OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED VOTING MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 – 7:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE A G E N D A

- 1. Call to Order, Mayor David S. Eady
- 2. <u>Motion to accept the Agenda for the March 14, 2022 Mayor and Council Special Called Meeting.</u>
- 3. *Contract for Ecologic LLC to remove invasive species at Asbury Street Park

 See attached Ecologic LLC Proposal for Regenerative Services. The total cost of
 \$11,419.80 for the four quarters of service would be spread over two fiscal years and
 could be covered by the City Park and Trail Maintenance line item, which as of March 8,
 2022 had \$19,074 available out of the original budget of \$25,000.
- 4. Adjourn

*Attachments

EcoLogic LLC

Proposal for Regenerative Services

Client:

City of Oxford c/o Laura McCanless lauramccanless@bellsouth.net

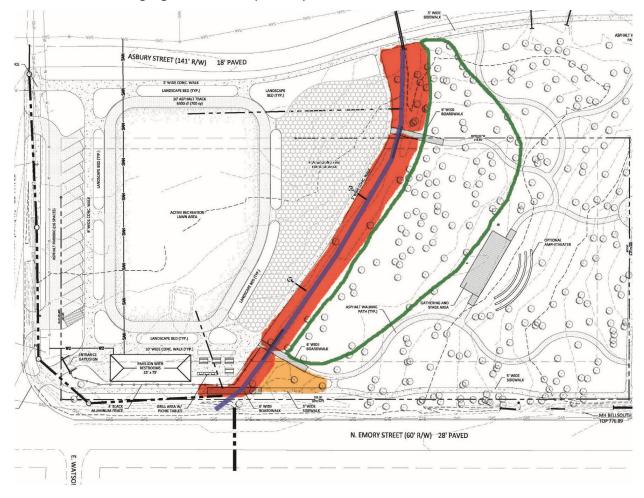
Contact:

Tanya (Tea) Povolny tea@ecologicatl.com



Site Evaluation:

The site at *Asbury Park* consists of a forested hillside, transitioning from deciduous dominant piedmont forest to lowland pine dominant forest, leading to a semi-constructed wetland, and finally to a stormwater conveyance. This conveyance, also known as a riparian corridor, is where water from the surrounding area can reinfiltrate into the water table, making it the element of highest value within the landscape since provides the most ecological infrastructure for the area. For this reason and for the sake of practicality, the scope of this project is focused on the **Riparian Corridor** and **Wetland** areas only, marked in blue and highlighted in red respectively.



A preliminary plant inventory followed by an assessment of current site conditions is provided below. These lists represent initial species of note. Invasive plant species listed have the highest potential for negative impact and/or ecological damage. Native plants listed provide environmental context, indicate current ecological health, and/or are rare. Neither list is exhaustive.

Beneficial, Native Plants:

Flower, forbs, etc

- American knotweed
- Asters
- Boxseed
- Broom-sedge
- Bushy bluestem
- Cherokee sedge
- Dogfennel
- Goldenrod
- Joe-pye weed
- Little bluestem
- Nimblewill
- Rushes
- Seedbox

Vines

- Creeping cucumber
- · Climbing hempvine
- Dewberry
- Greenbrier
- Virginia creeper
- Muscadine grape

Trees and woody plants

- · American elm
- Black tupelo
- Black walnut
- Boxelder
- Cedar
- Hackberry
- Hickory
- Loblolly pine
- Maple
- Pecan
- Red mulberry
- Red oak
- Sweetgum
- Tulip poplar
- Willow oak
- Winged elm
- Water oak

Invasive, Introduced Plants:

Flower, forbs, etc

- Chaff flower
- Creeping Charlie
- False strawberry
- Liriope
- Oriental smartweed
- Stiltgrass

Vines

- Elaeagnus
- Euonymus
- Japanese honeysuckle
- Vinca

Trees and woody plants

- Cherry laurel
- Chinese privet
- · Bradford pear
- English ivy
- Mimosa
- Oriental holly
- Southern magnolia
- White mulberry

As the list above suggests, there is a robust population of natives present within the **Wetland** area. However, the woody invasives such as privet and Elaeagnus are fast growing and readily create monocultures. We are beginning to see some of this monoculturalization happening within the **Riparian Corridor**. Adjacent areas where little to no native plant biodiversity is present are of concern and should be considered for later regenerative intervention, as they harbor invasive plants that will readily reestablish within the wetland. One such area is highlighted in orange in the graphic above. This area, and similar points along the slope, are at risk for major erosion. Future recommendation for these erosion-prone zones includes native plant installation and minor stormwater earthwork such as a bioswale.

