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## **FY 22-23 Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) Riparian Vegetation Planting Reimbursement Program**

### **Rebate Program Information**

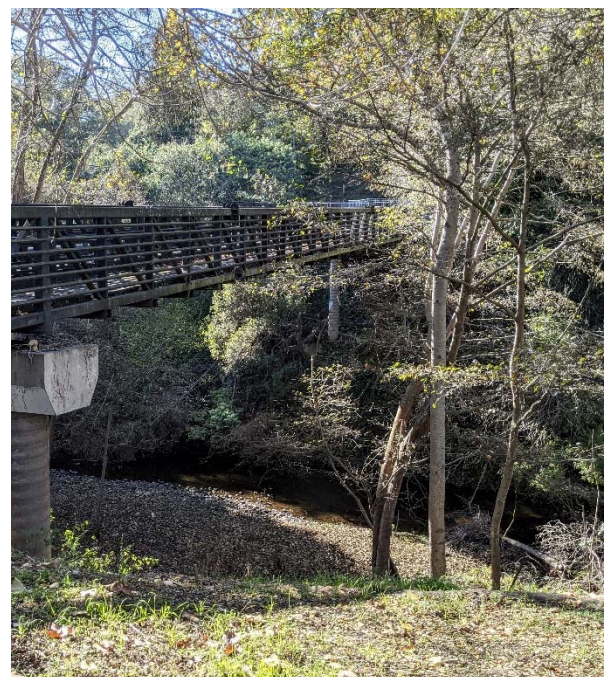
The City of Capitola (City) offers a reimbursement of up to \$300 per parcel to plant and maintain native riparian vegetation on areas immediately adjacent to Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch. The landowner is responsible for all project costs above the approved reimbursement amount. Please read the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and project requirements below and follow the instructions carefully. Work with City staff during the development of your project to ensure that you meet all incentive requirements.

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### **Why Restore Riparian Vegetation?**

Riparian areas are vegetated areas found between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The vegetation along streams, wetlands, and lakes can all be considered riparian vegetation. Often the plant species found here are adapted to living in this zone of fluctuating water availability. Healthy riparian zones provide a variety of benefits for water quality, wildlife (both aquatic and terrestrial), and people. These areas are distinguished as “buffers” because of the role they play in filtering



pollutants and absorbing flood water, as well as providing food and shelter for wildlife. More specifically, riparian zones:

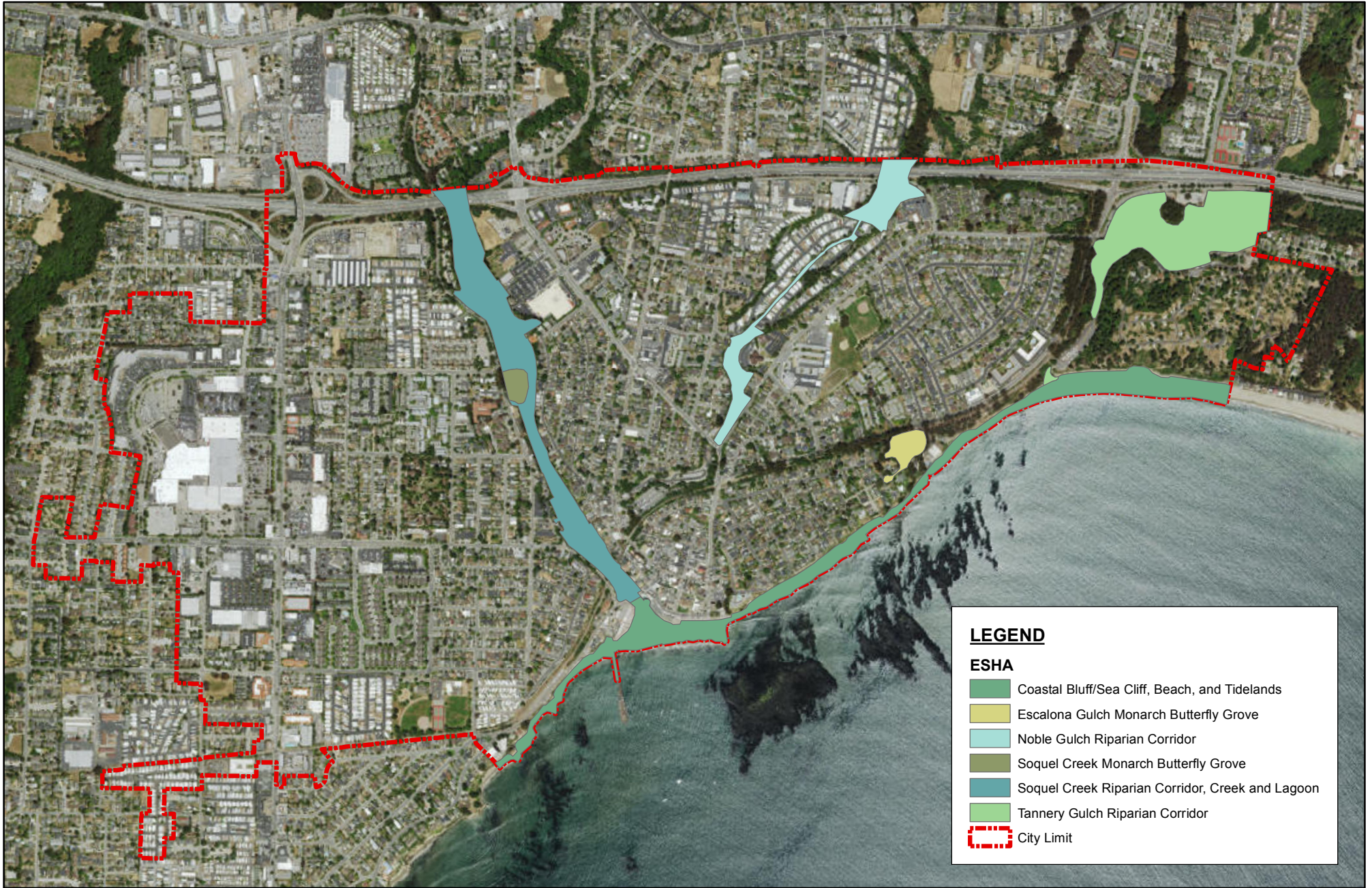
- Stabilize streambanks with plant roots
- Provide corridors for migrating wildlife
- Help maintain water tables
- Play a role in terrestrial and aquatic food webs
- Provide shade to maintain water temperatures for aquatic organisms
- Improve water quality by trapping sediment which can be harmful to aquatic animals
- Slow flood waters, thereby protecting waterfront properties

