

**COMMENCEMENT BAY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE
LONG TERM SITE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT – MAY 10, 2012

As required under Task 2 of the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustee Long Term Site Stewardship Project, this memorandum reports on the progress of the project for the previous month. This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for violations of CERCLA.

I. GENERAL SITE OBSERVATIONS

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS TAKEN AT EACH SITE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Per the scope of work, the City coordinated work with both the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) and Citizens for a Healthy Bay (CHB). In accordance with the project schedule, bi-monthly site monitoring visits were conducted in April by CHB staff and/or volunteer site stewards.

The City requested a modification to the monitoring schedule in the Year 3 Annual Report and is currently awaiting response.

Specific observations or other actions taken at each site during the reporting period are noted below.

Yowkwala:

- Site visit conducted: April 19 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- There are some invasives present, including curled dock, vetch, blackberry, Scot's broom, butterfly bush and tansy.
- Most of the plants from the November planting in the trail head area are continuing to do well.
- A large raft/buoy made of tires was floating just offshore, and will need to be monitored to ensure that it doesn't ground on site.
- The WCC planted 100 trees.

Skookum Wulge:

- Site visit conducted: April 20 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- There are some invasives scattered throughout the planting areas in the north and south uplands, including ivy, blackberry, thistle and dandelions.
- Recent plantings are doing very well on the slope and some of the marsh species are surviving as well.
- Erosion is continuing, with a large section dropped onto the beach and another crack present.

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Squally Beach:

- Site visit conducted: April 19 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- In addition to the knotweed at the north end of the site, there are minor amounts of invasives present throughout the site, including wild pea, vetch and blackberry.

Mowitch:

- Site visit conducted: April 20 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- Some invasives are present including tansy, blackberry, thistle and reed canary grass.
- Some of the black plastic netting is starting to break through the topsoil in places along the path and in the backshore area next to bench three and needs to be removed.
- The WCC planted 40 trees and shrubs.

Jordan/Lower Hylebos Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: April 20 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- The recent plantings are continuing to do well.
- Some invasives are present including reed canary grass, buttercup, dandelions, blackberry, herb Robert, and vetch.
- There was flagging on some alders and one elderberry on the west side of the trail near the 8th Street end, possibly placed by the City of Fife in preparation for their Park Appreciation Day event. Some blackberries were also flagged on the east side of the trail.
- The WCC planted 60 trees and shrubs at the east end of the trail.

Middle Waterway – City of Tacoma:

- Site visit conducted: April 19 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- There are some invasives present including reed canary grass, vetch, white sweet clover and blackberry.
- The WCC planted 30 trees.

Middle Waterway – Simpson:

- Site visit conducted: April 19 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- Minor invasives are present including wild pea and blackberry.
- The coastal strawberry and dunegrass are thriving and spreading nicely.
- The break in the water line previously noted has been repaired.

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Olympic View – City of Tacoma and DNR Triangle:

- Site visit conducted: April 19 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation appears healthy.
- Some invasives species are present including poison hemlock (or beach parsley?) coming in from the adjacent property to the east, tansy and thistle.
- Plantings in the Olympic View riparian area are doing very well with a 90% survival rate estimated.
- The beach is continuing to erode and shift, with only a small channel open for flow out of the marsh.
- The GED in the triangle area still needs to be removed. Per discussion with the Trustees, the City will proceed with removal of the GED.
- The WCC performed a tansy sweep.

Tahoma Salt Marsh:

- Site visit conducted: April 20 (CHB).
- Overall, the vegetation is doing well.
- There are some invasive species present including reed canary grass, and scattered vetch, buttercup and tansy.
- Neighboring property owner Sperry Dock, with permission, trimmed branches that were coming through the chain link fence and cleaned up some downed vegetation and debris.

Swan Creek:

- Site visit conducted: May 1 (CHB).
- The vegetation was noted as doing well.
- Invasive species present include Scot's broom, vetch, dandelion, curled dock, thistle, reed canary grass and blackberry. In addition, some herb Robert was found along the creek.
- The large pile of wood and debris from the adjacent Little Red Smoke Shack (LRSS) site demolition is still present.
- The cell tower is in construction on the LRSS site and is being enclosed with a chain link fence.
- The WCC planted trees along the roadside, behind the fireworks stand and on the island.
- The WCC performed an invasive and garbage sweep on the north roadside, south end and on the island.

Hauff:

- Site visit conducted: April 20 (CHB).
- Vegetation at the site appears healthy with some open areas where replanting could be considered.
- Invasive species noted include blackberry and thistle as well as black locust and Scot's broom.

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II. ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- Specific site work activities are described above in Section I.
- The ESP Coordination Meeting with CHB was held on April 3.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- ESP Coordination Meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month.
- Continue to work with CHB on implementation of their work plan and schedule for community involvement activities.
- Continue to coordinate WCC work to complete routine maintenance at all of the sites and implementation of the 2012 Task List.
- CHB is planning an invasive removal event at Swan Creek on May 19.

DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES SUBMITTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

- The Year 4 Second Quarter Report was submitted on April 24.

DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES PLANNED FOR THE UPCOMING REPORTING PERIOD

- There are no deliverables planned for the upcoming reporting period.

PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- There were no new problems identified during the reporting period.

Copies submitted as follows:

Jennifer Steger, NOAA (1 via electronic mail, 1 via U.S. Mail)
Gail Siani, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)
Jeanine Riss, Citizens for a Healthy Bay (1 via electronic mail)
Kira Lynch, EPA (1 via electronic mail)
Kris Flint, EPA (1 via electronic mail)
Jason Lehto, NOAA (1 via electronic mail)