

## CEDAR MILL CREEK SANITARY AND REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT



### Living with Floodplains

The land adjacent to Cedar Mill Creek is, by definition, a floodplain. Functioning floodplains are important for stream health, ecology, water storage and filtration. For people walking, living or working near the creek, proximity to the floodplain means access to rich plant and animal life and the healing benefits of nature. It also means that, during the rainy season and high creek flows, areas that people want to use are sometimes under water. The project team is working to balance the ecological, economic and community impacts of this project. Flooding of paths, parking lots and other amenities used by people will be minimized but will not be entirely eliminated.

Cedar Mill Creek crosses SW Jenkins Road in Beaverton, near Merlo Station High School, Costco and Reser's Fine Foods. After crossing under the MAX tracks, it travels through Tualatin Hills Nature Park, to its confluence with Beaverton Creek.

From 2019-2022, Cedar Mill Creek south of Jenkins Road will be the site of a series of projects executed by Clean Water Services in close coordination with Washington County, Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District and other partners. The projects include:

- Replacing the 40 year-old sanitary sewer pipe that runs under the creek
- Using the newest creek enhancement strategies to promote ecological resilience
- Installing thousands of native plants to create habitat, prevent erosion and improve water quality
- Upgrading several boardwalks and trails

Construction will be disruptive to the experience of Nature Park visitors. The project team appreciates visitors' patience, and promises that when the project is complete, the creek will be an even better place for people, plants, water and wildlife.

### What to Expect

The project team will take all steps possible to minimize disruption to people, plants and wildlife. Special precautions are in place to protect animals during construction. Trail closures, detours and other work will be clearly marked, and it will be important for visitors to observe trail closures and detours.

### Projects Benefits

- More ecologically resilient creek.
- Improved trails and boardwalks.
- Stronger native plant communities.
- Improved wildlife and aquatic habitat.
- New upsized replacement pipe will serve the community for years to come.
- Project designed with community input and in coordination with partners, to minimize disruptions for park visitors, use ratepayer money wisely and protect wildlife.



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Cedar Mill Creek in Tualatin Hills Nature Park

## Timeline: 2019-2020: Site Assessed and Prepared for Transformation

Professional revegetation crews have removed non-native invasive plants. This temporary—yet necessary—step will create room for a new, healthier native plant community.

## Winter 2021 & August-September 2021: Tree cutting

To begin construction, Clean Water Services will cut trees of various sizes that fall within the project corridor in the Nature Park. Most of the fallen trees—each of which has been inspected and recorded in an effort to avoid as many trees as possible—will be stored in place for use in the later stream enhancement work on Cedar Mill Creek. Some trails will be closed intermittently during this process for safety.

Protections are in place to protect birds and other wildlife during the process. After utility construction is complete, the area will be replanted with thousands of native plants, trees and shrubs.

## Summer 2021 & 2022: Construction (two seasons)

Most of the trail closures and detours will last a few months and will take place during this phase when construction crews will use heavy machinery to:

- Install a new sanitary sewer pipe.
- Install and reconnect remnant side channels so that the creek can reconnect with its floodplain, recharge the aquifer and grow native plants.
- Place large pieces of wood on the floodplain downstream of the TriMet bridge and in the channel of the creek, to slow the water, stabilize the creek and create habitat.
- Replace paths, boardwalks and pedestrian bridges impacted by the sanitary sewer project.

## Fall/Winter 2022 & 2023: Revegetation

Revegetation crews will install thousands of native trees and shrubs. As they mature, the new plants will add habitat and ecological resilience to the site. Crews and CWS staff will plant seeds and young plants of many types to create vibrant wetlands.

## 2022 and beyond

Enhancement work will provide additional opportunities for beaver to create dams, ecological benefits for river otter, waterfowl, wading birds, native turtles and amphibians and habitat that allows fish to flourish. This will improve stormwater management and water quality by slowing and filtering water – and possibly cooling it as well. Partner organizations will stick with the project for the long haul, providing ongoing stewardship, technical assistance, native plants, education and information to support the long-term ecological health of the site.



## Resources

- Contact Chris White with questions or concerns about the project: 503.681.3669 or [whitec@cleanwaterservices.org](mailto:whitec@cleanwaterservices.org)
- Explore the Tualatin Hills Nature Park: [thprd.org/parks](http://thprd.org/parks)
- For notification of trail closures, check the THPRD website, follow THPRD on social media and watch for signs in the Nature Park.
- For updates on Jenkins Road construction, follow Washington County Roads on Facebook or Twitter, visit [wc-roads.com](http://wc-roads.com), or call 503.846.ROAD.
- Explore ecological enhancement projects in other Washington County neighborhoods: [jointreeforall.org/casestudies](http://jointreeforall.org/casestudies)
- Get involved as a riparian restoration volunteer: [jointreeforall.org/calendar](http://jointreeforall.org/calendar)

Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed.

**CleanWater Services**

ENGINEERING SERVICES  
2550 SW Hillsboro Highway  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123  
503.681.3600  
[cleanwaterservices.org](http://cleanwaterservices.org)

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