Johnson Creek Floodplain Restoration: Reducing Risks & Improving Habitat

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Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)

- About 600 Employees
- Wastewater Collection and Treatment
- Stormwater management
- Watershed Restoration
- 6 Major Work Groups
 - Four Watershed Sections;
 Johnson Creek, Tryon &
 Fanno Creeks, Columbia
 Slough, Willamette River

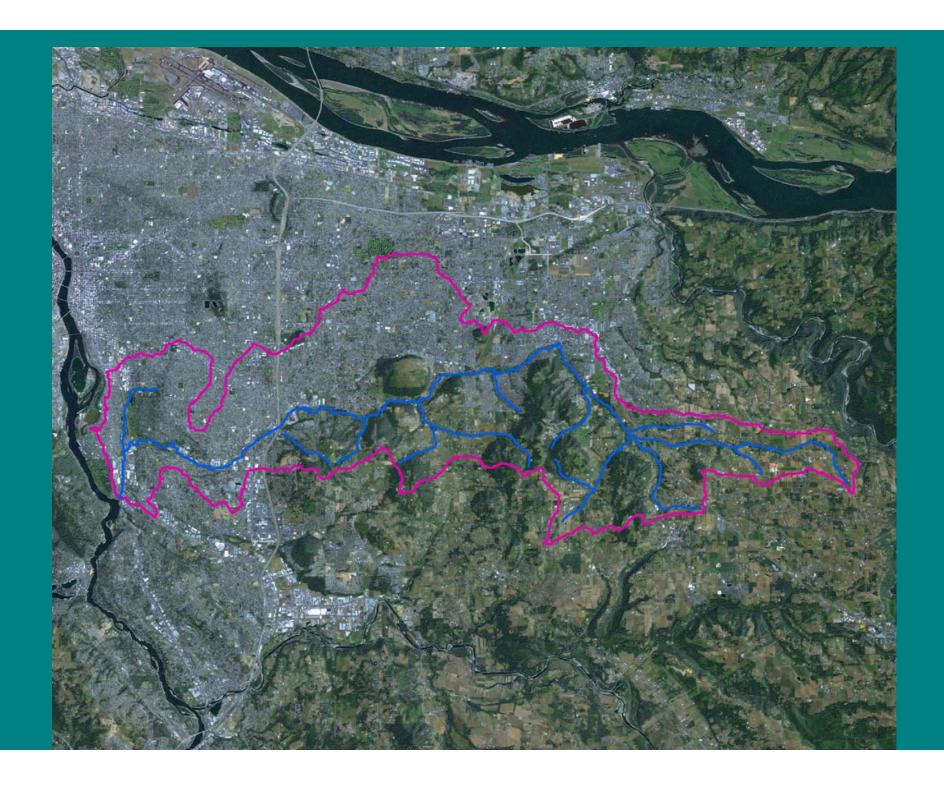


Today's Topics

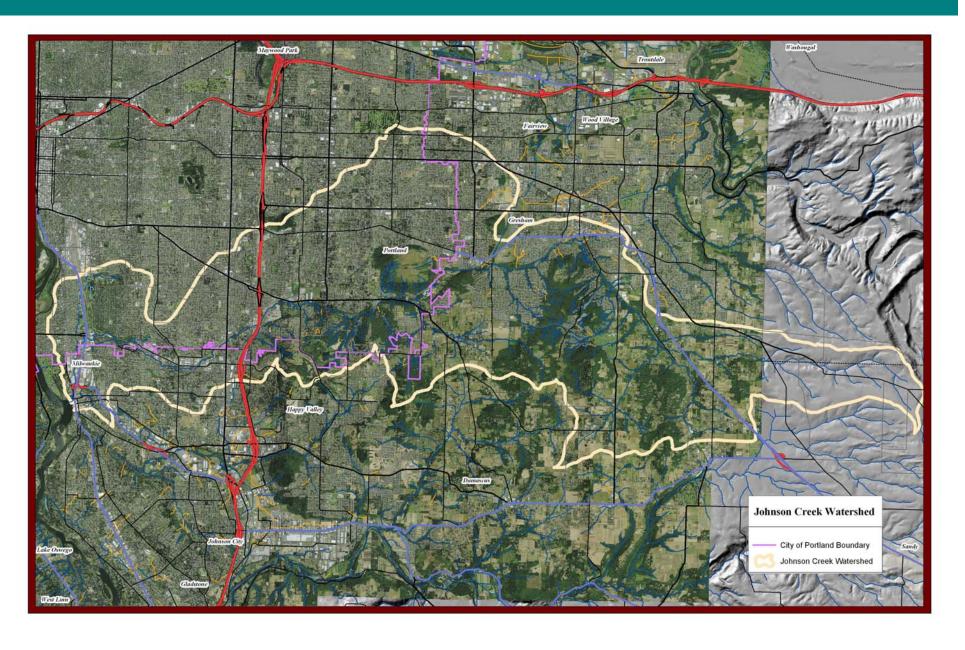
Johnson Creek Restoration Plan (2001)