Recommendation Summary:

In consultation with Laura McCanless, EcoLogic has defined this project's goal as *removing invasive plant* species posing a threat to beneficial wildlife with the intention of regenerating habitat, green and ecological infrastructure, and biodiversity. This site is optimal for nurturing biodiversity due to the ecotones naturally occurring between the varied ecological conditions.

The order in which work is done is flexible; once work has got underway, phases will overlap. Appropriate seasons for specified work are included. The recommendation summary provides an outline for proposed work and is distinct from a management plan. Management plans are available if desired for an additional fee and include step-by-step management instructions. Management plans are **not** necessary to move forward with a project.

EcoLogic offers payment options in quarterly installments. The figures provided include the associated cost for project completion with traveling fee based on current observation and client consultation. These figures do not include cost of materials (such as herbicide for cut-and-treat). Further, clients are not required to engage EcoLogic for an entire regenerative project and may choose which phases best suit their needs should they desire a partial regeneration. If the client decides to opt for a partial regeneration, quarterly payment will be recalculated.

The number of sessions scheduled is determined on a month-by-month basis and will average 1-2 sessions per month, for a total of 15-18 sessions, over an approximately 12-month period. Estimated range of sessions accommodates for unforeseen conditions likely to arise on site over time. Each session is 5 hours long. Should additional sessions beyond the estimated maximum be required, this will be negotiated prior to continuing work.

The following service recommendations and quotes are proposed to help the City of Oxford complete the goal of a regenerating wildlife habitat and landscape for the site at *Asbury Park*:

(1) Phase 1 (1 Site Specialist, 2 Regenerative Technicians)

Most of year 1 will be devoted to removal of invasive woody plant midstory.

- Invasive midstory control, cut-back
- Debris clearing and organization: brush piles for native wildlife and erosion control
- Removal and disposal of viable fruiting bodies: spread prevention

Season: Year-round

Invasive midstory control, uproot

Season: Spring, Fall

- Riparian corridor detail cleaning
- Chop-and-drop mulching, over winter preparation
- Pop-up invasive plant control, non-dormant invasive plants emerging and second wave invasives

Season: Fall, Winter

Sessions: 10-15

(2) Phase 2 (1 Site Specialist, 2 Regenerative Technicians)

Groundcover invasive plants are revealed once woody invasive plants have been cut back. Next steps in woody plant control continues: uprooting and potentially, cut-and-treat. Secondary infestations will need control as they appear.

- Debris clearing and organization: brush piles for native wildlife and erosion control continued
- Removal and disposal of viable fruiting bodies: spread prevention

Season: Year-round

- Invasive midstory removal, uprooting continued
- Invasive vine and ground cover control

Season: Summer, Winter

- Cut-and-treat established woody invasive plants
- Riparian corridor detail cleaning, continued secondary infestations

Season: Fall, Winter

Sessions: 3-5

Completion: Approximately 12 months, or a maximum

total of 18 sessions

Quarterly installments for total project: \$2854.80 per quarter

Cost itemization: 1 site specialist @\$40/hr

= \$200/session

2 regenerative technicians @\$30/hr

= \$300/session

Outside of Atlanta Metro area traveling

Fee @\$0.56/mile per person

= \$134.40/session



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) 01/07/2022

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

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INSURED. EcoLogic LLC					INSURER B:						
1860 Bonniview Street Southwest					INSURE	INSURER C:					
Atlanta, GA 30310					INSURER D:						
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CERTIFICATE HOLDER					CANCELLATION						
						SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE					
					THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.						
						AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE /					

EcoLogic LLC

Nature Based Solutions for a Biodiverse Georgia



Who We Are:

EcoLogic is a woman owned organization that specializes in regenerative landscape services including manual invasive plant removal, stormwater run-off mitigation, erosion control, soil remediation, and wildlife habitat expansion. We prioritize working with natural systems, rather than against them, to ensure the success of our regenerative landscaping goals. Our holistic approach coupled with our commitment to quality has earned us a reputation for exceptional results, which can be experienced anytime by taking a stroll through Atlanta's famed Fernbank Forest where we have managed invasive removal in key sensitive areas since February 2020.

At EcoLogic, we ascribe to the philosophy of "eco over ego" by centering our practice in ecology and community. In collaboration with Pygmy Goat Folx, the Georgia Native Plant Society, WoodsKeeper and other partners, we are establishing a sustainable landscaping network that engages with local citizens to promote land stewardship. We hope to showcase and safeguard our one-of-a-kind natural wonders so that Georgia is looked to nationwide as a progressive example for land stewardship solutions in the face of climate challenges.

