

Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Willamette Subbasins

Technical Support Document Appendix B: Lower Willamette Shade Model Memo

August 2024

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2022

TO: TMDL Implementation Program File **FROM:** Julia Bond **CC:** Kaitlin Lovell, Loren Shelley, Barb Adkins **RE:** Riparian Shade Assessment

1 Introduction

A healthy riparian canopy provides multiple benefits to a stream, including the shading of the stream channel. In the Portland area, the shade provided by riparian vegetation is of particular importance to streams in the summer when water temperatures frequently exceed the conditions needed by salmon and trout to survive. Riparian shade reduces the amount of incoming solar radiation from reaching the stream, which in turn helps prevent the water from warming.

To address excess stream temperatures, Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) developed a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for temperature for the Lower Willamette basin. The temperature TMDL includes load allocations for all perennial streams, including the Columbia Slough, Johnson Creek, and Tryon Creek (DEQ, 2006). The Tualatin River subbasin temperature TMDL applies to the perennial or fish-bearing streams located in the Fanno Creek and Rock Creek basins. The TMDLs use percent effective shade as a surrogate for measuring temperature nonpoint source pollutant loading. Effective shade is the proportion of solar radiation that is attenuated or scattered before reaching the stream. DEQ defines system potential shade as the maximum effective shade possible for a stream reach. System potential shade is achieved when the riparian plant community has reached its mature, undisturbed condition in which vegetation heights are at or near their expected potential, resulting in the maximum effective shade for the stream.

Anthropogenic activities in the Portland area have degraded riparian conditions, resulting in a loss of riparian vegetation and an increase in solar loading. Based on modeling for the 2006 TMDL, the loss of stream shade has resulted in a 25% increase in solar loading to the Columbia Slough mainstem. The increase in solar loading due to the loss of riparian shade, or excess thermal load, to the Johnson Creek mainstem was found to be 51% above system potential shade conditions. The TMDL identifies restoration and protection of riparian vegetation as the primary methods for increasing stream shading and bases the nonpoint source load allocations on achieving system potential shade conditions.

The City and its watershed partners have engaged in riparian restoration activities for several decades. These activities include tree plantings and efforts to revegetate streambanks, as well as maintaining natural areas to promote mature riparian conditions. Monitoring of these projects has demonstrated an increase in streamside vegetation and improved riparian canopy across the Portland area, but these monitoring efforts are not able to assess riparian conditions in a single citywide effort.

The City committed to conducting an effective shade assessment in the City's 2019 TMDL Implementation Plan (Goal ID TIP-01; City of Portland, 2019). This report documents the findings of the effectives shade assessment. Assessing the current level of effective shade along the streams in the Portland area provides insight into the City's progress toward meeting the TMDL nonpoint source load allocation of system potential shade. The results of this assessment are compared to the TMDL goal of system potential shade and can be used to inform the prioritization of areas that would benefit from future riparian restoration.

2 Methods

The effective shade values presented in this memo were calculated using the shade module of Heat Source version 26 (Michie et al., 2021), a computer model used and maintained by DEQ to simulate stream thermodynamics and hydrology (Boyd & Kasper, 2003). The model can be used to calculate the effective shade at any point (or points) along a stream channel for a specified time of the year. The key model parameters used in this assessment are presented in [Table 1.](#page-6-1)

Model Parameter	Parameter Value		
Model start date	July 1		
Model end date	August 31		
Model time step	15 minutes		
Longitudinal stream sample distance	25 meters		
Number of transects per stream node	8		
Number of samples per transect	25		
Distance between transect samples	3 meters		
Cloud cover	0%		
Topographic shade angles	East, South, West		
Topographic angle sampling distance	Maximum of 10 km		

Table 1. Heat Source model parameter values used to calculate effective shade along streams in the Portland area.

To calculate effective shade, the model relies on GIS inputs that characterize the surrounding topography and land use (including vegetation) that affect the amount of solar radiation that can reach the surface of the modeled stream. For this effort, these GIS inputs were gathered using TTools version 9.0 (Michie, 2021). The GIS inputs used to characterize surrounding land use and topography are listed in [Table 2.](#page-7-0)

Table 2. GIS datasets used to characterize land use surrounding the modeled streams. See the References section for links to complete GIS metadata.

