

## **Incorporating Stormwater Management and Habitat Restoration on Burnt Bridge Creek, Vancouver, Washington**

Gary Bock, City of Vancouver Watersheds Council

Burnt Bridge Creek is a highly urbanized 28-square mile watershed almost completely contained within the city limits of Vancouver, Washington. It flows west through the city to Vancouver Lake and the Columbia River. Burnt Bridge Creek has been highly modified dating back to the earliest settlements around Fort Vancouver in the 1800's.

In 2002, the City of Vancouver Surface Water Management Program launched a project to enhance Burnt Bridge Creek. The project includes ponds, bio-swales, infiltration basins, and vortexing manholes. It also includes planting over 25,000 new trees and shrubs, re-meandering of the creek, and a 3-mile extension of an existing trail.

New regional stormwater facilities that filter runoff from hundreds of acres of existing development have been incorporated into the restoration of a creek that has been modified and neglected for over a century. Wildlife and humans now co-exist in a revitalized natural area that provides 9 miles of trails as well as hundreds of acres of habitat.

### **Gary Bock**

Gary Bock received a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Regional Planning in 1996 from WSU Vancouver. He has been involved in environmental work in the Portland Metro region since 1995. Gary was an educator for 6 years at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. He worked with Clark County for 3 years as part of the stormwater management team. Gary also spent 6 years at WSU Extension as the Watershed Stewards Coordinator. He is now the Executive Director of the Vancouver Watersheds Council, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization committed to bringing together and engaging the community to protect and enhance the natural environment. The Vancouver Watersheds Council enjoys support from several community partners and the City of Vancouver. Gary has served on a variety of advisory panels regarding wetlands, sustainability, the Clean Water Act and transportation. He is also a member of the Ridgefield Planning Commission.