



1330 21st Street, Ste. 103
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PUBLIC NOTICE

HABITAT PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AT RIVER BEND

A new project to enhance crucial habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout is coming to River Bend (in the river near River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova and William B. Pond Recreation Area in Carmichael) in August-October 2024.

Find project details inside or learn more at
waterforum.org/habitat2024
(or scan the QR code using the camera app on your phone).



Thank You, Partners!

The 2024 Habitat Project is made possible by grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Central Valley Project Improvement Act) and the support of these partners:



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION





YOUR'RE INVITED

Learn About the 2024 Habitat Project at River Bend



You're invited to learn about a new project to enhance crucial habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout at River Bend (in the river near River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova and William B. Pond Recreation Area in Carmichael).

The River Bend area is important to the survival of salmon and steelhead as the first enhanced site salmon encounter as they return to the Lower American. Previous enhancement efforts in 2013 yielded tangible results, producing a noticeable surge in redds—underwater depressions or “nests” created by female salmonids to lay their eggs.

THE 2024 PROJECT WILL PROVIDE:



Nearly 5 acres of spawning habitat for adult salmon and steelhead to create redds (underwater depressions or “nests”), constructed by placing 6,800 cubic yards of clean gravel into the flowing river.



Over 3 acres of rearing habitat for young fish to hide from predators, find food and grow, created by deepening and reconnecting the existing 1,600-foot side channel with the main river and shaping 1 acre of seasonal floodplain.



Hiding and resting places for young fish by placing about 35 large woody tree structures into the side channel.



Over 2 acres of enhanced riparian landscape by planting or seeding the project area with willows and native flowers and grasses after construction.



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Learn About:

- The importance of River Bend to the survival of salmon and steelhead
- Results of the 2013 Habitat Project at River Bend
- Preview of the 2024 Habitat Project at River Bend
- What neighbors and park visitors can expect during construction

Please RSVP at waterforum.org/habitat2024 to receive access information.

SPECIAL TOURS FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS: The Water Forum is planning to offer tours of the construction zone for local residents. Learn how to sign up at waterforum.org/habitat2024.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit waterforum.org/habitat2024 or reach the project team at (916) 808-1997 or contact@waterforum.org



Overview

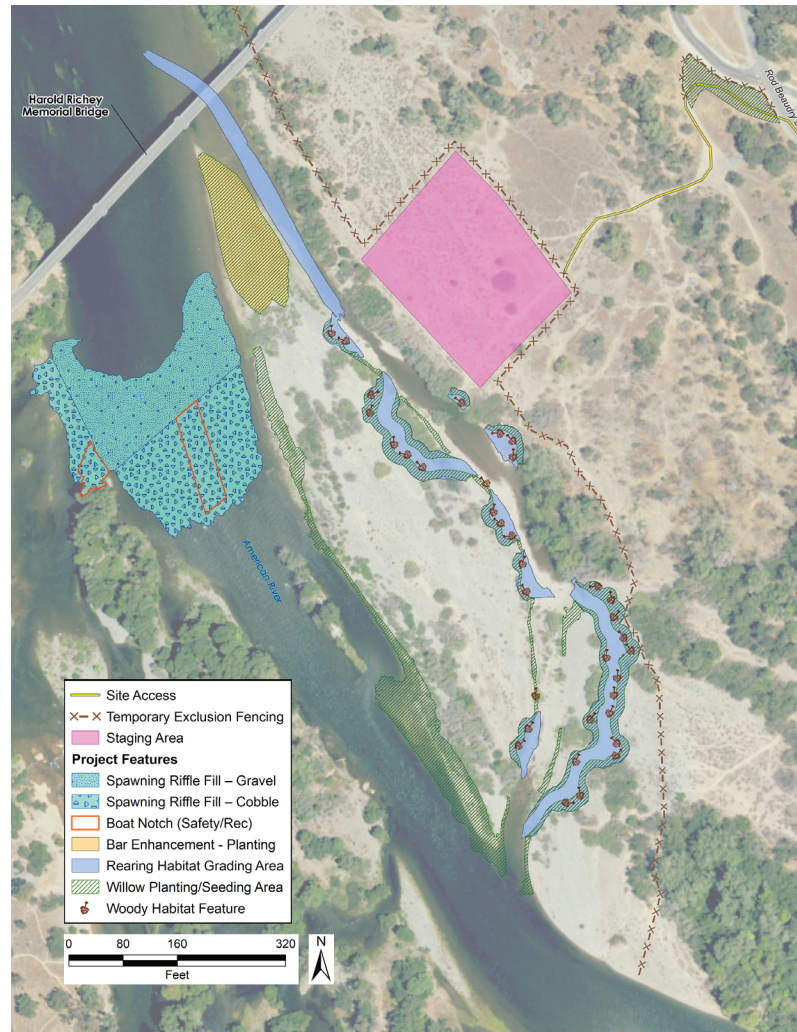
Each year, the Water Forum works to create and enhance habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Both species migrate to the Lower American River as adults to spawn. Fall-run Chinook salmon generally spawn from October through December, while steelhead trout spawning occurs from January through March. In the egg-laying process, females create a “nest” (called a redd) in loose gravel in flowing water, deposit their eggs, and then cover them with more gravel. Once hatched, young fish move to the river’s slower-moving floodplain and side channel areas to find protection from predators and grow before swimming to the Pacific Ocean.

