

**Invasives Working Group (IWG)**  
**of the Land Management Committee (LMC) for Lone Tree Hill**

**Meeting Minutes: July 19, 2022**

**Meeting held outdoors at Lone Tree Hill**

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DATE: September 2, 2022  
TIME: 11:12 AM

IWG-LMC Members Present: Jeffrey North

IWG Members Present: Leonard Katz, Nancy Kougeas, Joe Hibbard

Parterre Ecological representative Present: Ryan Corrigan

The meeting convened at the Mill Street parking lot at 4:00 pm

Agenda items and discussion:

**1. Review of the Pollinator Meadow:**

It was observed that the success of the seeded area has been uneven, with poor results in the majority of the central area and better results in the northern edge along the woods. Ryan said that Parterre will reseed the area this fall with no additional charge to the Town. In advance of the reseeding, Parterre will conduct soil tests to determine if there are soil issues that need to be addressed.

Species observed included common fleabane, black-eyed Susan, common milkweed, evening primrose and goldenrod. It was noted the herbicide and mowing in 2022 by Parterre has had a good effect on controlling several weed species such as mugwort.

**2. Parterre Tasks 1 and 2, Update on the buckthorn program:**

Areas A1, A2, A9 and A7 were observed to review the effects of the 2022 Task 1 herbicide treatments already executed by Parterre. Parterre's first herbicide application in A1 was done in early July, and the most recent applications of areas A9 and A7 were done on July 18. The effects of the treatment on the invasive species were evident throughout A1. Ryan explained how a combination of cut and dab and foliar spray methods is being used.

Parterre will be executing Task 2 follow-up herbicide treatments in A1, A2, A7 and A9 in early August. That work will target glossy buckthorn, but also address black swallow-wort in A1.

Numerous native species were observed in the treated areas including small native trees, healthy stands of goldenrod in the upper areas of A1, and well-developed areas of Pennsylvania sedge in A1, A2, A9 and A7.

Ryan pointed out a unique area in A7 that supports unique herbaceous native species including little bluestem, wild yellow indigo, and wintergreen. An area in A5 that supports lady slipper. The presence of these plants indicates that this area has historically not been cultivated, allowing these members of this native, dry upland community to persist. The displacement of the pitch pine

community is occurring because of the lack of fire over the past several decades, and the developing oak canopy which has continued to out-compete the pines.

**3. Parterre Task 4, Knotweed management:**

If this task is approved by the LMC, Parterre is prepared to execute the work after mid-August. The work includes treating the knotweed patch near Summit Road and the patch near the cell tower. It was noted that the area near Summit Road that was treated last year shows a significant reduction in Knotweed.

**4. Parterre Task 5, glossy buckthorn treatment for areas cut by volunteers in 2022:**

Work progress related to buckthorn clearing in areas A3, A4, A5 and A6 was observed. As of today, areas A5 and A4 are completely cleared, and A3 has been started. It is estimated that all four areas will be cut and ready for Parterre herbicide treatment by the end of September.

Ryan noted that Parterre is ready to commence Task 5 work in mid-August if the LMC were to approve this task.

It was agreed that the IWG should recommend to the LMC that Task 5 be approved.

**5. Parterre Task 6, The Meadow:**

Ryan explained how Parterre conducted an outside-of-scope spraying of black swallow-wort in the great meadow between Lone Tree Hill and the north meadow edge. This work was done while Parterre was on site in early July to treat A1. Southern areas of the meadow were not treated. Nancy and Leonard have been cutting and pulling black swallow-wort in the south meadow under Ryan's direction. The goal is to cut the plants back prior to seed dissemination.

If the LMC approves the 2022 Task 6 (great meadow herbicide re-treatment), Parterre will undertake additional control spraying in the great meadow including the areas being weakened by Nancy and Ryan. Parterre would like to schedule this work for mid-August.

It was agreed that the IWG should recommend to the LMC to approve Task 6 in a timely way to allow Parterre to undertake Task 6 in mid-August.

**6. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) management:**

Joe presented a progress map and list of known Tree of Heaven locations at LTH. Control methods were discussed with Ryan, who recommended that a "basal bark" treatment method be employed. This involves the application of herbicide (Garlon 4 or 3A) by injection or application to a girdled trunk. The treatment can be done at any time of year. Winter application is recommended because it avoids the negative visual effects of wilting trees. As long as they do not present a public hazard, the trees can be left standing and make good habitat enhancers for woodpeckers.

It was discussed that the IWG will continue to complete its inventory of *Ailanthus* locations and develop a strategy to manage this invasive tree at LTH. Once formulated the strategy will be presented to the LMC for review and possible action.

It was noted that there are some areas with extensive stands of *Ailanthus* near Vernon Road circle and the Bowditch parking lot abutting residential neighbors and McLean hospital. Killing trees in

these areas will have visual impacts on neighboring properties that would need to be planned, communicated and managed to avoid conflicts with neighbors.

It was mentioned that basal bark treatment can also be successfully employed to manage Norway Maple trees as well.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joe Hibbard