

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District's
Willamette Basin Water Quality Management
Area Plan
Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load
Annual Report
for June 30,2023-July 1, 2024

Submitted by:

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Background

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) establishes water quality to protect people from high levels of mercury exposure when eating fish. The Willamette River and many of its tributaries, including the Tualatin, do not currently meet water quality standards for mercury and are included on Oregon's list of impaired waters under Clean Water Act §303(d). It requires a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to be developed for waters that are on the 303(d) list. A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant, in this case mercury, that can be present in a waterway and still meet water quality standards. Partners across the region will implement plans to reduce mercury entering streams to the degree that will be necessary for the eventual attainment of the mercury criterion.

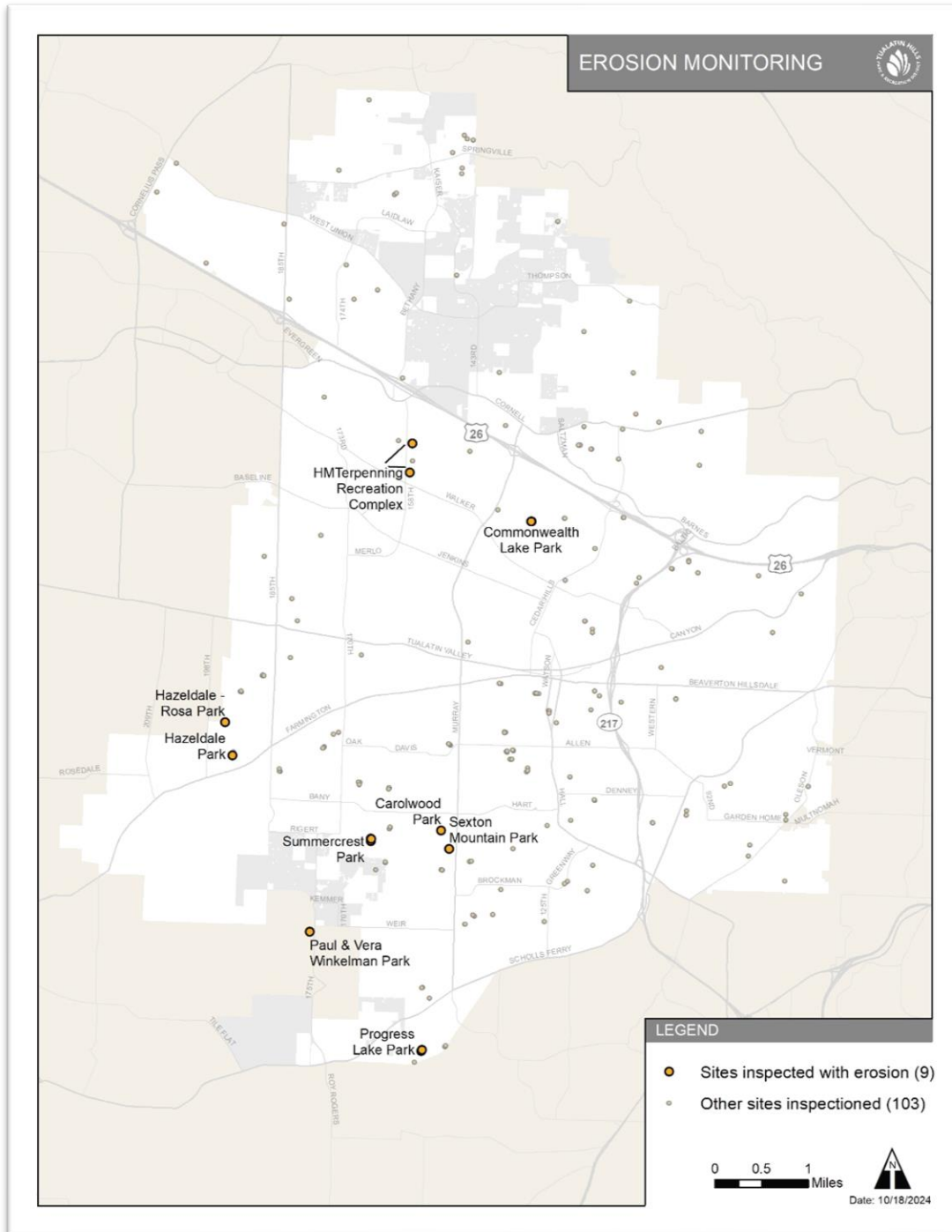
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is responsible for managing approximately 2,000 acres of natural and recreational land in Washington County. Our service area spans the City of Beaverton and many unincorporated areas of eastern Washington County. Although the district manages many green spaces, they are primarily embedded in a suburban residential and commercial matrix.

