EAST GRANBY LAND TRUST

Policy on Land Management Practices

(Adopted at Board of Directors meeting Sept 2, 2010)

The purpose of this policy is to guide stewards and promote awareness and understanding of recommended best practices acceptable to the Board of Directors in the management of EGLT properties. This policy may be revised on occasion by the Board of Directors to include advances in the science and state of the art. It is intended that this policy augment established EGLT policy on Property Management Plans, Execution of Property Management Plan, Tree Cutting and Trails. This policy shall be referenced in all EGLT property management plans.

Practices described in this policy are based on publications issued by government and non-profit agencies and communications with their staff. Most helpful in this regard is the expert guidance and information provided by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Connecticut, CT Department of Environmental Protection, US Department of Agriculture, CT Forest & Park Association, The Nature Conservancy and the Coverts Project.

In managing its property it is EGLT policy to prepare a written management plan and designate a member volunteer to be steward for each parcel. In preparing each management plan, EGLT seeks to conserve soil, vegetation, water and wildlife. Most EGLT parcels are managed for wildlife habitat and passive human recreation. The steward is responsible for executing the management plan in compliance with EGLT policies. In general, it is desirable to allow the natural succession process of plants to progress without intervention and allow wildlife to use the habitat. However, in executing the property management plan it may be necessary to remove or control specific vegetation or nuisance animals. This shall only be done with a clearly stated purpose, careful consideration of the consequent effect on the habitat, and under supervision of the steward or a competent supervisor designated by the steward.

Human Visitor Control

1. EGLT property is open to the public for low impact and passive recreation, such as walking, nature study and photography. Fires, woodcutting, hunting, trapping or motorized vehicles are not allowed, except as directed by the steward to execute the management plan. Signs shall be erected to inform the public of these restrictions. Violations shall be reported to the police.

2. Sensitive areas, such as nesting grounds and wetlands, shall be protected from human disturbance. Pathways in frequently visited parcels shall be designed to guide visitors around or away from sensitive areas and, if necessary, signs or barriers shall be erected to discourage access.

3. Property management work in sensitive areas, when feasible, shall be performed in seasons that cause no disturbance, e.g., late summer, autumn and winter in nesting grounds and winter in wet areas. If not feasible, then the work shall be performed with care to minimize the disturbance.

Nuisance Animal Control

1. The presence or activity of an animal that is an **immediate** public health or safety hazard shall be reported to the police as soon as possible.

2. The presence or activity of an animal that is a potential public health or safety hazard, harms the habitat, or causes effects inconsistent with the management plan shall be reported to the Board of Directors by the steward. If the Board concludes removal or control is required, it shall be done with guidance from the Wildlife Division of the CT Department of Environmental Protection.

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Vegetation Control

1. Removal or control of vegetation may be necessary for reasons of public safety, providing access, improving biodiversity and managing non-native invasive species. The method of choice depends on the type of plant and its environment.

2. Mechanical methods are widely applicable and are generally preferred, if effective.

    2.1. Trees and large shrubs are most efficiently felled by chain saw and smaller plants may be cut with loppers. This is effective for most native species. Annual follow up for some species may be required to cut stump sprouts. Slash (branches) and trunks may be used to construct cover for small animals. Otherwise, the slash and trunks shall be cut small enough to contact the soil and left in place to decompose, or be removed from the site. In areas exposed to public view it may be desirable to remove the slash from view or dispose of it at the recycling center.
    2.2. Grass, sedges and forbs are most efficiently cut by mowing. This is a biennial necessity if a meadow is to be prevented from succession to shrub land.
    2.3. Seedlings of woody non-native invasive plants are effectively uprooted by hand. To prevent re-rooting, remove them from the site or hang them in the air to keep the roots from contact with the soil. Annual follow up is necessary because the site may be a favorite perch for birds that distribute the seeds and because an existing seed bank can be viable for several years.
    2.4. Garlic mustard is effectively uprooted by hand. If uprooted before flowering, the pulled plants may be left in place. Plants with flowers or seed spikes shall be removed from the site. Annual follow up is necessary because an existing seed bank can be viable for several years.
    2.5. Phragmites is cut from late July through September. Repeated annual cutting reduces the density and vigor of the stand allowing competing plant species to grow.
    2.6. Woody non-native invasive plants (Asian bittersweet, autumn olive, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, burning bush, etc.) can be effectively uprooted or dug up if they are small. Larger plants are much more difficult to uproot or dig. In either case, annual follow up is necessary because roots remaining in the ground can form new sprouts.