* Regularly updated GIS layers

The GIS layers in [Table 2](#page-7-0) were all (where needed) converted to raster datasets. These raster layers were then combined to create unique land cover codes that represent both the features on the landscape (e.g., canopy type, impervious areas, open water, wetlands, etc.) as well as the height above the ground surface of any features (e.g., trees or buildings) at that location. The land cover codes also include whether the area falls within a management area with environmental restrictions that limit riparian disturbances. Separate land cover layers were created for each of the three evaluated time periods (2007, 2014, and 2019). The raster layers representing land cover codes had a pixel resolution of 3 feet.

Stream channel widths were characterized based on field measurements from stream surveys conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). ODFW staff conducted stream habitat surveys during the summers of 2019 and 2020 throughout the Portland area (ODFW 2019, 2020). For this shade modeling effort, the stream channel widths measured by ODFW were used to generate a variable buffer around the stream center line to represent the right and left banks of the channel.

As noted above, TTools was used to sample the area surrounding each modeling node [\(Figure 1\)](#page-8-2). The TTools sampling provided information on the adjacent topography, land cover, and feature heights above the ground surface within 75 meters of the center of the stream with a sample spacing of 3 meters.

Figure 1. Example of the GIS sampling approach used to calculate effective shade. Effective shade values are calculated for each of the orange modeling nodes (25 meter spacing between nodes). The blue transect sample points (3 meter spacing between points) are used to characterize the surrounding land use and serve as inputs to the model.

2.1 Modeling Scenarios

Six modeling scenarios were evaluated as part of the assessment. The scenarios aim to represent the conditions on the landscape during different years, as well as estimate future conditions based on changes in vegetation.

Three of the modeling scenarios were designed to represent riparian canopy conditions based on available LiDAR collected in 2007, 2014, and 2019. These three scenarios represent observed canopy conditions. Three other modeling scenarios were developed to represent possible future riparian canopy conditions. The scenarios are described more fully in [Table 3.](#page-8-1)

Model Scenario	Description				
Topography Only	Topographic conditions with no vegetation. Represents existing topographic conditions in 2019.				
2007 Canopy	Riparian vegetation conditions characterized by 2007 LiDAR tree heights. Represents existing conditions in 2007.				
2014 Canopy	Riparian vegetation conditions characterized by 2014 LiDAR tree heights. Represents existing conditions in 2014.				
2019 Canopy	Riparian vegetation conditions characterized by 2019 LiDAR tree heights. Represents existing conditions, in 2019.				
Maximum System Potential	A hypothetical future condition representing the maximum projected riparian shade. All existing vegetation from 2019 is assumed to have reached mature				

Table 3. Shade modeling scenarios.

As noted above, system potential shade is achieved when the riparian plant community has reached its mature, undisturbed condition. The modeling scenarios that represent system potential include the following important assumptions:

- System potential tree heights
	- o Deciduous canopy is assumed to have a mature height of 100 feet
	- o Coniferous canopy is assumed to have a mature height of 150 feet
	- o Unidentified tree canopy (or no current tree canopy) is assumed to be deciduous and will have a mature height of 100 feet
- Open water remains unchanged in terms of feature heights (vegetation overhanging the stream channel is assumed to grow as above)
- Vegetation heights within emergent wetlands are represented with 2019 LiDAR heights, no future growth is assumed
- Buildings are unchanged in terms of feature heights (vegetation overhanging a building is assumed to grow as above)
- Streets are unchanged in terms of feature heights (vegetation overhanging a street is assumed to grow as above)
- Tree planting possible on parking lots and the scenarios assume future mature tree heights as above
- Areas with no identified land use (no canopy, impervious area, waterbody, or wetland) are assumed to have a future condition of mature deciduous trees

2.2 Model Extent

The focus of this modeling effort was limited to the perennial streams within Portland and the immediate area. To streamline the modeling, the area was divided into two model runs, representing: (1) streams east of the Willamette River, and (2) streams west of the Willamette River. A map of the modeled stream reaches and a list of modeling nodes is included in the Appendix.

2.3 Model Calibration

A key parameter in the shade calculation is the canopy density value. Streamside vegetation does not attenuate 100% of the light that passes through it, only a portion of it. The canopy density parameter in the model represents the proportion of incoming solar radiation that is blocked by a section of riparian vegetation. The canopy density values used in the initial model runs were based on the vegetation characteristics described in the Lower Willamette temperature TMDL (DEQ, 2006) and included a 75% density value for deciduous vegetation and an 80% density value for coniferous vegetation.

