



NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: **AM Kennedy Park Restoration Project**

Project Time Period:	Sept. 2010 to Oct. 2015
Project Manager:	Kyle Spinks
Today's Date:	1/5/2012

OVERVIEW

A. M. Kennedy Park is an 8.33-acre park in east-central Beaverton, the majority of which is undeveloped, though a significant portion of the southeastern corner of the parcel has been turfed and has a basketball court and play structures. Most of the western half of the park will be developed into a sports field, community garden area, and other amenities. The northeastern portion of the park is a natural area dominated by mature Douglas-fir with an understory heavily invaded by non-native shrubs. Natural area restoration will include and continued control of the invasive plants and installation of native shrubs and understory trees.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

History

In 2002 staff noted dying Douglas-firs in the central area of the forest. Subsequently, laminated root rot, a fungal pathogen, was identified as the cause, and the affected trees were removed. Himalayan blackberry soon took over the newly opened gap in the forest. Restoration efforts since this time have involved volunteer efforts to remove the blackberries and some of the ivy within the forested portion of the park. Some replanting in this area also occurred, though survival rates of the installed plants were low.

The easternmost edge of the park is heavily invaded by invasive shrubs and trees, specifically English holly, English hawthorn, English laurel, and English ivy. Several Oregon white oaks are scattered throughout the area, including one mature tree 24 inches in diameter.

Numerous volunteer projects over the last few years have resulted in clearing a large portion of the northeastern forest of ivy and blackberries. Volunteers have also installed scattered native shrubs in the cleared areas. Currently, the natural area has been adopted by a local church group, which has held several volunteer projects annually since 2009.

The day care at the southeast corner regularly uses the park for its programs, and the residents of the senior center just south of the park also use the park for walking and exercise.

Neighbors to the northeast have expressed concern about any vegetation removal that will open up the sight lines from the park to their homes. However, security at the park would be greatly enhanced by opening up some of the understory and improving sight lines.

Project Concerns and Strategy

The density of invasive shrubs poses the greatest threat to the health of the habitats in the natural areas of the park. In most of the heavily invaded areas, there are sparse native shrubs remaining and almost no native tree recruitment is evident. The Oregon white oaks are generally tall and spindly due to the density of the understory and invasive shrubs that are shading and crowding the oaks.

English holly, cherry laurel, Himalayan blackberry, and English ivy are the most common invasive species. Targeting these species for removal would greatly improve the forested habitat in the northeast corner. This work is to be followed by installation of approximately 6700 shrubs and trees and three years of intensive weed management. Ongoing management of the habitat will include weed management, habitat monitoring, and, if necessary, supplemental plantings. Conifers will continue to be monitored by staff for the effects of laminated root rot.

Stakeholder Issues

Neighbors	Neighbors to the northeast have expressed concern about any vegetation removal that will open up the sight lines from the park to their homes. However, security at the park would be greatly enhanced by opening up some of the understory and improving sight lines.
User Conflicts	The day care at the southeast corner regularly uses the park for its programs, and the residents of the senior center just south of the park also use the park for walking and exercise. During construction, the park will be closed to all users, including these regular users.
Regulatory Agencies	None
Easements	A communication line on utility poles runs along the northern edge of the property. A sanitary sewer runs beneath the southeastern access path then parallels the southern edge of the park proper.

OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)

- A maximum of 10% cover by targeted invasive species throughout restoration sites.
- Public support of this project throughout the public meeting process.
- Completion of this project within projected staff time and budget.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning	Fall 2010	Spring 2012
Construction	N/A	
Site Prep	Summer 2012	Fall 2012
Planting	Winter 2012	Winter 2012
Maintenance/Monitoring	Spring 2013	Summer 2016

BUDGET

Total Approved Budget	\$30,900
Contractors	\$12,350
Materials	\$8,175
Permits	\$0
Contingency (15%)	\$4,635
Total	\$25,160