

2020 Growing Season Action Plan Marginal Way

After a year of bureaucracy, we hope to get back to construction of MW sites that sustained damage in the March 2018 Nor'easters. We have MDEP PBR permits, and are waiting for approval of NRPA permits (late 2019/ early 2020). We will then go before the OGT Planning Board again for their approval of the NRPA projects.

Dave Riccio, Special Project Manager, and the MWC Chair Joan Griswold have had numerous meetings with FEMA reps over the last year and a half (we are now on our 5th FEMA Rep.) but still waiting for word about funds being *obligated* for MW projects, both completed and planned for future construction. Coordinating with Walsh Engineers, we have grouped and prioritized the damaged sites that are ready for the next stage – RFPs, contracts, construction.

In the meantime, this winter, there will be a concentrated emphasis on removal and treatment of Bittersweet all along the MW, particularly on the Ocean side of the path.

1. Locust Grove Access Path to MW: recheck for reoccurring Bittersweet in trees along road and clean out grove between path and Lookout parking lot.
2. Schedule June treatment of BSW: on Beachmere/Anchorage revetment, O'Leary restoration site, & isolated spots along length of path. Also Knotweed – Little Beach ledge, revetment S Lighthouse, rocks S of ancient Cedar.
3. Begin Stage III fronting O'Leary/Bench 5 site: Clear and treat Bittersweet, and revegetate this third area with native trees and shrubs. Back in Stage II, add more shrubs and plugs of ground covers and herbaceous plants. Continue maintenance of weeding and irrigation. Check Stage I for weeds.
4. Winkler site – spring weeding and lower Sumac. Add shrubs where necessary.
5. Do special pruning projects in winter along path to cut back areas where plants are closing in on path, and remove Bittersweet. Replant w/ native plants where necessary. Use outside contractor.
6. Search for seasonal worker who will be assigned to MW for maintenance. Provide plant information for DPW's crew assigned to the MW, enabling them to recognize invasives from desirable plants.
7. Continue to maintain Seaside Garden – early spring cut down of herbaceous plants (use mower where possible). Stop irrigating the garden. Check garden for weeds once a month – outside contractor (during May, June, July, August, & September).

8. Contact URI for Biocontrol Project. Discuss sending moths for cage release vs. larvae. Set up cage in a new location behind Bench 20, as long as there is no damage to existing vegetation for access. Organize Citizen Scientists to monitor site. Check that all permits from APHIS & MDIF&W are still valid.
9. Plaque area: have outside contractor clean/weed area before the dedication of 4th plaque. Be on site for weeding so desirable plants are not pulled out!
10. Weed all newly planted areas at retaining walls. Check if more mulch required.
11. Cedar Grove restoration site: in winter, cut down excess Honeysuckles, any Bittersweet and dead material. Summer maintenance – weed .
12. May – south of Cedar Grove, pull out ALL Garlic Mustard.
13. 9th Annual Pod Picking Day – August 15, 2020
14. Continue work with FEMA, MDEP, Town CEO, Town Planning Board and Walsh Engineers for repair sites
15. Design a two session class for volunteers/public: ID invasive plants & ID desirable native plants – late spring.
16. Schedule 3 geology talks: July, August, September with Jason Jutras.
17. Schedule late spring, early summer presentation with Eric Topper of Maine Audubon: talk tied to Doug Tallamy's theme *Bringing Nature Home*.
18. Goats on MW – PR event to raise awareness about invasives. Host near Benches 23/24 where there is much Bittersweet.
19. Host a volunteer recruitment event to explain our goals, encourage signups for specific jobs or maintenance of selected areas. Organize volunteers into work groups – each with their own assignment – i.e. Cedar Grove, retaining walls, O'Leary.

Joan Griswold
Chair MWC 11.25.19