- Goals, benefits, approach
 - Completed Projects
 - Ecosystem Services

Trade offs & Challenges

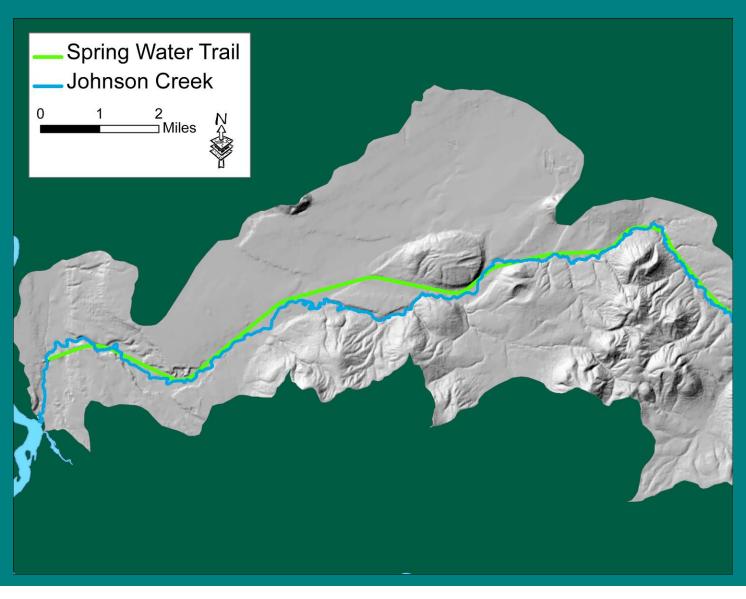


Johnson Creek Watershed





Historic Impacts to Johnson Creek Hydrology

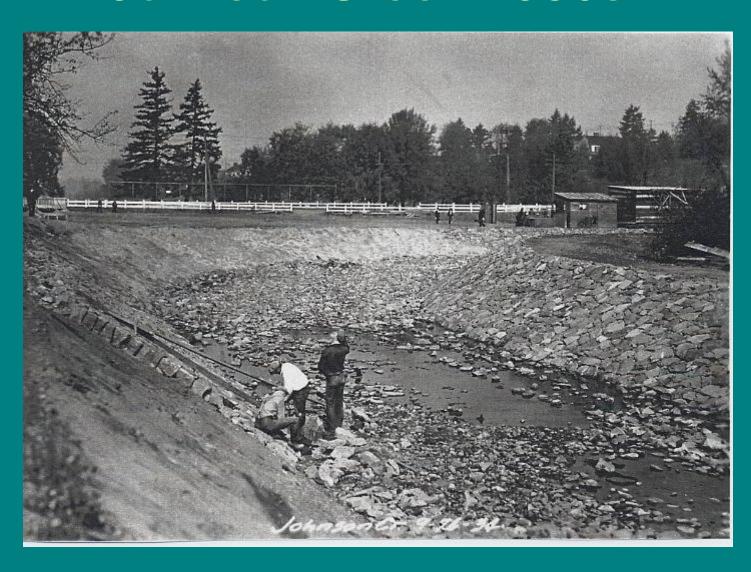


Historic Train on the Springwater Division Line

Established in 1903



WPA Channelizing and Rock Lining Johnson Creek 1930s

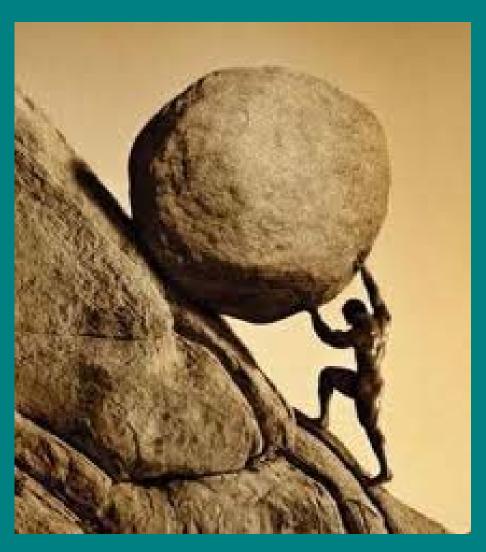


Other Challenges

- Threatened species
 (Chinook, Coho, Steelhead, Cutthroat)
- Water quality
 - Bacteria (E.coli)
 - Temperature
 - Toxins



