

Riparian River Report - QW
Submitted by Jim Welch for QW Annual Meeting
May 26, 2022



The trees and pathway near the river are examples of what Quiet Water could lose in a storm or high-water event if we don't attend to our riverbank.

Background: This winter Nan (BOD) and Loren (DRC) asked that I head up efforts to deal with our riparian issues such as down trees, bank erosion, safety and trail maintenance. Why this is a particularly difficult task is that our riparian area (all vegetation 50 feet from the river's edge) is governed by two sets of regulations: state land use and Yachats city ordinance. But why this is so important to our community is that our $\frac{1}{3}$ mile of river is the greatest natural amenity that we have on QW and we need to do everything we can to protect it.

Here's a bucket list of what I have been up to:

River Bank Stabilization: As most of you know we have been losing parts of our banks for years and it is highly likely that in the next 10 years (one big storm) we could lose a section big enough to take out parts of our trail threatening homes right next to it. This January thanks to efforts by Bob Noble, we received a proposal from Waterways Consulting for a river bank stabilization plan for QW. The price tag is quite substantial. First stage for site investigation is \$9K alone. And estimated overall cost to implement over \$200K. I am looking into other options for advice and implementation including the Midcoast Watershed Council and Wildlands, Inc, another provider of river stabilization services.

Downed trees: The majority of our riparian trees are alders, and they are getting old and starting to fall down in windstorms. I currently have submitted 3 applications to the city to remove trees, one for safety, two for stream bank stabilization. Once these alders fall into the river, the next high water stage/storm will pull the stumps out eroding our river banks so it is imperative that we get them out over the summer.

Kayak Storage: Two racks were installed near the launch site. Mike B will report on it at the annual meeting. The purpose was to eliminate any boats at the launch site which were damaging vegetation. There will be one boat still there, a legacy case for one of the neighbors. In addition there has been a homeless person using our launch site. Nan will report on both of these items at the Annual Meeting.

Trail issues: A big alder fell across the trail in January. It was cut out by Steve. I monitor our river trail for damage such as gopher holes. No problems so far. We closed the little spur line that goes north from the kayak launch site to the trail.

Future QW River Events: There will be an announcement in July for a River Weeding Day. Please join Wally and I as we ply the banks for weeds using kayaks. We will also announce a day to do river clean up as well.

Acknowledgements: Several neighbors have helped me along the way. Wally, Mike, Nan, Loren, Sergio, Phil and Stephanie, Linda and Steve, Bob, thanks for your help. A shout out to Rebecca for getting the ball going on the kayak racks.