

Grant Application

White Clay Wild & Scenic River Program

Title of Project: Forest Restoration of the Judge Morris Estate Section of White Clay Creek State Park

Amount Requested: \$1,400

Name of Organization: Friends of White Clay Creek State Park, Judge Morris Environmental Stewardship Group (JMESG)

Address: FWWCSP, POB 9734, Newark DE 19714-9734

Executive Director: Dave Koppeser, President

Contact person if different from Exec. Director: Terri Tipping, volunteer

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Proposal:

Volunteers have been removing nonnative invasive plants at the Judge Morris Estate section of WCCSP for 4 years. The removal of these plants has opened up the forest floor for native plants to regenerate. This summer we have been clearing an area near a creek edge that would benefit from stabilization with plant coverage. Our project would help with erosion control and jump start the habitat restoration by planting viable and appropriate ground covers and shrubs. The project's goal is to accelerate the recovery of the forest to provide better habitat, cover and forage, for the wildlife that inhabit the area.

William A. McAvoy, Delaware state botanist, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife has offered guidance as to plant selection for this project. The plants listed in this proposal will be adjusted according to availability and final approval from DNREC staff.

The project would include fall 2020 plantings and spring 2021 plantings, as appropriate. We intend to have sections with some fencing and some without because of the white tail deer pressure. Planting would be done by volunteers, under the oversight of the park.

Mission and history of the Organization:

The "JMESG" are volunteers that started removing invasive plants at the Judge Morris section of White Clay Creek State Park in the summer of 2016. It was started to see if we could make a difference in the health and appearance of the forest.

Volunteer hours in 2017 were 745; 2018: 1,267; 2019: 1,545; 2020 through 8/30: 1,900

Project Budget:

Total requested: \$1400, as summarized below, detail on following page:

Fencing material:

- two fenced plots: \$234 (2 rolls of 100'x4' welded rolls (\$77 ea); uposts (\$40/fence))

Plants:

Fall 2020 plantings:

- Octoraro Native Plant Nursery (PA): \$706 (fenced plots \$315 + streamside plantings \$391)
- Prairie Moon Nursery (mail order): \$177(fenced plots \$72*2 + seeds \$33)

Spring 2021 plantings:

- North Creek Nursery (PA): \$126
- Ernst Seed Company (PA): \$158 (grass seeds \$53 + stakes/cuttings \$105)

Detail of proposed plants and timing

1) Two fenced plots, both to be planted this fall, each with the following plants:
These plants are full sun to part shade plants; medium to wet except the Zizia, which is just medium so will be planted in the drier section of plots.

from Octoraro Nursery, PA:

Cephalanthus occidentalis #2 size plants 6 plants \$52.50

Cornus amomum #2 size plants 6 plants \$52.50

Sambucus canadensis #2 size plants 6 plants \$52.50

from Prairie Moon Nursery (mail order):

Spiraea Alba - bareroot plant 6 plants \$36

Zizia aurea - small potted plants 6 plants \$36

Total plant cost each plot = \$230, fencing \$120 = \$350/plot *2 = \$700 total

2) stream/creek edge plantings, unfenced, planted in bare open areas, fall 2020 planting:

Octoraro Nursery, PA:

Cornus amomum seedlings 50 plants @ 3.95 = \$197.50

Hamamelis virginiana seedlings 50 plants @ 3.95 = \$197.50

3) stream/creek edge plantings, unfenced, spring planting (because not available until 3/29/21) from North Creek Nursery, PA:

Polystichum acrostichoides 2 flats of 32 ferns \$63/flat = \$126

4) late winter/early spring planting:

from Ernst Seed company:

grasses: Muhlenbergia schreberi 1 lb (~750,000 seeds) \$31

Agrostis perennans 1 lb (~8,000,000 seeds) \$15.40

Elymus virginicus 1 lb (~73,000 seeds) \$6.60

live stakes: 30 each of Cephalanthus occid. & Cornus amomum \$1 ea = \$60

rooted cuttings: 30 each of C. occid & C. amomum \$.75 each = \$45

5) seeds from Prairie Moon nursery:

Asarum canadense - 550 seeds \$12.50

Caulophyllum thalictroides 70 seeds \$15.00

Eurybia divaricata - 150 seeds \$2.50

Zizia aurea - 2,750 seeds \$3.20

total for seeds: \$33.20

Summary of expenses (without shipping)

Fenced plots \$700

Fall 2020 stream edge plantings \$395

Spring 2021 stream edge plantings - ferns \$126

Spring 2021 grass plantings - \$53

Live stake/rooted cutting trial - \$105

Seeds \$33