

## ACLPOA GREENWAY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A healthy, natural greenway system is a vital component linked to the health of Apple Canyon Lake and supports the charming rural image we strive to maintain. In addition to the enjoyment on the part of ACL property owners, a healthy greenway will help keep our lake clean, attract birds, other habitats and everyone benefits. The purpose of the program is to encourage ACL members to adopt a greenspace area and restore the native vegetation in that area. Since ACL was formed many of these areas have lacked active management which has resulted in areas being overgrown. Non-native and invasive plants have also established themselves and removing this growth will allow for native vegetation to be established.

### OBJECTIVE

To provide a volunteer stewardship program utilizing a comprehensive approach that achieves the desired balance of our natural amenities. The overall restoration concept is to recreate a self-sustaining native landscape, consistent with the natural process of the site and its environs, with minimal maintenance requirements.

### GOALS

- To encourage preservation, restoration, and enhancement of ACL's Greenway
- To protect the lake and woodlands by ecological restoration and invasive plant removal and replacement.
- To establish and maintain a program of continued care for the Greenways at ACL.

### Procedures

The following procedures will help ensure the greenspace areas can be quickly and cost effectively be managed:

- 1.) The ACL member obtains a Greenspace Stewardship Program application, fills it out and submits it to the ACL office.
- 2.) The ACL staff reviews the specifics of the application and visits the site with the applicant to determine if the application should move forward.
- 3.) If ACL staff determines the application should move forward, a visit to the site with the ACL consultant and applicant will be made.
- 4.) The ACL consultant will produce a report about the site, its characteristics, needs, and recommendations on how the site should be managed and restored.
- 5.) The report is reviewed by the Conservation Committee and a recommendation is made to the ACL Board of Directors for approval.
- 6.) At the next regular ACL Board meeting the Board of Directors considers approval of the application.
- 7.) Once approved the applicant and ACL staff schedule a time for the first phase of the project to be conducted.
- 8.) The first phase of work is conducted with the assistance of ACL staff to ensure the work follows the plan approved by the Board.
- 9.) Once the first phase of the project is completed ACL staff and consultant will visit the site and recommend in writing the next phase of the project for the applicant.
- 10.) The applicant and ACL staff coordinates the second phase of the project.
- 11.) The applicant and ACL staff work together closely to adjust the management of the site as needed.

To ensure effective and implementation of greenway stewardship applications, each applicant must understand that:

- All activities conducted must follow the Board approved plan.
- ACL staff must be present for any activity that is conducted.
- If the applicant has any question they will not conduct anything without consulting with ACL staff.
- Per ACL Rules and Regulations Page 38 #3 A & B\*, applicants are liable for any unsupervised tree cutting. If it is determined to be a violation, the greenspace application will be immediately revoked and the application will be notified in writing.

\*ACL RULES AND REGULATIONS, GENERAL VIOLATIONS, PG 38 #3:

- A. Partial cutting or trimming of or downing of trees on common property without prior written permission of the General Manager \*up to \$1,000
- B. Burning or cutting to clear on common property without prior written permission of the General Manager \*up to \$1,000, per tree, plus restoration expense  
\*per occurrence, plus restoration expense

Restoration to be defined as: Act of restoring, putting back into nearly original form. \$50

**ACLPOA GREENWAY MAINTENANCE APPLICATIONS AND VOLUNTEER WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED PRIOR TO ANY APPROVED PROJECT BEING STARTED.**

#### GREENWAY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The ACL consultant will develop a report identifying the current ecological condition of the greenspace area, recommend what stewardship activities should be conducted, and specify exactly how the activities should be conducted. The report may include the following information:

