

The Eye|Land Institute: Restoration Education and Site-Specific Installation at the Intersection of Art & Environmental Research



Copper Salts & Capillary Actions at the Northside Tailings Site (Butte Area One).

Project Sponsor

EyelLand Institute
(a project of the 501c3 Nonprofit Organization, Mainstreet Uptown Butte)
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Project Summary:

A segment of the Northside Tailings area will be made to serve as a focus site to engage and educate the public in the Butte Area One restoration process through the production of original works of art and educational outreach materials. The project will activate the site as a place of restoration education by using field-tested techniques that blend both art and environmental science to demonstrate creative restoration and adaptive reuse methods. A team of artists and environmental researchers will collaborate on the production of characterization research that explains the unique hydrological and geochemical qualities of the soil and water systems on the site, with an emphasis on the surface's visible copper concentrations (evidenced in the copper salt flats and blue bones noted on site).

Lead scientist, Dave Hutchins will conduct a series of six soil sample tests that will determine potential health and safety risks to public access. This initial site research will be illustrated in a publication created by graphic designer, Olivia Everett. Following this research period, a team of local artists will begin working to repurpose found objects from the site, creating a series of site-specific sculptures that illustrate potential interpretation and restoration methodologies for Butte Area One.

The project will conclude with a series of educational workshops that will include a newsprint publication, gallery exhibition, live art performances and public tours of the site. The site will be designed as an accessible public art destination along the Blacktail Trail system, significantly enhancing the educational and recreational value of the Northside Tailings area and Butte Area One.

Project Goals and Objectives:

1. Develop a more thorough body of environmental, historical and cultural research on the Northside Tailings area in the context of the Parrot Tailings complex and Butte Area One.

- conduct soil testing of Northside Tailing site.
- create a resource collection, including an annotated bibliography of historic and scientific resources pertaining to the Northside Tailings site and Silver Bow Creek.
- Identify key local knowledge through interviews with area residents regarding history of use and visible changes within the Northside Tailings site in the context of the Parrot Tailings complex and Butte Area One.

2. Increase public use of Blacktail Creek Trail system within Butte Area One

- engage a local and visiting public in the Butte Area One Restoration process through the development of accessible educational resources that include environmental science learning rendered through artist illustrations, publications, workshops, events and site tours.

-create site-specific works of art that draw local and regional residents to the visit the project site throughout the project's lifespan

3. Demonstrate innovative landscape design methods for the Northside Tailings restoration process.

- solicit involvement from artists with significant background in restoration landscape design
- work collaboratively with local and regional restoration experts
- design works of art that engage with the natural resource's existing systems.

4. Create original works of public art that demonstrate the practical use of creative placemaking in the restoration process.

- use the creation of original works of art by artists in collaboration with a diverse range of partners to strategically shape the physical and social character of Butte Area One in order to promote enduring social change while improving the physical environment
- situate works of art as a focal point for local dialog on the Butte Area One restoration process.
- create opportunities for public access to engage with the site's participating artists and project partners
- develop media kits that work to report the project's outcomes to regional and national media sources to encourage outside visitors to engage with the project

Project Benefits:

Butte Area One's Blacktail Trail does not currently feature any works of public art and the site's larger restoration plan does not include the strategic use of creative placemaking as part of the larger Butte Area One restoration effort. This project will provide works of art that enhance the cultural and recreational value of the resource while engaging the public on the site's larger the restoration process. Participating artists and environmental researchers will be working to mitigate any potential health and safety risks on the site to allow for a greater degree of public enjoyment of the area. Creative methods used in the production of the artworks will include ecologically minded installations that are adaptive to change and will allow for the site's inevitable transformation. The project will work to be flexible to any implementation of wetland restoration by responsible agencies and will follow all necessary protocol for resource restoration, ensuring an appropriate remedy to the site's injured state. By allowing artists to inform the spectrum of creative restoration solutions, the Butte Area One will also benefit from innovations in the fields of restoration and artist-led landscape design. In addition to this, Butte residents will be more informed and engaged in the restoration process, offering a greater degree of ownership to the Butte community through the activation of public spaces that contribute to a larger degree of livability in Butte.

Project Team:

The proposed project team consists of four primary project leaders, each contributing their own unique skill sets. These participants will all submit necessary documents of qualification and project commitment prior to project start date:

Dave Hutchins, PhD candidate at Montana Tech's Metallurgy program, will contribute sophisticated field testing techniques including SOB103 soil testings to determine any potential health and safety risks of soil exposure. Hutchins will also be working to engage the local environmental engineering and restoration ecology community to support the project's interdisciplinary partnerships.

Artist, Dark Sevier will contribute two decades of field experience in the design of living works of art that feature natural systems and utilize low cost, recycled materials and adaptive reuse methods in construction. Sevier's experience in restoration ecology includes tree nursery management and landfill restoration projects in rural Hawaii as well as an applied knowledge of water conservation techniques. Sevier has participated in dozens of collaborative art installations and fine art exhibitions throughout the US. The artist's outstanding expertise in video and photography will also support site documentation and research. Sevier will advise in the development of the artist team to lead the public art installations.

