

Walla Walla County Conservation District

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Legislative district 16 | Congressional district 5



The last three trees planted for the riparian project at Caldwell were planted by the city manager, the mayor, and a city council member. This small outreach event on Arbor Day gave the community the opportunity to learn about what conservation districts do.



Before and after photos of noxious weed removal and riparian plantings for a restoration project on Yellowhawk Creek. Plants native to Eastern Washington were then planted to create a better and more natural habitat for wildlife.

2022-23 Feature Accomplishment

Community Riparian Restoration Project

Resource concern

Noxious weeds, particularly Himalayan blackberries, have been a consistent issue statewide for years. The project site was overrun by blackberries which was an issue because they spread aggressively, negatively impact native wildlife, and are extremely hard to maintain. Additionally, the creek had been listed in the state's 303(d) list for temperature and was lacking canopy cover. Shade producing riparian vegetation is essential because it keeps water cool, filters runoff, and reduces erosion.

Featured project

WWCCD removed noxious weeds from 2.5 acres of riparian area. Once removed, 735 native plants were planted to provide canopy cover for the stream, control weeds, provide habitat for wildlife, and protect water quality. These plantings have been successful and the WWCCD was able to conduct community outreach and involve various volunteer groups in this project which increased knowledge of the importance of riparian areas in the community. Since planting, the WWCCD has worked to suppress weeds and to maintain a more natural habitat for wildlife.

Costs and partners

Overall project cost was \$20,447 and was funded by SCC Salmon Recovery Funding.

Other accomplishments



Eight instream engineered designs to restore over 11 miles of river were created. A concrete fish barrier was removed allowing fish passage on Russell Creek.



A total of 22,068 trees and shrubs were planted on 88 acres of riparian land including plantings of native species at four different riparian sites along Yellowhawk Creek.



Twenty community outreach events were held including seven discussion sessions which taught over 90 people about local conservation methods.

What more CTA funding would mean for our district:

Using the Conservation Technical Assistance funding, the Walla Walla County Conservation District was able to expand our outreach and volunteer efforts to include additional sectors of our community. This assistance is the building block for conservation districts to work with landowners, determine the best method to address concerns, and educate our community.