

Land Steward Report – January - December, 2024

Color key: Black = Work performed in period. Red = Future plans.

Seed sowing locations are covered in a table at the end, not in the text.

Our Land Stewards are Jim Vallem and Michael Tucker. Rain Garden Stewards are Sandy Breck, Sheryl Wytychak, Lynn Olson, and Elizabeth Morehead.

Woodlands between the Pond Outlet and Thurston-Clague Trail Catch Basin: No activity. This is the area cleared in 2021 to repair the collapsed drainage line between the two catch basins. It has been partially flooded from Fall 2021 to late July 2022, and again in spring and summer of both 2023 and 2024. The school district had the berm near the outlet replaced in summer 2023 (due to voids in the berm), but the flooding issue was not fixed by this.

Prairie and North Prairie: Cleared trails in North Prairie. The narrow strip between North Prairie and Thurston-Clague Trails was burned this spring. The prairie is expected to be used for staging of construction equipment and building materials when the new Thurston is built, and will ultimately have an entrance for fire trucks and pedestrian access (if current building plans do not change). North Prairie is due for some serious buckthorn and honeysuckle removal.

South Entrance of Conboy Trail: Some meadowsweet was moved from here to fill in bare spaces in the pond buffer strip near OHAC, with help from the Environmental Education group. Unless the plans for new Thurston change, this area will be removed.

Hummingbird Rain Garden: The area has been kept weeded and mulched. Some swamp buttercup, blue flag iris, and Virginia mountain mint plants were moved to near the water by the amphitheater. Cuttings were taken from the nearly-native *Lonicera sempervirens* 'Major Wheeler' (honeysuckle) growing on the trellis. Unless the plans for new Thurston change, this area will be removed.

Oak Savanna: No activity. Unless the plans for new Thurston change, the southern half of this area will be removed, with some trees moved elsewhere.

OHAC Pond Buffer Strip: Did some weeding. Several meadowsweet shrubs were moved here.

Clearing at NE of Pond: No activity. There is a long-term plan to replace the illegally-planted bulbs with native plants.

Oak/Hickory Woods: We were able to burn the area this spring. Small invasives were killed, larger buckthorn was top-killed and will have to regrow from the roots. Some of the larger honeysuckle survived (not top-killed).

The Hollow (low area west and south of the berm): Despite a third year with flooding, some of the trees, shrubs and other plants in the flooded area survived. Lots of buckthorn and honeysuckle are now at mature sizes and are producing seed. We will try to burn this area whenever it is possible to get a good burn, but because of usual dampness, we do not anticipate that this will be any time soon. Absent a burn in spring 2024, we will need to do a cut and daub process on the invasives. Seeding of native grasses whenever we are able to burn off the leaf litter will provide better (drier) fuel for future burns. We've asked AAPS Facilities to raise the low portion of the Thurston-Clague Trail due to its flooding.

Peninsula: Many non-native black alder trees were removed at the tip of the peninsula, with elderberry shrubs planted and wild senna seeds sowed in their place.

Amphitheater to OHAC: Removed some black alder. The goat area and the area between it and the pond should be burned in Spring 2025 to kill the remaining buckthorn and honeysuckle.

Trails: Two community days were held to place wood chips on trails. Thank you neighbors and friends!

Jim Vallem, 12/14/2024

SEEDS SOWED IN 2024

Germination Code	Sun: Full, Part, Shade	Moisture: Wet, Mesic or Dry	Latin Name	Common Name	Pine Woods Amph to OHAC	Pond Edge - Amphitheater	Savanna (North)	North Prairie	Pond Edge - Peninsula
C(60)	F-P-S	DM-D	Anemone virginiana	Tall Thimbleweed*	x				
C(30)	F-P	W-M	Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed*		x			
C(10), H, I	F-P	M-D	Baptisia bracteata	Cream Wild Indigo*		x			
A	F-P	M-D	Bouteloua curtipendula	Side Oats Grama*	x			x	
C(90),M	F	W-WM	Chelone glabra	Turtlehead*		x			
C(60)	F	WM-DM	Eryngium yuccifolium	Rattlesnake Master*			x		
C(60)	F-P	WM-W	Hibiscus moscheutos	Swamp Rose Mallow*					
M or C(120)	F-P	W-M	Iris virginica	Blue Flag Iris*		x			
C(60)	F-P	M-D	Liatris aspera	Rough Blazing Star*		x			
A, D	F-P	W-DM	Pycnanthemum virginianum	Virginia Mountain Mint*		x		x	
C(60)	F-P	WM-DM	Rudbeckia fulgida	Orange Coneflower*				x	
C(10),H,I	F-P-S	WM-M	Senna hebecarpa	Wild Senna					x

* Harvested by stewards

Germination Codes:

- A: Seed should germinate upon sowing in a warm location
- C (Number of stratifying days): Seeds germinate after a period of cold, moist stratification
- D: Seeds are very small or need light to naturally break dormancy and germinate
- H: Seeds need scarification
- I: Legume, Rhizobium Inoculum
- M: Best planted outdoors in the fall