# Aunt Caroline's Park Project Summary

Attn: Thomas Corrigan
City Administrator, Shady Cove
Submitted by the Rogue River Watershed Council
February 6, 2019

**Background**

The City of Shady Cove requested assistance from the Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC) to restore the riparian vegetation along the south bank of Indian Creek in Aunt Caroline's Park. The restoration project should restore ecological health to the riparian corridor and serve as an opportunity to educate the community about riparian zones and the City's new Riparian Ordinance (Ordinance 279). This document presents a conceptual planting plan, budget, timeline, and strategies to implement a community-supported riparian restoration project.

**Site**

Indian Creek is a seasonal stream, running east to west off Joe Dyer Butte through the City of Shady Cove. It traces the northern boundary to Aunt Caroline's Park, a 3.7 acre City park located on the corner of Highway 62 and Indian Creek Road. Indian Creek is a fish-bearing stream that historically supported populations of Coho Salmon, summer and winter steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and Rainbow Trout.

The Aunt Caroline's Park site lies on Indian Creek and is approximately 800 feet upstream from the confluence with the Rogue River. The existing riparian corridor along the target reach (south bank) is shallow and void of shrubs and understory vegetation. To restore it to optimal functionality, a buffer of native vegetation needs to be planted. The plantings will supported by irrigation and extend up to 50 feet from the natural vegetation line. Some existing park infrastructure (i.e. concrete sidewalks and pavilion) may restrict the planting zone to less than 50 feet.

As indicated on the map, the proposed 400-foot-long/ 0.3-acre restoration area lies on the south bank of Indian Creek. The property is owned by the City of Shady Cove and operated by the City's Public Works Department. The park has an established sprinkler irrigation system. All necessary permitting for work performed on City land will be completed prior to commencement of restoration activities.

**Outreach and Environmental Education**

Aunt Caroline's Park is a popular community gathering spot that features picnic tables, a playground, and summer concerts. The public exposure to this project presents an opportunity to educate members of the community about the importance of riparian corridors and how they can comply with the City's

Riparian Ordinance. This objective can be completed by developing interpretative signs and newspaper articles. The project could also serve as an outdoor classroom for Shady Cove School science classes. Potential student activities may include harvesting willows, measuring stream habitats, monitoring survival of plant stock, and water quality assessments.

**Proposed Actions**

The Rogue River Watershed Council proposes to partner with the City of Shady Cove and Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a community-based riparian restoration project. Together, we will recruit and supervise a team of volunteers to assist with the riparian restoration project.

Site Preparation: The presence of invasive plant species at the project site is minimal, so weed treatments are not necessary.

Planting: Planting at this site will occur by hand. We recruit and supervise volunteers to assist with planting. Planting densities will follow the ODWF recommended target of one native tree or shrub established for 64 square feet. This project will require approximately 200 plants. The species mix will be informed by native species found in in tributaries to the upper Rogue River. Suggested species could include sand bar willow, bigleaf maple, Oregon Ash, alder, cottonwood, mock orange, ocean spray, elderberry, and snowberry. Plugs (seedlings grown in trays) are easily transplanted, but small and easily vandalized. Therefore, we recommend installing gallon-sized plants. Plants will be supported by the existing park sprinkler irrigation system.

Maintenance: Maintenance activities can make the difference between successful and failure of riparian plantings. Challenges to address with maintenance include weed control, browse control, and vandalism. Approaches to supporting the plantings could include installing weed mats, organic mulch, fertilizers, cages and/or vexar tubing. Plants can be spaced so that mowers can fit between rows. While vandalism cannot be eliminated, we can install signs that explain the value and significance of this community-supported project. Maintenance should occur for a minimum of 2 years, ideally 5 years.

**Project Timeline and Schedule**

| | |
|---|---|
| Winter 2018: | Funding secured |
| Winter 2019: | Submit permits, plan development, volunteer recruitment |
| Spring - Fall 2019: | Site preparation, organize a volunteer event(s) to install plants |
| Winter 2020: | Irrigation of plants, monitoring of vegetation |
| 2022 – 2022: | Plant establishment and stewardship |

**Project Budget**

| **Project Budget** | End Date: | |
|---|---|---|
| *Aunt Caroline's Park Riparian Restoration* | *1/11/2020* | |
| **Project Costs** | | |
| Salary, Wage & Benefit | $ | 2,100.00 |
| Contracted Services | $ | 4,340.00 |
| Materials & Supplies | $ | 7,133.00 |
| Travel | $ | 589.00 |
| Other | $ | 1,273.00 |
| Post-Grant | $ | 200.00 |
| Administration 10% | $ | 626.00 |
| Post-Project Plant Establishment | $ | 1,000.00 |
| **Total** | **$** | **17,261.00** |
| **Secured Project Funding** | | |
| City of Shady Cove: Cash | $ | 4,000.00 |
| City of Shady Cove: In-Kind | $ | 2,715.00 |
| Rogue River Watershed Council: In-Kind | $ | 2,460.00 |
| **Total** | **$** | **9,175.00** |
| **OWEB Award Amount** | **$** | **8,086.00** |
| **Total Project Cost** | **$** | **17,261.00** |

**Options to Expand:**

The riparian zone along the north bank contains considerable invasive vegetation. Should the City decide to extend the project, weed treatments will be required. Weeds can be controlled by a combination of mechanical and herbicide treatments (i.e. glyphosate). Herbicides are most effective when applied late summer/fall. Herbicides would be applied by a licensed applicator. A general estimate for a project of that scope: North Bank (0.6 acres, est. $5,000 in project management, labor, and materials)

# Aunt Caroline's Park Riparian Restoration Project