



2025 Herbicide Report and 2026 Plan

Open Space Conservancy Trust
July 16th, 2026

Open Space Conservancy Trust Herbicide Use Protocol

- Prescribes when herbicide may be used in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.
- Adaptive management framework to ecological restoration.
- Allows for strategic herbicide use when manual removal would cause greater ecological damage.

Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust Herbicide Use Protocol



Prepared for:

The Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust

Prepared by:

Mercer Island Public Works | Parks & Natural Resources
Updated September 2022

Herbicide Use Protocol structure

- Factsheets for each weed
- Purpose, scope, definitions
- Summary of approved uses
- Safety precautions and regulations followed

Himalayan and Evergreen Blackberry Herbicide Use Fact Sheet

What is the problem?

Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus bifrons*, syn. *Rubus armeniacus*) and evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*) are non-native shrubs that can form impenetrable thickets that reach up to 15 feet in height. These thickets prevent native plants from regenerating and can outcompete understory plants that are already established. Blackberry populations can be spread by seed or vegetatively by sprouting from their extensive root systems and forming new roots from stem tips when in contact with soil.



What non-chemical methods of control have been used and/or considered?

Most non-native blackberry plants are cut down and their roots are manually dug out. Manual removal requires multiple years of follow up, as plants can sprout from root fragments remaining in the soil. In large monocultures of blackberry and when blackberry is growing up through native plants, digging roots can cause significant soil and root disturbance, damaging existing native vegetation and creating disturbed soil conditions that invite new weedy species.



Photos courtesy of King County Noxious Weed Control Program

What type of herbicide application is used to control these species?

In areas where blackberry is growing up through native plants, stems are cut and immediately painted with an aquatic formulation of glyphosate or triclopyr. No spray is used. These chemicals have been selected because of their relative low toxicity. Herbicide is applied using a paint brush or dropper, which allows the applicator to treat only the cut stems of targeted plants and minimize damage to native species.

What should park users know to protect their health and safety?

