City of Mercer Island

OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD

Thursday · November 17 · 2016
Regular Meeting Agenda

6:00 pm Letterboxing Celebration
6:20 pm Call to Order & Roll Call
6:25 pm Minutes of July 21, 2016 and September 15, 2016 Meetings
6:30 pm Public Appearances
6:35 pm Regular Business

1. Off-leash dog education updates           Paul West (10 min)
2. Dog signage review                        Alaine Sommargren (20 min)
3. Herbicide Protocol amendment             Kim Frappier (20 min)
4. Pioneer Park map update                  Alaine Sommargren (10 min)
5. 2017 Work Plan                           Alaine Sommargren (10 min)
6. Pumpkin Walk                             Alaine Sommargren (5 min)
7. Quadrant Reports                         Trustees (5 min)
8. Next Meeting: January 19, 2017            Chair (5 min)

8:00 pm Adjournment

BOARD MEMBERS
Geraldine Poor, Chair
Rory Westberg, Vice Chair
Robin Christy, Secretary
Jeff Sanderson, Council Liaison
Marie Bender
Thomas Hildebrandt
Craig Olson

STAFF
Paul West, Parks Operations Superintendent
Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager
Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist
Call To Order:
Chair Poor called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call:
Chair Poor, Council Liaison Sanderson, Trustee Christy, Trustee Westberg, Trustee Olson, and Trustee Hildebrandt were present. Trustee Newman was absent.

Staff Present:
Paul West, Park Operations Superintendent
Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager

Minutes:
It was moved by Trustee Westberg, seconded by Trustee Christy, to:

Approve the minutes of May 19, 2016.

Motion passed 6-0.

Public Appearances:
Marie Bender, 7890 81st Place SE
Ms. Bender provided suggestions regarding the off-leash dog public education signs. She presented her comments in written form which were provided to the board. She expressed her support for the public education effort and provided suggestions for sign locations and content. She recommended that ball throwing not be allowed in the park, since dogs running after balls are more likely to be involved in adverse person/dog interactions. She also recommended that the city install a four foot fence to address continued concerns raised by the private homeowners on the north perimeter.

Regular Business:

(I) Annual Election of Officers – Chair Poor
Board Chair: Trustee Westberg nominated Chair Poor to continue with her service as board Chair for one more year. Chair Poor accepted the nomination. Motion passed 6-0.

Vice Chair: Trustee Christy nominated Trustee Westberg. Trustee Westberg accepted the nomination. Motion passed 6-0.

Secretary: Chair Poor nominated Trustee Christy. Trustee Christy accepted the nomination. Motion passed 6-0.

(II) Off-leash dog education – Paul West
Paul West noted that the staff integrated community feedback and OCTS discussion in its work on this issue. The staff have been working on the Tier 1 level effort focused on public education
as directed by the OCTS board at the May meeting. Staff will be developing a brochure to provide clarity on resources already available to dog owners as relates to off leash areas and clarify the existing animal code.

Natural Resources staff developed draft park signs for review at the meeting. Paul presented the examples of two draft signs, one for the NW quadrant and NE quadrant where dogs are supposed to be on leash as all times. The first titled “Share the Trail” – includes direction from the existing animal code, as well as recommended courtesies based on public feedback and restoration professionals doing work in the park such as leashing your dog and keeping dogs on trails.

The third component of Tier 1 recommendations is to promote self-policing among the community. Staff spoke with our information manager about utilizing social media. Staff can provide posts to the moderator of the Pioneer Unleashed Facebook group as a way to share information. Lastly, staff can also collaborate with Community Police Officer Anna Ormsby to give a presentation to the community. Anna Ormsby would appreciate more feedback from Parks staff. Officer Ormsby relayed to our staff that she gives first-time offenders a warning, but does not issue citations very often due to the infrequency with which she encounters a second-time offender. This doesn’t mean people are not reoffending, but the likelihood of encountering someone a second time is rare in her experience.

Trust Discussion:
Trustee Westberg asked whether it would help to ask the Facebook group to form an informal advisory committee. He noted that if only 5 or 6 people give feedback, does that represent the group as a whole who may or may not comment? Chair Poor added that there are a number of people who are not on Facebook. She suggested that there be a city website where people could give feedback instead that might draw from a broader cross section of park users. Paul suggested posting a temporary draft sign with a QR Code that would link to a page where people could give comments. This would be in addition to posting on the Pioneer Unleashed page and might capture a broader cross section of voices.

Chair Poor asked for staff feedback regarding the fencing suggestion raised by Ms. Bender. Paul noted that staff is not in favor of fencing the north perimeter of the park due to the extent (1/4 mile) and expense of the fence to the City. Private property owners have the option to fence their own property. This would be a huge project involving negotiations with about 15 neighbors, some of whom do not want a fence in their backyard.

Chair Poor asked for feedback on the suggested annual review/ staff check-in to the Trust Board on dog leash issues. Vice Chair Westberg clarified that staff would be asked to report on the impact of all users to park natural resources, not just dogs. Paul noted that, to date, staff has not done this in a quantitative way. He noted that this task would be in keeping with the by-laws of the park. There are survey plots in the park that were used for the Forest Health Survey and the 10-year Update to the Open Space Plan which are used to measure ecological conditions over time in the park. Alaine added that these plots may not capture the kind of information the board is looking for in terms of impact to restoration sites by different park users. Re-surveying permanent plots is time-intensive, costly, and is not likely something we could do on an annual basis. A different set of data is likely needed to identify user-types and impacts. Trustee Westberg noted that this was in the idea phase and needs more pursuing.

Trustee feedback on brochure:
All agreed that the brochure is a very good idea and would like it to have a positive tone to it and outline different parks and activities for different needs. Secretary Christy reiterated the importance of defining voice and signal control to the public. All agreed that citing the code is not enough.

Trustee feedback regarding sample trail signs:
Trustee Hildebrandt suggested the following edits: (1) Instead of “Share the Trail,” the title of the sign should be directed at dog owners specifically, (2) signs pertain to all the trails not just the perimeter trail and would like to strike the first sentence of sign, and (3) the bullet stating “keep dogs on trail” is too directive, unrealistic and goes counter to the idea of having your dog off leash.
Secretary Christy stated that the Trust is tasked with protecting the resource and dogs should be discouraged from chasing wildlife. Trustees discussed softening this language and including a statement about protecting native plants and wildlife or “to minimize off trail damage.” Trustee Sanderson suggested adding symbols on the sign and not just words. He is concerned about the bullet point “leash your dog if asked to do so” and believes it welcomes conflict. Trustees discussed the dynamics of park-user interactions related to leashed and unleashed dogs and how to encourage positive dialogue and conduct.

Staff noted that the perimeter trail differs from the interior trails in that it is flat, allowing access to users with disabilities. It is identified as an ‘accessible trail’ in the park master plan. Trustees suggested a change to the language, such as “Prepare to leash your dog if necessary.” Trustees agreed to revisit specific language.

Trustees discussed the draft sign for the NE Quadrant and noted that the text should not lead with the city ordinance number. Trustee Westberg noted that the sign should also include a statement about why dogs are not allowed off-leash in this quadrant – because this is an ecologically sensitive area. Staff agreed this will be integrated into the second draft of the sign.

**Trustee feedback regarding Promoting self-policing with community groups:**
Trustees agreed that they would like to see this move forward, but asked if scheduling meet ups would be a staffing issue. Paul noted that this could be done periodically in conjunction with Officer Ormsby.

