

# U of W Restoration Ecology Network RFP Form

**Question 1.** Client Name: Judith Starbuck

**Question 2.** Organization: Friends of Madrona Woods, a committee of the Madrona Neighborhood Association

**Question 3.** E-mail address: judithstarbuck@msn.com

**Question 4.** Phone number: (206) 322-2640

**Question 5.** FAX: none

**Question 6.** Mailing Address: 1126 Grand Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122-3516

**Question 7.** Name of Project: Madrona Woods Restoration

**Question 8.** Site Location (city, county, watershed, cross-streets, section, township, range):

Madrona Park Woods is in Seattle, due east of downtown on Lake Washington; King County, WRIA-8 district; just south of the intersection of Lake Washington Boulevard and Madrona Drive.

**Question 9.** Site Description: (Size of project area, topography, watershed positioning, level of disturbance, existing land use):

The proposed project area is approximately 700 feet along the west side of Lake Washington Boulevard, from the area newly cleared for daylighting Madrona Park Creek on the north to south of the main trail that intersects Lake Washington Boulevard across from the Spectrum Dance Studio. It is approximately (arbitrarily) 25 feet wide and fairly steep in places. It is heavily infested with blackberry, laurel, clematis, ivy, and morning glory, with other invasive trees, such as mountain ash, locust, non-native cherry, and hawthorn present. There are some mature and immature cedars as well as other native canopy trees and understory trees, shrubs and ferns. Within the project area is a small stream coming from springs in the hillside. It goes over a rock cascade and into a storm drain at the edge of the Boulevard.

**Question 10.** Project Goals & Objectives (What is to be accomplished and why):

This is a very visible part of Madrona Park Woods and is currently very disreputable. Because of its steepness and closeness to the Boulevard, it has not been cleared and revegetated to the degree most of the other parts of the Woods have been over the last 13 years. It would greatly improve this face of the park to remove multiple invasive plants

and replace them with native ones. Designing a way to direct the water now going into the storm drain so it joins Madrona Park Creek to go into Lake Washington in the wetland cove would be a desirable element of this project.

**Question 11. Deliverables (What are the deliverables you expect from the UW-REN student Group):**

Since this is on Seattle City Parks property, if redirecting the stream is part of the project, the students would need to develop a detailed plan to take to a Parks Department review for approval. If this level of review is not necessary, the items listed below would be all that are needed. If permits were required, it would be good to involve students in that process. We would hope students would work with us on the actual clearing, mulching, plant ordering, and replanting.

The UW-REN student group would be responsible to produce the following:

1. A planting plan of the enhancement area. The plan would include appropriate plant species, size (18-36"), type (bare root or 1 gallon container), quantity (number of individual plants of each species), and planting densities (5' centers for shrubs/15' centers for trees).
2. The information per task 1. would be depicted in both table and schematic map format.
3. A report which documents the following: Assessment of existing conditions, Rationale for selecting the specified plants, weed control methods and a three year monitoring and maintenance plan.
4. Oversee volunteers (provided by the client) during plant installation. Students will provide a brief workshop prior to installation on proper installation techniques.
5. Present a workshop to volunteers on appropriate monitoring and maintenance methods, as specified in task 3 above.

**Question 12. Reference Material (what reference information can be provided to assist in the research and development of the project goals/ baseline data, reports, site reconnaissance information):**

We can provide maps showing elevations and plant communities, photos of the site, and documentation of restoration work already done in Madrona Park Woods.

**Question 13.** Volunteer Resources (If volunteers are going to assist in aspects of the project does your organization have access to a volunteer resource pool):

We have a small, experienced core group of volunteers to help with planning and work. We can also get larger volunteer groups on occasion. We expect to be working with a Garfield High School after-school ecology club during the school year, and they might be interested in being part of this.

**Question 14.** Other Relevant Information:

There would need to be some kind of traffic control when students were working on site because it is so close to Lake Washington Boulevard. If Parks review, permits, and/or heavy equipment for tree-removal or construction are needed, this would probably be a two-year project.

# Madrona Woods

Seattle, Washington

*Project area*



Lake Washington

Lake Washington Boulevard

Restrooms & Concessions

Bathhouse

East Spring Street

STEPS

CATCH BASIN

TRAIL ENTRANCE

TRAIL ENTRANCE

TRAIL ENTRANCE

FALLEN TREE

MAIN TRAIL

FORMER CLEARED AREA

DEVIL'S CATCH

SWAMP

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

MADRONA

TREE HOUSE

OLD CAR

SPRINGS

MAIN TRAIL

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

DOG FIR

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DOG FIR

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TRAIL ENTRANCE

POSTS

WATERFALL

LEANING CEDAR

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East Marion Street

38th AVENUE

East Columbia Street

39th Av.

*Trails have changed since this map was created.*

## Friends of Madrona Woods

*Fact Sheet 5-09*

**Madrona Woods:** 9.2 acres on the hillside west of Lake Washington Boulevard, just south of the intersection with Madrona Drive, due east of downtown Seattle in Madrona. There are entrances at 38<sup>th</sup> and Marion, 38<sup>th</sup> and Columbia, Spring and Grand, and at Lake Washington Boulevard across from the Spectrum Dance Studio.