The canopy density value plays an important role in the effective shade calculation, as such it was important to evaluate how well the density value reflected conditions on the ground. The data available for calibration was limited to canopy cover measurements collected from the center of the stream channel using a densiometer (ideally, canopy cover measurement from within the riparian area itself would be used for calibration, however, these data were not available). Densiometer values were recorded as part of the City's watershed monitoring program (Portland Area Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program) and the bureau's Restoration Monitoring Program. Densiometer readings were collected and converted canopy cover using the methods of Lemmon (1957). A complete list of canopy cover values used in the model calibration are included in the Appendix.

Figure 2. Distribution of canopy cover values measured in the field at the center of the stream for the two major canopy types.

The measured canopy cover values were typically substantially higher than the initial density values, particularly in riparian areas dominated by conifers [\(Figure 2\)](#page-11-2). For the purposes of this assessment, the 25th percentile canopy cover values were used as the canopy density value in the model to better reflect measured field conditions. As such, both density values were increased, with the density value for deciduous canopy increased to 78% and the density for coniferous canopy increased to 90%.

3 Results

Effective shade was modeled for all streams from July 1 to August 31 at a 15-minute timestep [\(Table 1\)](#page-6-1). These results have been summarized as the July–August mean at each modeling node. This summer time period represents the period where stream temperatures in Portland tend to be highest. The following sections summarize the effective shade results for the different streams in the Portland area for all six modeling scenarios.

3.1 Johnson Creek

Effective shade varied along the modeled streams in the Johnson Creek watershed. The conditions along the smaller tributaries located west of the Kelley Creek confluence (e.g. Deardorff, Mitchell, and Wahoo creeks) produced high amounts of effective shade, with most reaches achieving approximately 90% of system potential shade in 2019 [\(Table 4\)](#page-12-0). The highly urbanized Crystal Springs Creek differed from these other tributaries, with conditions in 2019 achieving approximately 70% of system potential.

Stream Total Length (km) Mean Width (m) Mean Effective Shade (%) ²⁰⁰⁷ ²⁰¹⁴ ²⁰¹⁹ Max System Potential System Potential in Management Areas System Potential in Management Areas + Loss *Mainstem* Johnson Creek 1.561 Creck 10.0 7.6 53.0 63.3 61.9 80.9 77.8 77.0 Johnson Creek $10-20 \text{ km}$ 10.0 7.4 59.7 64.7 66.7 82.4 80.3 79.5 Johnson Creek 20-30 km 10.0 9.2 59.6 65.5 65.6 85.0 84.9 84.9 Johnson Creek $30-43 \text{ km}$ 12.6 4.5 59.8 64.8 66.9 85.0 84.0 83.7 *Tributaries* Badger Creek | 3.9 | 1.9 | 75.4 | 77.2 | 76.6 | 89.0 | 87.2 | 86.1 Butler Creek | 2.7 | 1.3 | 74.9 | 79.3 | 78.2 | 85.9 | 84.7 | 84.3 Clatsop Creek | 2.3 | 0.9 | 84.8 | 87.8 | 86.6 | 90.7 | 89.9 | 88.4 Crystal Springs 3.9 9.1 39.2 47.3 51.1 71.4 68.1 68.1 67.6 Deardorff Creek 1 1.7 1 1.5 83.0 85.9 85.3 89.7 88.5 87.7 Errol Creek | 0.6 | 1.3 | 61.6 | 68.7 | 50.4 | 82.8 | 75.7 | 59.8 Frog Creek | 1.5 | 0.7 | 74.7 | 79.8 | 78.7 | 88.3 | 82.4 | 79.4 Indian Creek | 1.5 | 0.7 | 69.2 | 79.7 | 81.0 | 88.2 | 85.2 | 83.2 Jenne Creek | 2.0 | 0.6 | 69.9 | 73.2 | 72.7 | 88.7 | 86.3 | 82.9 Kelley Creek | 7.2 | 2.2 | 70.2 | 77.8 | 76.5 | 89.6 | 88.4 | 87.0 Mitchell Creek | 3.1 | 1.2 | 76.2 | 78.2 | 75.0 | 90.2 | 88.9 | 87.7 Sunshine Creek | 6.7 | 1.9 | 55.6 | 58.4 | 59.1 | 87.1 | 84.5 | 84.0 Veterans Creek | 2.1 | 1.3 | 70.3 | 75.6 | 75.4 | 87.6 | 86.0 | 84.2 Wahoo Creek | 1.1 | 1.3 | 89.3 | 91.0 | 90.6 | 92.8 | 92.7 | 92.6

Table 4. Mean effective shade results for the six model scenarios for the mainstem of Johnson Creek and its tributaries. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

Conditions along the mainstem of Johnson Creek were variable in 2019 [\(Figure 3\)](#page-13-2), with few reaches achieving close to system potential shade. Along the mainstem, 2019 conditions were within approximately 78% of system potential.

