

Land Management Committee

Minutes

November 2, 2022

7:00 PM

Remote Access Meeting Only

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: December 12, 2022

TIME: 9:00 AM

Member Attendees: Radha Iyengar, Tom Grimble (who joined a few minutes late and did not participate in vote on minutes of Joint Meeting with Historic District Commission), Carl Solander, Adriana Bobinchock, Steve Kidder, Andy Healy

Other Attendees: Leonard Katz, Joe Hibbard

Absent: Ellen Cushman, Jeffrey North

1. Minutes

- a. The minutes from the October 12 joint meeting with the Historic District Commission were presented for approval and a motion to approve was approved 5-0 by roll call (Radha Iyengar, Adriana Bobinchock, Carl Solander, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder).
- b. The minutes from the October 12 Land Management Committee meeting were presented for approval and a motion to approve was approved 6-0 (Radha Iyengar, Adriana Bobinchock, Carl Solander, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder, Tom Grimble).

2. Barn Facilitator

- a. Tom reported that he had reached out to Kathryn Madden who had previously been selected as the facilitator but she is not able to take on the role at this time. She has suggested several additional names and more follow-up will be necessary.

3. Invoices

- a. Partere invoice 13846 for late summer spot treatment of invasive weeds and early fall mowing of meadow in the total amount of \$1,170 was presented and a motion to approve was approved 6-0 by roll call (Radha Iyengar, Adriana Bobinchock, Carl Solander, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder, Tom Grimble).
- b. Heritage Fields Invoice 710 for mowing Lone Tree Hill meadows and Concord Avenue verge in the amount of \$2,700 was presented for approval and a motion to

approve was approved 6-0 (Radha Iyengar, Adriana Bobinchock, Carl Solander, Andy Healy, Steve Kidder, Tom Grimble).

4. Financial Update

- a. Tom reported that he is continuing to work on setting up an overview of LMC finances. A question was raised as to how the LMC can request a draw from the Joan Campbell Fund. Plan is to review the terms of the Fund and discuss at December LMC meeting.

5. Boundary Survey and Enforcement

- a. Tom reported that he has reached out to Glenn Clancy but Glenn is not able to help at this time. Decision is to continue to monitor the situation to see if further encroachments are made.

6. New Kiosk

- a. No update.

7. Invasives Working Group Update

- a. Joe Hibbard reported on behalf of the Invasives Working Group and presented slides. A copy of the report from the Invasives Working Group is attached to these minutes.
- b. Extensive discussion followed and the Committee expressed its thanks to Joe and the other volunteers for all their work.

8. Erosion on Coal Rd.

- a. The LMC has received a note from Sustainable Belmont about erosion on the lower part of the Coal Rd. Observations have confirmed that erosion is happening as a result of water run-off. Discussion was held.

9. Dumping at Mill St. Parking Lot

- a. Concern was expressed that individuals have been dumping debris at the Mill St. parking lot. Decision was to monitor to see if problem persists.

