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# Salem Stream Mitigation Bank

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2020 Annual Program Report  
Township 8 South, Range 3 West, Section 23BB  
Salem, Marion County, Oregon

DECEMBER 22, 2020

## **Background**

The Salem Stream Mitigation Bank (SMB) Program has been developed to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to jurisdictional streams resulting from City projects. As an “Umbrella Bank” it provides a framework for the establishment, use, operation, and maintenance of multiple compensatory mitigation sites within the City’s urban growth boundary (UGB), targeted at specific watershed goals. At this time only the Waln Creek Stream Bank site is approved and active.

The goals of the City’s SMB Program are to: 1) provide a basis for planning and implementation of cost-effective stream restoration projects; and 2) streamline the Removal-Fill and Section 404/401 permit evaluation process by providing a means for quantifying and compensating for unavoidable in-stream impacts.

## **Total Credit Additions**

The original 30% release of credits was on February 2016 when a total of 3,222 credits were released to the bank: 2632.8 instream credits and 589.5 riparian credits. See Attachment 1 for the Program Ledger. See Attachment 2 for the 2016 Letter of Release.

In August 2018 Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) released an additional 45 percent of the total credits. This included 3,949 instream and 884 riparian credits for a total release of 4,833 credits that year and a cumulative total of 8,055 credits.

## **Total Credit Subtractions**

There has been one sale of riparian credits and no sales of instream credits. In July 2016, 58 riparian credits were used to mitigate for the Summer Street Culvert Replacement, see Attachment 3 for Credit Receipt. The riparian credits were sold to mitigate for loss of riparian vegetation, see Attachment 4 for Summary Table.

## **2020 Activity**

The City has completed a draft Long-Term Management Plan (LTMP) for the Waln Creek Stream Bank Site. The LTMP is undergoing final edits and will be submitted in early 2021.

The City completed the Battle Creek Park Master Plan in 2020. The Waln Creek Stream Mitigation Bank was identified throughout the master planning process and the area was off limits to any future park improvements. The Master Plan was approved by City Council in April 2020. The plan can be found here:

<https://www.cityofsalem.net/citydocuments/battle-creek-master-plan.pdf>

## **Site Management – Waln Creek**

The City has continued to inspect the bank site throughout the year and in 2019 addressed issues of litter, weed management, and beaver pressure.

### **Future Activity**

The City does not have any significant purchases of stream mitigation bank credits planned for the near future, but some small purchases will occur as the City continues to replace, improve, and upgrade culverts and other stream/roadway crossings.

The City will submit the Long-Term Management Plan for review by DSL and USACE in early 2021. An approved Long-Term Management Plan is required for release of the final 25% of credits.

Preliminary design and engineering analysis will begin in 2021 for future improvement projects from the Master Plan. No construction projects are planned for Battle Creek Park in 2021. All parks projects take place outside of the SMB project area.

### **Recommendations**

As we continue to accrue experience operating the SMB, the City will monitor our rate of credit sales and evaluate whether the rate of credit sales warrants keeping those sales exclusively for City projects or if there is enough capacity in the SMB to offer credit sales to outside organizations, such as private developers. For now, the SMB will continue to be restricted to City projects only.

### **Attachments**

1. 2020 Program Ledger