

Cedar Creek

Amenities for Wildlife, People and Plants Alike

THE CEDAR CREEK-STELLA OLSEN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

has helped a small, yet booming, Washington County town restore an iconic city park and nearly one and a half miles of streamside habitat along Cedar Creek, one of the many tributaries that flow into the Tualatin River.

The Stella Olsen Project site sits close to the City of Sherwood's picturesque town center. The park owes its name to Oscar Olsen, who donated nearly eight acres to the City of Sherwood in the early 1950s as a memorial to his wife, Stella, who passed away in 1940. Today, at nearly 25 acres, Stella Olsen Memorial Park offers something for everyone. Its wetlands, ponds and upland forests provide opportunities for bird and wildlife viewing as well as for quiet strolls in nature. The developed sections have playground swings, picnic shelters and a musical venue that offer an array of amenities for residents and visitors of all ages.

Originally inhabited by the Atfalati tribe, the site that became the city of Sherwood was settled by farmers in the mid-1800s. It soon became the supply brickyard for buildings in the growing city of Portland, 20 miles to the east. In 1911, Sherwood's municipal footprint of one square mile was home to just 350 people. Today, while still retaining its small-scale charm, it supports 16,000 residents and more than a dozen parks within a four mile radius.



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

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The Site

SIZE 27 acres

FIRST PLANTING 2006

STREAM LENGTH 7,194 feet

PLANT COMMUNITIES Riparian forest, scrub shrub



Habitat Connectivity



Keystone Species



Recreation & Human Health



Community Involvement



Urban Partnership



Protects Water Quality



Floodplain Access

The Challenge

Over time, the park's natural areas had become scarred by human disturbance. Native groundcover and shrubs were choked out by English ivy and Himalayan blackberry. The banks along the ponds and Cedar Creek showed signs of serious erosion, and the buffer between the streamside habitats and the grassy slopes and parking lots offered only sparse native canopy plant diversity.

The Transformation

More than a decade of restoration work was required to complete the Stella Olsen Enhancement Project. In that time, partner groups including Friends of Trees and Raindrops to Refuge, along with hundreds of volunteers, installed nearly 100,000 native plants, shrubs and trees.

The natural areas already had a reasonably good supply of large native trees, including large Red alders, cottonwood and Big-leaf Maples. This wetland and upland forest community was enhanced by plantings of Western red-cedars, snowberries and Red-twig Dogwoods. In total, more than 15 acres of invasive plants and trees were removed. In addition to improving overall water quality, partners sought to increase and enhance aquatic habitat and diversity. To accomplish that and much more, Clean Water Services placed large woody debris, left standing snags in the streams and created off-channel habitat for fish, amphibians and insects. Now, as walkers cross the elevated boardwalks over the restored ponds and wetlands, they can enjoy the sounds and smells of the park's native plants and animals. Not only is The City of Sherwood managing the site to address its stormwater mandates, it's providing a wonderful place for the entire community to enjoy nature-based and recreational activities, including a new playground, pavilion and shelter, as well as the boardwalk.



Learn More

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Explore the project case study online:
www.jointreeforall.org/cedar-creek



Native shrub and
tree cover has
increased by 81%
since 2007



Learn more about TFA partners at
jointreeforall.org/partnership

Key Partners

