

Restoring Portland Harbor

**Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium
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History of Portland Harbor

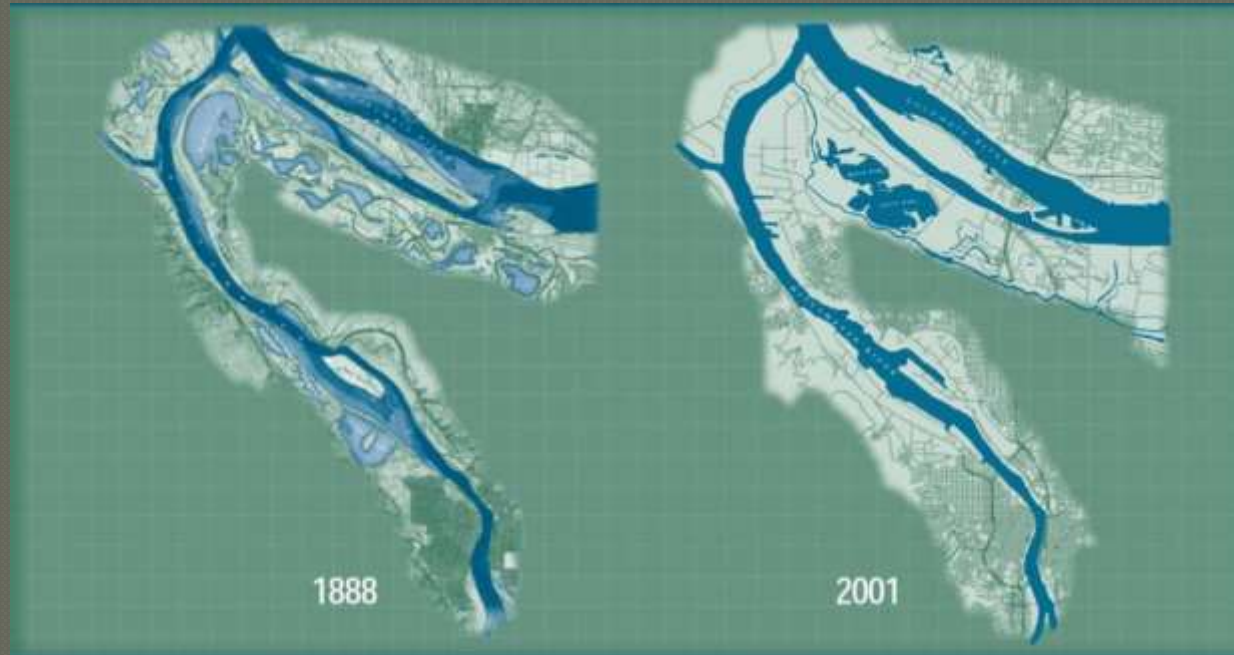


Photo credit: City of Portland

- 1851: Portland was founded
- Dramatic changes to the landscape
- Willamette River used as an open sewer for decades
- Lumber, steel, railcar, and other industries have released contaminants into the river for 100+ years

History of Portland Harbor

- 2000- Declared a Superfund site by Environmental Protection Agency due to threats to human health and the environment caused by contamination
- 2002- Trustee Council formed
- 2004- Fish consumption advisory issued by Oregon Health Authority



Photo credit:s: NOAA

Cleanup and Restoration

- The Environmental Protection Agency and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality oversee the cleanup of Portland Harbor.



- The Trustee Council oversees restoration.



Portland Harbor Trustee Council

● Trustee Council members include:

- 5 Tribes
 - Grand Ronde
 - Nez Perce
 - Siletz
 - Umatilla
 - Warm Springs
- NOAA
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- US Department of the Interior

