



## NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT PLAN:

### Lowami Hart Woods Habitat Restoration

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**Project Time Period:** July 2009 – November 2017

**Project Manager:** John Gaddis

**Today's Date:** 1/12/2010

#### OVERVIEW

The Lowami Hart Woods is a 28.7 acre natural area located in the West Beaverton neighborhood. The park consists of mixed, evergreen and palustrine forests, as well as palustrine shrublands, emergent wetlands and perennial streams. The objective of the project is to increase plant diversity, improve water quality, wildlife habitat and stream health by removing non-native weeds and replacing them with a diverse suite of native plants.

Lowami Hart Woods is also undergoing development activities as part of a Bond funded master plan. As part of this effort, improvements will be made to an area along South Johnson Creek for educational programs, trails will be re-routed (some will be paved), and a parking facility will be installed at the SE corner of the property. Natural Resources and Planning staff are collaborating to conduct onsite mitigation for vegetated corridor impacts and surveys to reduce impacts to nesting birds.

#### PARK DESCRIPTION

Lowami Hart Woods consists mostly of upland habitat, including mixed and evergreen forests with flat to steep terrain. The lowland areas of the complex include emergent wetlands, palustrine shrublands and palustrine forests. The water in this portion of South Johnson Creek flows perennially and is clear and free of trash. Overall, the natural areas are densely vegetated with native vegetation, but riddled with English ivy (*Hedera helix*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), cultivated cherry (*Prunus avium*), Robert geranium (*Geranium robertianum*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*). These natural areas are home to a number of regionally important species, including western wahoo, common camas, Pacific madrone and Oregon white oak. The location of this park creates a corridor connection to Vale Park and Carolwood Park on the south side and Brookhaven Park on the north side.

#### HISTORY

Restoration efforts at Lowami Hart Woods have focused on the removal of English ivy, Himalayan blackberry and English holly. This work began in the summer of 2002 and was mainly confined to the southeast corner of the park. Some native trees and shrubs have been planted in areas cleared of blackberries or to discourage use of illegal trails.

Prior to the Park District's acquisition, Lowami Hart Woods was used as a campground for Camp Fire Boys and Girls. The current state of the park still reflects its previous uses. The park is a popular spot for local paint ball enthusiasts, transient campers and kids. The trails have been littered with waste created by paint ball guns.

Clean Water Services (CWS) performed a stream enhancement project throughout the riparian corridor of South Johnson Creek in Lowami Hart Woods, including non-native vegetation removal and native planting in the riparian corridor, large wood placement in the creek channel.

#### *Project Concerns and Strategy*

Restoration will include removal non-native plant cover, particularly Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, herb Robert, reed canarygrass, privet, and non-native trees, including cultivated cherry, English holly, laurel, and English hawthorn. Native plants will be installed to shade out areas of reed canarygrass and also to replace patches of Himalayan blackberry and non-native trees after they are removed.

Illegal trails are scattered throughout Lowami Hart Woods. As part of the natural area restoration, these trails will be decommissioned by filling with brush and planting with native trees and shrubs. Closing illegal trails along with the increased use on the new trail system will help curb the pattern of illegal camping in the park.

#### *Stakeholder Issues*

Neighbors	Public comments at meetings were supportive of proposed restoration efforts.
User Conflicts	Paint balling, off-leash dogs, camping, illegal trails.
Regulatory Agencies	ODSL, CWS, City of Beaverton.
Easements	CWS.

#### **OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)**

- A maximum of 10% cover by targeted non-native 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**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>
Planning	July 2009	March 2013
Site Prep	June 2013	December 2014
Planting	January 2015	February 2015
Establishment/Monitoring	March 2015	November 2017

#### **BUDGET**

<b>Total Approved Budget</b>	<b>\$287,900</b>
Contractors	\$143,920
Materials	\$34,220
Contingency (15%)	\$25,115
Total	\$204,862

