
Metro

Barton Stream Restoration

Boring, Oregon



With the help of a helicopter crew, native habitat and ecological function are restored to a protected area of the Clackamas River.

SERVICES

Ecological Restoration
Construction

The Barton Natural Area is a 95-acre reserve along the Clackamas River that provides crucial habitat for native species and recreational opportunities for the community. With voter-approved funding and a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Metro turned to Biohabitats and project partners Waterways Consulting to enhance habitat, floodplain connectivity, and water quality.

The site, a former gravel mining operation, provided insufficient habitat for the fish, beaver, and turtles living along the river. After securing permits, the team salvaged fish, removed debris, and excavated 15,000 cubic yards of material from a historic alcove channel so that it remains wet all year. Due to groundwater sources, the restored alcove provides an important source of cold water refugia during the summer. During winter high flows, the alcove provides fish with a velocity and water quality refuge from high and turbid flows. Biohabitats placed large boulders and built logjam structures to enhance habitat for federally protected species. Habitat log structures and native whole trees were flown into the mainstem of the river by Columbia Helicopters. In total, over 150 logs and rootwads were flown and placed on floodplain islands within the Clackamas River. Additionally, two mini-excavators were airlifted to the riverbed to excavate a side channel.

Biohabitats also implemented and maintained erosion control to stabilize the shoreline along the Clackamas River. Part of a larger endeavor to protect the Clackamas River watershed, this project is important is restoring Oregon's habitat.