- Define a specific Greenway site for the purpose of restoring, enhancing, or maintaining and include a map and pictures of the area.
- Identify existing site conditions identifying intrusive, noxious, or invasive weeds and plants.
- Identify native vegetation including a plant list and description of the native quality of the site.
- Evaluate the site describing the harm to the Greenway
- Formulate detailed plans specifying what Phase I stewardship activities should be conducted. This will include which trees or plants will be targeted for management and the precise methods that must be followed to ensure effective results
- If the plan designs will provide any bank or erosion stabilization.
- Provide a detailed site maintenance program for Phase II stewardship activities after Phase I activities have been conducted.
- How long will it take the area to become self-sustaining and assist in maintenance during the stages

#### **Phase I Stewardship Activities:**

The initial management activities recommended for the Greenspace Stewardship Program typically involve treatment and removal of woody trees and shrubs as well as management of exotic plants. To ensure that the management activities conform to effective management methods, ACL staff must be present to conduct any active work on the approved greenspace area. ACL staff will follow the approved management plan prepared by the ACL consultant. The plan will specify which plants, trees, and shrubs will be removed, and the exact methods to remove and treat the vegetation. ACL staff must be present to ensure the activities conducted follow the approved application and plan by the ACL Board of Directors.

#### **Phase II Stewardship Activities:**

Once a Greenspace Stewardship Site has begun being managed and the Phase I activities have been conducted, the site will be revisited by ACL staff and consultant to evaluate its current condition and provide the landowner with a brief written summary of the recommendations for Phase II activities. Below are descriptions of some of the typical activities that will be necessary to ensure the greenspace area is effectively restored to a high quality natural area and requires minimal management as quickly and effectively as possible. This process will typically take 2-3 years of maintenance to ensure the site is effectively restored.

#### Maintenance

Once the site is cleared in the Phase I activities, there will inherently be invasive and exotic plants growing in the understory. Managing to remove these species will be the most important step in determining if the greenspace area will be restored to a natural area or if the invasive species will continue to spread and degrade the area. These invasive species must be managed to ensure they are killed or removed from the site after the Phase I removal has been completed. The follow up report from the ACL consultant will identify which species are present and recommend how to manage the invasive species. Some of these recommendations could include spot mowing, spot herbicide spraying, weeding by hand, or seed collecting.

#### Prescribed Burning

Historically much of the natural habitats found in and around ACL was dependent upon a fire regime that maintained it as native prairie, oak savanna, and woodland. If a prescribed burn is recommended as a Phase II activity, a prescribed burn must only be conducted with direct supervision of ACL staff. An applicant cannot conduct burning in greenspace areas, only ACL staff or ACL staff approved ecological restoration burn plans from an insured company may conduct prescribed burns in greenspace areas.

#### Interseeding

Once a greenspace site has been managed, and depending upon the evaluation of the Phase I activities, a recommendation might be to reintroduce native plants by seed or live plants into the site. This is the process of interseeding an approved list and amount of native seed or plants appropriate to the needs and characteristics of a site. Either a landowner can submit a seeding list for approval from ACL staff, or the landowner can ask the ACL staff to recommend a list for them to plant. Only once ACL staff approve of a plant list may any seed be planted in the greenspace area. Once a site is interseeded the stewardship needs for the site will be crucial for the next 2-3 years to ensure the native seed establishes.

**GREENWAY STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LOT# \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ LAKE TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_ GROUP APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_

PROVIDE THE FOLLWING INFORMATION (Use additional paper if necessary)

1. Define a specific Greenway site for the purpose of restoring, enhancing, or maintaining. Please attach a drawing, map, or pictures of the area.

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2. Please describe, to the best of your ability, the current condition of the site, what you would like to accomplish, and what you would like to see as the end result of the project.

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3. Please describe what type of activities you would like to conduct. Specify how the activities will be implemented in accordance with the greenspace stewardship program practices and procedures.

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4. Please describe how you plan on ensuring the long term maintenance of the site?

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I have read the Greenspace Stewardship Program practices and procedures. I will follow the ACL Board approved plan and conform to its implementation. I understand that ACL Staff must be present during any activity to implement the approved plan. If it is determined that I have violated or not followed the approved plan, I may be liable to ACL Rules and Regulations and have my plan revoked.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_