10. Next Meeting Date set for December 7.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

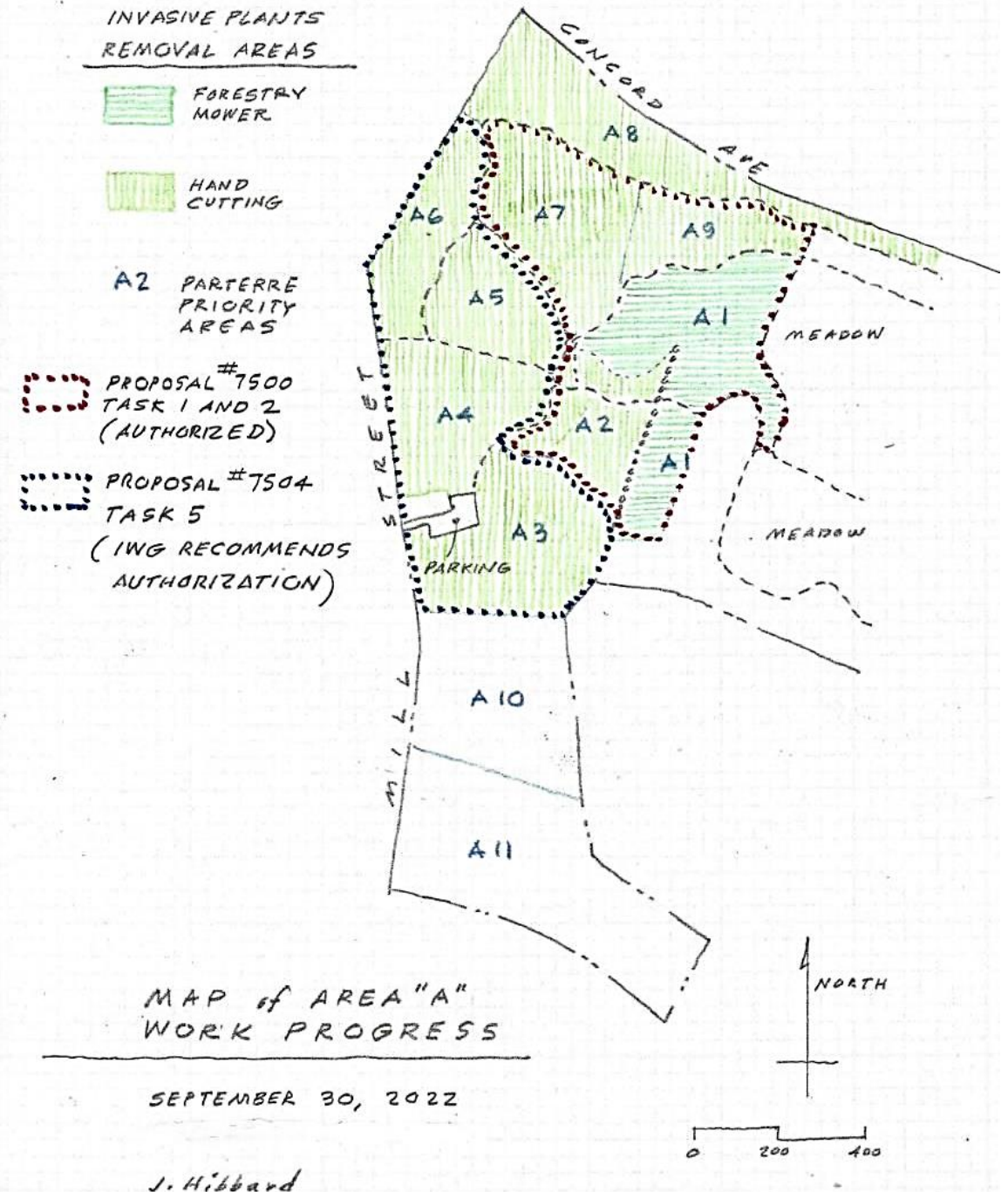
INVASIVES WORKING GROUP REPORT

TO THE BELMONT LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

November 2, 2022

GLOSSY BUCKTHORN REMOVAL STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

- Volunteer cutting of buckthorn in A3, A4, A5, and A6 is complete
- Parterre also started Task 5 herbicide treatments for A2, A4 and A5. They will complete Task 5 in early summer 2023.
- The IWG will work with Parterre in the next month to define 2023 tasks for continuing control of invasive species in the "A" areas.





October 31, 2022



Bee Balm – *Monarda fistula*

October 31, 2022



Anise Hyssop – *Agastache foeniculum*

October 31, 2022



October 31, 2022



Bruce Scherer mowing
the meadow on Mill
Street at the Barn site.

