



## GRANT APPLICATION

**Proposal Title:** Wigi Wetlands Trail Maintenance

**Amount Requested:**

**Organization Name:** Redwood Region Audubon Society (RRAS)

**Primary Contact** Name: Hal M. Genger

Email: hmg1@humboldt.edu

Phone: 707 499-0887

Mailing Address: 1622 Sunny Ave. Eureka, CA 95501

**Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Priority** met through proposal (check all that apply)

Priority #1 – Maintenance and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on projects involving community volunteers

Priority #2 – Emergency repair projects

Priority #3 – Trail amenities (signs, benches, lighting, landscaping)

Priority #4 – Cost-share to state or federal grant funds for project development (planning, engineering design, technical studies, permitting, and/or construction)

**Proposal Summary** (150-word limit)

Redwood Region Audubon Society [501(c)(3) nonprofit] has an open-space easement on a parcel of land owned by the city of Eureka in Humboldt County, California. The parcel which was once known as 'Parcel 4' is now called 'Wigi Wetlands,' and includes the part of the Waterfront Trail starting at the Chevron Fuel tanks and running north along the Humboldt Bay shore and next to the Bayshore Mall. Using community volunteers, RRAS will continue our monthly maintenance and rehabilitation of Wigi Wetlands by removing invasive non-native plants and removing trash.

Over the 2022-2024 interim: we hope to complete the removal of established non-natives, continue removing new sprouts, help re-establish native plants, pick up trash, increase the number of volunteers who help, and educate the public about the trail. We will provide tools and gloves. The City of Eureka will provide wheelbarrows and dumpsters. RRAS has a part-time coordinator to recruit and organize volunteers, schedule monthly cleanups, and provide snacks on workdays.

### **Proposal Details** (maximum two pages)

1) The location of this project is the 'Wigi Wetlands' portion of the Humboldt Bay Trail which is the portion just north of the Chevron Tanks and behind the Bayshore Mall. RRAS will continue to restore, maintain, and enhance this portion of the trail by removing invasive species, helping to re-establish native plants, cleaning up trash, and using field trips to educate the public about the trail. Clearing of large groups of Scotch broom, Himalaya berry, white sweet clover, fennel, and pampas grass has opened the view of the bay from the trail and made walking off the paved trail more accessible. Removal of new sprouts of non-natives has been easier once the main stands are gone. Native plants are returning and becoming more visible in the cleared areas. This grant proposal would cover monthly clean up days (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month) from July 2022 to June -2024.

2) RRAS will:

- a) Purchase snacks for each monthly cleanup and contribute in-kind labor.
- b) Enhance community visibility by manually removing non-native plants. Native plants are returning to the cleared areas, creating a more natural environment. Money has also been set aside to purchase native vegetation to be reestablished along the trail, if necessary, when we have most of the non-natives removed.
- c) Broaden community involvement by recruiting and coordinating monthly community volunteer cleanup days (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month), which will include both restoration and clean-up activities.
- d) Enhance public safety and comfort along the trail by removing trash on and near the trail. Some of this trash, for example, needles, exposed pipes, sharp pieces of metal, etc. may be dangerous to people who are on the paved trail and especially those who get into the vegetation off the paved trail.
- e) Schedule field trips along the trail to educate the public about the trail and birding opportunities.

3) Hal Genger (current Immediate Past President of RRAS) and Susan Penn (RRAS volunteer committee member) will be responsible for the work outlined for this proposal. Hal and Susan started organizing a few volunteer workdays 2017 in conjunction with the City of Eureka.

RRAS received some grant monies from "Humboldt Bay Habitat Enhancement Fund" and "Humboldt Bay Recreation Enhancement & Water Quality Fund," both funds of the Humboldt Area Foundation. We used this money to buy shovels loppers, and gloves. We hired a part-time coordinator (Jeremy Cashen) and started these regular monthly cleanups in April 2019. We received two years of grant funding from the Humboldt Bay Trail Fund in July 2020 which will end June 2022.

4) After consulting with Community Services, City of Eureka, and Volunteer Trail Stewards we set up the monthly volunteer clean up days on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month, which fit best with other local trail cleanups. The City of Eureka has been providing wheelbarrows and dumpsters when notified and giving RRAS an overview of the Eureka City plans for the area. The overview was especially important as we learned we could not disturb one region because of ongoing monitoring by other groups.

<b>Year funds will be expended</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Description of Items Needed to complete tasks</b>	<b>Requested from Fund</b>	<b>Secured Cash or Value of In-kind Donation</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>
2022-2023	Brush removal	Steel handle shovel (2)	\$75.00		
2022-2023	Brush removal	Slender shovel (2)	\$ 65.00		
2022-2023	Brush removal	Long gloves (3)	\$ 51.00		
2022-2023	Brush removal	Pruning saw (2)	\$ 80.00		
2022-2023	Brush removal	Tractor rental	\$ 450.00		
2022-2023	Brush removal	Rake (2)	\$50.00		
2022-2023	Coordinating cleanup	Person to schedule, recruit, coordinate cleanup (5 hr/mo) (17/hr)	\$1020.00		
2022-2023	Brush and garbage removal, plant natives	Volunteers (\$27.59/hr.) (8+permonth for 2 hrs.)*		\$5366.40	
2022-2023	Trash removal	Garbage bags		\$20.00 yr.	
2022-2023	Trail cleanup	Storage space		\$140.00 yr.	
2022-2023	Snacks			\$120.00	
<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$1791.00</b>	<b>\$5646.40</b>	<b>\$7437.40</b>
2023-2024	Brush removal	Steel handle shovel (2)	\$75.00		
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Brush removal</b>	<b>Slender shovel (2)</b>	<b>\$ 65.00</b>		
2023-2024	Brush removal	Long gloves (3)	\$ 51.00		
2023-2024	Brush removal	Tractor rental	\$ 450.00		
2023-2024	Coordinating cleanup	Person to schedule, recruit, coordinate cleanup (5 hr/mo) (17/hr)	\$1020.00		
2023-2024	Brush and garbage removal, reintroduce native plants	Volunteers (\$27.59/hr.) (8+permonth for 2 hrs.)*		\$5366.40	
2023-2024	Snacks			\$120.00	
2023-2024	Trash removal	Garbage bags		\$20.00 yr.	
2023-2024	Trail cleanup	Storage space		\$140.00 yr.	
<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$ 1661</b>	<b>\$5646.40</b>	<b>\$7307.40</b>
<b>2022-2024</b>	<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$3402</b>	<b>\$11292.80</b>	<b>\$14744.80</b>

*If necessary, provide additional explanation about requested or in-kind items:*

**\*This number was generated from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Range of volunteers was 7 to 19. We cancelled two months due to Covid but totaled 204 volunteer hours = 8.5 people for each 2 hour work session. We will probably see this number increase in the upcoming years so the in-kind donation will be higher than listed.**