



NATURAL RESOURCES BOND PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET: Rock Creek Greenway @ 185th Pollinator Project

Project Time Period: July 2013 – Nov 2016
Project Manager: Janelle St. Pierre
Today's Date: 7/22/2013

OVERVIEW

The Rock Creek Greenway at 185th (formerly Allenbach Acres) is a 10-acre site located east of 185th Avenue and south of West Union Road, opposite Bethany Lake Park. Vegetation through most of this greenway is European pasture grasses and non-native herbaceous plants, although small trees and shrubs grow along the creeks and associated wetlands. Much of the wetland areas on the site are being restored by Clean Water Services (CWS). CWS activities include weed control, replanting of native shrubs, and ongoing maintenance of planted area. THPRD's Planning Department recently completed a bond-funded trail (Rock Creek Trail Segment 2) that connects Bethany Lake to the rest of the Rock Creek Greenway Trail to the east. The trail connection provides access to the site and an opportunity for bird and wildlife viewing.

Natural Resources proposes a 1.8-acre pollinator project for the Rock Creek Greenway at 185th Avenue, utilizing native wildflowers and grasses to replace the existing mixed grass/non-native ground cover, and rows of native shrubs to provide additional habitat and define the boundaries of the restoration area. A pollinator project will provide food and shelter for insects, birds, and other small animals. This plan to improve native habitat will include removal of non-native herbaceous plant species (such as reed canary grass, Canada thistle, teasel, etc.), discreet placement of rocks and constructed brush piles, and installation of native herbaceous vegetation and shrubs. Brush and rock piles provide resting and overwintering places for a variety of native insects and birds. The project is intended to begin in late summer of 2013.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

History

Bethany Lake Park on the west side of 185th draws many patrons with its connected trails, picnic tables, and bird-watching and fishing opportunities. The newly constructed trail through the property provides a connecting route to the larger Rock Creek Greenway trail. Some neighbors may currently use the area to run their dogs off leash, although there have been no recorded complaints in this regard. Park Maintenance tractor mows the site once or twice a month during the fast-grow season, and would welcome a reduction in the mowing regime since it would reduce labor costs in an underutilized area.

Project Strategy

The park is either directly underneath the BPA power line corridor or within a restricted height zone for the power lines. Shrub and herbaceous plant species selected for the pollinator project will not pose a hazard for the power lines. Wetland plants and shrubs will be installed along the slope leading down to the wetland in order to provide a buffer. The addition of rock piles and small piles of woody debris will provide overwintering and hiding places for insects, reptiles, and amphibians. Restoration areas will be defined by a hedgerow, a boundary formed by a dense row of shrubs or low trees. Elements such as large

rocks and logs will provide additional visual interest and provide views into the wildflower area. Permanent signage will identify the area as “Pollinator Habitat”.

Restoration will begin during late summer of 2013 with control of non-native herbaceous species such as Canada thistle, bull thistle, teasel, and reed canarygrass. The project area will be seeded with native grasses and wildflowers in fall of 2014. Native plant installation will begin in early spring of 2015, and will include installation of native shrubs, sedges and rushes. The goal is to establish a robust population of native grasses and wildflowers bordered by native shrubs. Future maintenance will include hand removal of volunteer shrubs/trees in the herbaceous area. Ongoing vegetation mowing is recommended for the herbaceous areas, using a 3-year rotation schedule. Coordination with Park Maintenance will allow for a reasonable mowing regime that promotes healthy growth of native herbaceous and flowering plants while also retaining a cared-for park appearance. Natural Resource staff will conduct regular visits to control non-natives plants and check site-conditions.

Stakeholder Issues

Neighbors	There have been few neighbor issues with this area.
User Conflicts	None are expected.
Regulatory Agencies	Clean Water Services.
Easements	Clean Water Services sanitary sewer lines and storm water lines and Bonneville Power Administration towers and transmission lines

OBJECTIVES (INDICATORS OF PROJECT SUCCESS)

- Installation of listed native plant species and at least 75% native cover two years after planting.
- A maximum of 15% cover by targeted non-native species at the end of three years throughout the restoration areas.
- Cooperation with THPRD’s Planning Department goals throughout the restoration process.
- Completion of this project within projected staff time and budget.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Start Date	End Date
Planning	July 2013	August 2013
Site Prep	September 2013	October 2014
Planting	February 2015	March 2016
Establishment/Monitoring	April 2015	October 2016

BUDGET

Total Approved Budget	\$40,000
Design and Project Management	\$3,128
Contractors	\$9,580
Materials	\$12,655
Permits	\$325
Contingency (15%)	\$3,852
Total	\$29,540