

City of Portland

Violet Andrews Park Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration

Project Description:

Violet Andrews Park is a 10-acre public park that is owned and managed by the City of Portland. This site is unusual because it is located on a high bluff that overlooks Corpus Christ Bay shoreline, it contains a significant amount of native coastal woody and grassland vegetation throughout the bluff area, it is subject to very strong winds, and is situated directly in the migratory pathway of the Circum-Gulf and Trans-Gulf neotropical migratory birds. This SEP will restore native vegetation in strategic areas that are currently denuded within the park site which will reduce erosion and sedimentation, and enhance and restore native habitat for numerous bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The City of Portland shall develop a landscape design, install a drip irrigation system, prepare the restoration area for planting, and plant xeriscape species and hardy native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. The plantings will serve to cover and bind the soil with their root systems thereby reducing soil erosion as well as provide fruit, nectar, seeds and other bird foraging habitat. The planting will be done along both sides of an existing pathway for approximately 485 linear feet, for a total distance of 970 linear feet. The areas to be planted will range from 20 to 50 feet in width, covering approximately 0.78 acres. The variety of native and xeriscape plants used will include Retama, Southern Live Oak, Huisache, Red Bay, Black Willow, Wild Olive, Agarita, Colima, Spiny Hackberry, Texas Lantana, Turks Cap, Wax Myrtle, vetches, mallows, Partridge Pea, and native grasses such as Virginia Dropseed and Coastal Salt Grass. The City of Portland shall ensure that the drip irrigation system is installed in compliance with TCEQ rules regarding licensed irrigators and irrigation systems.

After the restoration is complete, the City of Portland shall purchase and install two weather-resistant signs or kiosks which will provide information concerning the environmentally beneficial aspects of the area/project and must include the language "This habitat restoration project was performed with penalty monies from a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Enforcement action." In its Final SEP Report, the City of Portland shall provide before and after photographs of the restored areas as well as photographs of the signs or kiosks.

Environmental Benefit:

This Project will reduce and prevent pollution by stabilizing the unvegetated sandy substrate with native forbs, grasses, shrubs, and tree species, by enhancing the ecologically important native plant communities, by providing important resident and migratory bird habitat, by reducing soil erosion and sedimentation, and by providing opportunities for public awareness of environmental matters.

Many areas in the park site are devoid of vegetation, including groundcover. As a result, there is evidence of wind and rainfall-related erosion. Native trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses provide extremely important habitat for resident birds, insects, reptiles and mammals, but their value as a stopover habitat for migrating songbirds is immeasurable. These woodland areas such as the vegetation occurring

throughout the park's bluff located along the Texas Coastal Bend's bay margins have historically, and continue to be used as important refuges for migrating birds as they make landfall during their migratory trek to their Canadian and North American breeding grounds. This SEP will result in the restoration and enhancement of ecologically important habitat located on critical migratory pathways, the reduction of erosion and sedimentation, which improves water quality, and increase public awareness of environmental matters.

Eligible Areas and Counties:

The project may receive contributions from the following:

San Antonio-Nueces Coastal Basin and Gulf Coast Aquifer including Aransas, Bee, Goliad, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties.

Minimum Contribution Amount:

\$500