



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 3
September 23, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Annual Herbicide Application Report	<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:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2020 Herbicide Application Map 2021 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 Herbicide Use Protocol was updated in September 2016 to reflect changes in best management practices for invasive tree treatments. The protocol requires City staff to report to the Trust annually on the recent use and planned uses of herbicides for the year.

2020 REPORT

Due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mercer Island’s Natural Resource team did not employ an in-house crew in 2020. For this reason, some invasive weed monitoring and treatment was put on hold for the year. In 2020, monitoring was limited to only knotweed, garden loosestrife, and yellow flag iris, none of which were found in Pioneer Park or Engstrom Open Space.

Professional contractors conducted invasive tree treatment in select areas of Engstrom Open Space, Pioneer Park SE, and Pioneer Park NW. Trees 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 was performed using the EZ-Ject lance, with Copperhead shells containing the herbicide imazapyr, which were inserted into the trunks of invasive trees.

2021 PLAN

Throughout the spring and summer of 2021, the Mercer Island Natural Resources crew monitored noxious weed populations in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. The crew surveyed for yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*), yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), and spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*).

Yellow archangel was first identified and treated in Pioneer Park in 2010. This initial treatment was very successful and eradicated approximately 90-95% of the infestation. Regular monitoring of the area has resulted in subsequent treatments to manage remaining infestations. In 2021, seven small patches of yellow archangel were identified along the north edge of the NW quadrant and one small patch was identified in the SE quadrant. More than half of these patches were small enough to be dug up by hand, while three infestations will need to be treated with the following formulation: 2.5% percent Roundup Custom and 2% AgriDex adjuvant. This aquatic-approved formulation reduces harm to amphibians.

The patch of knotweed that has been monitored in the SE quadrant since 2013 was surveyed in 2021. No stems of knotweed were found. Monitoring will continue in 2022 to ensure no new knotweed patches take hold in the park. Similarly, a small patch of yellow flag iris that has been monitored for several years was surveyed and no plants were found in 2021. Small spotted jewelweed populations were identified in the SE quadrant, which were removed manually. No herbicide was used on these populations this year.

King County Noxious Weed Program staff monitored for shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) populations on the north edge of the SE quadrant. Two small infestations were treated with a formulation of 1% triclopyr and 0.1% Gallery to manage the patch. Additional monitoring will take place in the fall of 2021.

This month, professional contractors will begin restoration work in the NW and NE quadrants. As part of these contracts, EZ-Ject shells will be used to manage invasive trees.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report.