NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET:

Bauman Park Restoration Project

Project Time Period: January 2010 – December 2015
Project Manager: Kyle Spinks
Today's Date: 1/4/2010

OVERVIEW

Bauman Park is a 7.16-acre natural area located along SW Oleson Road, approximately 0.3 miles south of Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, in the southeast quadrant of the District. The park is entirely natural area there are no amenities on site. Fanno and Vermont Creeks border the southern and western edges of the park. Its mosaic of habitats includes shrublands and forests, much of which is highly invaded by non-native vegetation. The goal of this project is to remove and maintain low levels of non-native vegetation, install a diversity of native plant species, and install a soft-surface trail. The project will cover approximately 6.5 acres of the park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

History

THPRD staff and volunteers, especially volunteers from Fans of Fanno Creek and Oregon Episcopal School, have been actively restoring the northern habitats of the park since 2001. The focus has been to remove the dense Himalayan blackberries and English ivy, followed by replacement plantings of native shrubs and trees. Of note is an infestation of non-native garlic mustard that appeared after the initial clearing and replanting was completed in the last few years. Ongoing weed management in the restored areas has included targeted efforts at eradication of this weed in particular. A mitigation project area in the south end of the park was completed in 2010 and a separate tree planting project by Washington County Land Use and Transportation was completed in 2008 near the central eastern edge of the park. Two large Oregon white oaks in the central area of the park will be preserved as per the guidelines in the THPRD Oak Plan.

Project Concerns and Strategy

Non-native shrubs and trees dominate most of the southern two-thirds of the park. Himalayan blackberries and English hawthorn are particularly dense and removal efforts will entail machine cutting followed by targeted herbicide treatments. The goal is to control the invasive weeds prior to installing more native vegetation so that the installed vegetation doesn't need to compete for resources. The park district is partnering with Clean Water Services, which will hire contractors and implement the restoration work throughout the park.

Garlic mustard is an especially pernicious weed that has colonized areas of the floodplain, though it has spread to upland areas in the past couple years. Clean Water Services contractors have coordinated herbicide treatments of garlic mustard in the park for the last two years and several THPRD volunteer weed-pulling events have occurred over the last several seasons.

To increase visitor access to the park, a soft-surface trail is proposed that will extend from the north edge of the park to the southeast corner of the park, roughly paralleling SW Oleson Road. Interpretive signage will be installed along the trail.