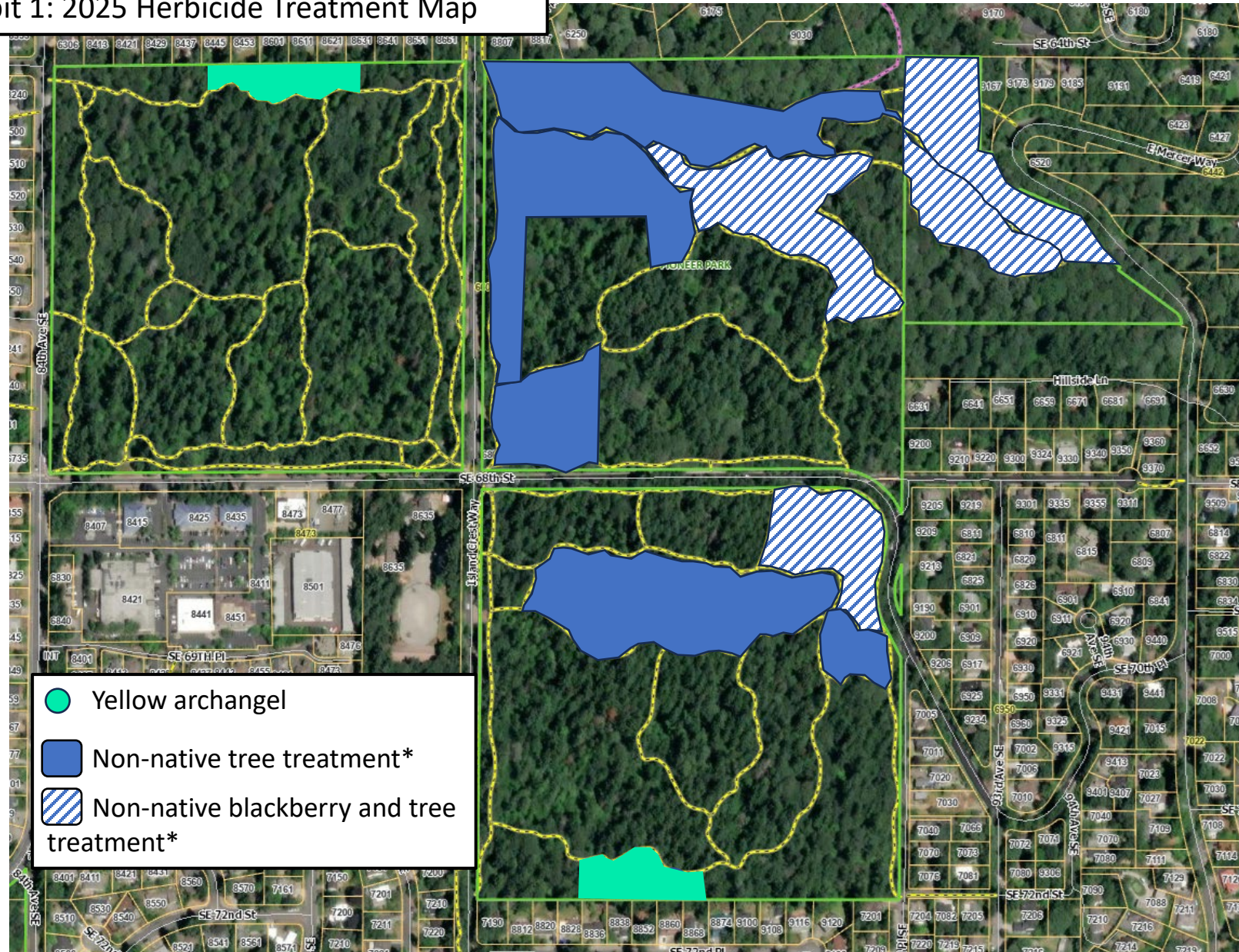
Cut and paint treatment takes place in the summer and early fall. If blackberry plants are treated within 30 ft. of a trail, signs are posted at the trail edge to alert park users. The herbicide is usually taken up by the plant within 24 hours. As a precaution, dogs and people should stay out of treated areas for a week after treatment.

Where can I get more information?

Go to <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx> for more information about noxious weeds. Call 275-7882 or email restoration@mercerisland.gov for questions about this project or any other restoration work in Pioneer Park or Engstrom Open Space.

Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

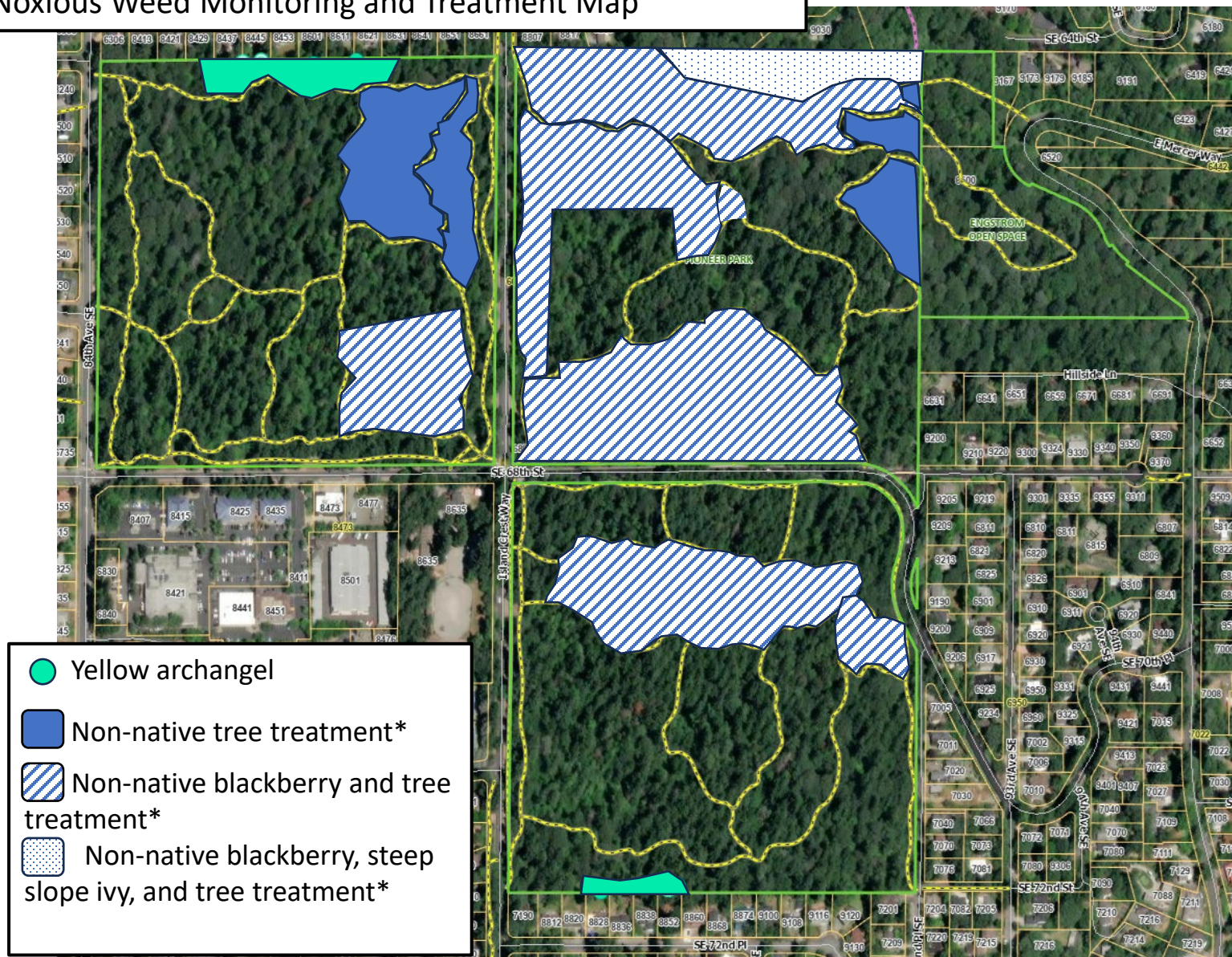
Exhibit 1: 2025 Herbicide Treatment Map



*Highlighted locations received treatment where non-native tree, blackberry, or ivy were found that could not be effectively dug up. These are sites where work was contracted in 2025. This map does not represent a full survey of all non-native trees or blackberry on Trust property.

Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space

Exhibit 2: 2026 Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment Map



*Highlighted locations will be thoroughly surveyed for non-native trees, non-native blackberry growing up through native plants, and ivy on unstable, steep slopes. These are sites where work was contracted in 2026. This map does not represent a full survey of all non-native trees or blackberry on Trust property.



Yellow archangel

- Fast-growing, herbaceous perennial
- Spreads by stem fragments, root fragments, and seeds
- Class B noxious weed in King County-control is recommended, not required
- Hand pull small patches
- Treated in spring and fall using glyphosate + triclopyr + surfactant (spreader-sticker)



Invasive Tree Treatment

- English laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)
 - English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
 - European mountain ash (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
 - English hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
 - wild cherry (*Prunus avium*)
 - Portugal laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*)
 - black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
 - cherry plum (*Prunus cerasifera*)
 - tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- EZ-Ject lance for larger trees
 - Cut and paint for smaller trees



Himalayan and evergreen blackberry

- Quickly forms dense thickets
- Prevents tree regeneration
- Manually dig roots of most plants
- Where growing up through or immediately next to native plant, cut- paint herbicide