Each year THPRD takes measures to manage soils to prevent transmission of mercury from terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems. This report summarizes activities taken from June 30, 2023 to July 1, 2024.

Activities

Park & Trail Monitoring

Staff monitored developed amenities as well as paved and soft-surface trails in parks and natural areas for signs of erosion. They noted any unintended movement of soil greater than 20 gallons of soil. 112 inspections were made. Nine instances of erosion were noted and remediated.



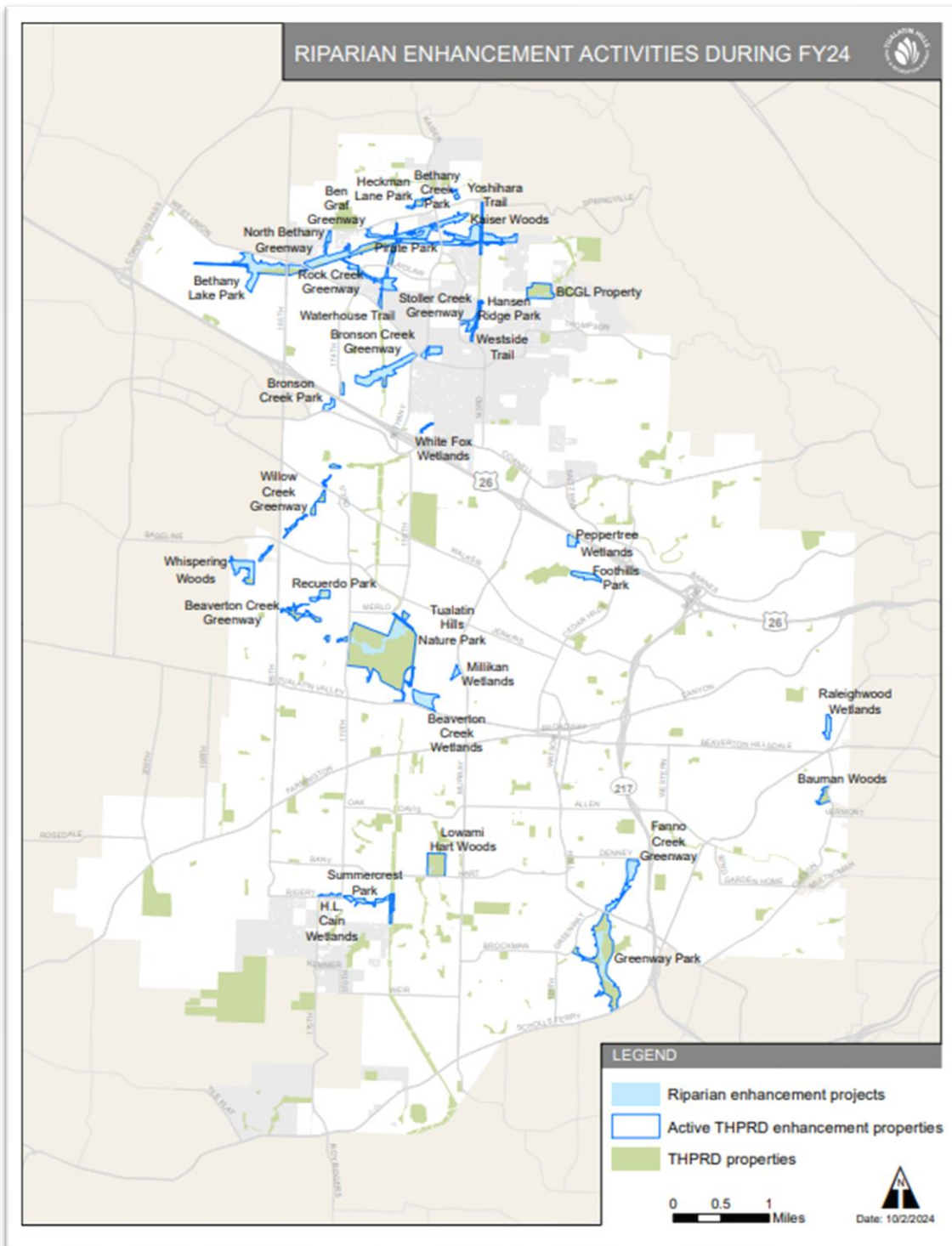
Best Practices

Staff developed and implemented three best practices:

1. *Exposed soils*: Guidelines to preserve and protect soils from erosion due to site maintenance, improvements, or emergency cleanup.
2. *Water quality facility maintenance*: Provides guidance for the care and function of water quality facilities.
3. *Tree/timber harvesting*: Although this is not a current practice, should the need arrive, it provides guidelines for the harvest of trees.