Where and When:

- **The 2024 project area is River Bend** (near River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova and William B. Pond Recreation Area in Carmichael).
- **Construction is scheduled to take place in the August-to-October 2024 timeframe.** The project could take up to eight weeks to complete and in-river work will finish no later than October 31, 2024, before anadromous Chinook salmon return in high numbers from the Pacific Ocean to the American River.
- **Crews may be on site Monday through Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (noise starting at 7 a.m.)** with in-river work occurring only on weekdays (and not on Labor Day). Haul truck traffic for the project will be limited to weekdays.

Why:

- **Habitat is limited:** Each year, thousands of native salmon and steelhead adults use the Delta and Sacramento River like a highway to reach their native spawning areas in the Lower American River. Historically, they used over 100 miles of mainstem and upper watershed habitat before Folsom and Nimbus dams blocked their passage. Dams also trap vital sediment needed to replenish spawning areas that naturally erode over time in our dynamic river. The Water Forum identifies suitable areas like River Bend to replenish gravel to help stay ahead of these processes and support the wild fishery. In spring, newly hatched young fish use the same corridor to migrate out.
- **Habitat enhancement works:** In 2013, River Bend underwent enhancement efforts, yielding tangible results. Before the 2013 Habitat Project, no salmon were seen at the site. However, after the project, both Chinook Salmon and steelhead fish began using the River Bend spawning riffle and side channel. Even two years later, up to 159 Chinook nests and up to 21 steelhead nests were observed there, accounting for 25 percent of all steelhead nests seen that season.



The Water Forum includes a diverse group of water providers, environmentalists, business groups and local governments working to balance water supply needs with protection of the Lower American River. This is the Water Forum's 14th project enhancing fish spawning and rearing habitat on the Lower American River since 2008.

WHAT VISITORS AND NEIGHBORS CAN EXPECT:



Noise: Most of the noise is expected to come from trucks hauling gravel. Some noise will also come from constructing the spawning riffle and side channel. The project team contains this noise to the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday.



Gravel hauling and tree delivery traffic: The project will deliver gravel sourced from Mississippi Bar in Fair Oaks and decommissioned orchard trees that will be reused for woody habitat. Hauling traffic is expected to occur Monday through Friday over 17 days with one to five trips per hour.

Trucks will travel to and from the project site via Rod Beaudry Road in Rancho Cordova. The construction team aims to minimize stops or parking on Road Beaudry Road and stagger truck movements in this area as much as possible.



Bike and walking trail access: The bike and walking trail will remain open during construction. The hauling route will not cross the trail, and the construction team will employ traffic control personnel (flaggers) and signage to alert bicyclists and pedestrians to ongoing construction activities.



River access for rafters: The project team is actively working to minimize disruptions to rafters, kayakers, and boaters navigating the area. The construction zone is downriver of the primary raft takeouts. In-river construction will be limited to weekdays, excluding Labor Day, with prominent signage posted at popular upriver entry points to notify boaters of ongoing work downstream. Throughout construction, the project team will remain alert to facilitate safe passage through the Arden Maze on the Carmichael side of the river or around the construction site.



Shore access: To ensure public safety, access to the river bank from the shore will be blocked to the public within the construction areas. During off-work hours, construction areas and equipment will be secured with fencing and on-site security. The public will have access to the river along the shore in any area where it is safe.



Site impacts: Gravel hauling will disturb the access area where trucks turn off Rod Beaudry Drive toward the river. Following construction, project teams will enhance this area by removing invasive Yellow star-thistle and seeding with wildflowers and native grasses to enhance post-project aesthetics.



Employee traffic: The project team includes about a dozen employees who will travel to and from the project site twice daily (at the beginning and end of the day) via Rod Beaudry Road.



Equipment traffic: The project will use heavy equipment to move and place gravel into the river, as well as deepen a side channel. This equipment includes large bulldozers, excavators, front loaders and trucks. The equipment will move into and out of River Bend Park at the beginning and end of the project.