There were no additional comments about the final tier one recommendations.

**(III)** **Annual herbicide report – Alaine Sommargren**
The annual report is required via the Pioneer Park Herbicide Protocol adopted in 2010. The staff report was created by Kim Frappier, who could not attend the meeting. The staff report includes an outline of work conducted in 2015, proposed work for 2016, and maps of the populations. Alaine provided background information on yellow archangel and the populations being treated. She also noted the new knotweed population that has been mapped which was treated in 2014. In 2015, the population was already dead, but not certain why. Staff will continue to monitor and treat this population.

Invasive tree treatment: Alaine discussed the change in method used for treating invasive trees such as cherry laurel and English holly. Staff have moved from frilling to EZ-Ject Copperhead shells to treat invasive trees. This is not a method that was approved in the 2010 Pioneer Park Herbicide protocol. She explained that The EZ-Ject lance method has been found to be more effective. This is based on a study that Mercer Island Natural Resources was a part of with King County. Staff will provide a full report on the EZ-Ject lance method at the next meeting in order to request an amendment to the Herbicide Protocol.

Trustee Sanderson asked question about the public’s concerns over glyphosate/ Roundup use. Paul explained that Roundup is the most overused herbicide in our agricultural and cultural lands and the public is right to be concerned about its use in that context. Paul noted, however, that our Natural Resources program uses a very small amount of glyphosate for the land area we manage, that we need to look at the tradeoffs and the impacts that manual/mechanical removal can sometimes have on the environment, given the extent of our invasive species populations. Paul explained that the Natural Resources program only uses aquatic formulations that are deemed safe for amphibians. Staff noted that the program seeks to minimize herbicide use and approaches this conservatively.

**(IV)** **Updated Park Map – Alaine Sommargren**
Alaine presented the new draft park maps developed by Deborah Alexander and noted that kiosk map signs are due for updates. She noted that the City is in the process of updating style standards for all Parks’ signs. The legends and colors have been updated. This is an in-house first draft.
Trustee feedback on new park signs:
Trustee Westberg requested that bullet number two under rules should include “please stay on trails.” Chair Poor raised question about dog waste bags on East Mercer Way and the bench that needs to be added off Mercer Way before the bridge. Paul suggested that the roadways be darkened so they are more recognizable and adding a “you are here” feature. Staff recommended that the seasonal water courses be removed. Trustees and staff discussed overall layout, titles, legend, etc. Trustees suggested including “Engstrom Open Space” in smaller letters under main “Pioneer Park” title.

(V) Juanita Woods Field Trip – Alaine Sommargren
Alaine gave a brief explanation of tree root diseases in Pioneer Park and Staff’s efforts to research and manage these diseases. In 2011, Alaine and Paul consulted with the professionals who developed a strategy at Juanita Woodlands in Kirkland, where root diseases are also prevalent. Contractors performed micro-stumping on this property in an attempt to contain the root rot pockets and keep other trees from being affected. Alaine described the method of micro-stumping. She suggested a field trip to Juanita Woodlands so Trustees can see an example of a forest where this was used and how the forest recovered from this treatment. Alaine will send out a Doodle poll to schedule the field trip.

(VI) Quadrant Reports – Trustees

NW Quadrant – Trustee Westberg
Removed signs regarding a lost dog that has been found. He noted that some dog owners are not removing dog waste. There are no signs on the SW entrance of the park where people park – that it is tucked around the corner and we should consider relocating that sign. The large kiosk on 68th and Island Crest Way has a place for people to post public notices on the back, but lately things have been posting things on the front with City notices. Trustees note that they move these when visiting the park.

NE and SE Quadrants
No report

(VII) Remote meeting attendance - Trustees
Alaine spoke with the City Clerk, Ali Spietz, who explained that if Trustees phone into a OSCT meeting, they are considered part of the quorum. Vice Chair Westberg expressed his support for remote/phone-in participation and noted that the Bylaws should be changed to reflect this. Trustees agreed. Paul suggested we come back next meeting with language for the Bylaws.

(VIII) Next Meeting – Chair
The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016
Trustee Westberg will not be able to attend the September meeting.

Adjournment: 7:36 pm
Call To Order:

Chair Poor called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call:

Chair Poor, Secretary Christy, Trustee Olson, and Trustee Hildebrandt were present. Vice Chair Westberg and Council Liaison Sanderson were absent. Trustee Newman resigned his position on the Board. The Board did not have a quorum for the meeting, so all motions and actions will be postponed until November.

Staff Present:

Paul West, Park Operations Superintendent
Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager
Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist

Minutes:

Due to lack of a quorum, the minutes will be approved at the November meeting.

Public Appearances:

Nancy Yost, 6112 W. Mercer Way
Mrs. Yost requested that the Board reconsider allowing off leash dogs in the NW Quadrant of Pioneer Park. As reported in the email she submitted, her dog was attacked while walking on leash in the NW Quadrant of Pioneer Park. The owner of the other dog thought their dog was friendly and was under voice control. She stated that additional signage would not have kept this incident from occurring, but a leash would have. She explained that other dogs have jumped on her dog Ruby many times before. She said that voice control is open to interpretation and difficult to enforce. Mrs. Yost researched off-leash site specifications and found some developed by an off-leash advocacy group. According to this research, the NW Quadrant would not meet the recommended specifications. She stated that the NW Quadrant should be for all park users and asked the Trust Board to reconsider the leash policy.

Chair Poor asked Mrs. Yost to share the off-leash park specifications she spoke about as well as any written testimony she had to share. Mrs. Yost agreed to send the Trust Board the information.

Sue King Eastman, 8433 SE 62nd Street
Ms. Eastman described her rescue dog and their experience walking through Pioneer Park. She explained that he needs to be on a leash and can be skittish around other dogs. She has had numerous experiences where other dogs have jumped on her dog and the owner was far behind them. She noted that many owners allow their dogs to run far ahead of them and are not in sight or under voice control. Because it was too stressful to walk in the NW Quadrant, she started walking in the NE Quadrant which is on-leash only. However, even in the NE Quadrant, dog owners are allowing their dogs to go off-leash. Ms. Eastman reported that at times when she has asked people to put their dog on-leash, the request is ignored. One time, the dog owner swore at her. Ms. Eastman would like to see additional signage in the NE Quadrant along the Ravine Trail. She stated that it is unfair and stressful that the park isn't truly available to everyone.
Mike Yost, 6112 W. Mercer Way
Mr. Yost requests that the Trust Board reinstate its recommendation to the Mercer Island City Council to establish the NW Quadrant of Pioneer Park be designated an on-leash park area for all dogs. He noted that this decision was originally passed unanimously 7-0 at the January 21, 2016 board meeting. He told the story of his dog Ruby who was attacked by an off-leash black lab on July 24, 2016. Mr. Yost submitted this story in his written testimony. The attack on Ruby required emergency surgery, a long recovery, and expensive hospital bill. Mr. Yost would like to see a change to the dog-leash ordinance that would require leashes in Pioneer Park in the NW Quadrant. This event was avoidable and preventable, if a leash law was in place and obeyed. He stated that the current policy fails to protect the public from off-leash dogs. Mr. Yost referenced the biennial citizen survey of April 2016 which showed a majority of Mercer Island residents in support of making the NW Quadrant an on-leash dog area.