Figure 3. Johnson Creek effective shade scenarios for 2007, 2019, and system potential. Results are presented as 1000 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node.

3.2 Columbia Slough

The wide reaches of the Lower Columbia Slough generally had the lowest values of effective shade in the watershed, 13.3% in 2019, while many of the narrower reaches had substantially more effective shade [\(Table 5\)](#page-13-1). The results from the system potential scenarios highlight what is possible along these different reaches, emphasizing how the wide channels of Buffalo and the Lower Slough are more difficult to shade. Even with their low effective shade values, both reaches are currently achieving approximating 60% of the shade that is possible along that reach.

Table 5. Mean effective shade results for the six model scenarios for the mainstem of the Columbia Slough and its tributaries and side channels. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

Conditions along the Upper Slough in 2019 were furthest from system potential conditions [\(Figure 4\)](#page-14-1). Despite having a mean channel width similar to that of the Middle Slough, the effective shade in 2019 represented less than 40% of what is possible for that reach. Generally, the amount of shade along the waterways in the Columbia Slough watershed has increased since 2007. With the exception of the Upper Slough, all of the waterways achieved over half of system potential shade in 2019.

Figure 4. Columbia Slough effective shade scenarios for 2007, 2019, and modeled system potential. Results are presented as 500 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node.

3.3 Tryon Creek

The streams within the Tryon Creek watershed are well shaded. In 2019, the modeled effective shade along all of the reaches was at least 90% of system potential, with some reaches in the Tryon Creek Natural Area achieving more than 97% of system potential in 2019.

Table 6. Mean effective shade results for the five model scenarios for the mainstem of Tryon Creek and its tributaries. Effective shade results from 2007 are not included due to concerns related to the accuracy of the available LiDAR used to characterize canopy conditions in 2007. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

Stream	Total Length (km)	Mean Width (m)	Mean Effective Shade $(\%)$				
			2014	2019	Max System Potential	System Potential in Management Areas	System Potential in Management Areas + Loss
Arnold Creek	3.3	1.5	90.8	90.5	92.3	92.1	92.1
Falling Creek	2.4	1.2	78.8	80.4	86.8	82.2	77.8
Nettle Creek	2.6	1.9	82.0	81.1	90.2	86.3	83.1
Park Creek	1.2	1.4	89.9	88.8	90.8	90.7	90.7
TCNA Tributaries	4.9	0.9	89.8	88.4	91.4	91.3	91.1
Tryon Creek Tributaries	1.3	1.1	83.2	84.9	88.9	84.3	76.5
Tryon Creek	7.5	3.9	82.2	80.1	89.0	86.8	84.1

* TCNA: Tryon Creek Natural Area

Figure 5. Mainstem Tryon Creek effective shade scenarios for 2019 and system potential. Results are presented as 200 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node. The 2007 scenario is not included here due to concerns related to the accuracy of the available LiDAR used to characterize canopy conditions in 2007.

3.4 Fanno Creek

Fanno Creek and its tributaries in Portland are well shaded. Conditions in 2019 achieved over 85% of system potential along all of the modeled reaches, with conditions along some of the small tributaries, such as Columbia and Lowell creeks, achieving over 97% of system potential.

Figure 6. Fanno Creek effective shade scenarios for 2007, 2019, and system potential. Results are presented as 200 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node. Results are presented for the mainstem of Fanno Creek from the confluence of Vermont Creek to SW 25th Ave.

3.5 Westside Willamette Streams

Many of the small streams draining to the Willamette River on the westside (the area referred to as the Tualatin Mountains in the Lower Willamette temperature TMDL) are located in the well-forested Forest Park. Conditions in 2019 for most of the streams produced effective shade values that are very close to system potential.

Table 8. Mean effective shade results for the five model scenarios for the streams and their tributaries on the westside that flow directly to the Willamette River. Effective shade results from 2007 are not included due to concerns related to the accuracy of the available LiDAR used to characterize canopy conditions in 2007. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

4 Portland's Environmental Overlay Zones

The management areas in Portland are composed of environmental overlay zones that limit activities in riparian areas. Two environmental overlay zones apply to the modeled streams in Portland: Environmental Protection (p-zone) and Environmental Conservation (c-zone) zones (Portland City Code 33.430). The two environmental overlay zones help protect natural resources in the city. The pzone overlay is applied to areas where the natural resources are critical and development activities are not permitted except under special circumstances. The c-zone overlay is applied to areas with important natural resources, but where some environmentally sensitive development may be permitted.

