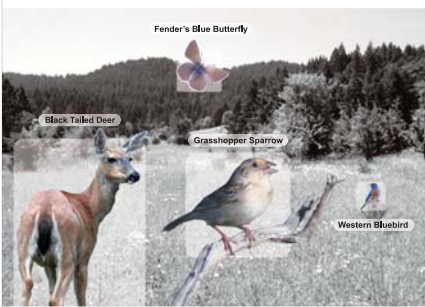




Minto-Brown Island Park Floodplain Restoration

ESA VA provided restoration design, hydraulic modeling, public involvement, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, bidding services, and construction observation services for this 166-acre Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) floodplain habitat restoration project at Minto-Brown Island Park on the Willamette River in Salem, Oregon. This was an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project with an aggressive design and NEPA schedule and important stakeholder communications related to converting the land from agricultural use. The park is designated by the state as a priority area for habitat protection and restoration opportunities.



Informative panels were used to communicate the project restoration and habitat objectives, and to gather public feedback.



The project's goals were to improve riparian habitat and water quality by removing 166 acres from agricultural use within the 900+ acre park. Preliminary hydraulic modeling of the preferred alternative was conducted to assess potential for impacts to neighboring properties. ESA VA prepared the Environmental Assessment (EA), and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). ESA VA researched pre-settlement plant communities in the vicinity of the site to make informed recommendations for the re-establishment of native plant communities. ESA VA also prepared a series of informative panels that were used to gather public feedback regarding landscape type and visitor experience. This feedback informed the floodplain restoration design and will also inform future recreational objectives for trail and park development.

"This work resulted in the public having a much improved understanding of the project, which translated into stronger support for proposed restoration...VAI (ESA VA) was highly effective in coordinating complex issues under significant political and time pressures."

- Sean O'Day, Former Deputy City Manager, City of Salem

ESA VA led agency stakeholder tours.



Project Name
Minto-Brown Island Park Floodplain Restoration

Project Location
Salem, Oregon

Landscape Architect
ESA Vigil-Agrimis

Clients
NRCS and the City of Salem

Date of Project
October 2009–October 2013

(Far Left) Popcorn flower amongst bunch grasses in restored wet prairie.
(Left) Spring 2013: NRCS and the City of Salem have tracked the restoration progress closely between 2010 and 2013.