Regular Business:

(I) Off-leash dog education updates – Paul West
Paul reviewed the works in progress by staff to improve education regarding the leash dog code. First, he presented the city-wide brochure. Because this is a city-wide brochure and not a Trust publication, it does not require a vote of the Board, but welcomed their feedback before it goes to press. Second, staff have scheduled two meetings at Pioneer Park Tues, Sept 27th at 6:00 PM and Saturday Oct 1st at 9 am. We are welcoming dog owners to come and discuss how to improve the culture of dog behavior at Pioneer Park. Third, Paul presented the draft temporary sign that has been posted at Pioneer Park regarding dog rules and etiquette, which we’ve been getting feedback on. Staff would like to discuss the content of the sign before we finalize it. This will require action on the part of the Trustees, which we will have to do in November. Paul invited Trust Board members to attend the meetings and outlined the overall agenda and format for the two meetings.

Trust discussion
Trustee Christy noted the challenge of interpreting and enforcing voice control. She asked how many voice and signal control parks there are in the City. Paul explained that every park in the City except for the NE Quadrant of Pioneer Park, Dean’s Children’s Park, and Luther Burbank except for the fenced off-leash areas. He noted that there are spaces within other parks such as sport courts or ball fields where dogs cannot be off leash when a game is underway. Otherwise, the ordinance is widespread in its allowance of voice control.

Regarding the signs, Paul requested Board feedback on the temporary signs in the NW Quadrant. Chair Poor asked about the signs drafted for the NE Quadrant that were already discussed. Alaine noted that the signs were approved pending additional language referencing restoration and erosion control. The second draft of the NE sign will be reviewed in November.

(II) Herbicide Protocol Amendment – Kim Frappier
Kim explained that staff propose to amend the herbicide protocol to shift from frilling to EZ-Ject lance to treat invasive trees. Because this issue requires board action, the Trustees decided to hold off the presentation and discussion until the November meeting.

(III) Juanita Woodlands Field Trip Follow-up – Alaine Sommargren
Alaine asked Trustees if they had any follow-up questions.

(IV) Quadrant Reports – Trustees
SE Quadrant: Trustee Hildebrandt noted that there is a snag that fell across the Warbler Trail which needs to be removed. He observed that staff regraded the Fox Trail which looks good.

(V) Additional Updates

Halloween family event
Alaine noted there is a family community event scheduled for October 26th from 6-8 PM in the NW Quadrant. There will be carved pumpkins and luminaria on the West section of the Perimeter
Trail. The email and contact for the event are included in the meeting agenda packet.

Empty Board Seat
Chair Poor asked about the process for filling the empty seat on the Trust Board. Paul said the next step is that the City Clerk will open recruitment and the Mayor will select the applicant.

(VI) Next Meeting – Chair
The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2016

Adjournment: 6:31 pm

_______________________________
Geraldine Poor, Chair

Attest:

_______________________________
Kim Frappier, Scribe
BACKGROUND

At its January 2016 meeting, the Open Space Conservancy Trust board voted 7-0 to recommend to City Council that the northwest quadrant of Pioneer Park be added to the sites listed where dogs are required to be leashed, per MICC 7.04.110 (A)(7). Subsequently, Parks and Recreation staff received numerous public comments on the proposed action. At its May 2016 meeting, the Trust held a public forum to allow participants to propose constructive alternatives to the leashing recommendation. Park neighbors on SE 63rd St were mailed invitations to attend the meeting. Following public appearances, the Trust discussed the staff report, which provided an assessment of the issues and a summary of suggestions received to date. Staff was asked to provide details about how user education could be implemented, including new signage. At the July 2016 meeting, staff presented draft signage for the NW and NE quadrants regarding voice/signal control standards, and the on-leash requirement, respectively. The Trust discussed this signage and made recommendations for edits.

DISCUSSION

NW QUADRANT: Following the July 2016 meeting, staff made requested edits to the voice/signal control signage and posted seven copies of the draft sign in the NW quadrant in August 2016. The signs provided a QR code that linked to an online comment form (see submitted comments in Exhibit). The most recent version of the sign (without the QR code) follows:
NE QUADRANT: Staff also made the Trustees’ requested edits to the on-leash sign that is proposed for all trail entrances in the NW quadrant.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discuss proposed signage. Authorize sign fabrication and installation.
Paul,  

I think the proposed signage will ensure that everyone understand the rules. Providing specific guidance gives everyone an understanding of how voice and signal control can and should be achieved. I did not see any illustration of where the new signage would be posted. From walking in the park at all times of the day, it seems that the three entrances on 84th are used by those of us to drive to the park, while the two entrances on Island Crest are used by people walking over from adjoining neighborhoods. It would be most effective to have signs with closely associated dispensers of waste bags at each of these locations and to designate these locations on the City’s various maps of the park (same for the other quadrants of Pioneer Park). I would be in favor of posting signs and dispensers at the intersections of the entrance path and the perimeter trail as the signs would be seen repeatedly by dog walkers rather than only once when they enter the park. It would make it much easier for a dog walker to grab a waste bag if they didn’t have to walk out to the street entrance.

Thanks to you and the other Parks personnel who have spent so much time working with the community. I hope the entire community will respond positively and make it a goal to share all city parks respectfully.

Best regards,

Marie

Cc: Trustees and Council members of the City Council Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee
Paul West

From: City of Mercer Island <tom.ocallahan@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 04, 2016 1:21 PM
To: Alaine Sommargren; Paul West
Subject: Pioneer Park Signage Submitted

*** FORM FIELD DATA***
Name: Tom O'Callahan
Email: tom.ocallahan@outlook.com
Phone:
Comments: The signage should provide a map of the perimeter trail. The signage location is where dogs enter that park and this is good. Before 9:00 AM is one of the busiest times for dog visits but I haven't been to the park that time since the signage was posted. The dog owners appear to be watching their dogs more carefully and respecting walkers and runners. The signage posting has been too recent to determine the impacts.
Response: yes

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName:
SubscriberEmail:
SessionID: 551620771
RemoteAddress: 76.104.148.102
RemoteHost: 76.104.148.102
RemoteUser:
The sign should say: ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEASH IN THIS PARK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. And make that permanent. Voice control is an unworkably, impractical and failed policy, obviously. Otherwise there wouldn't be injuries to other park users and to on-leash dogs; dog fights; dogs running into people; dogs jumping over fences; dogs trespassing onto neighboring properties; dogs chasing and harassing wildlife; dogs chasing joggers and scaring kids; dogs barking for long periods of time; dogs barking at non-moving balls; owners yelling their dogs names over and over and over; and dogs causing such anxiety and worry and problem and complaints. A policy allowing off leash dogs is like allowing bullies and rowdies to take over the school yard. It scares people out of the park. What is it going to take to end this intentional obliviousness to the dangers and anxiety, worry and concern about off leash dogs in a popular multi-use park? How many more years of people complaining? How many more people being scared out of using the park? How many more injuries? There are more people in the park without dogs than with them. There are more people who want to use the park but have been scared out of it by the off leash dogs. There are more dogs on leash than off. It's the off leash dogs that are causing the problems, not the on-leash ones (except for on-leash owners who do not pick up their dog doo); and not the neighbors or other parks users. All parks should be safe and inviting (and clear of dog doo)... not full of problems and worry and anxiety and injuries because of off leash dogs. If the city council is so inept at appreciating the obvious, perhaps the sign should say: NO OFF LEASH DOG ALLOWED WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE CITY OF MERCER ISLAND FOR THE PARTICULAR DOG. Otherwise, you are just putting the population and pets at risk with your permission. VOICE CONTROL DOES NOT WORK. IT ALLOWS EACH OWNER TO MAKE A BIASED ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINATION ON WHAT IS MORE TROUBLE ---- TO TRAIN THEIR DOG TO 100% RELIABILITY BEFORE COMING TO THE PARK; OR TO DECIDE WHAT LESSER LEVEL OF RELIABILITY THEY INDIVIDUALLY CHOOSE TO PLACE EVERY OTHER PARK USER AND PET AT RISK WITH THE CITY'S BLESSING.

