

SECTION 3: PRE-APPLICATION FORM

A. Organization, project and contact information (one page maximum)

Please complete the organization, project and contact information below using no more than one page.

Date of application	April 22, 2014
Organization name	Johnson Creek Watershed Council
Organization address	1900 SE Milport Road, Suite B; Milwaukie OR 97222
Organization website	www.jcwc.org
Project contact Name	[REDACTED]
Title	[REDACTED]
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Project Partners Provide all partner organizations.	Wisdom of the Elders, City of Gresham, Clackamas County SWCD
Project title	Riparian Reforestation in Johnson Creek Watershed
Project summary Provide a 20-45-word summary that describes your project.	JCWC seeks Metro funding to support implementation of its Riparian Reforestation Strategy, primarily intended to provide shade to Johnson Creek and its tributaries and hence lower stream temperatures to levels that fully support native salmonids.
Category Under which program category does your project best fit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community stewardship in developed areas <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration in natural areas
Estimated funding	Estimated amount requested: \$25,000 Estimated match funds: \$166,902 (\$116,902 from EMSWCD PIC-Plus grant which is secured; \$50,000 from Clackamas SWCD which is pending) Estimated in-kind match: \$7,037 (\$6,537 for 300 volunteer stewardship hours; \$500 in CCSWCD staff support) Estimated total project budget: \$198,939

B. Organizational Preparedness. In 2006, the Johnson Creek Watershed Council (JCWC) received its first riparian grant to treat invasive Japanese Knotweed along Johnson Creek and its tributaries. In the years since, leveraging strong partnerships¹ with and consistent funding from diverse entities², we have built a robust, comprehensive riparian reforestation program. Last year, we completed a Riparian Reforestation Strategy, based on detailed map and field assessments of existing riparian canopy coverage as well as tract size, connectivity, and presence or absence of a stream confluence on the tract in question. The Strategy identifies the new riparian reforestation projects that will have greatest positive impact on stream shading, a primary driver for our work on Johnson Creek and tributaries, intended to achieve lower temperatures that fully support native salmon and trout. As such, the Strategy is helping prioritize our riparian work with a new degree of focus and scientific rigor.

In addition, we are a familiar and trusted presence in the watershed with steady enrollment of new landowners into our program. With a focused strategy, years of experience, and landowners willing to participate, we are poised to accelerate the implementation of our Riparian Reforestation Program. And with climate change predicted to bring drier, hotter summers and attendant increases in stream temperatures, there is an urgency to restore Johnson Creek's native streamside forests as quickly and efficiently as possible in order to create resilience that will help to ameliorate climate change impacts. At this point, funding is the primary factor that determines how fast we can implement our Strategy.

Personnel. JCWC's Riparian Program Manager, Noah Jenkins has worked on our Riparian Program since its inception. He oversees all aspects of the Riparian Program, including supervising the Riparian Technician (see paragraph below). He is a skilled and knowledgeable field ecologist with significant experience in all phases of project implementation: landowner outreach, site assessment and project design, implementation, and post-project monitoring and maintenance. Noah has a Master's degree in environmental science from Portland State University with research experience on invasive weed management at Smith and Bybee Lakes.

Sarah Eastman currently serves as our Americorps member / Riparian Technician. She performs site assessments, develops planting plans, procures plant materials, prepares for and leads volunteer stewardship events and performs site preparation activities like blackberry spraying and maintenance activities like beaver caging and mulching. Sarah will end her term of service soon after the Metro grant would be awarded. We recently applied for another Americorps position to start in Sept. 2014 and will seek a member with technical skills in riparian management similar to Sarah's. It is our goal, dependent on funding, to transition the Americorps position to a permanent staff position in the fall of 2015.

Application approval. JCWC's management has approved the submission of this application. There are no permits required for the project and landowner permissions will be secured by the time the full application is submitted.

¹ E.g. Our CreekCare partnership with Clackamas County SWCD focuses on streamside revegetation efforts on private lands in unincorporated Clackamas County. This in turn complements analogous work being done by East Multnomah SWCD in unincorporated Multnomah County.

² E.g. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, East Multnomah and Clackamas County SWCDs, Clackamas Water Environment Services, PGE Salmon Habitat Fund, and numerous grants from Metro, including: Riparian Rehabilitation Program (2007); Riparian Rehabilitation 2 (2009); Riparian Reforestation (2013); Youth Engaged (2007 and 2008) and Backyard Habitat Certification (2010).

