

Forrestal Nature Preserve Wetland Restoration Project Progress Report

Overview

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (Conservancy) continued with the third phase of work on the Forrestal Preserve wetland restoration project. This project update focuses on activities completed from October 25 to February 29, 2004.

The final phase of the wetland restoration project included non-native tree removal, trail repair, propagation of appropriate riparian plant species, and installation of the plants in the upper and lower quarry bowl areas.

The Los Angeles Conservancy Corps (LACC) donated more than 130 hours of labor in the extraction of three acacia trees (*Acacia species*) and one Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) that remained near the lower spring. The workers transported the debris to green-waste containers provided by the city of Rancho Palos Verdes.

The LACC, with funding from Proposition 40, donated more than 240 hours in the construction a portion of trail that passes through the upper draw. The crewmembers spent five days building a retention wall and leveling off the upper bank's trail. The new trail and its reinforced slopes will allow for the establishment of native vegetation that is a key element to this project. The revitalized trail continues to be a major link for the neighboring communities to the nature preserve.

Both the upper and lower areas were treated on two occasions with a herbicide approved for use in wetland areas. The pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*) in the lower quarry bowl has proven to be extremely difficult to manage. The multiple herbicide applications are aiding in the control of new growth.

Conservancy staff met with the project's restoration ecologist and reviewed the plant palette that was prepared on site. The majority of the riparian plant species can be grown from cuttings and staff collected enough willow (*Salix sp.*) and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) to revegetate the lower and upper draws. The rest were purchased from a nursery specializing in locally-sourced plants.

A volunteer day was held on Saturday, February 14 to install the lower area with riparian vegetation. Eight people planted 60 willows (*Salix sp.*), 50 mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and 27 mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*). The presence of a perennial stream flow ensures a high probability of plant establishment.

The project's final component was the planting of the upper riparian section by a local Boy Scout troop. 40 scouts participated in a workday on February 29. They planted 140 willows, 60 mulefat, 33 giant rye grass (*Leymus condensatus*), and 27 mugwort.

Budget

The expenditures from October 25 to February 29, 2004 are as follows:

Expenses

<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit Performing Work</u>	<u>Amount</u>
October-November, 2003	Restoration Ecologist * \$80.00/hr	\$400.00
	-Consultation	
February 2, 2004	Natural Landscapes	\$150.00
	-Native Plant Purchase	
	TOTAL: \$550.00	
	Unexpended Balance to Date: \$2.40	

Donated Hours/Materials

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Total</u>
Oct 25-Feb 29	Steering Committee Meetings	50 hours
Oct 25-Feb 29	Rancho Palos Verdes City Staff	10 hours
Oct 25-Feb 29	PVPLC Project Manager	25 hours
Jan 14 & Feb 5	-Herbicide Application	6 hours
Jan 14 & Feb 5	Restoration Technician	6 hours
November 8	Community Volunteer Day	27 hours
November 18-30	LACC Crew	370 hours
December 15	Community Volunteer Day	15.5 hours
January 10	Community Volunteer Day	13 hours
February 14	Community Volunteer Day	21 hours
February 29	Boy Scout Project	270 hours
November 18-30	City Donated Materials	\$1500.00

Remaining Tasks

- Monitor native plant growth
- Observe non-native plant encroachment and treat with herbicide if necessary