October 30, 2022



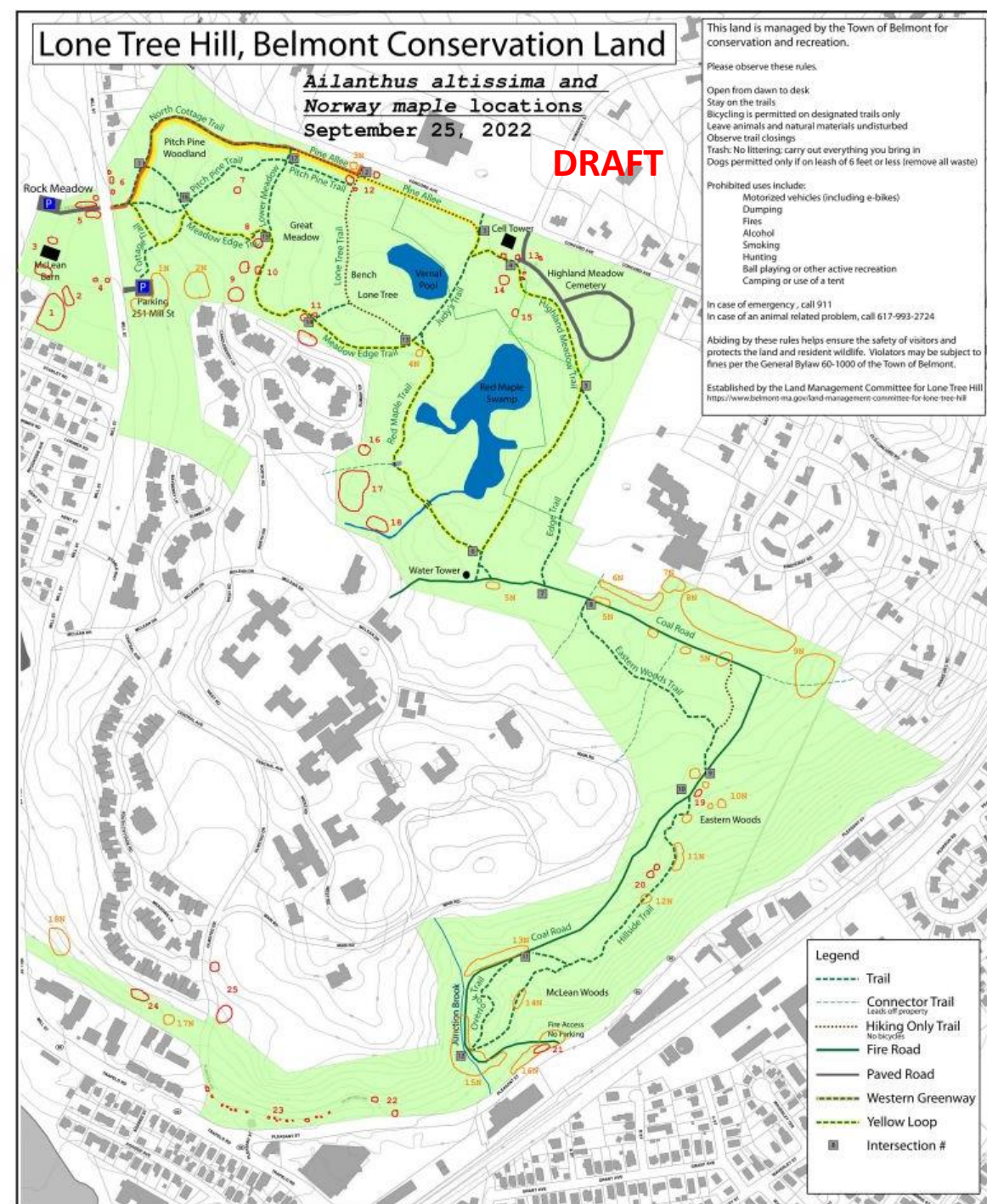
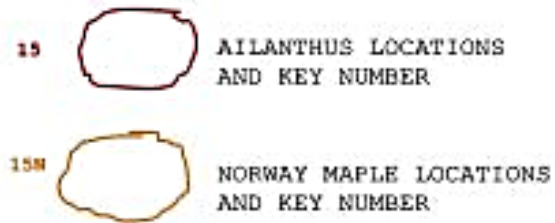
October 31, 2022



October 2022

AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT

- Locations, general size, and quantity of Ailanthus and Norway Maple at LTH have been recorded and mapped.



AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE LOCATIONS AT LONE TREE HILL

September 25, 2022
J Hibbard

The numbered locations noted below correspond with a map titled "Lone Tree Hill, Belmont Conservation Land, Ailanthus and Norway Maple Locations", dated September 25, 2022.