Why Restore Johnson Creek?



Watershed Potential

- 40% of the Watershed is in Portland
- Salmon Habitat
- Open Space
- Ecosystem Services



Restoration: Then

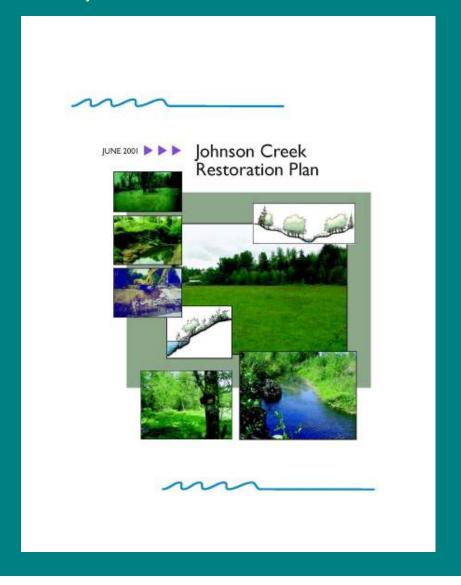


Johnson Creek 1934



Johnson Creek Restoration Plan (2001)

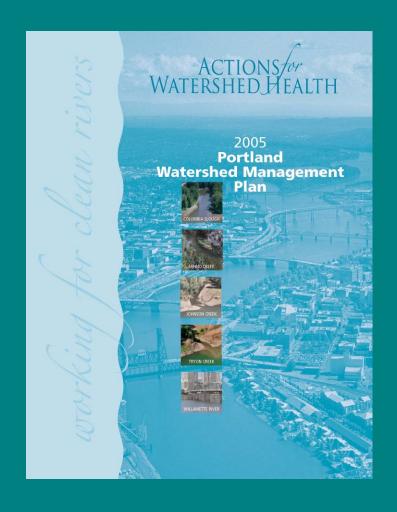
- 3 Comprehensive Goals:
 - Mitigate nuisance floods (~10-yr event)
 - Improve water quality
 - Increase habitat
- Establishes concept design for projects in 58 reaches of the 26-mile stream system
- Long-term, incremental



Portland Watershed Management Plan (2005)

