
Weed Management Plan

For

Newberry Hill Heritage Park

Kitsap County, Silverdale, Washington

2010-2015



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With invaluable help from Dana Coggan

For NHHP Stewardship Committee

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1. INTRODUCTION

“A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“A weed is any plant out of place” Dana Coggan

There has been a tremendous expansion of invasive alien plant species across the US, and Washington is no exception. New problem weed species arrive in Washington every year. Noxious weeds often provide poorer habitat for wildlife than native vegetation, or displace native habitat, harming native species of wildlife. Proliferation of these alien plant species alters ecosystem processes and threatens certain native species with extirpation. If unchecked, noxious weeds threaten our parks biological heritage.

In recognition of the economic and ecological impacts of weeds, the Washington State legislature has enacted several laws to prevent their spread. The first such law was enacted in 1881 to prevent the spread of Chinese and Canada thistle. The current law, RCW17.10 established weed control boards and specifies penalties, liability and responsibility of landowners relative to noxious weed control.

Weeds are rapidly becoming one of the most pressing issues for natural managers. Unfortunately, most natural areas contain many alien plant species. In the vast majority of cases, there is not enough labor and money to control all the species of weeds that occur in a natural area.

Weed control is part of property management. This plan is based on the enhancement of desired plant species and communities, rather than on simply eliminating weeds. PREVENTIVE programs are implemented to keep the management area free of species that are not yet established in the park, but are known to be pests in the area. PRIORITIES are set

to reduce or eradicate weeds that have already established in the park, according to their actual and potential impacts on native wildlife and long range goals of the park. ACTIONS will be taken utilizing best available methods *only* when careful consideration indicates leaving the weed unchecked would result in a violation of state law, or cause more damage than controlling it.

The plan follows the adaptive management approach.

First, weed species are identified through inventory of the park, and by gathering information from other sources. Second, the park management goals and weed management objectives are established and recorded. Third, priorities are assigned to the weed species and weed patches based on the severity of their impacts, while considering the ability to control them. Fourth, methods are considered for controlling them or otherwise diminishing their impacts and, if necessary, reorder priorities based on likely impacts on target and non-target species. Fifth, Integrated Weed Management (IWM) plans are developed based on this information. Sixth, the IWM plans are implemented. Seventh, the results of management actions are monitored and evaluated in light of weed management objectives for the park. Finally, this information is used to modify and improve weed management objectives, control priorities, and IWM plans, thereby starting the cycle again. The premise behind the IWM is that a structured logical approach to weed management, based on the best available information, is cheaper and more cost effective than an ad-hoc approach.

ABOUT THE PARK

Boundaries: The NHP is located in Kitsap County, Washington State, near Silverdale. It is approximately 1300 acres.

Resource Base: The parks most prominent feature is its wetlands. The unique geography of the park provides water for two watersheds. The north end of the park drains to Hood Canal via Little Anderson

Creek, and the south end drains to Dyes Inlet via Lost/Chico Creek. The south wetland is listed as a Heritage Wetland by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and is protected by a Conservation Easement. The north wetlands form the headwaters of Little Anderson Creek. These wetlands are: habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, they serve as flood buffers for winter rains; they provide late summer flow for streams that contain Anadromous fish, and provide potable water recharge for county and city water supplies. The uplands are evergreen forests of varying age and densities. These woodlands are home to: Bear, Beaver, Bobcat, Cougar, Deer, Fox, and many other mammals. The understory is primarily evergreen huck, and sword fern. The ample supply of berries, coupled with the presence of water, and standing dead trees, makes this park home for many species of birds. Hikers, geo-cachers, birders, nature lovers, mountain bikers, joggers and horseback riders, utilize the parks trails.

Park Weed Inventory

Name	Latin Name	Location	Date
Scotch Broom	Cirsium arvense	Throughout along old roads & trails	5-3-10
Canada Thistle			
English Ivy		N47° 37 995 W122° 45.822	5-3-10
English Laurel		N47° 38 540 W122° 46.300	5-2-10
Himalayan Blackberry	Rubus procerus		
Evergreen Blackberry	Rubus laciniatus		
English Holly	Hendera helix		
Knott Weed	Polygonum aviculare		

Weeds were inventoried in accordance with guidelines and training provided by Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program. (Dana Coggan)

Location of Weed Infestations



This English Ivy is growing near an old garbage site from the 70's. It probably got its' start from yard trimmings dumped with the trash.

Weed infestations can often be found wherever the forest has been disturbed or where there has been human activity. This activity, in the park, was in the form of logging, and road building for log removal. Remember that this logging helped create the wealth that allows us leisure time to enjoy our parks. The altered habitats became more suited to invasive species, and they displaced natives.

MAP GOES HERE

Goals and Objectives for the Park

Land Management Goals

1. Protect native biologic communities and watersheds
2. Provide for public access and recreation
3. Provide a corridor for wildlife
4. Provide habitat for native wildlife
5. Prevent damage from fire and human activity

Weed Management Objectives

1. Prevent introduction of new noxious plants in the park

2. Control or remove deleterious monocultures
3. Employ best practices (biological, chemical, mechanical and cultural)

Priorities

1. Prevention through vigilance
It is easier to remove one plant, than 1000!
2. Weed species prioritized based on threat
3. Weed species prioritized based on location
4. Minimal impact on non targeted organisms

Monitoring



This English Holly stump has been flagged for future monitoring. This will help ensure control efforts are effective. The hole drilled in the center was filled with Glyphosate, and then the stump was covered with a Ziploc bag, and secured with a rubber band to prevent rain from washing the poison out before it could be absorbed by the wood.

Monitoring is the repeated collection and analysis of information to evaluate progress in meeting our management objectives. Periodic observation of the weeds being managed is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of a weed control program. If our objectives are not being met, our actions must be modified. Without some type of monitoring, there is no way of knowing whether our actions are contributing to the fulfillment of management objectives.

REFERENCES

Kitsap County Herbicide Safety

Kitsap County Noxious Weed List

Kitsap County Surface and Storm Water Management

Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Pojar and Mackinnon

Northwest Weeds, Ronald J. Taylor

APPENDICES

- A IWM for high priority weeds species
- B Emergency information
- C Herbicide use protocols
- D Herbicide Labels
- E Herbicide Use Record Forms
- F MSDS
- G. Data Collection and Monitoring Forms

Appendix A IWM for high priority species

Scientific name

Common name

Date_____

Updated_____

Priority_____

Description:_____

Current Distribution in the park

Lat_____ Long_____

Damage and Threats_____

Weed Management Objective_____

Management Options_____

Appendix B Emergency Information

Appendix C, Herbicide Use Protocols

- Proper application of herbicides is mandatory.
Read ALL labels prior to use, wear protective equipment. Mechanical means should be employed wherever possible and or practical, prior to use of chemicals. Never allow chemicals into open water.
- NHHP does not endorse any brand of herbicide. We do favor those chemicals that do not persist in the environment and degrade quickly after application.
- DON'T USE HERBICIDES:
 - If you can remove the weeds without them
 - If you are on or near open water
 - If it is raining
 - If you do not know what your target plants are
 - If wiping is effective, don't spray
- ✓ Do use herbicides when appropriate
 - In some instances you could do more harm to non targeted plants by using mechanical methods, than would be done with careful use of herbicides.