By planting native trees and shrubs in the riparian zone on your property, you are providing numerous benefits to the landscape around your property. Native species improve habitat for birds, mammals, fish and other aquatic animals, and protect the water quality of our beautiful streams.

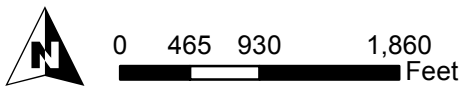
#### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Project must be located on parcels in or immediately adjacent to ESHA adjacent to Soquel Creek and Noble Gulch.
- Applicant owns the land or has authorization to implement the project.
- Project plants must be listed in Appendix A of the attached application.

CITY OF CAPITOLA  
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HABITAT



Source: ESRI, 2017; Kimley-Horn, 2017.



## **Planting Recommendations**

### **Plant Selection**

The City requires that riparian areas be planted with native vegetation. See Appendix A for a list of native plants based on ecosystem site and function.

### **Planting Densities**

We recommend planting new vegetation such that, combined with existing native vegetation, the area has a plant every 64 ft<sup>2</sup>, or 8ft. spacing between plants. Smaller trees and shrubs may be planted closer together depending on species. See Appendix B for more information on specific plant species. For example, a 1,000 ft<sup>2</sup> riparian area would have approx. 16 plants. Use a mixture of shrubs and trees.

### **Planting Timing and Site Preparation**

A layer of mulch or straw over the planting site can also reduce the risk of erosion and suppresses weeds. Each planting location should have a 2' to 3' radius clear of grass and/or competing vegetation. Fall planting is favorable for sites above the seasonal highwater mark. Spring planting is favorable for sites at risk for inundation and erosion during winter storms.

### **Irrigation Instructions**

Hand water by buckets or hoses for smaller plantings. Use drip or micro-spray systems for larger plantings. Water deep and infrequently to promote deep root growth. In the first 2 or 3 years, water 1 to 3 times per week. Consult plant specific information on how much water each species needs per irrigation cycle and how long to provide supplemental water.

## **Checklist**

### ***Part 1 – Pre-application project assessment and design***

- Obtain a signature authorization from the property owner and evidence of eligibility (Utility bill or driver's license with the property's address). A single application may be used for multiple parcels, provided the applicant is authorized to represent all parcels.
- Read the entire application, planting recommendations, terms and conditions
- Determine the plants to be planted and how to protect and water them
- Sign and submit this application to the City of Capitola

### ***Part 2 – Implementation (Can be completed by the landowner or a qualified contractor)***

- Obtain any permits/ landscape plans necessary to complete the project.
- Save all receipts to submit to the City of Capitola. Copies are acceptable, ensure that receipts indicate plantings purchased are included in Appendix A

### ***Part 3 – Post-Installation inspection and submission for rebate***

- Provide City staff with all invoices and receipts to confirm the purchase of approve plants and total cost
- Submit photo of completed plantings (encouraged but not required)

**Rebate Request**  
**Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA)**  
**Riparian Vegetation Planting Reimbursement Program**

**Contact Information**

Applicant Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\*if applying for multiple parcels, attach list of parcels numbers or addresses to application

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Project location (check one):  Noble Gulch  Soquel Creek

Signatures above indicate that the Applicant has reviewed eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and project requirements below. The Applicant also indicates that they indemnify and hold harmless the City, its officers, directors, agents and employees, against any and all losses, claims (including third-party claims), damages and expenses, including reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, to the extent any such losses, claims, damages and expenses are due to the acts or omissions of the Applicant, its officers, directors, agents and employees.

