

Salmon Safe Park System Certification for APRC

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Background on Salmon Safe

- Peer reviewed 3rd party certification and accreditation program founded by Pacific Rivers in 1996.
- Pacific Northwest based non profit that seeks to protect Salmon Habitat and water quality.
- It is a labeling system that seeks to inform land management practices.
- The certification was developed with a focus in protecting watersheds from Alaska to Northern California.
- Aims to restore native habitat by preserving west coast watersheds.



Photo Credit: Salmon Safe

Salmon Safe Park Certification

- Performance based and non prescriptive.
- Work in collaboration with the park agency to develop feasible strategies that would enhance watershed protection.
- Focuses on the protection and enhancement of aquatic ecosystems within the park system through compliance with Salmon Safe standards.



Photo Credit: Salmon Safe

Certification Criteria

The Evaluation Team: The system wide assessments are conducted by a team of two to four qualified, independent, and credible experts hired by Salmon Safe. The team is well versed in aquatic ecological science as well as park management.

The Evaluation Process: Looks at the current park system wide management practices compared to a defined set of evaluation standards that represent the best park management practices in regards to protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems.

Salmon Safe Core Certification Standards

1. Instream Habitat Protection/
Restoration
2. Riparian & Wetland Protection/
Restoration
3. Water Use & Irrigation Management
4. Surface Water Runoff Management
5. Erosion & Sediment Control
6. Pesticide Reduction & Water Quality
Protection in Landscaping
7. Enhancement of Ecological
Function



Photo credit: USDA

Costs \$\$

Parks System Certification

Pre Assessment Fee: \$5,000

Certification Costs: \$15,000

Total Costs: \$20, 000*

Estimate for an Individual Park

Pre Assessment Fee: \$5,000

Certification Costs: \$13,000

Total Costs: \$18, 000*

Half of the Initial funding will be covered by the Institute of Applied Sustainability at Southern Oregon University.

*Fees cover the totality of the 5 year certification period.

Park System Maintenance and Development Strategies

Annual Expectations and Management Strategies

1. Documentation of pesticide, fertilizer, and water use.
2. Adherence and development of an IPM.
3. Not exceeding the recommended maximum load of pesticide and Fertilizer use.

Development Strategies

1. Ensure that new park development is accordance with Salmon Safe standards.
2. Sustainable stormwater management and infrastructure.



Photo credit: USFW

Design Features of the East Main Park Project

- Low maintenance landscape design.
- Pollinator friendly plant species.
- Waterwise plant species.
- Sustainable stormwater systems and management.
- Restoring meadow area ecology.
- Erosion control plan during construction.

