



Preserved logs discovered after draining the Mill Pond, 2009



Dam removal, 2009



Earth moving, circa 2012

MILL RACE RESTORATION

In 2009, the City began restoration of the Mill Race in collaboration with partner agencies. A new inlet to the Mill Race waterway was created at Clearwater Park and a dam was removed near Booth Kelly, draining the old industrial log pond.

This allows fish to enter the waterway. Species in the restored Mill Race include salmon, trout, Oregon chub, and Pacific lamprey. Ponds, wetlands, and uplands were created by reshaping the Mill Pond. Over 4,000 native trees and shrubs were planted including ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas spirea, and Oregon grape.

The restored area provides great opportunities for bird-watching – red-winged black birds, mergansers, cedar waxwings, and buffleheads are just a few species to see from the Mill Race Path.

FIND OUT MORE about Springfield's restoration work and the native vegetation planted there at bit.ly/springfieldmillrace.



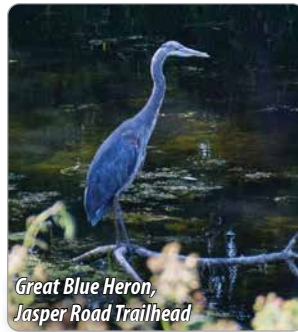
Mill Pond replaced by new wetlands and native plants, 2014



Stormwater treatment pond, 2021



Clearwater Park inlet, 2010



Great Blue Heron,
Jasper Road Trailhead



Deer off the Mill Race Path



Green Heron, Jasper Road Trailhead

CLEAN WATER NEEDS YOU

Did you know storm drains in Springfield ultimately flow into the Mill Race or Willamette or McKenzie Rivers? That water is not cleaned first. We all need to act to keep waterways healthy:

- ✓ **Pick up pet waste.** Bag it and throw it in the trash.
- ✓ **Avoid using chemical weed killers** in your yard.
- ✓ **Wash your car at a commercial car wash** or on the lawn.
- ✓ **Pick up litter.**
- ✓ **Fix automotive leaks** as soon as possible. In the meantime, place a drip pan under leaks so they don't get on the pavement.
- ✓ **Plant native flowers, shrubs, and trees** in your yard. They provide habitat for wildlife and generally require less care.



Turtles, Jasper Road Trailhead



Female Mallard Ducks,
Jasper Road Trailhead



Redwing Blackbird,
Booth-Kelly Trailhead

REPORT WATER POLLUTION

Only rain down the storm drain! Please tell the Stormwater Team quickly if you see anything other than rain enter a storm drain. We help end pollution through remediation, education, and more.

CONTACT US

We're here to help keep Springfield's rivers clean, so we help you do the same!

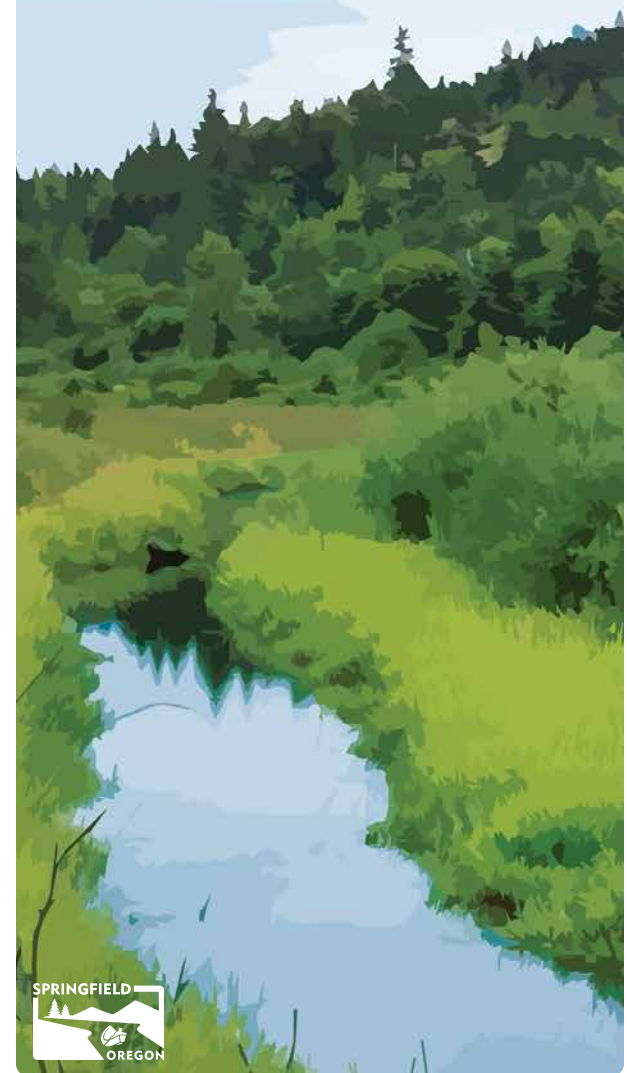


STORMWATER TEAM, City of Springfield, Oregon
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Explore the MILL RACE

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, USA

Springfield's historic and restored habitat and recreation area.





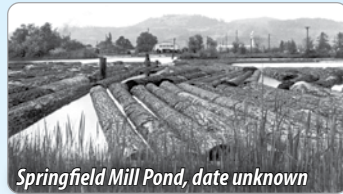
Springfield's Tailrace, circa 1895



Booth-Kelly Lumber Mill, circa 1900



Loggers on Mill Pond, date unknown



Springfield Mill Pond, date unknown

History

Springfield consisted of oak savanna, upland prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and meandering waterways prior to Euro-American settlement. This landscape was managed by the Kalapuya tribes. In 1852, the founder of Springfield, Elias Briggs, connected existing wetland channels to create the Mill Race waterway. The flow of water generated

power that ran Springfield's first saw and grist mills (for grinding flour). The Mill Race was used to float logs to local mills. The area continues to be used for some industry more than 150 years later. Early Springfield residents fished, swam, and canoed in the Mill Race.

In 1985, the City of Springfield received a donation of Mill Race land. Through three decades of

sustained work with partner agencies, the City and the community created the vision for the area, planned a series of projects to achieve it, and completed the construction. Collaborations were local, state, and federal. It includes the largest stormwater treatment pond in the state.

Today the historic Mill Race provides habitat and recreation opportunities across the City. **Enjoy!**



Gathering at Springfield's Mill Race, circa 1910

SEE MORE historic photos at bit.ly/springfieldmillrace.

Timeline