Response: yes
Thank you for these helpful signs. We have been approached many, many times from off leash dogs that are clearly NOT under the control of the owners! Their only response after the dog jumps on or towards us is "don't you like dogs?" When we say no, they are insulted. Thank you for the signs! We really appreciate them! We walk there at least 3-4 times per week and would be there more often but being confronted with dogs offleash gets old. Thank you.

Response: no
*** FORM FIELD DATA ***
Name: Kim Fackrell
Email: kfackrell1@gmail.com
Phone: 4256478960
Comments: Thank you for posting clarifying signs for everyone. Now if we could just have more enforcement of the rules so dog owners could be held accountable. This is certainly a step in the right direction. Can we have some of these signs placed in other parks as well? Like Mercerdale?
Response: yes

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName: 
SubscriberEmail: 
SessionID: 69036471
RemoteAddress: 71.231.123.242
RemoteHost: 71.231.123.242
RemoteUser:
From: City of Mercer Island
To: Alaine Sommargren; Paul West
Subject: Pioneer Park Signage Submitted
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2016 12:35:45 PM

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***
Name: Ed Pollan
Email: Epollan955@aol.com
Phone:
Comments: I like the sign. It covers everything I think it should.
Response: no

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName: 
SubscriberEmail: 
SessionID: 599455921
RemoteAddress: 107.77.97.56
RemoteHost: 107.77.97.56
RemoteUser: 
From: City of Mercer Island
To: Alaine Sommargren; Paul West
Subject: Pioneer Park Signage Submitted
Date: Monday, August 08, 2016 9:46:17 AM

*** FORM FIELD DATA ***
Name: Kathy Teng
Email: Knbteng@gmail.com
Phone:
Comments: Thank you for the signage! I have a dog that is uncomfortable with other dogs approaching her face due to medical issues. Dog owners should ask if it is ok if their dog can say "hello". I applaud the city for educating park users. Thank you for the added signage and the positive personal education Anna and others are doing to make our parks usable for all!
Response: yes

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName:
SubscriberEmail:
SessionID: 69034847
RemoteAddress: 166.137.246.62
RemoteHost: 166.137.246.62
RemoteUser:
Paul West

From: City of Mercer Island <Nyost7@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 05, 2016 6:46 PM
To: Alaine Sommargren; Paul West
Subject: Pioneer Park Signage Submitted

*** FORM FIELD DATA***
Name: Nancy Yost
Email: Nyost7@msn.com
Phone: 2067554485
Comments: I think the sign is too ambiguous. The introduction on the sign that mentions the perimeter trail makes it sound like these rules don't apply to the rest of the park. The wording "leash your dog if necessary" is unclear. What is "necessary"? Who gets to decide? The dog owner? Someone walking by? Adjoining property owners? Also, "encourage your dog to stay on the trail" makes no sense. Is it allowed off trail or not? If you can't keep it on the trail then it isn't under control.
Response: yes

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName:
SubscriberEmail:
SessionID: 817044594
RemoteAddress: 174.21.147.125
RemoteHost: 174.21.147.125
RemoteUser:
INTRODUCTION

In May 2010, the Open Space Conservancy Trust adopted the Herbicide Use Protocol which prescribes the situations in which herbicide may be used in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. The protocol requires that Trust board members review, approve, or reject any new uses of herbicides on Trust properties. The best practices for invasive plant management continue to evolve as new science becomes available. The City’s Natural Resources staff follow an adaptive management framework to ecological restoration, assessing and adopting the methods proven to be most effective and efficient to achieve management goals. To this end, staff propose an amendment to the protocol for invasive tree treatment using a stem injection method that is more effective and efficient, decreases the exposure to herbicide applicators, minimizes risk to park users and avoids off-target effects.

FRILLING VERSUS STEM INJECTION

The current protocol for invasive trees calls for a frilling treatment where cuts or “frills” are made into the bark at the base of each tree and a 50-100% aquatic formulation of glyphosate is squirted into the cut. The herbicide is translocated through the foliage, trunk and roots. This treatment is generally effective at injuring and killing invasive trees, but usually requires retreatment. English holly and other invasive trees such as cherry and Portuguese laurel have a propensity to develop stump- or stem-sprouts within the first year or two after treatment when cut. The same holds true for cut stump treatments.

Through stem injection, dried herbicide contained in bullet-like shells are injected into a tree using spring-loaded lance. The herbicide enters the bark and cambium layer of
the tree where the chemical is then translocated into the foliage, trunk, and roots. No herbicide mixing is required, significantly minimizing exposure risk to applicators. Stem injection also has no off-target effects on desirable native vegetation. Regrowth, such as stump- or stem-sprouts, is rare.

In 2013, EarthCorps Science, in collaboration with King County, the City of Mercer Island and other partners, published a study that examined the effectiveness of three treatments for English holly: frilling, cut stump, and stem injection. Additional variables included the types of herbicide most effective for control, the season in which chemical control is most effective, and the most time efficient treatment. The most effective and time-efficient method of killing invasive trees in the study was stem injection with imazapyr. This combination proved effective in both fall and late-spring applications.

This methodology has become the restoration industry standard in the Pacific Northwest. The Mercer Island Open Space Vegetation Management program has adopted this method of treating invasive trees on all non-Trust park properties over the last several years, and recommends that it be formally adopted for the Pioneer Park Herbicide Use Protocol.

**IMAZAPYR VERSUS GLYPHOSATE**

Imazapyr is a broad-spectrum, non-selective systemic herbicide that controls terrestrial annual and perennial grasses and broadleaved herbs, woody species, and riparian and emergent aquatic species. It is relatively slow acting and does not readily break down in the plant, making it particularly effective at killing large woody species. Imazapyr can be applied as a foliar spray or directly to a cut stump or frill.

Imazapyr has a very low toxicity to mammals and birds, a low toxicity to fish and invertebrates, and is classified as a non-carcinogenic compound by the US EPA. Additionally, by applying imazapyr via stem injection, potential wildlife exposure to the active chemical is very unlikely. Imazapyr is known to remain soil active for one to five months, particularly when incorrectly over-applied. Over-application can cause dieback of surrounding vegetation. However, this is primarily an issue during foliar spray applications. Stem injection provides a higher level of precision that avoids this issue. The Copperhead™ shells used for stem injection contain 2.6 oz of imazapyr. The number of shells needed correlates to the diameter of the trunk. Herbicide contained in the shell is dried into a crystallized rock-like form. Herbicide is broken down by sap flow; uptake time varies depending on the season and weather conditions under which it is administered.

Glyphosate is also a broad-spectrum, non-selective systemic herbicide that kills or suppresses many grasses, forbs, vines, shrubs, and trees. Glyphosate binds to soil particles, a property which prevents it from leaching and being taken-up from the soil by non-target plants. When glyphosate is used in restoration applications on Trust properties, it is in an aquatic formulation, which has a very low toxicity to birds, mammals, amphibians and fish. The current herbicide protocol calls for a 50-100% glyphosate application to fresh frill cuts. This treatment, though somewhat effective, poses a higher
risk of exposure to the applicator, since the applicator must mix, transport and apply a concentrated liquid form of the herbicide.