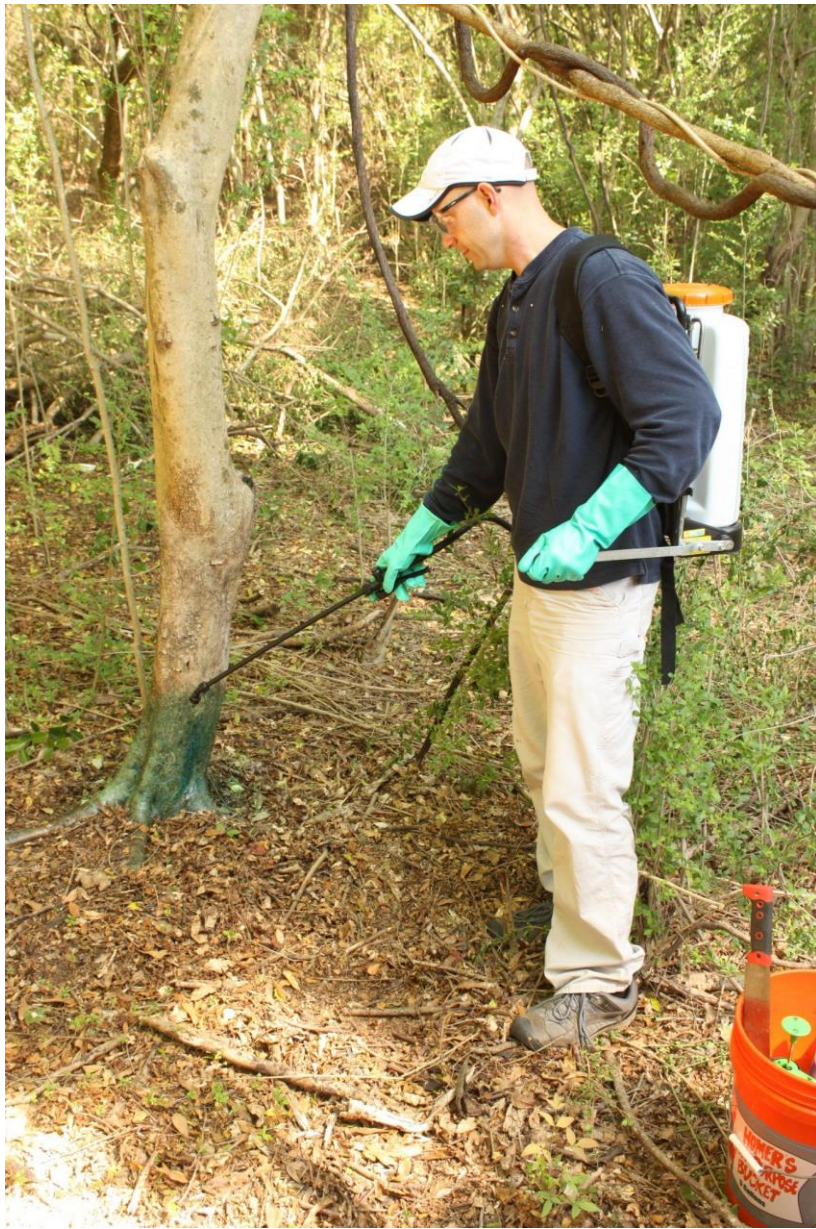
AILANTHUS LOCATIONS

1. Thirty-five (35) or more trees 6-16" trunk diameter. Numerous understory sprouts. A nearly pure stand. Removal of these would visually impact immediate neighbors.
2. Dozens of saplings at the edge of the mown field; the result of previous mowing. Mowing in the future may control these.
3. Numerous saplings in various locations around the barn.
4. Numerous saplings at stone pile and along Mill Street wall. Tree previously cut has resprouted in the tone pile.
5. Approximately ten (10) saplings and small trees on both sides of the entrance drive to Rock Meadow.
6. Small pocket of saplings on east side of Mill Street shoulder, previously cut by power line maintenance crew. Plants have resprouted.
7. Single medium size tree in the middle of area A-1. Must have been missed by the initial Parterre clearing work. Tree was treated as part of the 2022 Parterre work scope.
8. One tall tree and sprouts along the meadow edge trail.
9. Eight or more (8+) tall trees with 16"-18" trunk diameters.
10. Medium size tree at meadow edge – in fruit.
11. Several medium size trees at trail entrances from Summit Road and many sprouts in the edge of meadow near marker #14. Also, in this vicinity are one (1) 10" tree and four (4) 8-12" trees on what appears to be private land along Summit Road to the east of the trail entrance.
12. Sapling just east of the gate to LTH on Concord Ave. Inside the gate and pine alley, at the edge of the meadow, is a group of numerous sprouts on both sides of the trail.
13. Twin tree 6-8" trunk diameter, along asphalt drive at the cell tower. Another small tree near cemetery gate and along the path proceeding towards the cemetery. A few sprouts have invaded the cemetery planting beds on the east side of the crabapple orchard.
14. One (1) large tree visible from the perimeter of this heavily overgrown area.
15. One (1) medium size tree at edge of field adjacent to the cemetery.
16. One (1) medium size tree on the north side of the road at the corner in fire road.
17. Large trees along the edge of the fire road and many more tall trees in the woods away from the road. More than ten (10) 60' - 80' tall trees forming a grove.
18. One (1) large tree. May be more nearby but did not investigate because of dense vegetation.
19. Several medium size trees along low side of the coal road at the wet area near where the drainage way crosses the road.
20. Two (2) large 18" trunk diameter trees just above the steep slopes between the coal road and the hillside trail.
21. Two (2) small trees along Pleasant Street near the Coal Road entrance.
22. Multiple trees on the east side of Olmsted Drive at Pleasant Street.
23. Many small and medium trees along the south side of Olmsted Drive.
24. Colony of several large trees below the wall of the South Cottage Road residences.

25. Several medium size trees along Olmsted Drive in Zone 3. Presume that these will be removed by Zone 3 developer in accordance with LMC comments to the Planning Board of January 25, 2022.