Two modeling scenarios were evaluated to understand the relative contribution to system potential shade of Portland's two environmental overlay zones. As described in [Table 3,](#page-8-1) both scenarios assume mature vegetation (system potential) within the p-zone. The first of the environmental overlay scenarios includes the 2019 canopy conditions in the c-zone, while the second scenario assumes no canopy is present in the c-zone. The results of these two scenarios are presented in the following sections.

It is important to note that results presented in the following sections represent modeled conditions based on the mapping of the environmental overlays zones at the time of this report. Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is currently working on an effort to update and refine the environmental overlay zones. [1](#page-18-1) The purpose of the Environmental Overlay Zone Map Correction Project is to align the mapped location of the overlay zones with the most current information identifying the locations of

¹ For more information see: [https://www.portland.gov/bps/ezones.](https://www.portland.gov/bps/ezones)

existing natural resources. The project will not alter the protections placed on the City's natural resources through the environmental overlay zones, but the location and extent of current environmental overlay zones may change as a result of this effort.

4.1 Johnson Creek

Current and future riparian vegetation in the two environmental overlays zones plays an important role in achieving system potential shade along Johnson Creek and its tributaries. In many places existing vegetation is approaching mature conditions and providing abundant shade. The results of the modeling indicate that much of this shade is provided by the riparian canopy currently with p-zone overlays; however, vegetation within areas covered by c-zone also contributes to system potential. Along certain tributaries, such as Crystal Springs and Indian creeks, vegetation within the c-zone provides a greater proportion of both the current and potential riparian shade. Along Crystal Springs Creek, the loss of riparian canopy from areas covered by c-zones would reduce the potential stream shading by close to 25%, while along Indian Creek a similar canopy loss would reduce the shading potential by over 40% [\(Table 9\)](#page-19-1).

Figure 7. Johnson Creek mainstem effective shade scenarios for 2019, system potential, and the environmental overlay scenarios with p-zone at system potential and (A) c-zone with 2019 canopy conditions and (B) c-zone with no canopy. Results are presented as 1000 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

4.2 Columbia Slough

The riparian vegetation within the two environmental overlays zones plays an important role in achieving system potential shade. Along the Columbia Slough the majority of the riparian shade is being produced by the vegetation within the c-zone [\(Table 10\)](#page-21-1). Particularly along the Lower Slough, close to all of the existing riparian shade is being produced by vegetation within the c-zone. Along some reaches of the Lower Slough, the complete loss of riparian canopy from areas covered by c-zones would result in more than an 80% reduction in riparian shade compared to system potential. The modeling results emphasize the importance of vegetation within Portland's c-zone in achieving riparian shade in the Columbia Slough.

Table 10. Mean effective shade results for the environmental overlay zone model scenarios for the mainstem of the Columbia Slough and its tributaries and side channels. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

Figure 8. Mainstem Columbia Slough effective shade scenarios for 2019, system potential, and the environmental overlay scenarios with p-zone at system potential and (A) c-zone with 2019 canopy conditions and (B) c-zone with no canopy. Results are presented as 500 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

4.3 Tryon Creek

The riparian vegetation within the two environmental overlays zones plays an important role in achieving system potential shade in the Tryon Creek watershed; however, the modeling results highlight that much of the shade is provided by vegetation covered by p-zones. Throughout the watershed, much of the riparian areas are covered by p-zones, with the exception of Falling Creek and the private land along many of the tributaries. A greater portion of these riparian areas are covered by c-zone overlays.

Table 11. Mean effective shade results for the environmental overlay zone model scenarios for the mainstem of Tryon Creek and its tributaries. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions. Streams that are entirely outside of the Portland city limits are not included in the table.

* TCNA: Tryon Creek Natural Area

4.4 Fanno Creek

The environmental overlays around the mainstem of Fanno Creek are currently primarily composed of c-zones. These riparian areas currently provide a substantial proportion of the effective shade to the mainstem. The loss of existing riparian canopy would reduce the mainstem shade by over 40% [\(Table](#page-24-1) [12\)](#page-24-1). Other smaller streams in the watershed, such as Pendleton and Restoration creeks, are also largely covered by c-zones, showing a similar result to the Fanno mainstem.