**Authorizing Signatures**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant/Authorized Entity Signature                      Print Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Signature (if different)                      Print Name                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Representative Signature                      Print Name                      Date

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**Completion Report and Rebate Request**

Total number of plants purchased: \_\_\_\_\_                      Payment Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Rebate total:                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_                      Issued By: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signatures below indicate that the Applicant has completed installation of the project as outlined in this application according to the below terms, conditions, and project requirements. The City agrees to release an incentive for the above total within 30 days of the signing of this agreement.

Applicant/Authorized Entity Signature	Print Name	Date
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Landowner Signature (if different)	Print Name	Date
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City Representative Signature	Print Name	Date
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**Terms & Conditions**

- City of Capitola offers a rebate of up to \$300 per eligible parcel for plant purchases on the approved plant list. No reimbursement is available for labor or delivery charges.
- All rebate funds are reimbursements to the approved applicant and will be paid out after the submission of required documentation.
- The amount of the rebate will not exceed the total project cost. The applicant will provide receipts and invoices for the project to demonstrate that the rebate amount does not exceed the total cost of the project. The applicant cannot include receipts dated before the application date in the total cost of the project.
- Projects must comply with any federal, state, local, or other ordinances that may apply
- No rebate reimbursements will be disbursed prior to submission of required documentation as determined by City staff.
- The City does not endorse any particular manufacturer, contractor or product in promoting this program. City does not warranty any materials or services used during the implementation of this project.
- The City offers this FY22-23 rebate program on a first come first served basis, contingent upon available funds. The approved City annual budget and City staff determine the availability of funding.

## **Appendix A: Plant Lists**

### **Riparian Native Planting List**

George McMenemy, Environmental Consultant

#### **Discussion**

This is not a complete list of native plant species indigenous to the Soquel Creek watershed.

The plants found on this native plant list are indigenous to many of the general riparian habitats found along Soquel Creek. However, some of these species are found only in specific environmental conditions related to levels of sunlight, moisture and soil type. It is recommended that plants selected fit your specific conditions.

Most will require some level of maintenance such as summer water and possibly weeding for 2-4 years to get established. After that time, most will survive and flourish with minimal to no maintenance or watering required. If they are planted in the appropriate locations many of the herbaceous plants and woody shrubs will form sustainable patches and provide habitat and aesthetic value for decades, if not into perpetuity.

**Large/Medium Trees** (some of these may be too large for a given location) - Flat areas to gentle slope

- Big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*)
- Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) - Keep away from structures, loses branches when large
- Box elder (*Acer negundo*)
- California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)
- Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*)
- Coastal redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*)
- Red alder (*Alnus rubra*)
- White alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*)

**Small trees** (prefer to be closer to water)- may be appropriate on the low to mid bank of a creek

- Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* subsp. *occidentalis*)
- Willow (*Salix* sp.)

**Shrubs** (prefer mixed sun and shade)

- Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* subsp. *Californica*)
- Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus* var. *laevigatus*)
- Pink-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*)



- Canyon gooseberry (*Ribes menziesii*)
- Wood Rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*)
- California Rose (*Rosa californica*)

**Shrubs** (prefer moderate sun to full sun and are evergreen)

- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
- Coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*)
- Blue blossom (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) – pioneer species

**Ferns** - Most of the ferns cannot tolerate full summer sun for extended periods of the day

- Coastal wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*) – top of the bank to the top of the bank and on flat land
- Giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) – middle to upper bank, can be partially submerged for brief periods.
- Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) – low to middle of the bank, can be partially submerged for brief periods.
- Western sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) – can tolerate more sun than most ferns, mid to the top of the bank and on flat land.

**Ground cover and ground dwelling native species**

- Redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*) -under the redwoods in mostly shade to full shade only
- Sticky monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) – upper bank and level ground, tolerates full sun and rocky soil
- Wood strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*)
- Yerba buena (*Clinopodium douglasii*) – partial sun to mostly shade
- There are ground dwelling native cultivars of *Ceanothus* and *Baccharis* that could serve as ground cover

**Herbaceous native plant species and bulbed native species**

- Douglas's iris (*Iris douglasiana*)
- Fernald's iris (*Iris fernaldii*)
- Western coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *palmatus*)- flat areas close to water
- California hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*)
- Two-eyed violet (*Viola ocellata*)
- Small-flowered alum root (*Heuchera micrantha*) – mostly shade to some sun, avoid full summer sun

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- Fringe cups (*Tellima grandiflora*) - mostly shade to some sun, avoid full summer sun
- *Artemisia douglasiana*- wild areas only, spreads aggressively
- Beeplant - wild areas only, spreads aggressively

**Rushes and Sedges** – require some supplemental water if planted in full sunlight, unless placed close to a water source

- Spreading rush (*Juncus patens*) – anywhere, but full shade
- Bog rush (*Juncus hesperius*) – prefers mostly sun to full sun
- Foothill sedge (*Carex tumulicola*) – top of bank, flat areas, can grow in full sun to mostly shade