

CROOKED RIVER WETLANDS COMPLEX

STATE PROGRAM: Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: City of Prineville

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$3.5M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Several years ago, the City of Prineville needed to increase their wastewater treatment capacity to keep up with the City's growth. A new treatment plant was estimated to cost \$62 million, so the City opted to look for a more cost-effective option. The City received a grant to fund a groundwater study and conduct a pilot using a constructed wetland for wastewater treatment. The results of the pilot were promising, so the 120-acre Crooked River Wetlands Complex was designed and constructed to reduce instream water temperature and augment stream flow to meet the effluent limits in the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater permit.

The project has over 2 miles of riparian improvements and over 5.4 miles of new trails for recreational use – of which 3.25 miles are paved for use year-round. The complex also serves as an outdoor classroom, and to date approximately 500 school children have visited the complex for educational opportunities. The wetland wastewater treatment system cost \$7.7 million to construct, saving the City \$54 million by eliminating the need to build a traditional treatment plant. Overall, this innovative project expanded the City's wastewater capacity, lowered residential and business system development charges, stabilized monthly wastewater rates, created a new public hiking trail system with numerous educational opportunities, and improved riparian and instream conditions in the Crooked River.

To read more about this case study, please visit [epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/documents/pisces_2018_compendium_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-11/documents/pisces_2018_compendium_0.pdf).