Although glyphosate shells are available for use in the EZ-Ject lance, staff does not recommend their use. In the EarthCorps study, nearly all trees injected with imazapyr shells in the spring or fall were determined to be dead at the time of monitoring, versus only 9% of trees injected with glyphosate shells. Stump sprouts were also significantly higher for cut stump and frilling treatments with glyphosate.

COPPERHEAD™ SHELLS

The shell casings used in the EZ-Ject system are made of cartridge brass which is an alloy containing about 70% copper, 30% zinc and trace amounts of lead or iron (.07% and .05% respectively) ([https://alcobrametals.com/guides/brass#260](https://alcobrametals.com/guides/brass#260)). Copper alloys are widely used in many applications because of their corrosion resistance. To date, there have been no studies on the environmental impacts of Copperhead™ shells.

IMPLICATIONS

Because stem injection with Imazapyr is more effective at killing trees, fewer applications are required for successful control of invasive trees, and less herbicide is ultimately introduced into a site. The EZ-Ject lance directs herbicide shells directly into the trunk without the need for cuts, frills or herbicide mixing, which decreases applicator risk of injury or exposure.

Because herbicide is injected into the trunk, the treatment can be performed rain or shine and takes significantly less time to administer. The shells also attract less attention than a cut trunk, which is stained blue by the dye added to the herbicide. Use of the EZ-Ject lance could therefore decrease potential encounters or exposure by curious park-users.

In cases where the EZ-Ject cannot be used (i.e. small diameter re-sprouts), the approved glyphosate formulation would be administered with the cut-stem treatment.

Draft revisions to the herbicide protocol are found in Exhibit 1. In addition to changes to the invasive tree protocol, herbicides are referenced by their active ingredient instead of their trade names, since the Natural Resources program uses various brands of the same product.
Mercer Island
Open Space Conservancy Trust
Herbicide Use Protocol

Prepared for:
The Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust

Prepared by:
Mercer Island Parks and Recreation

May 2010, revised September 2016
**Introduction**

Pioneer Park contains non-native invasive plant species that are crowding out native species and preventing native tree regeneration, a condition that was documented in the 2008 Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey. This study showed that large populations of regenerating invasive trees (particularly English holly and cherry laurel) cover the forest floor while English ivy, an invasive vine, was found growing on 20% of the native canopy trees. In addition, there are very few naturally regenerating conifer trees, suggesting that without active management, the conifer-dominated canopy may be lost.

The ordinance that established the Open Space Conservancy Trust charges the trust’s board with “protecting, maintaining and preserving” its properties. The Trust’s document *Policies for Protecting, Maintaining and Preserving Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust Properties* states: “6. Exotic Species...c) Eradication methods must cause minimal damage to surrounding native species and ecological communities” (p. 8). From the results of restoration work over the past 15 years, the Trust recognizes that in some instances the disturbance resulting from manual removal techniques has more impact on the ecology of the forest than does a low-toxicity herbicide. This protocol identifies instances where this is most likely the case. It guides City of Mercer Island staff in application procedures which have been approved by the Open Space Conservancy Trust. It requires feedback to the Trust so that herbicide use can be reviewed annually and adjusted in consultation with City staff. The Trust has the authority to add new uses or discontinue existing uses of herbicide on its properties.

This document contains Herbicide Use Fact Sheets. Each fact sheet represents a Trust-approved use of herbicide. The fact sheets are to be used as an educational tool for trustees, City staff, City Council and the public. Fact sheets will be added and removed to this document as the Trust approves or disapproves particular herbicide uses. The associated protocol follows these fact sheets and explains in detail how the application will be carried out. This is for the benefit of all involved, and will be particularly useful to Parks and Recreation staff in contracted work in the future.
Invasive Trees
Herbicide Use Fact Sheet

What is the problem?
Invasive trees in Pioneer Park suppress the growth of native plants by creating dense shade and competing for space, nutrients and water. Holly and laurel have been spreading prolifically throughout Pioneer Park, creating “deserts” underneath larger trees.

Invasive trees found in Pioneer Park:
- 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*)

What non-chemical methods of control have been used and/or considered?
Small trees are cut down and dug out. Larger trees have been cut down. However, they re-sprout from their bases and continue to live. Due to their extensive root systems, larger trees are very difficult to manually remove in their entirety. Such removal also causes damage to surrounding native vegetation and creates large piles of brush.

What type of herbicide application is used to control these species?
Invasive trees are most effectively killed by injecting small shells filled with dry imazapyr using the EZ-Ject lance. No spray is used. The herbicide is taken up and circulated throughout the tree, affecting the entire plant.

Invasive trees are most effectively killed by squirting small amounts of RoundUp® directly into cuts or 'frills' in the bark. No spray is used. The herbicide is taken up and circulated throughout the tree, affecting the entire plant.

What should park users know to protect their health and safety?
Invasive tree herbicide treatment takes place during the spring and autumn. Because herbicide is directly injected into the trunks of the trees, there is little chance of park users coming into contact with the chemical. Park users should avoid touching copper-colored shells injected into the base of invasive trees. Signs are posted at the main kiosk during application periods to alert park users. Invasive tree herbicide treatment takes place during the months of April, May and June. Because herbicide is applied directly to the trunks of the trees, there is little chance of park users coming into contact with the chemical. Park users should avoid touching trees that have been...
'frilled' or have blue staining on their trunks. Signs are posted at the main kiosk during application periods to alert park users.

Where can I get more information?

Go to http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx for more information about noxious weeds. Call 275-7833 or email paul.west@mercergov.org or alaine.sommargren@mercergov.org for questions about this project or any other restoration work in Pioneer Park.
English Ivy
Herbicide Use Fact Sheet

What is the problem?
English ivy (Hedera helix, H. hibernica) is an aggressively spreading invasive plant. Its growth in the understory of Pioneer Park crowds out the growth of native herbs, shrubs and trees. English ivy also grows vertically into trees, creating heavy 'sails' that increase the risk of treefall in wind storms.

What non-chemical methods of control have been used and/or considered?
English ivy growing on the ground has been removed by hand pulling. Because this plant can re-grow from small pieces of roots or stems, roots must be carefully grubbed from the soil. Complete removal of English ivy usually takes many years. Manual removal is used in many areas of the park where native plant cover is still healthy. However, in areas where English ivy is the dominant plant, removing it by hand is very labor intensive and often causes trampling damage to the sensitive native plants in the area, such as trillium and vanilla leaf. English ivy that grows into trees is cut at the base of the tree – no herbicide is used in these situations.

What type of herbicide application is used to control this species?
Only areas that are covered with more than 50% English ivy are treated with herbicide. Aquamaster® (a glyphosate formulation) and AgriDex® (a surfactant) are used instead of Roundup®. These chemicals have been selected because of their low toxicity. They are not toxic to frogs, salamanders and other amphibians. In early spring, the leaves are sprayed with a low concentration mixture just to the point of wetness. Herbicide is applied using a backpack sprayer, which allows the applicator to focus the spray onto targeted plants and minimize damage to native species.

What should park users know to protect their health and safety?
Treatments take place in February, March and April. Areas of English ivy within 20 ft of trails are not sprayed. If English ivy is treated within 30 ft of a trail, signs are posted 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 275-7827 or email alaine.sommargren@mercergov.org paul.west@mercergov.org for questions about this project or any other restoration work in Pioneer Park.
Knotweed
Herbicide Use Fact Sheet

What is the problem?
Knotweed (Polygonum spp.) is an invasive perennial that forms large thickets. The dense shade created by the large leaves and the dense underground root system block the growth of native species. Populations are able to grow rapidly, and are difficult to control.

