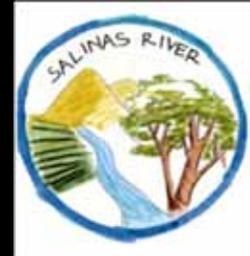


Salinas River Parkway Grant
Final Report Presentation
March 21, 2011

Project Partners

- State Water Resources Board
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- City of Paso Robles
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District



Today's Purpose

Summary of the City's Final Report:

- What we said we would do
- What we actually did
- How we did it
- What we learned

Regional Context

- Salinas River is 170 Miles Long
- 4,000 square mile watershed
- Largest watershed that outlets to the Monterey Bay
- Subject of the 2004 Upper Salinas Watershed Action Plan



Paso Robles Salinas Corridor



- Four mile stretch within Paso Robles proper
- The focus of an intensive Community Vision Effort since 2003
- When we started the project less than 1/3 was in public ownership

Problem Statement

The Salinas River is a high priority watershed for the Regional Board, with factors of concern:

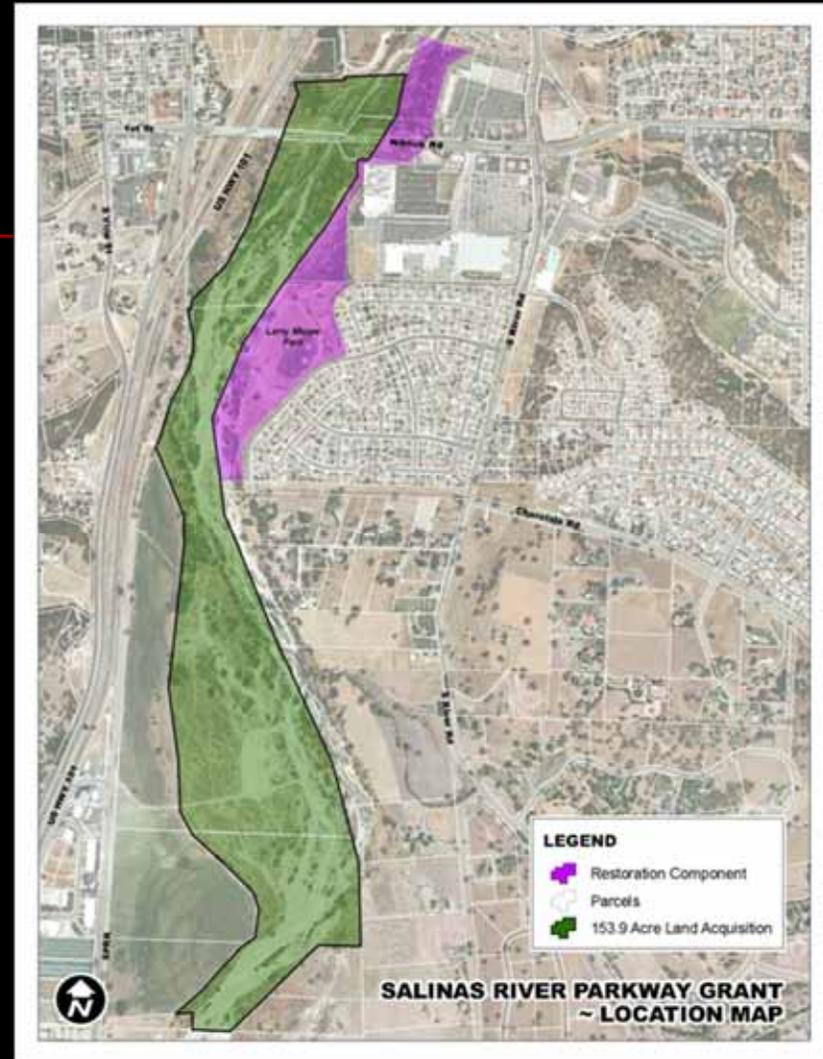
- Pollutants
- Agricultural activities
- Urban development & runoff
- Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use and trash
- Damaged habitat
- Erosion

Project Purpose

To protect, restore, and enhance the water quality, riparian habitat, flood control, and groundwater recharge values of property along the Upper Salinas River.

