



South Washington Watershed District
Trout Brook Restoration Update
LSC Partnership Policy Committee

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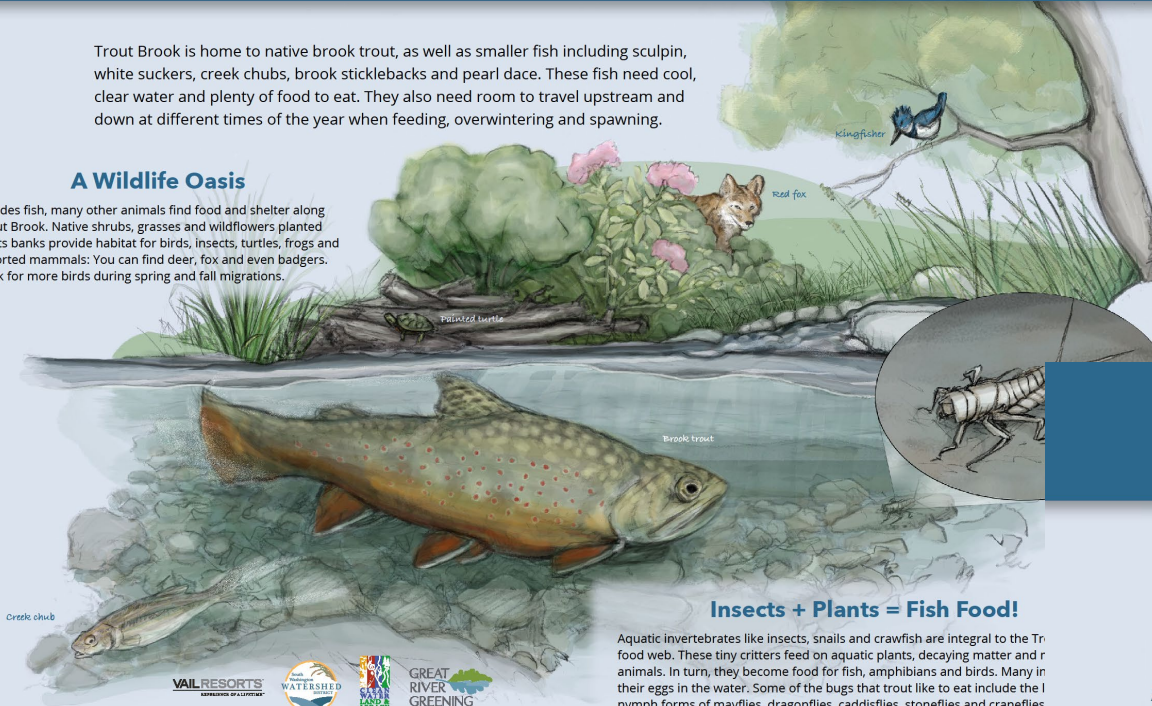


Here Fishy Fishy!

Trout Brook is home to native brook trout, as well as smaller fish including sculpin, white suckers, creek chubs, brook sticklebacks and pearl dace. These fish need cool, clear water and plenty of food to eat. They also need room to travel upstream and down at different times of the year when feeding, overwintering and spawning.

A Wildlife Oasis

Besides fish, many other animals find food and shelter along Trout Brook. Native shrubs, grasses and wildflowers planted on its banks provide habitat for birds, insects, turtles, frogs and assorted mammals: You can find deer, fox and even badgers. Look for more birds during spring and fall migrations.



Insects + Plants = Fish Food!

Aquatic invertebrates like insects, snails and crawfish are integral to the Tr food web. These tiny critters feed on aquatic plants, decaying matter and r animals. In turn, they become food for fish, amphibians and birds. Many in their eggs in the water. Some of the bugs that trout like to eat include the nymph forms of mayflies, dragonflies, caddisflies, stoneflies and craneflies



Partners in Restoring Trout Brook



Streams Like to Color Outside the Lines

Natural streams have bends and curves and may even change course over time. In other words, they tend to meander. However, years ago Trout Brook was artificially straightened during the construction of Afton Alps. In 2019, the South Washington Watershed District worked with Great River Greening and Vail Resorts to restore Trout Brook to good health.

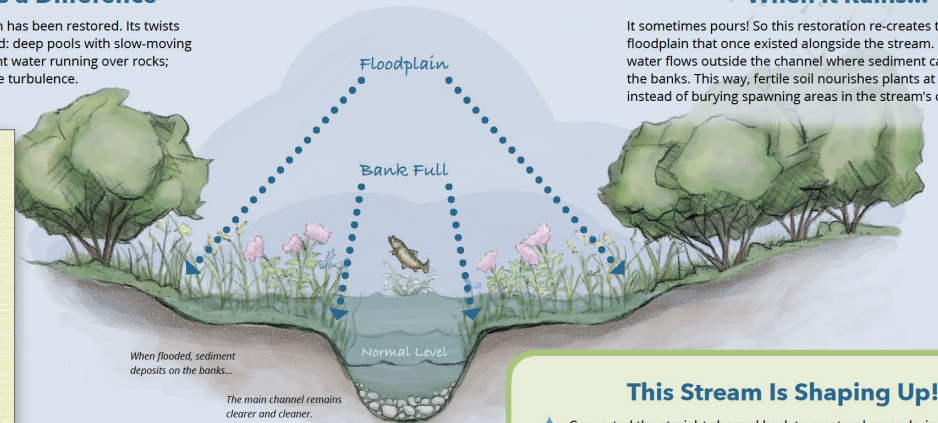
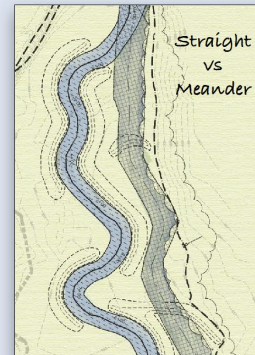


When It Rains...

It sometimes pours! So this restoration re-creates the natural floodplain that once existed alongside the stream. When it floods, water flows outside the channel where sediment can settle along the banks. This way, fertile soil nourishes plants at the stream's edge instead of burying spawning areas in the stream's center.

A Meander Makes a Difference

Trout Brook's natural, meandering path has been restored. Its twists and turns create habitat that trout need: deep pools with slow-moving water; shallow riffles with fast, turbulent water running over rocks; and runs with deep, fast water and little turbulence.



This Stream Is Shaping Up!

- Converted the straight channel back to a natural meandering stream
- Formed a floodplain to accommodate "100-year storm" events
- Created pools, riffles and runs—habitat needed by cold-stream fish
- Replaced culverts under the parking entrance so water flows continuously
- Anchored banks with logs and deep-rooted plants to reduce erosion



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