

Thurston Nature Center Committee Meeting November 6, 2025 via Zoom

Attendance: Kristen Cella, Jim Vallem, Colin Brooks, Pam O'Neal, Mary Manthey, Sarah Kempke, Connor Concannon

- **Update on Eagle Scout Project:**
 - Samuel Fort finished his Eagle Scout project, filling in gaps on the North East side of the pond with boardwalk

- **Update on Oak Trees and expansion of Savanna:**
 - 10 oak trees were moved, 7 from the savanna area affected by school construction, and 3 nearby trees
 - Oak trees dropped leaves early, will monitor for any signs of concern
 - ETC worked with Jim on marking where the trees would go and did GPS. Jim shared results with Colin and Mike.
 - Jim sprayed grass east of savanna, will seed in late November/ early December

- **Tree Removals:**
 - Jim will follow up with AAPS on (3) trees to be removed next to the fence on the Northern side, and (2) dead Maple trees leaning towards Prairie
 - If AAPS removes, TNCC request wood chips for work day

- **Work Days:**
 - Tentative date - November 15 - adult work day to address buckthorn
 - Tentative date - November 15 - family work day to spread wood chips on trails (possibly dependent upon AAPS tree removal and chipping)

- **Phragmites Control:**
 - Plantwise applied glyphosate to kill phragmites all around the pond, and non-native cattails near the OHAC parking lot. The cattails will be cut down to ice level this winter to restore the view of the ponds.

- **DTE Pole Replacement work near TNC:**
 - DTE replacing poles near TNC on the Northern side. A neighbor on Bluett organized a meeting with DTE to receive more information about the work. AAPS representative Moe Nagpal and Mike Tucker attended the meeting for TNC.
 - Update from AAPS after meeting with DTE: "Pole top regular maintenance will be performed in this area. This is within our easement area. This is an ongoing reliability improvement effort to upgrade poles, wires, cross arms and equipment. It could include some vegetation removal. The effort will be completed by year end."

- **Thurston PTO Enchanted Trail Event 2026:**
 - TNCC discussed possibly sponsoring some portion of the Thurston Enchanted Trail event in 2026

Next meeting: January 2026 - date TBD