NORWAY MAPLE LOCATIONS

1. Twenty-nine (29) large 12"-24" caliper, including some overmature trees at the Mill Street parking lot perimeter and thirty-three (33) saplings medium size trees, 4"-8" caliper in the surrounding area.
2. Several saplings and medium size trees scattered among oaks and cherry trees
3. One (1) 12" tree along Concord Avenue edge.
4. One (1) small 3" caliper tree along the path edge. There may be other small trees in the vicinity.
5. Eight (8) to ten (10) 2" to 8" saplings scattered along both sides of the coal road.
6. Trees located along the school boundary – two at 6", two at 8", two at 10", one at 12", one at 18".
7. Grove of thirty-three (33) trees from 2" to 12" caliper and one tree at 24" caliper
8. Sixty-seven (67) saplings and medium size trees from 2" to 12" caliper scattered throughout the oak woodland along the Pinehurst Rd residential border
9. Twenty-three (23) trees from 2" to 12" caliper on and below steep hillside above Snake Hill Rd residences. Some sugar maples nearby and to the south.
10. Trees on both sides of the coal road near markers 9 and 10, including one (1) large 24" diameter forest canopy tree east of the road, several saplings along the Hillside Trail, and a few 8" diameter trees along the path in the wet valley above the road.
11. Several scattered small to medium size trees along the Hillside trail
12. Several scattered small to medium size trees along the Hillside trail
13. Several small trees near marker number 11 uphill of the Coal Road, and several saplings along the upper side of the road between marker number 11 and the Junction Brook.
14. Several small trees along the Hillside trail.
15. Multiple saplings and small trees along the brook and along the Coal Road, including three (3) 12"-16" trees near the Hillside Trail.
16. Eight (8) trees from 12" – 24" caliper and some smaller saplings along Pleasant Street.
17. A group three or four (3-4) large trees on slopes below the South Cottage Rd residences
18. Scattered small trees mixed in with sugar maples



Basal bark treatment



Hack and squirt treatment

AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT



- Photo above - In late August, Parterre test treated one Ailanthus in area A1.
- Photo to right – results of basal bark treatment on the test tree in A1 as of September 27th.

AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT

- Task areas have been identified in order to break the work into manageable pieces

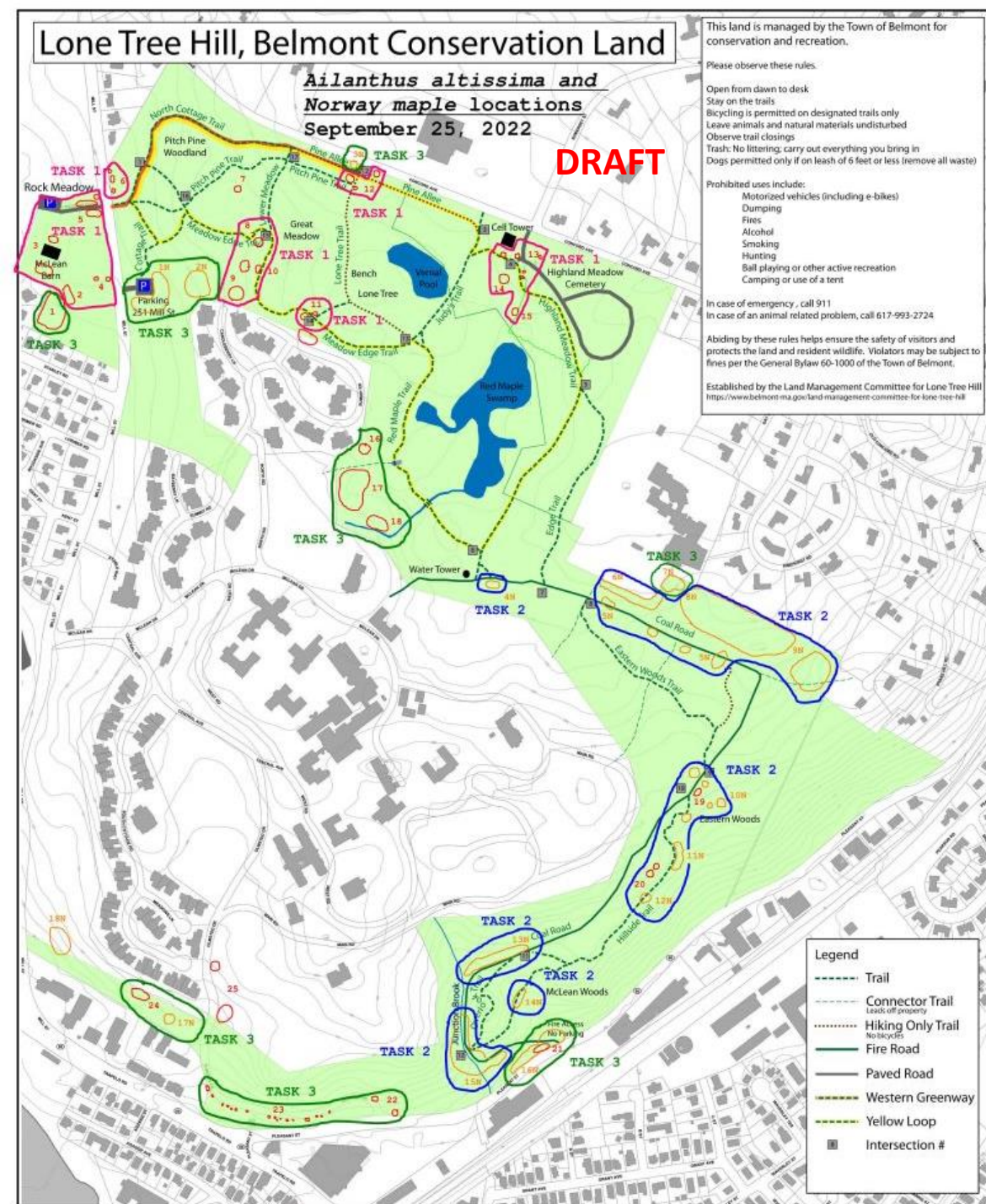
AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 1 -



AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 2 -



AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 3 -

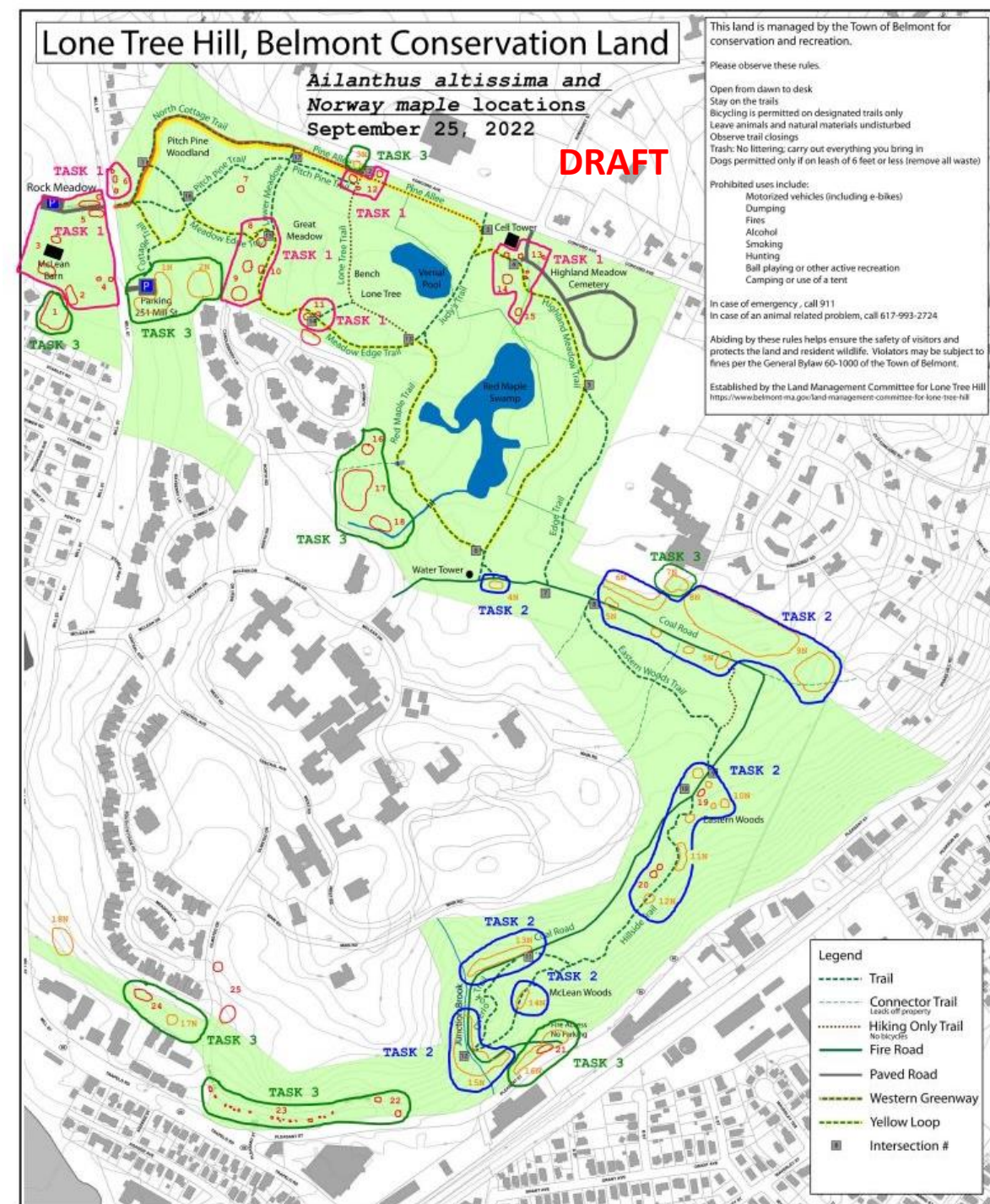


AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT

AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 1 -



- **TASK 1** – Principally *Ailanthus* in six locations close to the Great Meadow and recently cleared areas in Parterre area A.
 - Almost all trees are located in areas where snags will not pose safety issues on trails. Leaving snags would not create an eyesore.
 - Some small to medium size trees in high sensitivity public areas should be felled and chipped or removed; for example, at the Rock Meadow entrance road.
 - Tree removal will help control Ailanthus in the type of open areas this species readily colonizes at LTH and the Cemetery.