Watershed Health Goals

- Hydrology
- Physical Habitat
- Water Quality
- Biological Communities



Restoration: Now









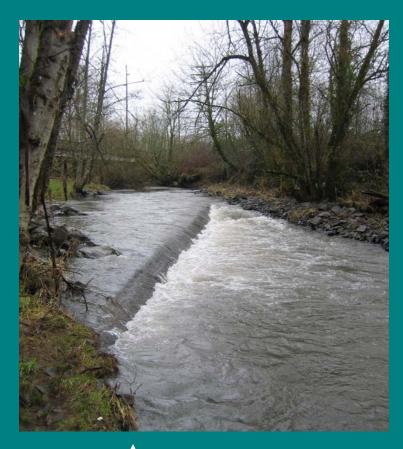
Willing Seller Program

- Initiated in 1996 after major flood events
- Over 280 acres of floodprone property within four target areas acquired to date
- Over \$20 Million in BES funding, \$27 Million total





Tideman Johnson Park





After —





East Powell Butte Floodplain Restoration Schweitzer – 2007





East Lents Floodplain Restoration Project – 2011 & 2012

- \$2.7 million FEMA Predisaster mitigation grant
- Reduces the frequency of flooding on Foster Rd. from 1.5 years to ~ 6 years.



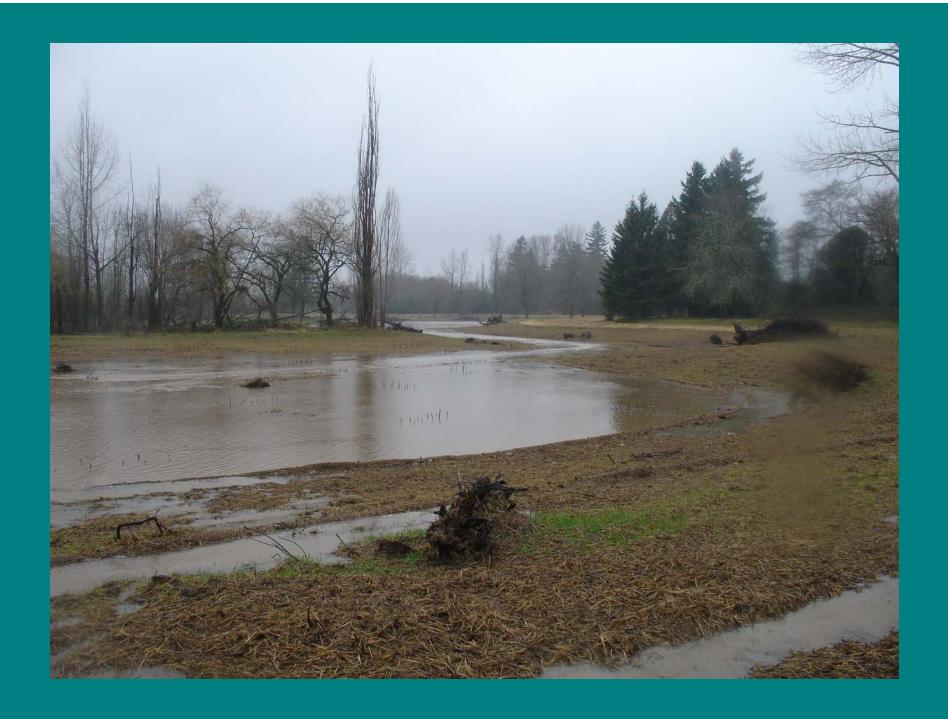
January 2009 Flood East Lents Area



1994, Pre Land Acquisition

2011, Post Phase I Restoration





Lents Ecosystem Services Valuation (May, 2004)

- Avoided property damages to residences
- Avoided property damages to businesses
- Avoided traffic delays
- Avoided damage to utilities
- Water quality benefits
- Parks and open space benefits
- Fish and wildlife benefits
- Non-market, nonuse values of salmon
- Air quality values

Approximately \$30,000,000 in benefits over 100 years

Trade Offs & Challenges

- Urban realities
- An opportunistic approach requires patience
- Scarcity of funding to support a full suite of 'green infrastructure' including passive recreation and uplands protection
- O & M for Natural Resource Areas





Questions?



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