



To: City of Los Altos
From: Alex Von Feldt, Co-Executive Director, Grassroots Ecology
Date: June 9, 2023
Re: Redwood Grove Nature Preserve Stewardship Proposal

Grassroots Ecology is pleased to submit this proposal for Redwood Grove Nature Preserve land stewardship and community engagement. Grassroots Ecology has partnered with the City of Los Altos to manage habitat restoration at Redwood Grove Nature Preserve and coordinate volunteers and education programs there since 2009. Over the last fourteen years, we have developed a strong relationship with the community and deep knowledge of the preserve.

We also apply for grants and raise money externally to support our work at Redwood Grove, amplifying the City's investment. We currently have a Coastal Conservancy grant that will fund fire abatement work, as well as private donations that support the high school Youth Stewards program. We have been awarded grants from Valley Water in the past, and have been recommended for another grant to enhance pollinator habitat at several preserves, including Redwood Grove. We submit this proposal in the hope that we will be able to continue as the Redwood Grove steward and not jeopardize this already-secured funding. If selected, we will continue to seek additional funding from outside sources to increase our stewardship and volunteer engagement work at the preserve.

Grassroots Ecology understands the Scope of Work as presented and all of the terms of the RFP are understood and acknowledged by the undersigned. The proposed scope of work includes all of the items requested in the RFP with a few items reorganized under different headings. Grassroots Ecology accepts the provided example of the City's professional services contract, indemnification requirements and insurance requirements without modification. Grassroots Ecology has also obtained a City of Los Altos Business License.

Please contact me at alex@grassrootsecology.org or our Co-Executive Director Junko Bryant junko@grassrootsecology.org if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Von Feldt".

Alex Von Feldt
Co-Executive Director

Exhibit A: Redwood Grove Scope of Work

Task 1: Project Coordination and Administration

- Provide quarterly progress evaluation to City staff
- Report totals of volunteer hours and an update of restoration activities on quarterly basis
- Coordinate with the City on creek bank stabilization and fire mitigation projects as needed
- Coordinate with the City on other regular maintenance activities
- Monitor restoration areas using fixed photo-monitoring points on a quarterly basis
- Pursue outside grant funding opportunities
- Include updates about Redwood Grove in quarterly updates to the City, and consult with City staff as needed.
- Make presentations to City Council and Commissions as needed.
- Coordinate with the City of Los Altos and the Town of Los Altos Hills as needed on construction of the new trail connecting Redwood Grove to Fremont Road.
- Work with the City of Los Altos to create a plan for tool storage and volunteer facilities in preparation for the Caretaker House being demolished.

Task 2: Habitat Restoration through Volunteer Events

- Recruit for and conduct approximately 24 volunteer workdays per year.
- Recruit for and conduct the Youth Stewards program for high school students to gain in-depth experience in habitat restoration and environmental education.
- Maintain and restore the following areas at Redwood Grove with approximately 450 native plants installed annually across these sites. Revegetation strategies include container stock grown at our native plant nursery, live cuttings, and seeding:
 - Main Redwood Grove and creekside areas along the boardwalk: Provide infill planting as needed in upland and riparian areas. Continue to phase out invasive ivy and blackberry from streambanks and replant with native riparian species.
 - Eucalyptus Area: Maintain and expand restoration area where three eucalyptus trees were removed in 2021. Remove invasive weeds and revegetate with native shrubs and forbs to provide screening for neighbors and native habitat along the creek. Maintain existing willow stakes through watering and weeding and add more willow cuttings in winter/spring.
 - Driveway and Caretaker House Garden: Maintain established gardens, including irrigation, pruning, weeding, mulching etc. and provide infill planting and seeding as needed.
 - Garden Beds: Maintain native plant garden in raised beds through weeding, pruning, mulching, etc.
 - Manresa Meadow: Remove invasive weeds; prune, mulch, and water around native plants as needed; spread native wildflower and grass seeds.
 - Shoup Park Trail: Maintain plantings along the path between Shoup Park and Redwood Grove, including watering new plants and weeding.
 - Manresa Trail/Upstream Adobe Creek: Maintain plantings along the Manresa Trail; remove resprouts of Algerian ivy and Himalayan blackberry; remove annual invasive weeds each spring; infill with plants and seeding as needed.
 - Creek Bank: Continue efforts to reduce erosion along the bank of Adobe Creek by installing riparian plants and willow cuttings. Pack organic material, like pruned branches, into bank undercuts to slow water flow.
 - Park-wide: Work with City staff to identify any new priority areas for clearing invasive plants, such as Algerian ivy, periwinkle, Himalayan blackberry, French broom, poison hemlock, privet, tree of heaven sprouts, and Italian thistle.

- Additionally, support fire mitigation work through clearing woody debris, pruning trees, removing invasive trees and young bay trees. Work with the City to identify priority areas for fire mitigation work and removal of woody debris.

Task 3: Staff Maintenance

- Perform regular maintenance, including weeding in areas difficult for volunteers and seasonal pruning in restoration areas. Maintain tools and keep tool storage areas organized and tidy. Conduct minor repairs to the rain barrel system and basic irrigation repairs.
- For the first year after planting, native plants will be watered every 1-2 weeks through the dry season. For the second year after planting, native plants will be watered every 3-4 weeks through the dry season. Grassroots Ecology staff will monitor weather conditions and soil moisture to ensure that watering is only done when necessary.
- Grassroots Ecology staff will manually operate the irrigation system for redwood trees through the dry season.
- Activities will follow the work plan, to be reviewed on a quarterly basis at the progress evaluation meeting with City staff.

Task 4: Community Education & Outreach

- Work with community partners such as GreenTown Los Altos and the Los Altos History Museum to conduct educational activities in the community.
- On-site signage and kiosk: Maintain informational signage about restoration activities, plant identification, etc. Update kiosk with seasonal information. Update plant signs around the preserve seasonally.
- Include updates about Redwood Grove to Grassroots Ecology email list, maintain Redwood Grove information page on Grassroots Ecology's website, and include Redwood Grove updates on Grassroots Ecology Instagram and Facebook page.