

Quiet Water Riparian Restoration Project, November 2014

I was asked by the QW Board to update the membership about the restoration work on our common riverbank area. Because there are new owners some historical perspective is in order. Since the early 1990's the issue of how to care for our riparian area has been at play. In 1994 the DRC stated that the riparian area be managed in accordance with a "master plan" that included tree planting within a 50' riparian buffer. For many reasons interest was lost until 2005 when the Board/DRC at that time began a master plan to direct ground maintenance of the common area. At this time a city ordinance regulating our riparian area was discovered. City ordinance *Section 9.52.070 Protection of Ocean, River, Streams, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas or the Shorelands Setback Ordinance* began to be enforced in 2009 and essentially gave the city of Yachats jurisdiction over the first 50' of the QW riverbank. The city also enforced a second ordinance *Section 5.08.110 Noxious and invasive vegetation*, requiring the removal of invasive plants. We were also required by the city to develop a comprehensive plan for our riparian area before we could do any work. In March of 2012 the present Board in cooperation with Walama Restoration of Eugene presented the Yachats City Council a comprehensive plan that was unanimously approved. The Walama plan was made more specific by an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant attempt later that year. It is this plan that the present Board is attempting to implement. You can view the plan on the QW Website. <http://www.qwha.org>

We have been working on the plan for the past 2 years. We are working in a cooperative manner with the city and the city has been supportive of our efforts. What we have accomplished mostly through volunteer effort is the following:

- Reed canary grass suppression project in the area surrounding the small creek that flows from the wetland near the pool. We covered the area with geotextile cloth and wood chips and will be planted this winter 2014-2015
- Invasive plant removal on a regular basis
- River path enhancement with geotextile-cloth and wood chips. This is an ongoing project with the hope of finishing the path during the fall and winter 2014-2015

- Tree and shrub planting winter of 2013-2014. We planted 214 trees and shrubs. The trees are protected by welded wire surrounds, mulched, and watered during the dry months of 2014.

We plan to continue our efforts this winter and to refine what we have already done. We will try to strike a balance between members stated desire for unobstructed river views and the need for erosion control by riparian trees and shrubs. Last winter we planted species of trees we were able to purchase. We were unable to purchase bare root Red Alders because they were killed at the nursery during last December's freeze. We will remove some of the evergreen trees that have survived and replace them with Alders in areas where the evergreens would obstruct views from cabins. We will replant the evergreens elsewhere in the common areas. The open bank area behind LCA3 will get more Alders and Twinberry and we will continue to nurture the trees and shrubs planted.

The riverbank plants are getting more diverse with and without our help. The need for planting trees and protecting them is due to the high level of activity in the area by beaver. Our riverbank Alder trees are getting old and falling and we need young trees to replace them. We also need the Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock on the riverbank because they live longer than the Alder and play important ecological roles. I hope this information is of use as we know how much the community values the beauty of our riparian area.

Sincerely,
Paul Haley, QWHOA Secretary