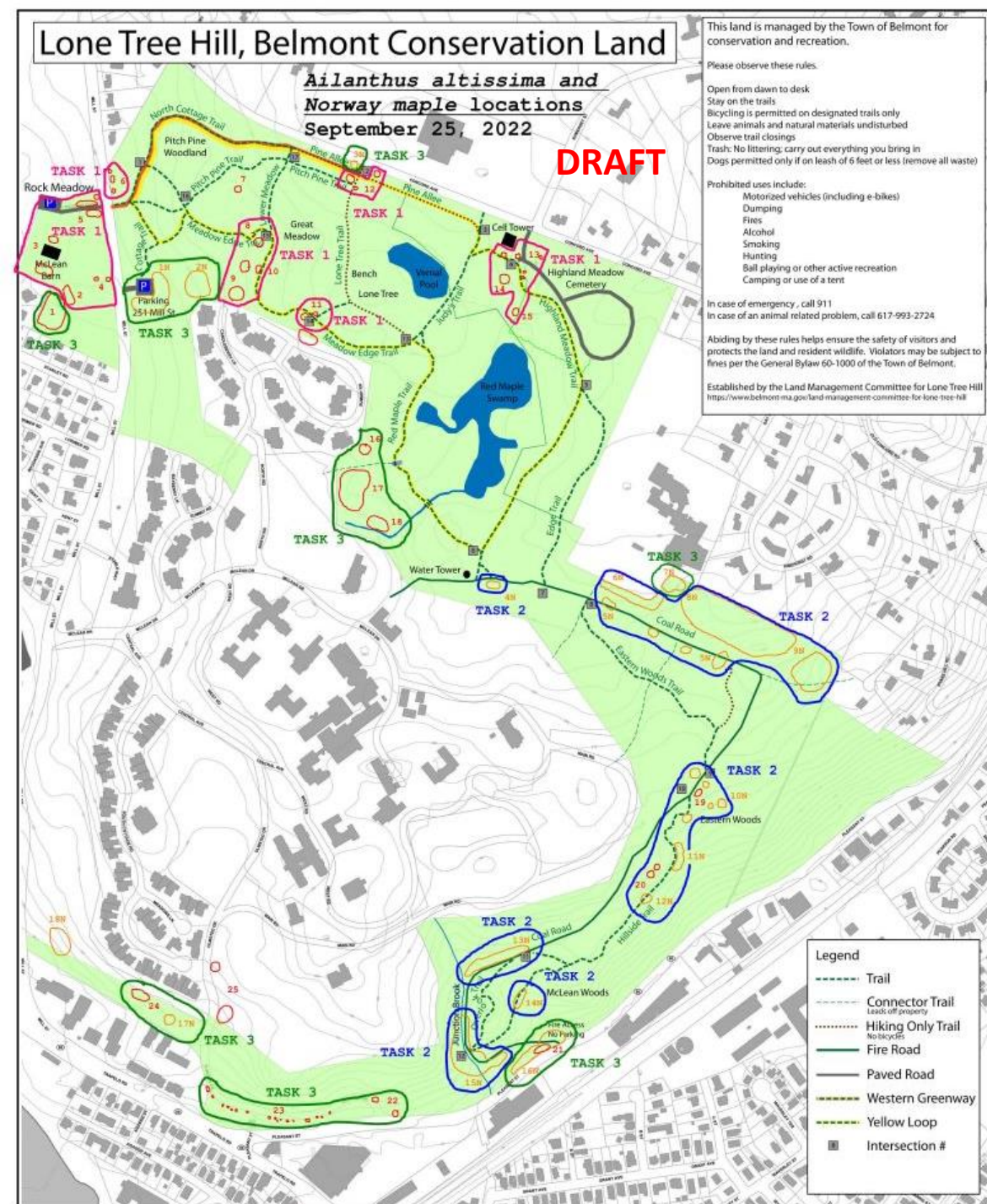


AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT

AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 2 -



- **TASK 2** – Principally Norway Maple and in six locations in the Eastern Woods
 - Almost all trees are in areas where snags will not pose safety issues on trails. There may be one or two small to medium size trees near trails that require felling.
 - Most trees that are along trails are small and can be left as snags.
 - Most trees for removal in this task are small to medium size and scattered in a large area. Their removal will prevent them from gaining size and will remove a significant threat to the existing oak – hickory woods.