3. Biological methods are applicable to only one non-native invasive species.

    3.1. Purple loosestrife is effectively controlled biologically. The agent is the Galerucella beetle species. The beetle and its larvae are host specific, feeding almost exclusively on purple loosestrife, and dependent on purple loosestrife to complete its life cycle. The beetles or their larvae are released on purple loosestrife plants at the target site.

4. Chemical methods are widely applicable but are to be used with great caution due to the potential damage resulting from misapplication or accidental spills. See the **Precautions** section below. Roundup Weed & Grass Killer is the only herbicide that shall be used. Do not use Roundup “Extended Control” or Roundup “Poison Ivy Plus Tough Brush Killer”. Glyphosate is the active ingredient. It is commercially available in three concentrations: Ready to Use (2%), Concentrate (18%) and Super Concentrate (50.2%). The 2% solution shall be used for foliar spray application; the 18% and 50.2% solutions shall be used for spot application to cut stems. The 18% and 50.2% solutions may also be diluted to 2% concentration to use as a foliar spray. Glyphosate is a broad spectrum systemic herbicide that damages or kills most plants. Upon contact with soil, glyphosate binds to soil particles rendering it inactive. The glyphosate then biodegrades under bacterial action at a rate depending on soil temperature, but typically with a half life of about two weeks.

    4.1. Woody non-native invasive plants (Asian bittersweet, autumn olive, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, burning bush, etc.) are most effectively cut and treated from July through October, preferably before seed production. Cut the main stem within a few

inches of the ground such that the surface of the stump is horizontal. Immediately paint the freshly cut stump surface with 18 to 50.2% glyphosate solution. Take care to wet the cut surface next to the inner bark. The slash and trunks shall be cut small enough to contact the soil and left in place to decompose. Cut vines may be left on trees.
4.2. Japanese knotweed can be cut and treated from July through September. Cut the main stem and paint with 50.2% glyphosate, as in 4.1. above, or drip the glyphosate into the hollow stem. Alternatively, it is effectively controlled by cutting to the ground in July, then treating the fresh sprouts about 4 weeks later by wetting the leaves with a foliar spray application of 2% glyphosate.
4.3. Bittersweet sprouts forming a dense ground cover is effectively controlled in August through September by wetting the leaves with a foliar spray application of 2% glyphosate.
4.4. Garlic mustard forming a dense ground cover of seedlings is effectively controlled in October through April (on warm days if not covered by snow) by wetting the leaves with a foliar spray application of 2% glyphosate.

Precautions

1. Personnel safety is of paramount concern in property management operations. The steward in charge of the operation shall review safety principles and potential work site and operation hazards with workers before permitting them to begin work and shall instruct and closely supervise inexperienced workers. Special care is required in handling tools and chemicals.

2. Chemical safety requires an understanding of the herbicide application method and adherence to safe procedures in the application. This is simplified by using only one class of herbicide as outlined in this policy.

2.1. Skin and eye protection (gloves, long sleeves and pants, eyeglasses or goggles) shall be used to avoid injury from contact with herbicide. Wash skin and clothing with soap and water after contact with herbicide. If in eyes, flush gently with water for 20 minutes and call a poison control center, 1.800.246.7219, or physician for treatment advice.
2.2. Minimum quantity of herbicide shall be taken into the work site to limit the impact of potential spills. The quantity shall be limited by the amount placed in the container used for the application. The herbicide shall be transported in closed containers. Hand sprayers shall contain less than 16 oz of 2% glyphosate solution. Spot applicators shall contain less than 2 oz of 18 to 50.2% glyphosate solution.
2.3. Minimum application of foliar spray shall be used. The spray shall be applied at close range to the target plant to wet only the target without wetting other plants. The application shall be only enough to wet the foliage without dripping off.
2.4. Minimum spot application shall be used on cut surface of stumps to wet the surface next to the bark without dripping down the stump. It shall be applied by brush and closed container, closed container dropper, or closed container sponge applicator.
2.5. Windy conditions are unsuitable for foliar spraying. Spraying shall be halted in case of wind.
2.6. Rainy weather is unsuitable for herbicide application. Application shall be halted if rain is expected within one hour.
2.7. Surface water must not be contaminated with glyphosate. Near surface water or visible puddles, herbicide shall only be applied with greatest caution to avoid contamination.
2.8. Herbicide spills must be avoided. In case herbicide is spilled, dig up the top three inches of soil under the spill and remove it from the site. Replace with clean soil and tamp.