Potentially Injured Natural Resources

◉ Fish

- Salmon
- Lamprey
- Sturgeon

◉ Birds

- Bald eagle
- Osprey

◉ Mammals

- Mink

◉ Water

◉ Sediments

◉ Soils

◉ Invertebrates



Photo credit: ODFW

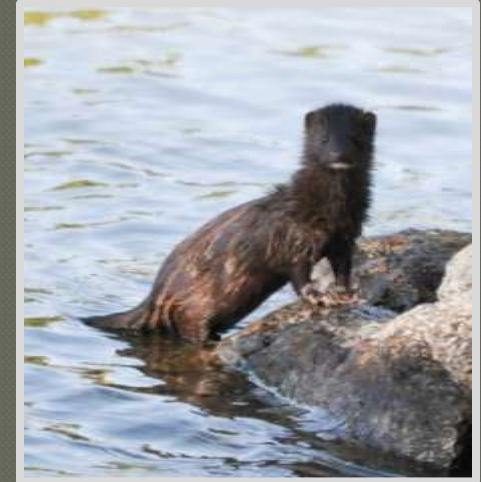


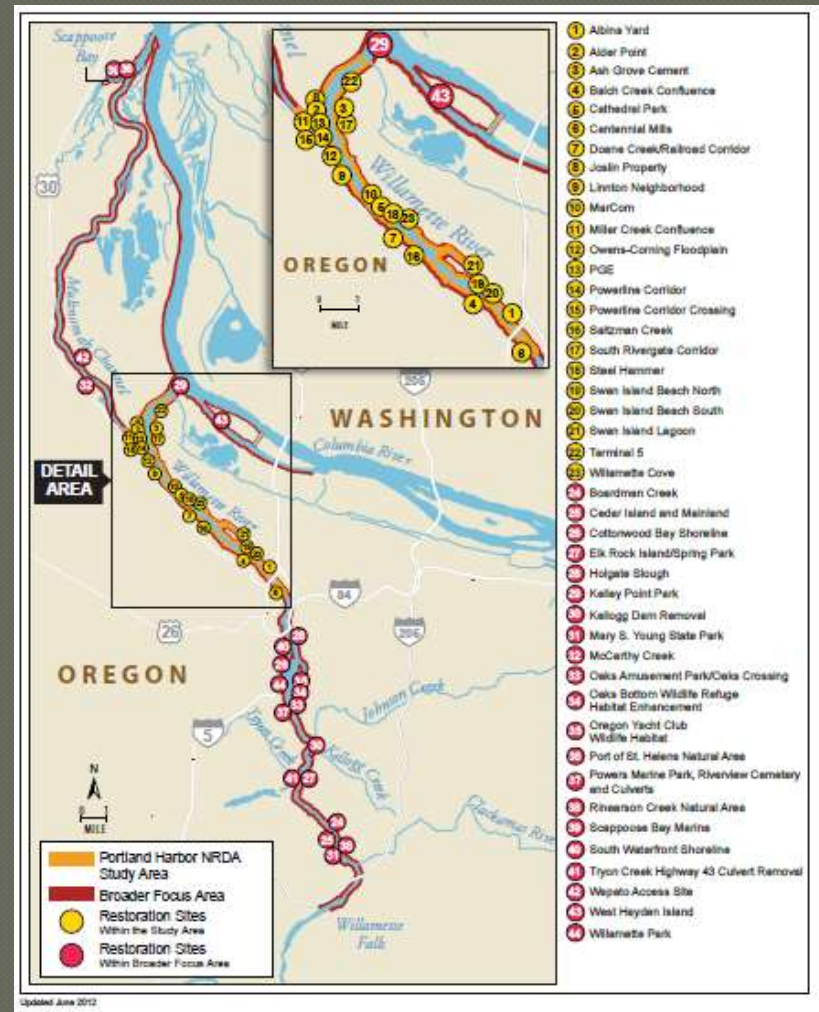
Photo credit: Roy W. Lowe, USFWS



Photo credit: USFWS

Restoration Planning

- Environmental Impact Analysis and Restoration Plan finalized in 2017
- Community-based process to identify potential restoration projects
 - ~60 projects considered
- Ecological Restoration Portfolio
 - 44 potential restoration projects identified



Efforts Underway

Restoration Planning

- Providing technical assistance and oversight to PRPs and 3rd party project developers planning restoration projects
 - Alder Creek*
 - Linnton Plywood Site*
 - PGE- Harborton Wetlands
 - Rinearson Creek Natural Area*
 - University of Portland



Alder Creek

- 52 acre former sawmill on Sauvie Island
- Project implementer: Wildlands
- Construction 2014-2016 included:
 - Removing buildings, infrastructure, and fill from the floodplain
 - Reshaping the riverbanks
 - Planting native trees, shrubs, and grasses
 - Creating shallow water habitat
 - Restoring beaches and wetlands



Linnton Plywood Mill

- 26 acre former plywood mill
- Project implementer: RestorCap
- Construction 2017-2018
 - Removing buildings, docks, pilings, and riprap
 - Creating off channel habitat and daylighting part of Linnton Creek
 - Planting native trees, shrubs, and grasses
 - Building a viewing platform and path for recreational use



BEFORE



Rinearson Creek Natural Area

- 33 acre project site located within Meldrum Bar Park
- Project implementer: Falling Springs
- Construction 2017-2018
 - Reshape the stream banks
 - Remove an earthen dam
 - Restore native plant communities
 - Enhance habitat throughout the project site using large woody debris, rock piles and snags.



Photo credit: Cascade Environmental

Questions?

PORTLAND HARBOR *Natural Resource Trustee Council*



www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/contaminants/portlandharbor/

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