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A footbridge that spans Hess Creek and the logs scattered across the landscape nearby are part of a \$30,000 riparian restoration project tucked behind Friendsview Manor.

## Restoration, then enjoyment

A project to restore a stretch of riparian area adjacent to Hess Creek nearing its end

By SCHELLENE GLENDENIN  
NEWBERG GRAPHIC REPORTER

Dainty tree branches dangle over a slow moving section of Hess Creek. Lacy ferns and red-berried shrubs create a backdrop for logs that seemingly tumble over one another on their way downhill, some touching the water, some crossing it in spots. Two bridges span each end of the creek.

Tucked behind Friendsview Manor, benches are spaced around the creek in areas where it curves across the landscape, shaded by trees and native plants. It's an oasis in the midst of concrete and asphalt.

The Friendsview Manor riparian restoration project was created to give the residents of the manor a place to contemplate nature. But the five-acre plot was not always so serene; and now, due to construction nearby, much of the access to the site is cut off.

"It was not in very good condition," said Dan O'Reilly, conservationist and technician for the Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District. Streams had deepened, taking away water that had once provided moisture to the landscape. The degraded soils destroyed fish habitat and the area also lacked shade for the stream.

With the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, as well as \$20,000 in in-kind services, non-native plants like blackberry, reed canary grass and English ivy that dominated the area were cleared out and more than 200 types of native species reintroduced.

"We tried to save all native plants and surgically removed the bad guys," O'Reilly said.

"The area was taken over by noxious weeds," agreed Tim

Stieber, district manager at SWCD. "We worked with (Friendsview) on control of those and replanted native trees and shrubs with the help of George Fox University students."

The students have worked on the project during several of their annual Serve Day events.

"The people at the manor helped design a trail system through the area," Stieber said. "We built bridges. The Department of Forestry designed log structures to be placed along the stream."

Stieber noted that although the state has thousands of acres of natural forest lands, most of it is inaccessible by people. Urban restoration projects like the one at Friendsview are important to allow

people to be involved in nature, he said. "If you have an urban restoration project ... real close, people tend to use it more," he added.

A loop trail connected by foot bridges for visitors constitutes about a half-mile walk.

Twenty tons of logs were placed near the stream with the help of a bulldozer and track hoe. Each log was drilled and cabled together to

help it stay in a position to help hold back water and help pools develop. This, O'Reilly said, will improve the ecology and habitat.

"Since construction there has been a little disconnect as far as the manor," O'Reilly said. Access is still available but steep in most places. "We plan to reconnect access to the manor site."

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