

Victoria Park Homeowners Association

Newsletter for the first quarter of 2007



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Greenbelt Suffers English Ivy Invasion

by Matt Devine

Residents of Victoria Park (VP) who have recently walked the greenbelt paths may have noticed the spread of English Ivy throughout much of the greenbelt properties. The ivy has spread from the lots of Victoria Park homeowners into large sections of both the Talbot Road and Morris Ave. greenbelts. The English Ivy has destroyed virtually all native vegetation while becoming the predominate plant species. It can be observed climbing

and covering mature trees. According to Victoria Park's arborist, Bryce Landrud of Thundering Oak Enterprises, if not removed, the ivy will eventually cause the destruction of every tree it attacks.

King County has recognized the destructive behavior of English Ivy:

English ivy is a Class C Noxious Weed of Concern in King County - control is strongly encouraged although not currently required. The County Weed Board recommends control and containment of existing populations and discourages new plantings of invasive cultivars.

The Washington Native Plant Society has nothing nice to say about English Ivy:

English Ivy is not native to the United States and has no natural predators or pests to keep it in check. It easily escapes from planting areas and invades natural areas, parks and urban forests. It creates "Ivy Deserts" - areas so dominated by ivy that no other vegetation survives. Ivy affects trees negatively, especially when it climbs into the canopy. By adding weight to limbs and reducing air flow around the tree's trunk, ivy makes a tree more susceptible to canopy failure, wind stress and disease. It can also strangle trees around their base and reduce the flow of nutrients up and down the tree. English ivy does not provide a significant food for native wildlife, but does provide habitat for rats.

To address the invasion of English Ivy into the Victoria Park greenbelt, the VP Board of Trustees has authorized its removal. Because it has spread so extensively, removal of English Ivy from the entirety of the greenbelt would be a daunting and potentially expensive task. Instead, initial efforts are focused on removal of the ivy that has attacked greenbelt trees. The VP Greenbelt committee has counted nearly 60 trees that have been attacked by the ivy, and one-by-one the committee has started cutting ivy from the base of each tree, which will provide a period of relief from its malicious effects.

Victoria Park residents can do several things to assist the cause.

1. Homeowners are encouraged to remove all English Ivy from their property, especially from lots that border or are near the greenbelt.
2. Homeowners can volunteer to join work parties that will be removing ivy from trees and grounds of the greenbelt.
3. You can inform the greenbelt committee of greenbelt trees that have been attacked by ivy.
4. And finally, if your lot borders the greenbelt, you can grant permission to the committee to briefly use your yard to gain access to ivy-infested trees.

Contact Greenbelt Committee chairman Matt Devine (425-226-6933) to help.

Annual Garage Sale

Start setting aside things to sell because the 2007 Victoria Park Annual Garage Sale has been planned for the weekend of June 2nd and 3rd.

Ballot Measure for Dues Increase is Passed

The vote to increase VPHA annual dues was counted at the VPHA Annual meeting on January 29, 2007 at Talbot Hill Elementary. The measure to increase the homeowner dues to \$100 passed. There were 155 votes submitted which made a 62.5% quorum. The measure passed with 108 Yes and 47 No votes, a 69.6% majority.

June						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Greenbelt Paths Pressure Washed

Work to pressure-wash the main sections of the greenbelt paths was completed on March 13 by Sound Pressure Washing, LLC. The pressure washing was performed in response to the thick covering of moss that had grown on major sections of the asphalt paths during the winter. The pressure washing was limited to the main sections of paths and not to the feeder paths which had been pressure-washed in 2006.

Officers and Board Members

Board Member	Office	Committee Assignments	Phone Number
Matt Devine	President	Green Belt / Website	425-226-6933
Dale Hoover	Vice President	Maintenance Oversight	425.228-5448
Bob Hofford	Secretary	Architectural	425.271-4941
Alan Zullig	Treasurer	Website	425.228-1570
Sandra Meyer	Board		425.255-8005
Michelle Hammers	Board	Events / Entrance Properties	425.430-4225
Glyn Gardener	Board		425.430-4225
Ulf Goranson	Board		425.255-8614
Robert Rantucci	Board	Architectural / Children's Park	425.235-6122
Lief Zimmerman	Board	Newsletter / Children's Park	425.254-8686

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