Several types of knotweed are present on Mercer Island – in parks, on private land, and along roadways. Although knotweed has not yet been found in Pioneer Park, it is likely that seed or fragments will eventually be moved there from nearby populations. Control of knotweed should begin as soon as a population is found.

What non-chemical methods of control have been used and/or considered?
On other sites, knotweed has been controlled by digging out the roots. However, because knotweed regrows from very small root fragments, manual removal usually removes only a portion of the plant. The plant regrows prolifically within a year.

What type of herbicide application is used to control this species?
The first treatment for knotweed is a stem injection of small amounts of concentrated Aquamaster® aquatic approved glyphosate. This method forces the herbicide directly into each bamboo-like cane, and eliminates herbicide drift to desirable plants. If knotweed regrows after the injection treatment, the regrowing leaves are sprayed during the following summer with a low concentration mixture of Aquamaster® (a glyphosate formulation) and AgriDex® (a surfactant), aquatic glyphosate and an aquatic surfactant, just to the point of wetness. These chemicals have been selected because of their low toxicity. They are not toxic to frogs, salamanders and other amphibians.

What should park users know to protect their health and safety?
Knotweed is treated in June, July and August. Clumps of knotweed within 20 ft of trails will only be treated using the injection method. If knotweed is treated within 30 ft of a trail, signs are posted 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 275-7843/275-7879 or
email alaine.sommargren@mercergov.orgpaul.west@mercergov.org for questions about this project or any other restoration work in Pioneer Park.
Invasive Herbaceous Plants
Herbicide Use Fact Sheet

What is the problem?
Several species of invasive herbaceous plants are beginning to grow in Pioneer Park. Although their populations are currently small, control will become very difficult and costly if they are allowed to spread. These species grow aggressively and compete with native plants for light and water, and eventually blanket entire areas!

Invasive herbaceous species currently found in Pioneer Park:
- yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*)
- reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
- bindweed (*Calystegia sepium, Convolvulus arvensis*)

What non-chemical methods of control have been used and/or considered?
The tops of these plants can be manually removed. However, because of their deep and extensive root systems, the plants begin to grow again very quickly. Excavating their root systems is extremely disruptive to surrounding vegetation, and rarely results in adequate control of the plant. Small areas can be smothered by cardboard or plastic. This also kills any native plants in the area.

What type of herbicide application is used to control these species?
In spring or summer, the leaves are sprayed with a low concentration mixture of Aquamaster® (a glyphosate formulation) and AgriDex® (a surfactant) aquatic glyphosate and an aquatic surfactant, just to the point of wetness. These chemicals have been selected because of their low toxicity. They are not toxic to frogs, salamanders and other amphibians. Herbicide is applied using a backpack sprayer, which allows the applicator to focus the spray onto targeted plants and minimize damage to native species.

What should park users know to protect their health and safety?
Timing of treatment varies with the target plant, but is generally in early to mid summer. Areas with invasive herbaceous plants within 20 ft of trails are not sprayed. If they are treated within 30 ft of a trail, signs are posted 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?
Photos courtesy of King County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Go to [http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds.aspx) for more information about noxious weeds. Call 275-7833 or 275-7879, or email alaine.sommargren@mercergov.org, paul.west@mercergov.org for questions about this project or any other restoration work in Pioneer Park.
Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust  
Herbicide Use Protocol

1. Purpose
This protocol is intended to guide City of Mercer Island (City) staff in application procedures approved by the Open Space Conservancy Trust (Trust) for managing vegetation in Pioneer Park. Pioneer Park contains non-native invasive plant species that are crowding out native species and preventing native tree regeneration. The Trust desires to use the lowest impact approach to managing invasive plants. The Trust recognizes that in some instances the disturbance resulting from manual removal techniques has more impact on the ecology of the forest than does a low-toxicity herbicide.

2. Scope
This application protocol provides guidelines for City staff and City-hired contractors in the methods and restrictions of herbicide application. It also provides guidelines for when City staff must inform and/or request approval from the Trust board for new and existing herbicide uses.

3. Applicable Regulations and Standards
All herbicide applications must conform to Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) pesticide regulations. The intent of this protocol is to meet or exceed the criteria set by Salmon-Safe Certification Standards for Parks and Natural Areas.

4. Definitions
   Application – means the use of the product as a fumigant, direct surface spray, treatment, drench, injection, incorporation, side-dressing, pre-emergent, furrowed spread, or broadcast agent.
   Commercial Applicator - A WSDA licensed pesticide applicator owning or managing a business of applying pesticides to the land or property of another. This land can either be publicly or privately owned.
   Commercial Operator - A WSDA licensed pesticide applicator employed by a WSDA-licensed Commercial Applicator to apply pesticides to the land or property of another.
   Direct On-site Supervision – A Public Operator (or Commercial Operator, if services contracted) is physically present and available, on-site.
   Herbicide – A common pesticide focused on killing weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted.
**Manufacturer’s Label** – The main source of information on how to use the product correctly, safely, and legally. The main sections of a label are: common name and brand name, active ingredient, EPA registration number, signal words, first aid, directions for use, and storage/disposal.

**Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** – An information sheet provided by a chemical manufacturer describing chemical qualities, hazards, safety precautions, and emergency procedures to be followed in case of a spill, fire, or other emergency.

**New Use** – The use of an herbicide on a target species not identified in Section 7 (below), or the use of a herbicide formulation that is not identified in Section 7.

**Pesticide** – Defined by the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as “…any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any insects, rodents, nematodes, fungi, weeds, or any other forms of life declared to be pests, and any substance or mixture of substances intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant.

**Public Operator** – A WSDA licensed pesticide applicator who, while acting as an employee of a governmental agency, applies restricted use pesticides by any means or any pesticide by power equipment on public or private property.

**Restricted Use Pesticide** - Any pesticide that is classified as restricted use by the Environmental Protection Agency or the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) at the time of registration. All pesticides applied to water are designated as state restricted use by WSDA.

**Storm Event** – A weather event that produces more than 0.25 inch of precipitation.
5. Responsibilities

A. Open Space Conservancy Trust shall:
   1. Review and approve or reject any new uses of herbicides in its properties.
   2. Receive reports each year on what herbicides have been applied to specific plant species.
   3. Receive reports of issues, problems or emergencies related to the use of herbicides on Trust properties at the meeting that follows the date of the incident and as new information is available on such incidents.

B. Parks Natural Resources Staff shall:
   1. Implement this protocol on Trust properties.
   2. Propose updates to the protocol as new research or site conditions warrant.
   3. Propose new uses of herbicides as new research or site conditions warrant.
   4. Report to the Trust each year on areas where herbicides have been applied.
   5. Report to the Trust each year on areas where herbicides are expected to be applied.
   6. Include protocol requirements in contracts that include or may include herbicide application on Trust properties.
   7. Communicate protocol specifications to contractors and field staff verbally before an application begins.
   8. Provide on-site quality control for applications by City staff and contractors.