**Madrona Park Ravine:** slightly less than an acre, between 38<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> west of Madrona Woods. The ravine, interrupted by a land bridge for 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, continues in the Woods. There is currently no access to this steep and heavily invaded parcel added to the Park as part of the 2002 Open Space program. A viewing platform in the lower portion will be added as part of the daylighting.

**Madrona Park Natural Area:** about 2/3 acre of former lawn, now a new wetland cove with a stream running into it through a gently rolling area revegetated with thousands of native plants. A trail connecting to the sidewalk along Lake Washington Boulevard and a bridge over the stream give pedestrian access to this area renovated in 2007.

### Process and Achievements

#### *Planning*

- In 1996, a small group of Madrona Park's immediate neighbors started to remove ivy covering the ground and growing on the trees in Madrona Woods. They soon realized they needed to learn more about how best to restore this urban forest to a more sustainable condition.
- A Small and Simple grant allowed the group to hire Portico to facilitate community outreach and to present a plan based on input from interested individuals. Four community meetings solicited comments. Four naturalist-led walks focused on the state of this urban forest, its animals and plants, restoration, and environmental education. Several goals were identified.
- In 1998 Gaynor, Inc. was hired to develop a Master Action Plan. Three goals emerged at the end of this process: habitat restoration, involving invasive removal and revegetation with native plants; environmental education with students from area schools and community residents; and trail and stream repair and restoration. The Master Action Plan was approved by Seattle Parks and Recreation in 2000.

#### *Implementation*

- Habitat Restoration – Clearing of invasives and revegetation with native plants has been ongoing since 1996, through regular work parties once or twice a month and special work parties with groups doing community service. Most of the areas along the trails have been restored, though many of the steeper and more remote areas are still heavily infested with ivy, holly, laurel, blackberry, morning glory and clematis.
- Trails – The existing main trail from Spring Street to 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been repaired and made safer, and a new main trail was constructed in 2000 to give access from Lake Washington Boulevard at the southeast corner of the woods.
- Education – FOMW volunteers worked with science classes from nearby schools from 1997 to 2005. Small groups of students from two schools cleared, tested soil and other conditions, and planted and monitored native plants in small plots during the school year. Several other schools were involved in shorter projects. This program was put on hold when daylighting required all the group's resources.

- Daylighting – Pacific Earth Works was selected as contractor in late 2006. Creek construction started with the cove at the lakeshore in early April 2007 and continued up the hill to stream beds, ponds on both sides of Lake Washington Boulevard and a fish-passable culvert under Lake Washington Boulevard by early November. The first of three bridges was built over the stream in the Madrona Park Natural Area. The lower portion of Madrona Creek was released from the storm drain at Spring Street November 15, supplying 1/3 of the eventual flow. Pacific Earth Works returned to construct stream beds, culvert and cascades to add the 2/3 flow from the Ravine west of 38<sup>th</sup> in the fall of 2008. The stream was released in November. A simplified and modified bridge was put in place at 38<sup>th</sup> and Spring, and the bridge at the Spring Street entrance was constructed in the spring of 2009. Volunteers have planted approximately 10,000 native plants along the stream and in the Natural Area.

#### *Funding*

- A Small and Simple grant from the Department of Neighborhoods in 1997 paid for community outreach and formulation of early goals.
- Starflower Foundation grants from 1997 to 2004 provided curriculum, naturalists and plants for the environmental education program, bought other plants, and paid for designing both the Master Action Plan (MAP) and the creek daylighting.
- A 2000 City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Grant made it possible to improve failing trails and build a major new trail. When volunteers discovered an eroded hillside at the southeast corner of Madrona Woods while clearing for the new trail, the City's Neighborhood Response Fund provided funds to shore up the wetland hillside by constructing the water cascade across from the Madrona Dance Studio.
- A 2003 Small and Simple grant helped with field surveys and base maps for the daylighting.
- A King County Grant Exchange WaterWorks grant received in 2004 made it possible to finalize the daylighting design and got the construction started in 2007.
- Grants received in 2005 and 2006 made it possible to seek bids from contractors and start the construction. These included a City of Seattle Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant, a grant from King County Council, and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant.
- Grants from the King Conservation District and FishAmerica Foundation in the fall of 2007 made it possible to construct the culvert under Lake Washington Boulevard and release the lower part of the stream in November, 2007.
- Grants from the Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant program, King Conservation District, the Department of Neighborhoods, and the Seattle Garden Club made it possible to construct a streambed and water cascade in the upper ravines and culvert under 38<sup>th</sup> Street to complete the project in the fall of 2008. Danneko Construction completed the Spring Street bridge for a generously reduced price.
- In-kind support has come from Gaynor, Inc., Kleinfelder Geotechnical Engineers, Pace Engineering, BeveridgeLaw, Pacific Earth Works, Joseph McKinstry Construction, the Madrona Community Council, and the Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Future – This project will provide cool, spring-fed water and nutrients for young salmon migrating along Lake Washington's shore in the spring and early summer. The fingerlings are expected to use the protected cove and pools for "rearing and refuge" before going on to Puget Sound. The upper stream will not be fish-passable and will not offer spawning opportunities.