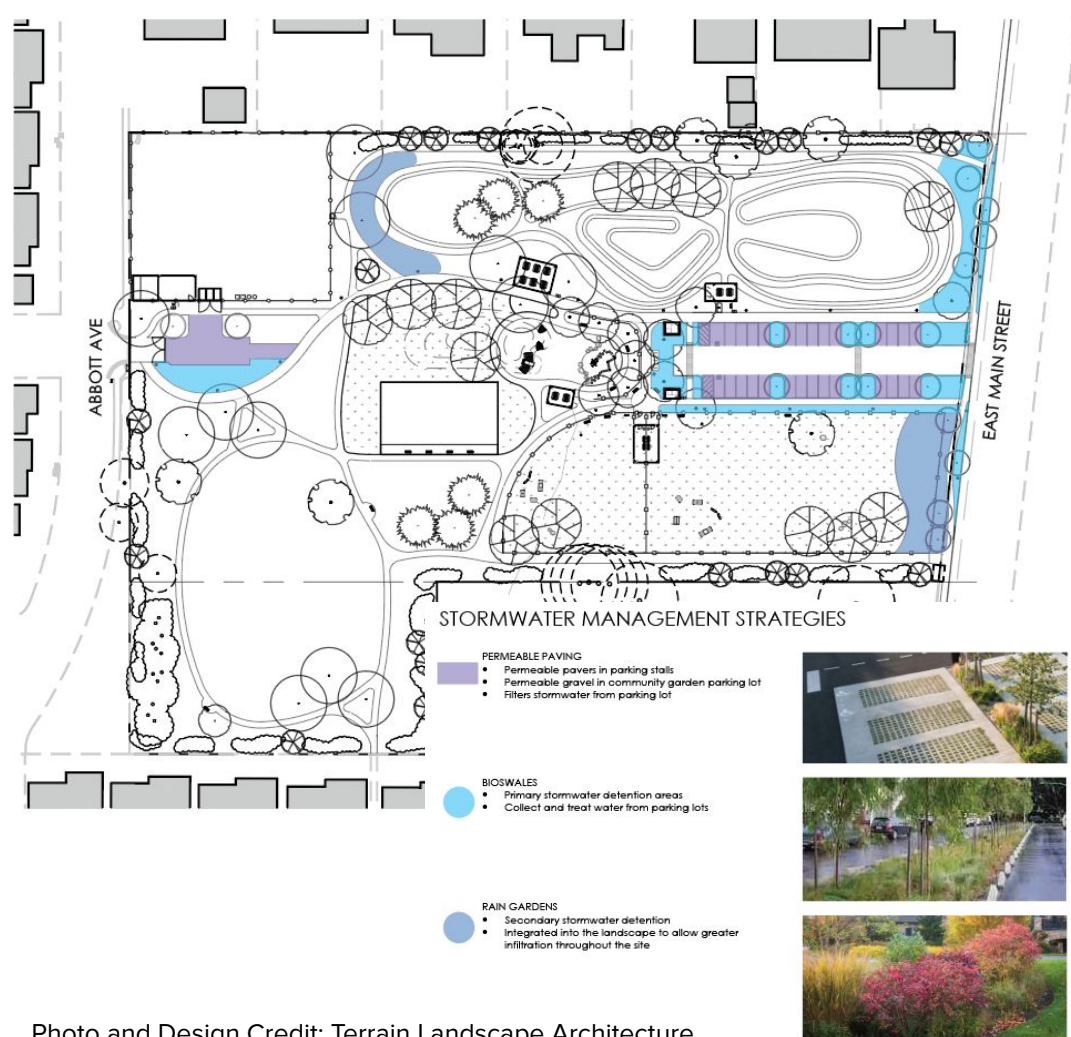
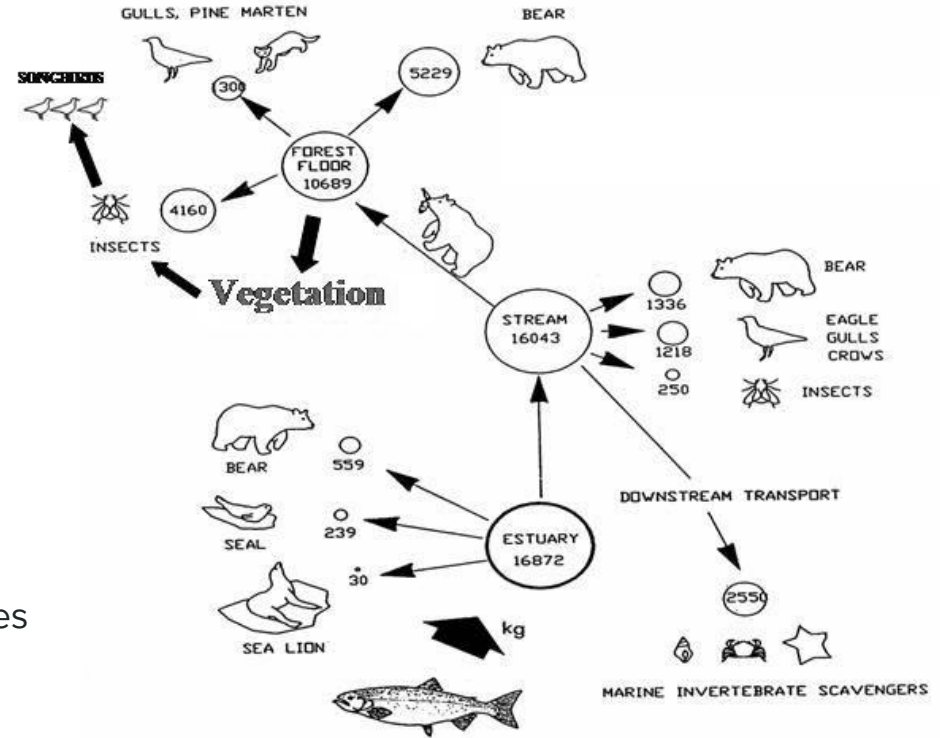


Photo and Design Credit: Terrain Landscape Architecture

Why Salmon Safe?

- There are at least 137 species are dependent on Salmon nutrients.
- Salmon runs, move vital marine nutrients into rivers and surrounding forest ecosystems.
- Salmon decline is most prevalent in their southern ranges which include Washington, Oregon, and California.
- Salmon health both improves and indicates the health of the watershed.



Reimchen 1994

Regional Context

- Bear Creek is spawning grounds for both Coho and Chinook salmon species.
- Rehabilitation of Salmon habitat is a current ecological focus in our region as the Klamath dam removal project becomes the largest dam removal in US history.
- As the recognition of the land rights of Oregon's indigenous people grows, the protection of their most valuable food source will become a public priority.



Economic Gains

- Sustainable third party certifications can help Ashland promote eco-tourism.
- Outdoor recreation and tourism is a huge contributor to the economy of Southern Oregon.
- Salmon support tourism in the region as Rogue River is known for its world class fishing of salmon and steelhead.
- Salmon-Safe certification can help park systems gain external funding for restoration projects by providing third party verification that ecological health is a priority.
- The certification can benefit park agencies during times of public levy votes, etc, by helping communicate that park systems are capable managers of public resources.

OREGON'S OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY



Outdoor recreation is a major contributor to the economy of Jackson County.

In 2019, local recreationists and visitors spent \$311 million in Jackson County.

Spending on outdoor recreation in Jackson County supported:

3,200
FULL AND PART-TIME JOBS

\$121 MILLION
IN WAGES AND OTHER COMPENSATION

\$163 MILLION
IN GDP CONTRIBUTIONS

\$16 MILLION
IN STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Our Recommendations

CONS:

Five year certification, and costs of renewal.

PROS:

Ensures proper scientific monitoring and protections of our watershed, only slightly more expensive than individual park plan, helps APRC meet their goals, support and staff resources from SOU, and supports an ecotourism economy.

ASK:

We would like to ask APRC to consider supporting the Salmon Safe Park System Certification for the entire Ashland Parks System, as opposed to the single park certification for East Main. Targeting the entire park system will make a greater impact in protecting our freshwater resources.



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