C. Project Description

Project need. Johnson Creek Watershed suffers from insufficient streamside vegetation leaving main stem Johnson Creek and many of its tributaries too warm and unable to meet their full potential to support native salmonids, including Lower Columbia River coho and Chinook salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Last year, JCWC developed a Riparian Reforestation Strategy that identifies projects that would have the greatest impact on riparian shade and hence, stream temperatures. This Strategy has enabled JCWC to focus its efforts in high-priority riparian reforestation areas. We seek Metro funding to continue and accelerate these efforts.

Project description. There are several phases in bringing new riparian projects to fruition: landowner recruitment, site assessment and project planning, implementation (invasive weed control and planting), and maintenance / monitoring. Metro funding would support all of these phases.

JCWC recruits landowners through mailings, door-to-door outreach, and increasingly, through referrals from landowners already enrolled in our program. Detailed site assessment as well as regional standards (e.g. Metro, Clean Water Services) inform the selection of site-appropriate native shrubs and trees as well as help determine planting densities. In terms of weed management, we typically take an integrated pest management approach. Based on experience, in most cases, we expect a minimum of three site visits prior to planting for mechanical and/or chemical weed treatments. We follow accepted regional BMPs for target weeds. After planting, we revisit sites for at least three growing seasons to assess plant survival and provide maintenance (e.g. weed suppression, scalping and inter-planting if needed). In terms of sustaining the project after the grant ends, we work with landowners to develop long-term maintenance plans to achieve plant survival rates that are optimistic yet attainable, and anticipate relinquishing maintenance to the landowner after three years (possibly longer, depending on site need and our available funding). We will always remain available as a resource to property owners and provide expertise and tools as needed.

Should our Metro application be awarded, we will use the funds primarily though not exclusively in support of projects on private property in the Kelley Creek subwatershed (in Pleasant Valley and a small part of Gresham) with additional focus in the Sunshine Creek sub-watershed (in Damascus).

JCWC staff will perform the landowner outreach, site assessments, and project design and some of the site preparation, planting and maintenance. We will hire contractors for much of the site preparation and planting work, particularly on large and / or heavily-infested properties. Where appropriate based on site conditions and ownership (either public or willing private), we will mobilize volunteers from our large existing volunteer base to perform site preparation, planting, and maintenance activities. We will also continue our efforts to recruit new volunteers, particularly building on our current targeted outreach to ethnically and socio-economically diverse community groups³.

Project alignment with Metro Grant Goals and Regional Strategies. This project fits best into Category I - Community Stewardship in Developed Areas though our Riparian Reforestation Strategy specifically

³ JCWC recently received grant funding from Wells Fargo specifically to engage low-income people and people of color in volunteer stewardship activities.

prioritizes projects adjacent to larger intact natural areas and hence, has linkages to Category II – Restoration in Natural Areas⁴.

Our project is intended to restore fish habitat by reducing stream temperatures in Johnson Creek and hence is directly relevant to Goal 1 (Preserve and Restore Fish Habitat). By restoring streamside forest habitat and connectivity, it also benefits terrestrial wildlife, e.g. migratory and resident birds and native amphibians. Additionally, it supports the following strategies from the Regional Conservation Strategy:

- Maintain the long-term ecological integrity of streams and floodplains, including their biological, physical, and social values;
- Manage functional habitat connectivity for wildlife (e.g. corridors, landscape permeability) and create connections between habitat areas;
- Control invasive plant species and re-establish native species;
- Promote stewardship of wildlife on urban landscapes.

And as mentioned in the “Organizational Preparedness” section, our project increases the resilience of natural systems to adapt to increased temperatures and drier summers, which is one of the actions cited in the City of Portland’s Climate Change Preparation Strategy (p. 15). Our project also addresses Goal 2 (Engage people in protecting and managing natural areas), specifically by directly engaging targeted communities, including underserved communities, in project implementation.

Partnerships.

Wisdom of the Elders (a Native American cultural and environmental sustainability non-profit) and JCWC plan to partner on work-force development for low-income Native American families who would perform riparian restoration activities under the auspices of this project. We have partnered with Wisdom on projects for two years already. This would be our first collaboration on a work-force development project.

Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District staff will assist with site assessments and planting plan development for projects in the Sunshine sub-watershed.

City of Gresham will provide will provide technical support, tools and gloves (when needed) for volunteer restoration events in its portion of the Kelley Creek sub-watershed.

Private landowners will provide property access, assistance on project work, and future maintenance of project sites with technical support from JCWC; we will also request that those who are able contribute to the purchase of plants for their property.

⁴ The Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy explicitly highlights the importance of developed areas in enhancing regional connectivity and supporting ecological processes in nearby natural areas: “When developed areas are properly designed and managed, they increase the urban landscape’s permeability for wildlife, enhance the ecological function of neighboring natural areas and biodiversity corridors . . . (pg. 78).”

Riparian Restoration Priorities by Taxlot in Target Johnson Creek Subwatersheds

