

Eugene Millrace Mitigation Plan

In November 2007, ODOT on behalf of FHWA recommended a finding of 'no adverse effect' for the proposed Willamette River Bridge (WRB) project on the historic Eugene Millrace Dam and Intake with the condition "that the project include an interpretive component and take measures to minimize harm to the Eugene Millrace" (Toepel 2007). The following is an outlined plan of the suggested components to include an interpretive element as well as to minimize harm to the Eugene Millrace while completing the WRB project. Other forms or creative ways to interpret or minimize harm may be used after a discussion with the WRB Project Managers and ODOT Cultural Resources Program Coordinator.

- A. Engineering study of the intake area to gain insight into how the millrace was designed and functioned.
 - 1. Hire a qualified historian to research the history and function of the millrace. This element will be completed by literature and records search as well as interviews with individuals (public outreach) that may have knowledge of the millrace. A report will be completed that will discuss the history of the millrace operations and hydrological function with graphics, summary of interviews, photographs, etc. that could be used for the interpretive element.
 - 2. Historian will assist with supplying information and making suggestions on the content of the interpretive element.
- B. Interpretive element:
 - 1. Improve the visual access of the millrace (clean and clear vegetation/channel) and will be accomplished as a one-time incidence during the fluvial channel restoration.
 - 2. Planting of native vegetation and camas without obscuring millrace.
 - 3. Strategically placed interpretive panels (education) or kiosk at the intake area with the millrace story.
 - 4. Interpretive area connected to bike/pedestrian trail.
 - 5. Assistance from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde on the prehistory of the area.
 - 6. Interface with public outreach and information from historian.
 - 7. Brochures for public (made available at Museums, Chamber, University, etc.)
- C. Minimize harm as much as possible to the millrace features:
 - 1. Photographic record of millrace features before/after construction.
 - 2. Hire an archaeological monitor during ground disturbance activities of the fluvial channel restoration located within the vicinity of the millrace wall on the south side of Willamette River under the Franklin overpass.
 - 3. Use of geo-textile fabric and fill over the millrace features to protect them from construction activities.
 - 4. Outlining features and implementing 'no work zones' around features on plan sheets and on the ground. On the ground protection can be accomplished using flagging or fencing.

D. Assign a mitigation overseer/facilitator to coordinate disciplines and ensure regular communication with the ODOT Cultural Resources Specialist (or Program Coordinator) regarding construction activities throughout the project.