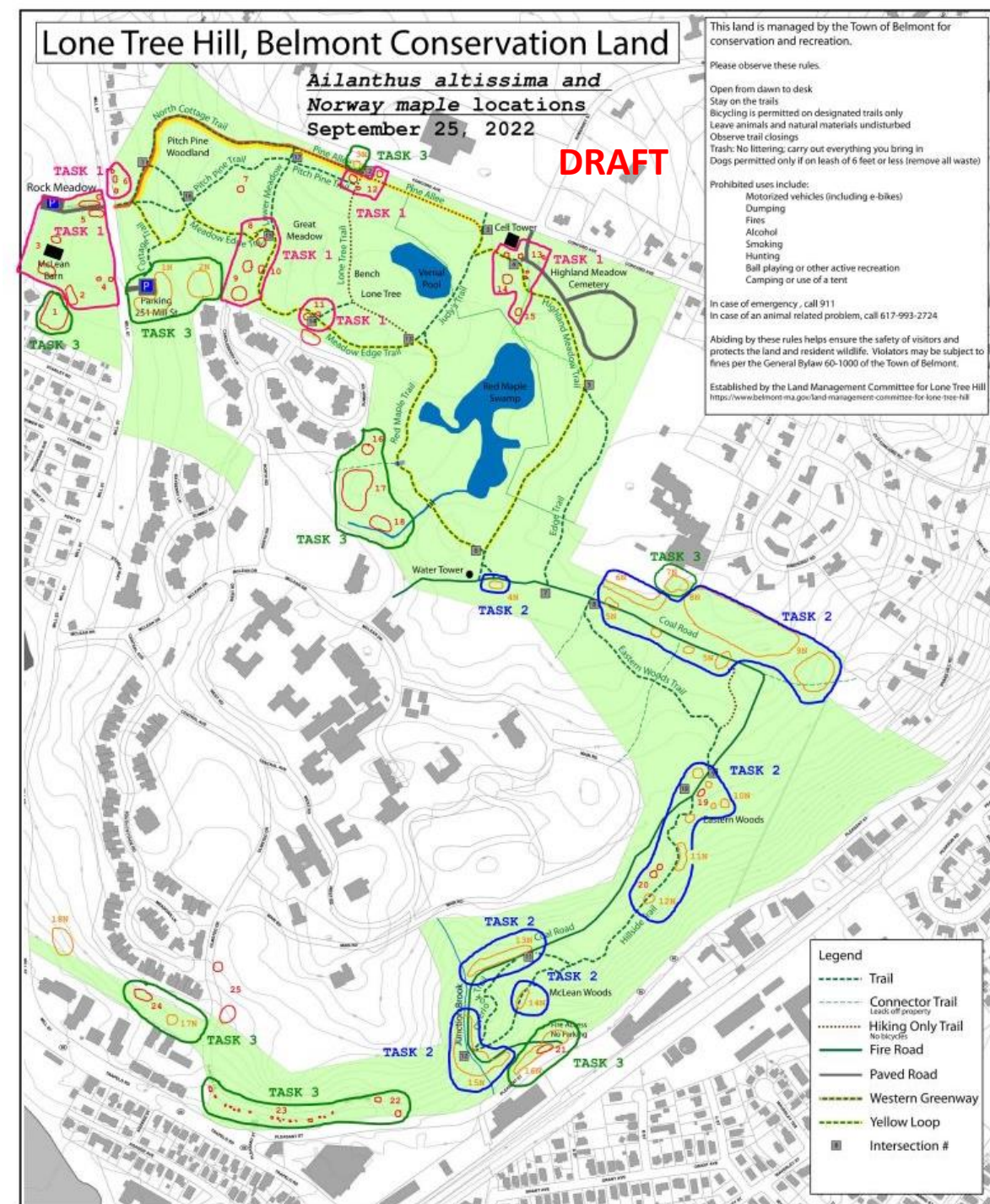


AILANTHUS AND NORWAY MAPLE REMOVAL PROJECT

AREAS INCLUDED IN TASK 3 -



- **TASK 3** - Areas typically involve the removal of large trees near property edges or trails.
 - Leaving snags would jeopardize public safety in some areas such as the Mill Street parking lot, the Concord Avenue gate, and Coal Road entrance at Pleasant Street.
 - Leaving snags may create an eyesore, for example along Olmsted Drive or Vernon Road.
 - Tree removal will pose a problem of how to treat and manage the cleared areas.
 - Tree removal will be more labor intensive and require tree removal professionals.



Next steps being considered –

- 1. Volunteer girdling of Norway Maples in Task 2 area. A no cost trial to assess the success of this method.**
- 2. Prepare an RFP for Task 1 herbicide treatment of Ailanthus trees; basal bark and/or hack and squirt treatment.**
- 3. Obtain a budget estimate for Norway maple removal at the Mill Street parking lot.**