

CLEAN WATER SERVICES

# Spring Hill Farm Restoration and Enhancement Design

Gaston, Oregon



top and middle: Initial conditions; above: Assessing site conditions

*Ecological restoration and enhancement reclaims floodplain, removes fish passage barriers, generates habitat, and promotes ecological function—while allowing continued agricultural use.*

In 2015, Metro, the Portland area’s regional government, purchased 247 acres of farmland adjacent to the Tualatin River, near a wildlife refuge and upstream from a water treatment plant. Recognizing that the purchase presented an opportunity to protect more than a mile of the Tualatin River and 1,250 feet of Harris Creek, Metro partnered with Clean Water Services (CWS), the region’s water resources management utility, on an effort to enhance the site’s riparian and in-water wildlife habitat. To undertake the assessment and design work, CWS turned to Biohabitats.

Biohabitats began by reviewing existing data, conducting a site assessment, and performing a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the site and inlet tributaries. Biohabitats and

CWS crafted a 60% design to enhance floodplain connectivity, remove man-made water control structures that limited ecological function, and improve and diversify instream and riparian habitat by restoring the tributary, daylighting a portion of a tributary that is currently piped, removing invasive species and floodplain berms, and installing habitat structures. Including agricultural set asides accommodated the community’s desire to maintain active agricultural use on some portions of the property. After facilitating review of the permit-ready designs by stakeholders and regulators, final, construction-ready plans were prepared.

## SERVICES

- Inventory & Assessments
- Design
- Permitting

conservation planning  
ecological restoration  
regenerative design



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