

Project Name: Lower Lacamas Creek Riparian- Phase 1
Primary Sponsor: Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Project Location.

Lower Lacamas Creek Riparian- Phase one project site is located at 45°35'13.25"N, 122°23'20.84"W in Camas, WA. The project site is within a large floodplain that is between Lacamas Creek (Lacamas Cr 1 A) and the Washougal River (Washougal 2 Tidal).

Brief Project Summary.

This project will improve impaired riparian conditions and restore natural processes to approximately 9 acres of floodplain, which is shared by both Lacamas Creek and the Washougal River. This will be accomplished by: 1) removing nonnative invasive vegetation; 2) using various methods to eradicate or control reed canary grass (e.g., mowing, scraping, or spraying, etc.); 3) establishing robust native plant communities (e.g., installing native trees, shrubs, and grasses) to outcompete the invasive vegetation and enhance the riparian forest canopy. These proposed restoration activities help improve overall floodplain function and health by protecting water quality, recharging groundwater reserves, lowering water temperatures, and restoring the local ecosystem.

Project Goals.

1. *To improve riparian conditions of lower Lacamas Creek and the Washougal River to alleviate the impacts of stormwater runoff from nearby impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt trailhead, NE 3rd loop sidewalk, and NE 3rd Avenue).*
2. *To restore and sustain natural watershed processes that will reduce the impact of stormwater on water quality and aquatic habitats in Lacamas Creek and the Washougal River.*
3. *To educate and inform the community about the impacts of stormwater and benefits of healthy riparian zones.*

Project Objectives.

- ❖ *Treat and remove invasive vegetation within 9-acre project area (e.g., Himalayan blackberry, English Ivy, Scotch broom, etc.).*
- ❖ *Plant along the hillside and next to the sidewalk and trail that leads down to the boardwalk.*
- ❖ *Setup five native plant communities within 9-acres of Lacamas Creek's vital riparian-forested floodplain habitat.*
- ❖ *Install native trees, shrubs, and grasses into the five plant communities'.*
- ❖ *Complete a follow-up maintenance of the planting site before the project closes (2024).*
- ❖ *Post two interpretive trail signs at both entrances of the project area (Baz Park Boardwalk).*

Project Details.

1) Invasive vegetation treatment and removal (Hillside)

The first element involves LCFEG working with a consulting firm to develop an invasive vegetation removal and native plant management plan. The firm will also assist with on the ground activities such as invasive vegetation removal, prepping planting areas, installing native plants, and maintenance. The upper hillside of the site, which is adjacent to a couple of impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt trailhead and NE 3rd loop sidewalk), is dominated by English ivy, Scotch broom, and Himalayan blackberry. We want the contractor to start by focusing their initial efforts on invasive plant removal and eradication on both hillside-planting areas (See planting map). Mechanical and chemical methods will likely be used to remove and kill invasive vegetation. After both hillsides planting areas are free from invasive plants, the

contractor will prep these areas for the installation of native shrubs (e.g., Nootka rose, Salmonberry Indian plum Snowberry, and ninebark).

2) Invasive vegetation treatment and removal (Floodplain)

The second element of the project entails addressing the invasive vegetation growing within the floodplain nearest to the boardwalk. This area of the site is heavily dominated by Reed canary grass that is approximately 1.5'-2.5' tall, along with a few scattered pockets of blackberry. We will have the contractor use the same method of eradication to address this area too. Also in this part of the site, is where we plan to set up our five plant communities (See planting map). After we have treated the Reed canary grass, we will prep the five planting areas by using hand tools to scrape away a 2' x 2' square out of the dead layer of grass to reveal the topsoil. After the squares have been scraped and formed, the contractor or LCFEG (with DOC crew), will apply a native grass seed mix (e.g., perennial grasses, sedges, rushes, bulrushes and other wetland species) to keep the planting squares intact and free from invasive vegetation. We will install that native trees and shrubs later. Apart from the five plant communities, we will also create several debris piles onsite, where all invasive vegetation and grass layers that we have removed will be stored and composted.

3) Install native plants

After the invasive vegetation has been treated and cleared from the planting areas, the third element of this project consists of installing native shrubs along the trail and near the NE 3rd Loop sidewalk. After the areas near the impervious surfaces are planted, we will shift our focus to planting the five communities within the floodplain. A native seed mix will be applied after the plants are installed. This will allow the native grasses to compete with the Reed canary grass. Wetland plants installed in the floodplain will be selected based on their ability to thrive in frequently inundated locations and for their ability to retain chemical laden sediments.

4) Install Trailhead signs

The fourth and final element of this project is to purchase and install two trailhead signs that inform members of the community who frequent the trail about the project and stormwater impacts. The signage will be installed after all other elements of the project have been completed. We will consult with the City of Camas before putting the signs up to establish a location and permission from them to do so. Our preference is to place them at both entrances of the boardwalk.

Scope of Work

Task 1- Complete contracting with LCFRB; Hire consultant; complete riparian restoration design, permitting, cultural resources assessment and landowner agreements. July 2021 thru December 2021.

Task 2- Treat and remove non-native species; Start site prep; establish locations for the five plant communities. January 2022 thru June 2022.

Task 3- Purchase materials (native trees, shrubs, and grass seed); Apply grass seed; perform follow-up maintenance and monitor the site. July 2022 thru October 2022.

Task 4- Complete riparian and wetland plantings; Install two trailhead signs; maintain plantings November 2022 thru January 2024.

Sincerely,
Maurice Frank
Project Manager
(360) 953-1480