Two Components

- Land Acquisition
- Restoration



Land Acquisition

- 1.5 miles river frontage
- Thought to be 260 acres
- Determined to be 226 acres
- Combination of :
Channel / riparian - 156 acres
Upland agricultural - 70 acres



Acquisition Goals

- Protect a minimum of 50 acres of key riparian land
- Provide opportunities for conservation and enhancement of natural resources
- Reduce inappropriate use of resources
- Provide opportunity for public education and passive recreational use



Acquisition Results & Techniques

- Fee Title Acquisition of 153.9 acres
 - Full 1.5 mile stretch of river
 - Includes key riparian corridor
 - Paid \$1.5 million
 - Could not negotiate upland 70 acres
 - Sand mining is irrevocable 99 year license
 - No State funds used for land encumbered mining
 - Per acre price was less than appraised value



Land Management Plan

- Recognizes property as the “Salinas River Parkway Preserve”
- Prescribes natural resource management goals & timelines

Long range land management goals include the addressing of :

- Erosion from sand mining and OHV trails
- Runoff of sediment & contamination from adjacent farming/livestock
- Proper level of recreation
- Illegal trash / dumping / encampments
- Protection / enhancement of sensitive species & habitats
- Control proliferation of non-native vegetation
- Public outreach, education & promotion of water quality protection

Public Outreach

- Raising community awareness to raise matching dollars for purchase
- Festival format to excite and inform



Festival of the Arts

- Brought artists and environmental partners together
- Focus on Salinas River
- Guided River Tours
- River Vision Educational Booth
- 5,000 Attendees
- 50/50 Proceed sharing
- 3rd Annual Festival coming May 28, 2011



Restoration

- City owned land
- 4 urban storm channels
- 2 fence access areas added
- Goal to restore 2 acres
- Work occurred on 4.5 acres



Restoration Goals

- Improve riparian corridors by increasing native vegetation
- Reduce sedimentation reaching the river
- Reduce urban pollutants reaching the river



Restoration Results & Techniques

- Channel Stabilization & Enhancement
 - 1,000 feet of surface channels recontoured at 3:1 slope
 - Active head cuts repaired at two channel sites
 - Two rock stabilization (wier) structures installed
 - Grass bioswale installed to filter concentrated urban runoff



Restoration Results & Techniques

- Fencing installed
- 1,740 linear feet of split rail fence to deter OHV trespass
- Two chicanes installed for pedestrian access to river



Restoration Results & Techniques

- 4.5 Acres Restored
- Invasive non-native plant species removed
- Over 1,000 native plants installed with drip irrigation
- Combination of erosion control blanketing & hydroseeding



Restoration Results & Techniques

- **40 Cubic Yards Sediment Removed**
 - Compacted sediment from segments of two storm water channels were dug out and removed
 - Repairs implemented were to avoid future build up of that sediment pattern
- **Avoidance of 2,600 Cubic Yards of Sediment Discharge**
 - Arrested progression of an active head cut at Site 2
 - Resulted in potential sediment load reduction



Restoration Results & Techniques

Public Outreach :

- **Creek Clean Up Days**
 - Annual Countywide effort
 - 2007 saw 70 volunteers
 - Gained in numbers each year since
- **Volunteer Recruitment**
 - Once a month volunteer work days
 - 10-12 volunteers worked 2 hrs/month
 - 240 hours over 24 months
- **Festival of the Arts**
 - Shined a light on the restoration effort
 - River Tours shuttled festival goers to site
 - Docents educated on the project benefits



Restoration Results & Techniques

- **Partnering with Liberty High School**
- Engaged “at risk” classes in hands on learning
- RCD docents provided training
- Average of 10 students/month over 3 school years
- Program reached over 130 kids

