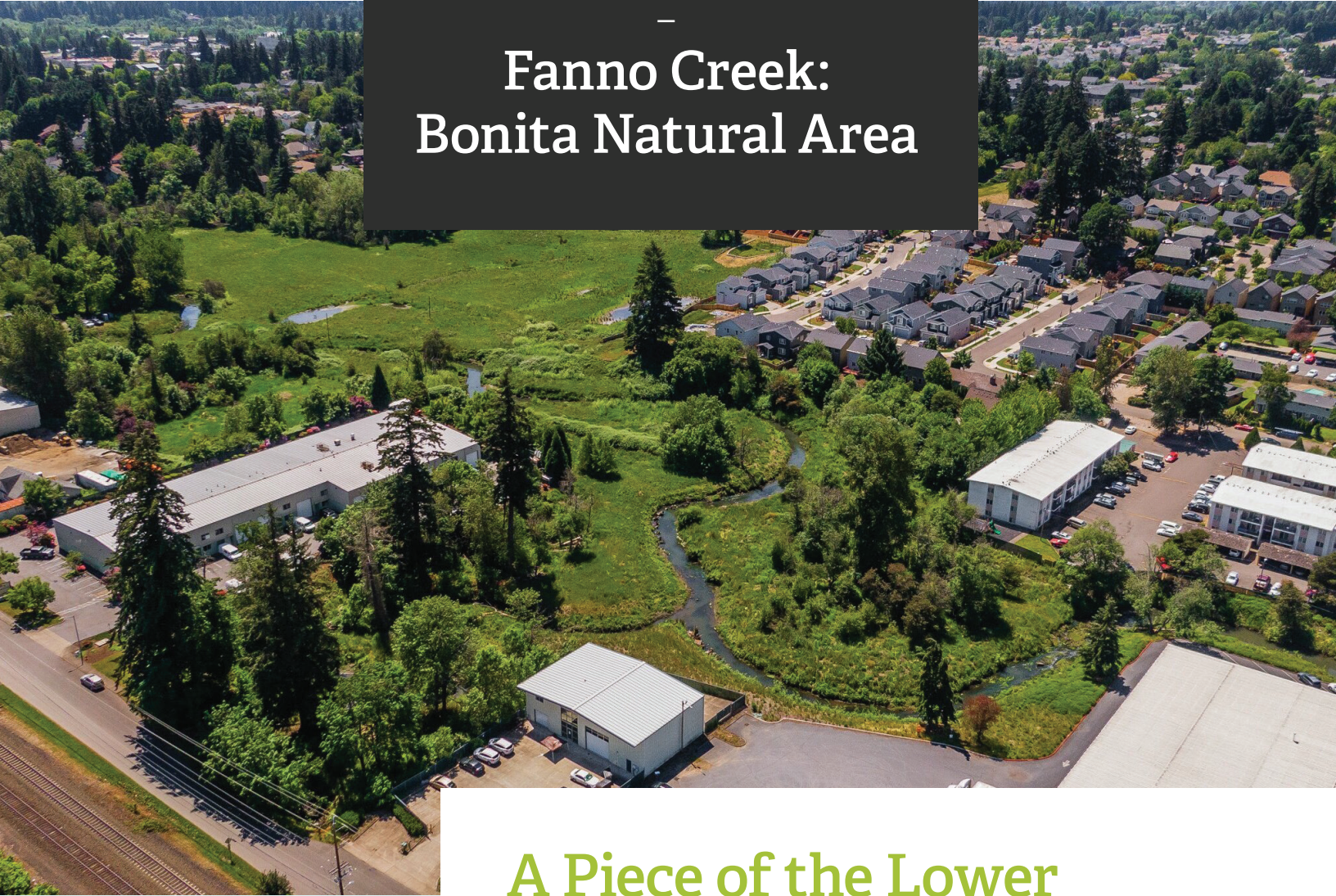


CASE STUDY

Fanno Creek: Bonita Natural Area



A Piece of the Lower Fanno Creek Puzzle

TUCKED BETWEEN AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, suburban homes and agricultural land is Bonita Natural Area, near Southwest 74th Avenue and Southwest Bonita Road in Tigard. The site also includes the final stretch of Ball Creek before it enters Fanno Creek. Metro purchased this property along lower Fanno Creek in 2003 with money from the 1995 voter-approved natural areas bond measure. Long-term, partners hope to complete the Fanno Creek Trail from the creek's headwaters in the West Hills of Portland to its confluence with the Tualatin River in Durham.



