



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item (3)
July 20, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Annual Herbicide Application Report 2023	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report.	

STAFF:	Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Project Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl
EXHIBITS:	1. 2022 Herbicide Application Map 2. 2023 Monitoring and Planned Herbicide Treatment Map

SUMMARY

In May 2010, the Open Space Conservancy Trust adopted the Herbicide Use Protocol which prescribes the situations in which herbicide may be used on Trust properties. The protocol is updated periodically to reflect changes to best practices, which are driven by research on treatment effectiveness, environmental impact, and other factors. The protocol requires City staff to report to the Trust annually on the recent use and planned uses of herbicides for the year.

2022 REPORT

In 2022, Mercer Island Natural Resources and King County Noxious Weed Program staff conducted monitoring for knotweed, yellow flag iris, spotted jewelweed, yellow archangel, and shiny geranium in Pioneer Park or Engstrom Open Space. Only yellow archangel populations were found. Smaller populations were removed manually, while larger patches were treated with the following formulation: 2.5% glyphosate and 2% AgriDex adjuvant.

2023 PLAN

In May and June of 2023, the Natural Resources team monitored noxious weed populations in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. The Crew surveyed for yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), and shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*). Yellow archangel was the only of those species found on Trust property.

Yellow archangel was first identified and treated in Pioneer Park in 2010. This initial treatment was largely successful and eradicated approximately 90-95% of the infestation. Regular monitoring of the area has resulted in subsequent treatments to manage remaining infestations. In 2023, lingering patches of yellow archangel were identified along the north edge of the NW quadrant and in the adjacent landowner's properties, as well as in the south edge of the SE quadrant. Both populations will be treated with a formulation of 1.5% triclopyr, 2.5% glyphosate, and 2% adjuvant. All products used will be aquatic approved formulations. The addition of triclopyr to the treatment mixture was approved in the January 2023 update to

the Pioneer Park Herbicide Use Protocol, and should result in more effective management. Adjacent neighbors will be contacted, with the goal of developing a collaborative approach to eradicate the populations.

Professional contractors are conducting the first year of Comprehensive Invasive Weed Removal in 2.9 acres of Pioneer Park SE, 4.0 acres of Pioneer Park NE, and 1.7 acres of Engstrom Open Space. As part of this work, contractors will treat any invasive trees that are found throughout these sites. Trees that may be included in these treatments are: English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), English laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), bird cherry (*Prunus avium*), European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*), English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*), and Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*). Invasive tree treatment would be performed using the EZ-Ject lance, with Copperhead shells containing the herbicide imazapyr, which were inserted into the trunks of invasive trees. Smaller trees were cut and painted with triclopyr.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report.