Table 12. Mean effective shade results for the environmental overlay zone model scenarios for the mainstem of Fanno Creek and its tributaries. Effective shade values represent July–August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

Figure 9. Mainstem Fanno Creek effective shade scenarios for 2019, system potential, and the environmental overlay scenarios with p-zone at system potential and (A) c-zone with 2019 canopy conditions and (B) c-zone with no canopy. Results are presented as 200 meter rolling averages centered on the reporting node. Results are presented for the mainstem of Fanno Creek from the confluence of Vermont Creek to SW 25th Ave. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

4.5 Westside Willamette Streams

The majority of the small westside streams are located in Forest Park. As such, the environmental overlays covering these riparian areas are almost exclusively p-zones. Outside of Forest Park, the czones cover a greater proportion of the riparian areas of streams like Stephens Creek. In the case of Stephens Creek, the riparian vegetation within the existing c-zones contributes to approximately 15% of the system potential shade along the stream.

Table 13. Mean effective shade results for the environmental overlay zone model scenarios for the streams and their tributaries on the westside that flow directly to the Willamette River. Effective shade values represent July– August means. See [Table 3](#page-8-1) for scenario definitions.

5 Summary

The streams west of the Willamette River were found to have higher amount of modeled effective shade than those east of the Willamette. The size of the waterbodies plays a role in this difference—the Columbia Slough and Johnson Creek are wider waterways which limits the extent to which riparian vegetation can shade the stream channel. System potential on these wider channels is lower—across both watersheds the mean effective shade under the maximum system potential scenario is approximately 70% compared to 90% for streams on the westside.

While the wider stream channels do limit the possible shade, it is not the only explanation of the difference in effective shade between the two areas. Generally, there is more riparian canopy present along the streams west of the Willamette River. This is evident when comparing how far the results from the 2019 effective shade scenario are from system potential. West of the Willamette, the 2019 riparian canopy is achieving over 90% of system potential. In comparison, for streams east of the Willamette, the 2019 conditions are achieving only 73% of system potential.

Across all of the modeled streams, the results from the scenarios looking at canopy conditions in 2007, 2014, and 2019 indicate that the streams in the Portland area are gaining riparian shade—no substantial reach-wide losses in effective shade were identified. Small reductions in effective shade were noted in certain locations. For example, within the Luther Road project area (located along Johnson Creek near SE 73rd Ave and Luther Road), riparian vegetation was removed as part of the restoration work conducted in 2014 and 2019. The project represents a short-term loss in riparian canopy while the newly planted vegetation takes time to mature.

The Kelley Creek confluence project (located at the confluence of Kelley and Johnson creeks) provides a good example of how quickly riparian shade can be restored along a smaller stream. The restoration project was completed in 2005 and included re-meandering the stream channel to a historic location. All vegetation along the new channel was newly installed after construction was completed. Conditions in 2007 reflect the minimal riparian canopy present at the site with the newly planted vegetation producing only 16% effective shade in 2007. By 2014, the vegetation had grown enough such that the site's mean effective shade had increased to 83%, and to 85% effective shade in 2019, which is within a few percent of system potential at the site.

The changes in the Columbia Slough watershed highlight the importance and effectiveness of the City's revegetation work along the Slough. The bureau's Revegetation Program began in 1995 in the Columbia Slough Watershed planting streamside trees throughout the watershed. Aerial imagery from the late-1990s shows minimal riparian vegetation present along many of the channels in the Slough. The beneficial impact of the bureau and its partners continued planting and stewardship of riparian vegetation can be seen in the steady improvements in effective shade throughout the watershed.

The observed improvements in riparian shade emphasize the importance of retaining riparian vegetation and allowing it to grow to maturity. Environmental zoning and restrictions on riparian disturbances appear to have limited the loss of riparian canopy since 2007 across the study area. The benefit to the stream in term of effective shade can be seen when comparing the results from the different system potential scenarios. Under the scenarios representing system potential within management areas (where canopy conditions within management areas are assumed to reach maturity, but assumed to remain the same as 2019 conditions outside of these areas), the modeled potential effective shade was found to be slightly lower, but still within a few percent of the maximum system potential scenario (mature canopy conditions everywhere). That is, if the riparian canopy within these management areas is maintained and allowed to mature, the future riparian canopy will provide close to the greatest possible effective shade to the stream. The modeling also results emphasize that in Portland, the riparian vegetation protected by both environmental overlay zones contributes substantially to shading the streams.

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Appendix A: Canopy Cover Measurements

Appendix B: Model Nodes

Figure 10. Stream reaches in the Portland area modeled for effective shade.