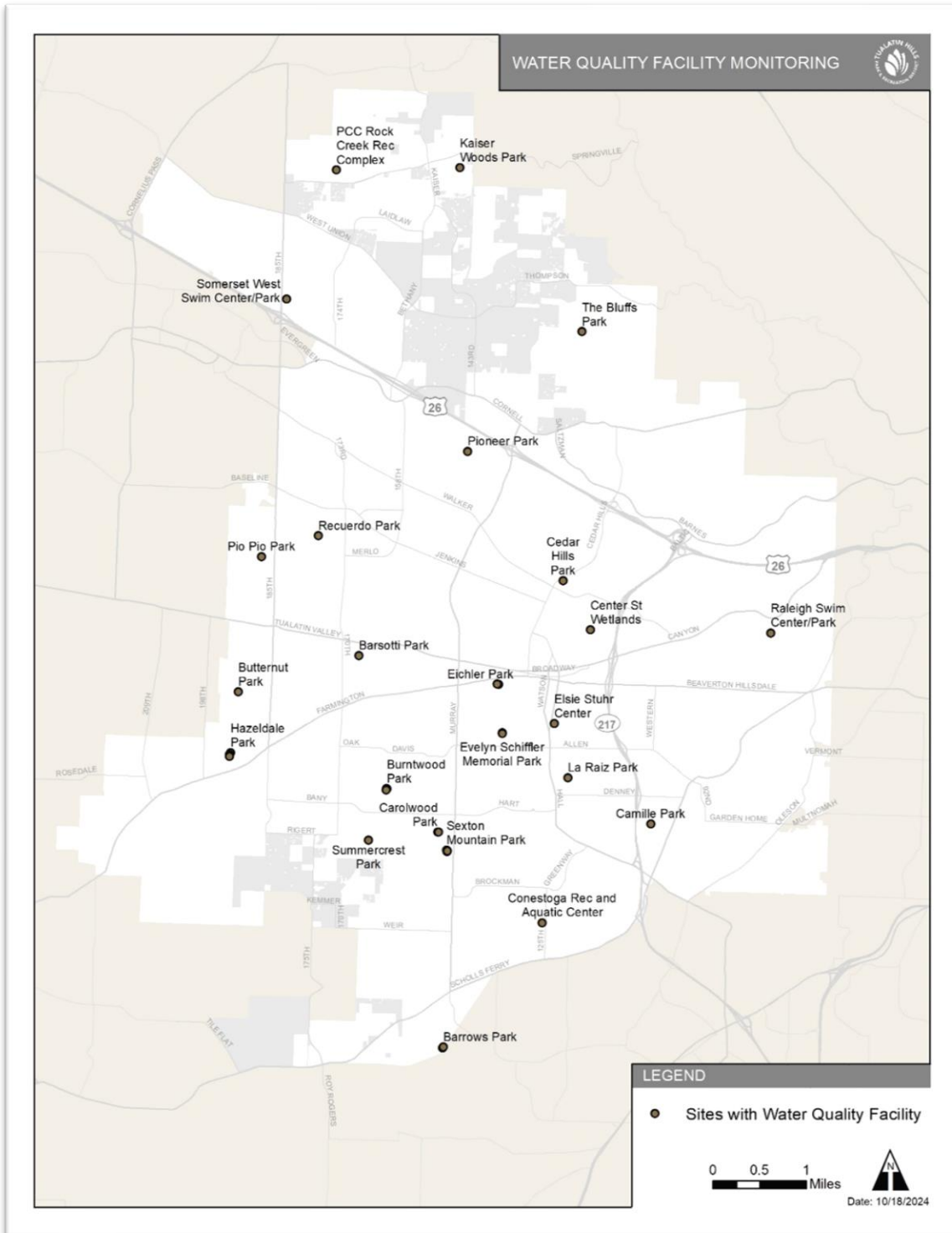
Riparian Restoration

Staff started or continued to conduct riparian restoration activities on 396 acres at 30 individual park sites. These activities included non-native plant control or removal, planting trees, shrubs or herbs, and monitoring. Partners included Clean Water Services and Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District. The following map shows locations of work:



Water Quality Facilities

In addition to the development of water quality facility best practices, staff began routine inspections of water quality facilities and created a scoring system to indicate the quality/condition of facilities. Sixty-eight inspections were made and all facilities were found to be fair or good condition- none required immediate action beyond routine maintenance.



Education

Staff worked on new outdoor maps and directional signs for our paved regional trails which allow people to travel using their feet, bicycles or mobility devices instead of using motorized vehicles to reduce pollution. We met with community groups to get feedback and share information. These trails connect to community destinations like libraries, parks, shopping, and other cities.

A new webpage was created and populated with information about the mercury program: <https://www.thprd.org/district-information/administration/mercury-reduction-program>