Graphic Designer, Olivia Everett will work to create educational outreach materials and programs to help meet the project's public engagement goals. A graduate of the Pacific Northwest College of Art (Portland, OR), Everett has a decade of direct community engagement experience, founding the Imagine Butte Resource Center, the Butte Arts Symposium and the Butte Arts Monthly publication. Everett will serve as the project's primary educational materials designer and will support the communications necessary to facilitate the environmental and creative collaborations throughout the life of the project.

Creative Researcher, Abigail Flanagan will work to collect all oral history and archival research for the project including historic and current geographic resources. Flanagan's experience includes art historical research into the importance of archival research methods in fine art and artifact analysis. A graduate of Montana State University's Art and Architecture program, she has experience in the production and presentation of art as well as an applied knowledge of project documentation methods. Flanagan will serve as the project's primary documentarian and site historian and will support the creative development of the project.

The project will also include community engagement methods that invite members of the public and Butte's creative community to participate in the project's development wherever necessary.

Tasks to Accomplish Primary Goals

1. Establish agreement with Butte-Silver Bow Planning Department to determine the any conditions or limitations in providing public access to the Northside Tailings site.
2. Ensure no project participant or members of the public may be exposed to any health and safety risks prior to the start of site work.
3. Develop additional partnerships with all agencies and individuals who have been identified as primary stakeholders in the Butte Area One restoration process.
4. Develop effective communication platforms to best communicate the project to a local and regional public, building a larger audience for Butte's arts and cultural activities, increasing a greater degree of public use of the area.

Monitoring Activities

The initial SOB103 soil sampling conducted for the site will inform the design for site testing going forward. The artist works are expected to create a slight improvement in the ph levels and metal concentrations of the site as a natural part of the process, so these numbers will be documented throughout the project's life cycle in an effort to document the efficacy of the creative restoration methods associated with works of art installed on the site.

To prove an increase in public use of the Blacktail Trail system in relation to the Northside Tailings focus site, all project participants will be working to document visitor numbers and include these records in ongoing reports.

Project Budget & Cost Estimates:

The project budget will include financial compensation for art and research expertise in the form of contracts for project leaders for one year's worth of work. The search for the project's lead artists will include an open call as the compensation for creative expertise is expected to exceed \$6000 due to the required time commitment to meet the project goals.

The cost of production materials will be minimal as the project's implementation will include a commitment to the demonstration of appropriate restoration technology, using primarily low cost, recycled materials. The project will include in-kind donations of materials, tools, testing equipment, and rental space expected to exceed the value of \$15,000.

The project will seek additional funding for the continuation of the work, if the project is deemed successful in meeting its first year's goals and objectives.

Labor			
Lead Scientist	\$30/hr	not to exceed 100 hours	\$3,000
Artist Fees	\$30/hr	not to exceed 500 hours	\$15,000
Community Outreach and Design	\$15/hr	not to exceed 200 hours	\$3,000
Project Research and Documentation	\$15/hr	not to exceed 200 hours	\$3,000
		Subtotal	\$24,000
Materials			
Art Production Materials*	Estimate	(*all materials to be determined by final project designs, budget excess will be covered by sponsor and partner matching funds or in-kind donations)	\$5,000
Community Outreach and Publication Production Costs*	Estimate	(*all materials to be determined by final project designs, budget excess will be covered by sponsor and partner matching funds or in-kind donations)	\$1,000
		Subtotal	\$6,000
		Project Total	\$30,000

2016 Project Timeline

March 2016	Soil Testing	Historical and contextual Research Begins	Outreach to community stakeholders	all necessary agreements negotiated
April 2016	site research and planning begins	1st publication production begins	Artist Selection process concludes	all necessary agreements completed
May 2016	site research concludes, reporting and visualization concludes	1st publication production continues	Artist studio and site work begins	Artist and Environmental Research workshop occurs
June 2016	public outreach begins	1st publication production concludes	Artist studio and site work continues	Project Documentation begins
July 2016	Public site visits and educational programs begin	Historical and contextual Research continues	Artist studio and site work continues	Project Documentation continues
August 2016	Public site visits and educational programs continue	2nd publication production begins	Artist studio and site work continues	Project Documentation continues
September 2016	Public site visits and educational programs continue	2nd publication production continues	Artist studio and site work continues	Project Documentation continues
October 2016	Public gallery exhibition begins	2nd publication production concludes	Artist studio and site work continues	Project Documentation exhibited to public
November 2016	Public gallery exhibition concludes	Project Review Begins	Project Review Continues	Project Review Concludes
December 2016	2017 Planning	2017 Planning	2017 Planning	2017 Planning
January 2017	Presentation at Butte Arts Symposium	National Distribution of Project reporting	Creative Placemaking Grant Deadlines	Organizational Capacity Building Grant Deadline
February 2017	2017 Planning	2017 Planning	2017 Planning	2017 Planning
March 2017	2017 Scope of Work determined by outcome of year 1.			

Project Map:

