

Mayor
CAROLINE SIMMONS



DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
MATTHEW QUIÑONES

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TO: Caroline Simmons, Mayor
FROM: Matt Quiñones, Director of Operations
DATE: August 5, 2022
RE: Herbicide Sprayings

This is notice that I have approved herbicide sprayings in 2 City parks: the Kosciuszko Park meadow, and the gardens surrounding the Mianus River Park parking lot at the red barn. In both parks we are treating infestations of Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*) with regimes of herbicide containing the active ingredient clopyralid.

In Kosciuszko Park, we have been remediating this 3-acre meadow for the last two growing seasons and are getting significant results. The sprays are timed to coincide with growth periods when the clopyralid will have maximum effect: in spring when the plant is most actively growing, and then summer before it goes to seed. The regime was prescribed by Larry Weaner of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, who designed and supervised the installation of the meadow in 2010. Mr. Weaner is a renowned meadow specialist, and he has advised that organic products are not effective with Mugwort. The spraying is to subdue the Mugwort, giving the meadow species the chance to reassert dominance. After this season, we will reevaluate, and perhaps pursue an additional year of spraying.

In the Mianus River Park parking lot, the Mugwort is thriving to the point where it is dominating the planting beds, an area of about 5,500 square feet. The Friends of Mianus River Park group assists the City with park maintenance and have pointed out that the parking lot currently projects an image of neglect. In consultation with the Parks Department staff and several landscape professionals, we have contacted All Habitat Services, LLC to create a Mugwort management plan. The Friends of Mianus River Park will partner with the City to replant the gardens as the Mugwort is subdued – same method essentially as in Kosciuszko Park.

MQ/ma

cc: Jeff Curtis, BOR President
Lorraine Olson, Health Commission Chair
Lyda Ruijter, Town Clerk