C. Pesticide applicators shall:
   1. Be certified as, or under the supervision of, a Public Operator or Commercial Operator and be properly trained to work with herbicides.
   2. Follow manufacturer’s label instructions and this protocol. When such instruction is in conflict with this protocol, the label instructions will be followed.
   3. Ensure that only approved herbicides are applied on Trust properties.
   4. Follow the policies and procedures established in this application protocol.
   5. Report any unsafe work practices to their respective supervisors.
6. Environmental Conditions

Environmental conditions (weather and site conditions) required for application of herbicides are dependent upon label and WSDA pesticide regulation requirements. Conditions are determined by visually observing the area and by collecting information from recognized weather forecasting organizations. Minimum environmental requirements: herbicides will not be applied on a site experiencing winds of greater than 10 mph or forecasted to receive a storm event within 12 hours, or label restrictions, whichever is more restrictive.

7. Application Specifications

A. Invasive Trees

Species: 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) and tree-of-heaven (Ailanthus altissima)

Primary Method of application: EZ-Ject lance. Herbicide injected into the truck of the tree. Frill treatment, a single line of overlapping, downward ax cuts around the trunk of a tree. Herbicide is applied to the cuts immediately.

Time of year: April 1 – July 1
Year-round, but most effective in the spring and fall: April 1 – June 1; September 1–November 1

Product: Roundup Pro® or equivalent (50-100% concentration) Imazapyr shells (EZ-Ject Copperhead Herbicide Shells)

Suggested application rate: One shell for trees with dbh less than 2 inches; then one shell every four inches around the trunk of the tree. 1 mL per 2-3 inches of trunk diameter at breast height

Signage/trail buffer: No signs will be posted near areas with invasive tree treatment. Information about invasive tree herbicide treatments will be posted at kiosk and map signs during April-Julytreatment periods.

Area limits: Per label limits.

Secondary method of application for resprouts: Cut-stem
Method of application: Cut through stem completely with pruners, no more than 6” above grade or attachment to stump/trunk. Apply herbicide within 1 hour of fresh cut.

Time of year: April 1 – July 1

Product: Aquatic approved glyphosate or equivalent (50-100% concentration)
**Signage/trail buffer:** No signs will be posted near areas with invasive tree treatment. Information about invasive tree herbicide treatments will be posted at kiosk and map signs during treatment periods.

**Area limits:** Per label limits.

### B. English ivy

- **Species:** English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- **Method of application:** Backpack sprayer, low pressure
- **Time of year:** Feb 1 – May 1
- **Product:** Aquamaster® Aquatic glyphosate formulation (maximum 3% concentration) with AgriDex® aquatic surfactant (maximum 5% concentration)

**Suggested application rate:** Spray-to-wet. Do not spray to run-off.

**Signage/trail buffer:** Areas within 20 ft. of maintained trails will not be treated. Anywhere that treatment comes within 30 ft of a trail, laminated notification signs will be posted every 50 ft. Notification signage will be posted at nearest trail entrance.

**Area limits:**
1. Only areas with greater than 50% ivy cover on the ground will be treated.
2. Total herbicide application for English ivy is limited to 5 acres/year.

### C. Knotweed

- **Species:** Knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.)
- **Method of application:** Injection tool, backpack sprayer (for regrowth only)
- **Time of year:** June 1 – September 1
- **Product:**
  - **Stem injection:** Aquamaster® Aquatic glyphosate (100% concentration)
  - **Foliar spray:** Aquatic glyphosate Aquamaster® (82% concentration), with an aquatic AgriDex® surfactant (maximum 52% concentration)

**Suggested application rate:**
- **Stem injection:** 5 mL/stem
- **Foliar spray:** Spray-to-wet. Do not spray to run-off.

**Signage/trail buffer:** Areas within 20 ft. of maintained trails will only be treated using injection tool. Anywhere that treatment comes within 30 ft of a trail, laminated notification signs will be posted every 50 ft. Notification signage will be posted at nearest trail entrance.

**Area limits:** Per label limits.
D. **Targeted species**

Species: Yellow archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), hedge false bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*)

Method of application: Backpack sprayer, low pressure

Time of year: April 1 – August 1

Product: *Aquamaster*® *Aquatic glyphosate* (maximum 3% concentration) with *an aquatic AgriDex*® *surfactant* (maximum 5% concentration)

Suggested application rate: Spray-to-wet. Do not spray to run-off.

Signage/trail offset: Areas within 20 ft. of maintained trails will not be treated. Anywhere that treatment comes within 30 ft of a trail, laminated notification signs will be posted every 50 ft. Notification signage will be posted at nearest trail entrance.

Area limits:
1. Treatment for populations larger than 5000 sq. ft. will be presented to the Trust for approval before herbicide application.

8. **Pollution Prevention and Spill Control**

A. Storage, mixing and disposal of all chemicals shall not occur on Trust properties to minimize spill risk.

B. Irrigation canals, open trenches, surface waters, wetlands, designated 303(d) waterbodies, and groundwater sources should be noted and application shall be made to prevent contamination of these areas.

C. In the event that herbicides are inadvertently spilled, the following steps are to be taken:

1. Control the flow of the material being spilled.
2. Prevent contamination of water sources by using control measures such as storm drain inlet protection, absorbent materials, sandbags, or trenching.
3. Isolate the area, keeping people at least 30 ft away.
4. If the spill occurred on an impermeable surface, use absorbent materials to soak up spilled materials. Dispose of absorbent materials according to WA state regulations.
5. If the spill occurred on soil, remove the top three inches of soil, and cover the area with at least 2 inches of lime. Cover the lime with a layer of topsoil. Dispose of the contaminated soil according to WA state regulations.
7. For large spills, contact the Washington Emergency Management Division at (800) 258-5990.
9. **Aquatic Herbicide Application**

For control of invasive species in open water, storm drainage system, and flood control channel areas, only those materials specifically designed and registered for direct water application may be used. Directions on the label must be followed as well as evaluating the application for the potential to harm the environment.

10. **Training and Documentation**

City staff will only allow herbicide application by pesticide applicators that are under the supervision of a Public Operator or Commercial Operator. Starting in 2011, on-site supervision by a Public Operator or Commercial Operator will be required. The Public Operator or Commercial Operator must possess a valid and current certification. The applicator is responsible for following any federal and state requirements as well as all label requirements and reviewing the MSDS prior to use.

Each person who applies herbicides must be given the following information before starting work:

1. Appropriate application of the herbicide
2. Type of chemical being used
3. Safety procedures
4. Emergency spill information
5. Use of protective equipment
6. Cleanup procedures
7. Disposal procedures

11. **References**


Pioneer Park & Engstrom Open Space

Legend:
- Parking
- Information
- Picnic Table
- Pet Waste Bags
- Toilet
- Trails
- Accessible
- Paved
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian

Park Rules:
- Park hours: 6 am – 10 pm
- Please stay on trails
- Dogs must be on leash in NE quadrant
- Dogs in NW and SE quadrants must be under voice and/or signal control, or on leash
- Horses on designated trails only
- Pedestrians and bicyclists must yield to horses on equestrian trails
- Camping and fires prohibited
- Tobacco use prohibited
- Possession or consumption of alcohol and drugs prohibited
- No harvesting or collecting, including wildlife, plants, mushrooms or wood
- Report problems to (206) 275-7609

Map created by Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Division.
# MERCER ISLAND
## OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST
### 2017 Work Plan

#### January 19
- **Annual Report to Council:** The Trust is required in its by-laws to report to City Council each year on the status of Trust properties.
- **2017 Work Plan:** The Trust develops a list of topics that it intends to address during the year (this document). This work plan is submitted to City Council with the Annual Report as a courtesy.
- **Remote meeting attendance:** Trustees will discuss meeting attendance via phone and relevant bylaws revision.
- **Letterboxing (ongoing item):** The Trust board will continue to sponsor and support an annual Letterboxing program for youth on Mercer Island.
- **Quadrant Reports (ongoing item):** Trustees report on the condition of certain quadrants at Trust board meetings.

