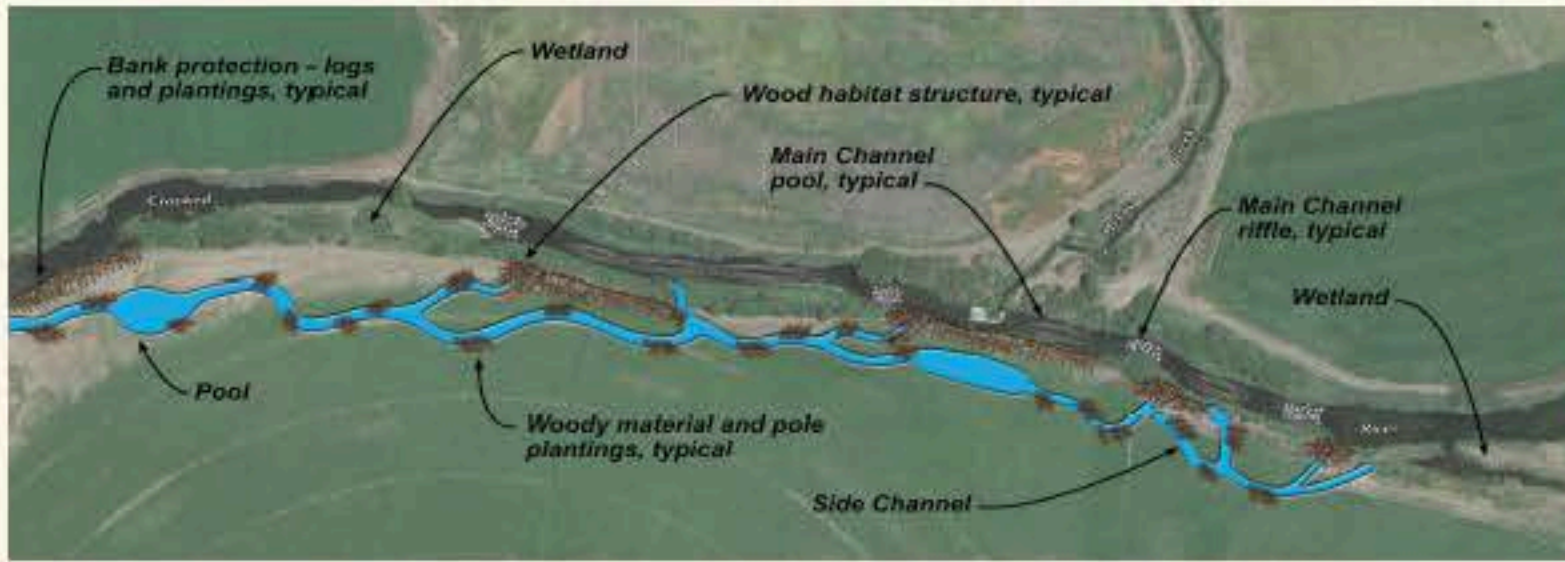




Riparian Improvements

A changing landscape

A riparian area is a vegetated habitat or ecosystem along rivers and streams that is influenced by water in the soil. Riparian areas provide shade and food for terrestrial wildlife and aquatic species and help reduce bank erosion, flood damage and water turbidity. The Crooked River valley below Prineville was once an uncontrolled river that flowed widely over the entire floodplain from toe slope to toe slope. Each year during the high water periods, parts of the river channel would migrate and move within the broad floodplain, creating more habitat and a wider variety of habitats than currently exist. This project recreates riparian areas that would have been present prior to human disturbance to the area.



Improvements along the almost two-mile project area include creating side channels, ponds and habitat structures that combine to increase overall fish and wildlife use of the site.



The shady, cool, moist environment of a riparian area attracts a wide variety of insects, amphibian, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals that may be seen when you visit the park.



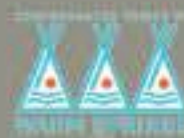
We planted more than 30,000 native trees, shrubs and grasses that will provide increased cover for fish and other animals and add organic material to the river environment year after year.

The channels you see between the river and the wetlands are called side channels. The Crooked River was originally very sinuous and was likely flanked by extensive floodplains that were at least partially forested. We created new side channels and planted riparian habitat to help restore the river to a more natural condition, with floodplains and habitat that closely represent the historic conditions of the river.



Riparian areas act like a natural sponge or filter, soaking up water when it is plentiful then slowly releasing that water back into the river or stream when water levels drop.

In an arid climate, water conservation is key to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. You can conserve water in many ways, including installing water-efficient fixtures at your home and work, checking for and fixing leaky water fixtures, taking shorter showers, planting drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants, and by watering lawns and gardens during early parts of the day.



Thanks to:

City of Prineville, Portland General Electric, Crook County Middle School, CTWS, CRWC, and OWEB

Find out more

https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/wr/drought_conservation.aspx