What We Do:

EcoLogic assists clients to develop and implement resilient, long term property management strategies that *support biodiversity and expand high functioning green and ecological infrastructure*.

Our removal services are ideal for nurturing areas of high ecological value (i.e. wetland, conservation easements, recharge zones and stream buffers, and locations harboring rare native plant and animal species), while our earthwork and habitat expansion services are optimal for diversifying or building new ecology. For those seeking native wildlife habitat certification, EcoLogic follows guidelines laid out by the Audubon society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Xerces Society and the Georgia Native Plant Society.

Sustainability guides our whole practice. From manual invasive removal to integrating free*, repurposed materials into your project, EcoLogic is dedicated to practices that close more loops, reduce waste, and saves clients from unnecessary cost. For interested clients, we offer on-site training so you may learn our techniques hands-on and facilitate the longevity of your project. We believe in empowering you with the tools necessary to steward the land in your care, well beyond your need for EcoLogic's services.

Regeneration is a process that unfolds over time, requiring space for growth and change, with no definitive "end". A regenerated ecology is a self-regulating ecology and exists in equilibrium. We are here to help you set the regenerative process in motion and maintain momentum into the future so that as little intervention as possible is needed to keep the landscape healthy, productive, and beautiful.

How We Do It:

All projects begin with a consultation and site analysis. Each site is evaluated for a personalized approach and tailored both to the needs of the ecology and the priorities of the client.

We define our objective by triaging the site, typically starting with the trees as they have the highest ecological value and provide most of the green infrastructure (i.e. erosion control, temperature

^{*} subject to procurement and processing fee

regulation, windbreak, shade, water re-infiltration, etc). Once the trees are secure, we focus on new growth. New growth provides the basis for biodiversity and can be encouraged either by creating space in an existing ecology or by building new habitat. *Biodiversity stabilizes a site's ecology, discouraging invasive plants from re-establishing*.

We create space for new growth mainly through gradual, targeted, manual invasive removal. We employ seasonality to our advantage, aiding the native ecology to replace intruding plants. This reduces overall unwanted regrowth, making regeneration an economical alternative to other management methods that require frequent revisitation and costly maintenance.

Ecologic's low impact techniques are based in current restoration ecology research and allow us the precision to selectively remove undesirable plants with minimal damage to the soil integrity. *Soil health determines the health of the plants.* Soil integrity is compromised any time earth is disturbed, loosened, or left bare. We avoid unnecessary damage by practicing proper site after-care following every session. Like dressing a wound, after-care protects the affected area and allows it to heal under a layer of leaves, woodchips, or other biodegradable cover. In situations where we are building habitat and/or mitigating erosion, soil amendment and aftercare are combined.

If any remnant soils are intact, the dormant, native seed bank will become apparent once regeneration has begun. This seed bank informs important planting decisions; native plant communities provide a template for what will thrive when increasing biodiversity. It also provides a potential source of plant material for use on-site. The hidden benefit of sourcing on-site plant material is an increased likelihood of success as local plants are acclimated to their surroundings.

Installation and/or propagation can be a vital step in safeguarding the durability of a project. Disperse, gradual planting grants time for better environmental integration and can begin once the invasive plants' spread has been curbed. *EcoLogic uses plant species indigenous to our region to achieve the best results*. In addition to fulfilling conventional landscaping roles (food, medicine, beauty, fragrance, privacy, etc), native plants have three considerable advantages: 1) they thrive in our climate and soils, 2) they require far less inputs, such as water and fertilizer, while 3) simultaneously supporting the pollinators, birds, and other fauna that sustain our food systems and environment.

EcoLogic is committed to providing our clients with the most affordable solutions to their landscape obstacles, without compromising our high standard. For all projects requiring sheet mulching or soil building, we offer clients the option to procure materials themselves and provide instruction on how to find the correct materials at little to no cost. Where appropriate, EcoLogic will help clients coordinate volunteer sessions to reduce the labor burden. Additionally, our work with the Georgia Native Plant Society's propagation program gains us access to surplus native plants that we are happy to donate to relevant projects. Please note that these resources can be inconsistent and are often in limited supply, making them unsuitable for some projects, but they are free* of charge.

EcoLogic processes and prepares debris for removal as required but does not provide tow-away services. For debris that is to remain on site, we suggest re-integrating as much of it as possible back into the landscape. Brush piles are effective in mitigating erosion and double as friendly habitat for varied songbirds and small mammals. Deadwood can be a valuable resource for amending soil with hügelkultur construction. With judicious implementation, debris can even enhance the design aesthetic of your landscape. By incorporating as many circular inputs as possible into our practice, we ensure resilience is built into every step of the regenerative process.

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^{*} subject to procurement and processing fee