#### March 16
- **Public education about root diseases:** Discussion public education effort to inform the public of the root disease prevalence in Pioneer Park and prepare for possible future interventions.
- **City Tree Risk Policy:** City staff to present draft document

#### May 18
- **Summer Trail Work Plan:** City staff report to the Trust its intended maintenance activities in the spring of each year, and recaps work completed in the previous year.
- **Herbicide application report:** The Trust adopted an herbicide use protocol that requires City staff to report on the use of herbicides in Trust properties each year.

#### July 20
- **Election of Officers:** The Trust is required by its by-laws to elect officers at its July meeting each year.

#### September 21
- **Eagle Project recognition:** The Trust will recognize Eagle projects that have benefitted Trust Properties.
- **Preschool Program Development:** Are there any ways that the Trust properties could be more useful to preschoolers?

#### November 16
- **Recognition of letterboxing participants**

Note: The listing of an item under a particular month means that the item will be introduced at that meeting. There will be follow-up discussions and decisions at subsequent meetings as directed by the Chair.
Canine of you please respond to this?
Thx!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: City of Mercer Island <webmaster@mercergov.org>
Date: September 24, 2016 at 7:53:42 PM PDT
To: "ali.spietz@mercergov.org" <ali.spietz@mercergov.org>
Subject: Contact the City Form Submitted

*** FORM FIELD DATA***
Name: Leo Catallo
Email: leo.catallo@comcast.net
Nature of Comments: Suggestions
Response: yes
Message: I've had a couple of "close calls" with bicyclists riding through Pioneer Park while walking my leashed dogs. The most recent was a father and son riding road bikes on Saturday evening (24 Sep) through the southern-most Pioneer park that's shared with equestrian riders. Yelling out "on your left" and swiftly cycling past on narrow walking trails is both inappropriate and dangerous, despite the small yield symbols posts at the trail heads. The most recent encounter led to a confrontation that resulted in no friendly or amicable resolution, but only over-talking and name calling. In my opinion, bicycling should not be allowed on the Pioneer Parks walking trails. What can be done?
Phone: 

*** USER INFORMATION ***
SubscriberID: -1
SubscriberUserName: 
SubscriberEmail: 
SessionID: 957767222
RemoteAddress: 71.231.123.220
RemoteHost: 71.231.123.220
RemoteUser: 

OSCT Agenda Packet November 2016
Comments from Nancy Yost - 6112 West Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA Sept 15, 2016

I would like to ask you to reconsider your decision to continue to allow off leash dogs in the N.W. quadrant of Pioneer Park. As I previously reported, my dog was attacked and seriously injured while walking on leash in Pioneer Park. This attack happened in a matter of seconds and without warning. The attacking dog ran up from behind us so I never even saw it coming. The dog's owner thought his dog was under control. The dog's owner thought his dog was friendly. Signage reminding him to keep his dog under control would not have made any difference. A leash would have.

Nothing I say now can take away my dog's injuries, or take away the horrible memory I have of that Sunday evening, but I wanted to speak tonight because I don't want this to happen to any other family and their beloved pet. I also want people like me to be able to walk in our local public park without unreasonable fear or harassment.

If this had been the only bad experience I had in Pioneer Park I might feel differently. But the truth is that in a handful of walks in the park I had numerous dogs run up to us, and on at least 2 occasions another dog jumped on my dog. I was told over and over again, "Don't worry, my dog's friendly." No one wants to believe that their pet is capable of harming another dog or a person, but sometimes instinct takes over and dogs act like dogs. And it only takes a matter of seconds for serious harm to occur.

The term "voice control" seems to be open to interpretation, and is difficult to enforce. How can an animal control officer know if a dog is or isn't under control, until it's too late and something has already happened?

I am not opposed to off leash areas and believe they can be beneficial to a community. However, I don't think the N.W. quadrant of Pioneer Park is the appropriate place to have one. I did a little research and I found out that most other cities have guidelines for where it is appropriate to have off leash areas. According to these guidelines the N.W. quadrant of Pioneer Park would not qualify as an area for off leash, for many reasons. These guidelines were listed in a report by an advocacy group for off leash areas.

Somebody made the comment that they didn't understand why I would take my small, shy dog on a leash to Pioneer Park. That comment really bothered me, because the park should be for everyone. My dog and I have as much of a right to visit the park as anyone else and should be able to without fear.

Too many of us are afraid to use the N.W. quadrant of Pioneer Park, and that's just sad. Signage and education are great first steps but alone won't solve the problems at Pioneer Park. I don't feel safe walking my dog in Pioneer Park, or any park on Mercer Island. When I see an off leash dog running around in a park I have no way of knowing if it is truly under voice control or not, and given my experience I am not willing to risk my pet's life to find out. Please reconsider allowing off leash dogs in the N.W. quadrant of Pioneer Park so that it can be available, and safe, for all of us.
Comments offered to the members of the Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust, by Michael Yost, 6112 West Mercer Way, MI WA 98040    September 15, 2016

Honorable Board Members,

I am writing to ask the Board to reinstate your recommendation to the Mercer Island City Council, that the Northwest quadrant of Pioneer park be designated an on-leash park area for all dogs. This recommendation was passed unanimously by a vote of 7 to 0 on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at your regular board meeting. I believe you made the correct decision at the time concerning the issue of off leash dogs in Pioneer park. I strongly believe this remains the correct decision now. I’d like to focus on what has changed since January that increases the urgency and brings clarity to this matter.

Let me briefly tell my story. July 24, 2016 was a warm summer evening and my wife suggested we take our small dog Ruby for a walk. Ruby always walks on a leash and loves to get outside. Since it was hot that day we wanted to be in the shade, so we went to Pioneer Park, which is close by. Near the end of our walk a young off-leash black lab passed by us, with the owner some distance away. The lab came toward Ruby, and I stood in between Ruby and the lab so my wife and our dog could safely pass. I lingered to be sure Ruby was past and the lab and the owner passed by and went on down the trail. Seeing them move on, I turned to rejoin my wife and Ruby.

What happened next was both extremely traumatic and completely preventable. As we walked away, suddenly the lab circled back and came running up from behind us. In a flash the lab attacked, and had Ruby on her back shaking her in its jaws. The lab’s owner was standing motionless about 15 yards down the trail. I yelled to him: get your dog! My wife and I tried to separate the dogs, and eventually the lab’s owner came, picked up his dog by the scruff of the next (it had no collar), pulled Ruby from its jaws, and flung Ruby to the ground several feet away. Other details of this attack have been circulated in posts on the internet and generated many comments.

The attack on Ruby left her with many severe injuries that required emergency surgery, a vet hospital stay, a large vet bill, and a long recovery. My wife was bitten on the hand, and our family has been severely traumatized. Had the black lab been leashed, I’m convinced none of this would have happened. The entire incident was preventable and avoidable, if only a leash law was in place and obeyed in Pioneer Park.

That is what has change in my life since your vote in January. That is why I am asking for the board to request a change in the city ordinance that would require all dogs to be leashed in Pioneer Park. The current situation is dangerous, and the currently policies have failed to keep the public safe from unleashed dogs. The annual survey of Mercer Island Residents conducted by EMC Research in April 2016, showed that a majority of residents supported having all dogs leashed in Pioneer Park. Please act now.