- **Water Quality – 3 Day Short Course**
- RCD developed curriculum
- Development community oriented
- Academic, practical, regulatory information
- Over 25 attended course (including City inspectors)



Lessons Learned



- **Acquisition had long slow fuse**
Needed flexibility
- **Don't give up when there are road blocks**
Project threatened to fail multiple times
Creativity key component to success
Dialogue with the Grant Manager
- **Create Strong Project Management / Admin Team**
Ability to delegate is key
- **Restoration was task specific**
Project would have benefited from tighter execution
Longer time frame not necessarily better
- **Pick Strong Partners**
Need depth of bench and experience
City lost the interest/partnership with TPL
RCD lost key staff during project duration
Delays and lost momentum resulted

Project Funding

Grant Award was for \$4 million

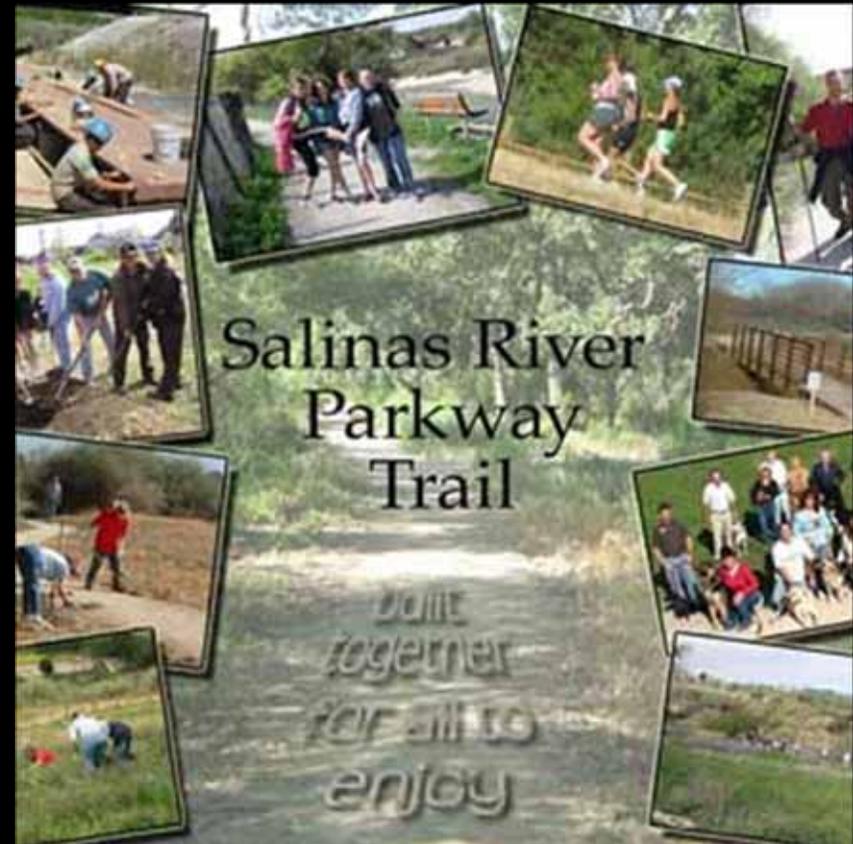
- \$3,700,000 acquisition
- \$ 300,000 restoration

Purchase Price adjusted total
State Funding to \$1.8 million

- \$1,500,000 acquisition
- \$ 300,000 restoration

City required match - \$600,000

Total Project cost - \$2.4 million



Conclusions

- Project was successful in meeting or exceeding the Grant Contract
- Success of Grant is not just in the physical accomplishments
- River Parkway Acquisition & Restoration has changed the culture & thinking in Paso Robles
- Heartfelt community support & understanding for the natural resource value of the watershed



Next Steps



- Salinas River Parkway Management Plan will guide future conservation & restoration goals for the 153.9 acre preserve
- Restoration site maintenance will continue with City resources
- Identify & pursue additional funding for complimentary projects



Questions and Answers

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