

NATURE NEXT DOOR

Natural Areas Bond Measure

Deep Creek and Tributaries

About the area

Deep Creek's alignment serves as the principal wildlife corridor connecting the Clackamas River (and the Cascades to the east) to the East Buttes area of Gresham and the urbanizing Johnson Creek watershed. The proposed Cazadero Trail route follows the North Fork of Deep Creek Canyon from Boring and Damascus to Barton.

Deep Creek and its tributaries are significant habitat for coho, spring Chinook, wild winter steelhead, migratory and resident cutthroat trout, and lamprey eel. Key natural resources of concern are the threatened wild winter steelhead and coho salmon.

Besides offering significant habitat for wildlife and fish, the creeks are also important to water quality as they enter the Clackamas River above municipal water intakes. As the name Deep Creek indicates, areas along the creek are mostly steep and forested with moderate to large Douglas fir, cedar and hardwoods.

2006 Natural Areas Program bond description

The intact, steeply wooded slopes of Deep Creek Canyon in eastern Damascus hold some of the largest contiguous wildlife habitat remaining



in the region. The creek's sweeping alignment serves as the principal

corridor connecting the Clackamas River to habitat areas within the more urbanized portions of the county. The corridor includes the Cazadero Trail that will link Gresham, Barton and public forest land to the east. It will also complete the Springwater Corridor from downtown Portland to Barton.

Focus for Metro's 2006 Natural Areas Program

Protect and preserve wildlife habitat and corridors.

- Initial estimates are that a minimum of 200 acres of land would be protected within this target area.

Field research and scientific data findings

Lower Deep Creek

- Provides connectivity for fish at the confluence with the

Clackamas River to the North Fork of Deep Creek.

- Provides quality spawning habitat and a healthy riparian zone.

Noyer Creek

- A natural falls near the confluence with Deep Creek obstructs fish passage.
- Development and agricultural uses impact water quality in this area.
- The creekside habitat corridor has been affected by invasive plant species, especially Japanese knotweed and English ivy.
- A key wildlife corridor exists between Deep and Noyer creeks and the Zion Butte and Tower Butte areas, which provide important links to the Springwater Corridor.



Contact information

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Upper Deep Creek and North Fork of Deep Creek

- Provide a high functioning wildlife corridor and fish run including salmon and steelhead.
- Protect/preserve intact forested areas to improve water quality.
- An unnamed tributary above the North Fork of Deep Creek provides wildlife connectivity between Zion Butte and Deep Creek.

