature Park
- Carole Kelly**, Three Rivers Land Conservancy
- Don Baack**, Hillsdale Neighborhood Association
- Robin Vesey**, Friends of Terwilliger
- Dick Springer**, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Mary Bushman**, Bureau of Environmental Services
- Dan Moeller**, Portland Parks and Recreation
- Roger Cole**, Oregon Health & Sciences University

Contact: info@trlc.org

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Thank you Portland!

Following a Town Hall meeting hosted by Commissioner Sam Adams, the City last year hired **Jennifer Goodrich**, an Invasive Species manager to coordinate Bureau efforts and to energize the City's and community's efforts. For further information, please see the Bureau of Environmental Services web page <http://www.portland-online.com/bes/index.cfm?c=45696>