Tree for All engages communities large and small in conservation projects throughout the Tualatin River Watershed in Oregon.

JOINTREEFORALL.ORG



The Site

SIZE 5 acres

FIRST PLANTING 2018

STREAM LENGTH 1,743 ft.

PLANT COMMUNITIES Mixed Riparian Forest, Emergent Wetlands, Shrub-Scrub Wetlands



Habitat Connectivity



Recreation & Human Health



Urban Partnership



Protects Water Quality



Long-term, partners hope to complete the Fanno Creek Trail from the creek's headwaters in the West Hills of Portland to its confluence with the Tualatin River in Durham.

The Challenge

Due to limited funding, this site was largely ignored for many years. Though some native plants and a mix of upland and wetland communities persisted, non-native plants and invasive weeds flourished.

Bonita Natural Area is surrounded by an urbanized landscape with a relatively high percentage of impervious surfaces—roads, parking lots and commercial buildings—generating faster and higher water flows during storms. The site's high levels of disturbance, lack of native vegetation on stream banks, and high storm flows in Ball and Fanno Creeks had resulted in low-quality fish and wildlife habitat, streambank erosion and water quality issues.



The Transformation

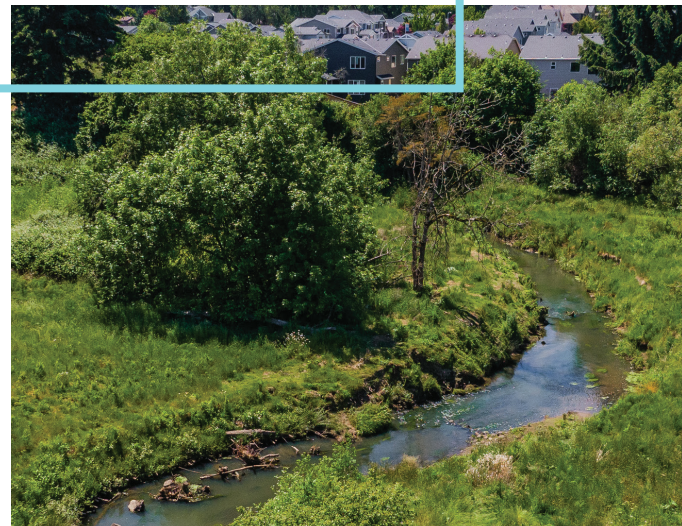
—

Together, Metro, Clean Water Services and the City of Tigard developed a vision for Bonita Natural Area that features healthy water, improved fish and wildlife habitat and, eventually, a connection to the Fanno Creek Trail system.

To achieve this vision, the partners added a mix of diverse native plants, which help to filter water and increase soil stability along Fanno and Ball Creeks. Once they mature, the plants will also provide shade to cool the water and boost native habitat for wildlife. Over time, native species will come to dominate the site as invasive species control encourages native plant survival. In addition, to reduce erosion, improve water quality, increase floodwater storage during storm events and provide aquatic habitat, habitat logs were added in the channel and along the floodplain.



Once they mature, the plants will provide shade to cool the water and boost native habitat for wildlife.





Follow the Bonita Natural Area Story

—
By bringing best practices to bear, Tree For All partners continue to transform Bonita Natural Area in ways that benefit our economy, community and ecology.

Learn more at jointreeforall.org/bonita-natural-area



Over time, native species will come to dominate the site.



Learn more about TFA partners at: jointreeforall.org/partners

Key Partners

