
STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH REPORT

JANUARY 2024

OUTREACH

Staff: Tanja Williamson

After releasing the end of year newsletter ([click here to view](#)) Tanja has begun to collaborate with staff and numerous partner organizations to assemble a diverse [2024 outreach calendar](#). She is also reviewing and updating website content; if you have any favorite photos or suggestions for layout, please send them her way! SJI-based photographer [Katy Levick Foster](#) met with staff to discuss improving the Land Bank's portfolio of: current projects, community relationships with preserves – including volunteers and partnerships, food production and the farmers that make it happen – as well as wildlife highlights.

SALISH SEEDS NURSERY

Staff: Eliza Habegger

All's quiet on the nursery front. Eliza took three weeks off and returned in time to tuck overwintering plugs under their blankets before the big freeze (Photo 1).

DISTRICT 1

Staff: Doug McCutchen, Charlie Behnke, Jacob Wagner, Shauna Barrows

Beaverton Marsh: Island Conservation Crew (ICC) members and staff removed an old fence along Roche Harbor Road on one of the windiest days this winter (Photo 2)! A new fence will be installed this spring that will improve safety for the lessees to graze animals on the Preserve. Winds kept staff busy clearing large limbs and downed trees from the trails. Doug and Eliza continue to work with partners to develop goals and to assess both the current condition and the restoration potential for the bog area. Doug also continues to work on assembling a Stewardship and Management Plan.

Cady Mountain: The ICC members showed true grit while brushing a new section of trail in horrendously wet and cold conditions. The field portion of a cultural resource assessment is anticipated to start the third week of January. Blackcap Restoration assisted with burning piles

and thinning conifers from around mature oaks. Lincoln is working with Public Works to discuss the scale of roadside tree removal adjacent to the Preserve, as residents within the community have expressed concern.

Deadman Bay: King tides and storm surges reorganized the driftwood along the beach face.

Frazer Homestead: The hedge alongside the trail recently got a big haircut from the road crew. Charlie followed up to clear most of the sharp, thorny debris that was blasted into the corridor.

Limekiln: Staff responded to numerous reports of trees across the trail after high winds. Thanks to all the trail users that provided these trail reports!

Mount Grant: Final touches were completed on the section of trail that takes off from the new parking lot. Staff teamed up with members of the DNR wildland fire team and the ICC to continue thinning within the LSR site. It was a great collaboration, and a lot of excellent work was completed. DNR has indicated that some additional funding might be made available. Staff are developing a restoration plan for a Doug fir woodland area and working with stewards from San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) and the adjacent Sugarloaf Mtn Preserve.

Westside: The acorn team couldn't help themselves. They scrounged up a few hundred more acorns and completed one last planting early in the New Year. In the spring, they plan to return to sites and assess the success of germination and vigor.

DISTRICT 2

Staff: Peter Guillozet, Tyler Goodman

Crescent Beach: Staff are almost done updating the 2007 Stewardship and Management Plan, and hope to initiate (much needed) forest health projects in the fall.

Fowler's Pond: Tyler continues to monitor efforts by the resident beaver to plug the dam outfall.

Judd Cove: Peter joined Chris Luerkens, from the Department of Ecology, for a site visit as part of the permitting process. They also visited the North Shore property.

North Shore: Peter toured the property with SJPT staff to review the recent building removal and slope stabilization work. They reciprocated with a tour of their new JB Farm property in Crow Valley. The new automated entry gate is up and running. We hired a contractor to inspect

the main house for asbestos as a condition for approval to use the structure in a planned fire training exercise by OIF&R. The fire exercise is scheduled for late January. And finally, we kicked off the final design and permitting process with our consultant (Photos 3 -4).

Turtleback Mountain: A year-end makeover of the entry road (Photo 5) and a couple of new bike racks felt like cherries on top of a *very* productive run on the mountain: 20 culverts replaced, over 9,000 plugs, 8 gallons of acorns, and several thousand camas and brodiaea bulbs planted, 293 piles burned, one road removed, and one trail re-routed.

DISTRICT 3

Staff: Amanda Wedow

Channel: Winter storms not only moved a lot of driftwood, but also took out one of the signposts. Three hundred plugs were planted along the trail and beach area. A community group tested out a mobility device, and navigated down from the parking lot and out along the shoreline. (Photo 6).

FB Spit: As if driftwood and signposts weren't enough, high tides brought a boat ashore here! Amanda reached out to other boaters to try and locate the owner. The spit has been continuously flooded, and a "seasonal closure" sign was placed at the beach trail. The agreement with County Parks to maintain the restrooms has ended, and Amanda has incorporated the routine maintenance into her schedule. A volunteer event was rescheduled due to the upcoming freeze.

Lopez Hill: Amanda distributed the remaining trail maps to various shops around the village. The maps were created by Friends of Lopez Hill and have been available for donations of \$1. The map is ready for an update to include the new trail within the Preserve's addition.

Richardson Marsh: Amanda is completing a draft Stewardship and Management Plan, and it will be ready for review soon.

Watmough: The draft cultural resources assessment was received and is under review by staff and the State's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). A formal land survey was initiated and should be completed by the end of January. Peggy and Tim volunteered to help plant acorns that came from the abundance on San Juan. A scoping meeting for the development of a long-

term Stewardship and Management Plan is scheduled for February 27th. Amanda is working on maps and materials for the meeting.

Photos



Photo 1. Nursery plants all snug in their beds before the big freeze.



Photo 2. The Island Conservation Corps braved the gales while removing a dilapidated fence at Beaverton Marsh Preserve.



Photo 3. Pumping out the basement and preparing for an asbestos inspection at North Shore Preserve.



Photo 4. The Land Bank's first automated entry gate at the North Shore Preserve will allow dawn to dusk access by future preserve users, while enabling the neighbor to reach their property (via an easement) using remote openers.



Photo 5. Re-graveled entry road at Turtleback Mountain Preserve.



Photo 6. A trial run of new of mobility device at Channel Preserve.