



City Forest Credits Planting Project Application

1. Project Name

Name of City, Town, or County, and whether this is a planting or preservation project. For example, Shoreline, WA - Ballinger Open Space Planting Project)

City of Puyallup, WA - Peck Riparian Planting

2. Project Type

Planting

3. Project Location

Name of City, Town, or County where project is located

Puyallup, WA

4. Project Operator

Name of organization/entity, and contact information. May have multiple project operators or contacts.

Organization: Pierce Conservation District

Address: 308 West Stewart Ave

City: Puyallup

State: WA

Zip: 98371

Contact(s):

Melissa Buckingham 253-845-9770 ext. 109 or melissab@pierced.org

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5. Project Description

Pierce Conservation District (PCD) works with cities and towns across Pierce County to improve riparian habitat and water quality through streamside plantings with native trees and shrubs. PCD is working with the City of Puyallup to remove invasive species and replant forested buffers on City-owned property, and currently manages nearly 40 acres of open space across the city. The Peck Riparian Planting Project is located on a 3.75 acre parcel along Clarks Creek in Puyallup, Washington. Clarks Creek is a salmon bearing stream supporting chinook, coho, and chum salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat trout that is impaired for many parameters, including temperature and dissolved oxygen. The recommendation in many Clarks Creek management plans is to vegetate the streamside to provide shade that will decrease temperature and increase dissolved oxygen.

The planting project area includes 1.5 acres of the site. Prior to planting in Fall 2020, PCD will need to remove invasive plants including reed canary grass and blackberry. PCD will plant 655 trees, including western red cedar, douglas fir, big leaf maple, sitka spruce, alder, cottonwood, and Oregon ash. The City of Puyallup will fund a professional crew to work on this site through establishment, which is typically three years. At that time PCD will install shrubs to complement the trees and will continue to look over the site to ensure success.

6. Project Benefits

Provide a short narrative to describe the project benefits. Examples include information about equity for underserved or disadvantaged communities, flood control, open space preservation, watershed protection, human health, bird or wildlife habitat, etc.

Clarks Creek is located in the lower Puyallup River watershed. Tributaries include Rody, Diru, Woodland, and Meeker Creeks. Clarks Creek is impaired due to low dissolved oxygen and excess sediment.

Fish and other aquatic life need oxygen dissolved in healthy water to “breathe” in order to survive. Oxygen is also necessary to help decompose organic matter in the water and bottom sediments, as well as for other biological and chemical processes.

Excess sediment loading contributes in a variety of ways to the dissolved oxygen problems in Clarks Creek. Sediment accumulation is an important factor in promoting dense growths of elodea (aquatic plant) that adversely impact dissolved oxygen concentrations. Elodea growth in turn slows flows in the creek, which worsens the problem of sediment accumulation and leads to flooding problems. Sediment loads may also contain elevated nutrient concentrations that promote plant and bacterial growth. Sediment can be improved by controlling stormwater runoff and by adding or maintaining vegetation on stream banks, which this project aims to do.

In May 2015, EPA approved the Clarks Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load Water Quality Improvement Report and Implementation Plan where streamside planting, especially with tall evergreen trees, is recommended for water quality improvement.

The Peck property planting is part of a larger restoration effort in the lower part of Meeker Creek as it flows into Clarks Creek and Clarks Creek itself. The City owns and is restoring seven adjacent parcels for a total of over 80 acres. This project will connect to this larger effort, increasing the impact of the riparian buffer and associated ecosystem benefits.

7. Total trees planted and planting-approach

Single-tree, canopy, or riparian

Riparian planting at an approximate 10' on center density, which will total 655 trees.

8. Does your project fall within an Urban Area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau, or within the boundaries of a city or town? (Click below for Census Bureau mapping information)

<https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-urban-areas.html>

☐ Within an Urban Area

☒ Within a city or town

9. Additional Information

Examples include project goals, work with other stakeholders, etc.

The site is not currently accessible to the public, however PCD will host a volunteer planting event in Fall 2020.