

## Arboretum Forest Linked to Lake Wilderness

Community development often disrupts natural pathways and consequently the life cycle of animals depending on them. This past October, the Lake Wilderness Arboretum Foundation (LWAF) working in partnership with the Lake Wilderness Protection Association (LWPA) completed a “wildlife corridor” joining the Arboretum Forest Reserve and Lake Wilderness. This wildlife corridor facilitates the movement of wildlife from the forest to the lake and back. Prior to completion of this corridor, the forest end of the corridor was blocked by a chain link fence and the lake end of the corridor was blocked by blackberries. Opening this corridor will facilitate movement from "the wetlands to the woodlands" needed by many different species of animals.



**Heron at lake edge of wildlife corridor.**



**Corridor links forest and lake.**

2007 and was completed during Make-a-Difference Day in October of 2007. It was supported by work parties from REI and Boeing and local Boy Scouts. Native plants planted in the restoration area will provide food and habit for birds, amphibians, and small mammals. These native plants include sedges and willows next to the Lake as well as Pacific Crabapple, Western Red Cedar, Oregon Grape, Twinberry, and Black Hawthorne further from the water's edge. These newly-planted species will require ongoing monitoring and maintenance for the next 5 years to help insure their survival. In addition to the pictures shown in this article, more before and after pictures of the corridor can be found at <http://picasaweb.google.com/jneorr>

The plan for a wildlife corridor was first proposed in the Lake Wilderness Arboretum Forest Stewardship Plan in January 2006. It was re-energized during the Parks master plan process in the summer of 2007, thanks to the leadership of Colby Collier, past president of the LWPA and current Arboretum Foundation board member. The resulting Wildlife Corridor Project consisted of four sub-projects: 1) Replace chain link fence 2) Build steps on the trail 3) Create Garry oak woodland 4) Remove blackberries and plant native plants.

The project was started in September of



**REI Planting Party**