

From: Harvey, Nancy
To: "Nicole Price"
Cc: DeWald, Dan; Bradley, Geoff; Smith, Terry
Subject: RE: Mature Ivy throughout City and in Coal Creek Natural Area
Date: Friday, March 28, 2014 3:57:00 PM

Dear Ms. Price,

Thank you for your comments regarding English Ivy. My co-workers tell me that we currently work cooperatively with the King County Noxious Weed Control Program to help educate the public and control the spread of noxious weeds throughout Bellevue. The City of Bellevue does provide information to the community on noxious weeds, however, we can always do more. We support your suggestion, and would like to work with you to review existing information, assist us in expanding our outreach programs, brochures, or other interpretive media to help increase public education on this noxious weed.

We admire your passion to help thwart the spread of English Ivy. Please contact Geoff Bradley, Environmental Programs Supervisor if you are interested in discussing this further. Geoff can be contacted at 425-452-2740 and/or emailed at gbradley@bellevuewa.gov.

Thank you again for contacting the Parks & Community Services Board.

We sincerely appreciate your ideas and efforts.

Nancy

Nancy Harvey

Bellevue Parks & Community Services

<http://bellevuewa.gov/parks-community-services.htm>

425-452-4162

The contents of this electronic mail message do not necessarily reflect the official views of the elected officials or citizens of the City of Bellevue.

From: Nicole Price [mailto:np@npriceassoc.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 5:34 PM
To: parkboard
Subject: Mature Ivy throughout City and in Coal Creek Natural Area

Dear Members of the Parks and Community Services Board,

Over the years the City of Bellevue has done a wonderful job developing and maintaining parks and open space; educating residents on environmentally sensitive

yard care strategies; and caring for the health of streams, lakes, and natural areas. The recent trail renovation in the Coal Creek Natural Area is one example of how the City has improved my families access and experience in our parks. However, over the course of the last few weeks I've been noticing a growing problem around the City of Bellevue, in yards, along public right-of-ways, and in natural areas. Mature ivy has been fruiting and setting seed all over town. More importantly, this last week I took my son for a walk along the Coal Creek Natural Area trail starting at the NE 60th trail head walking toward the construction on Coal Creek Parkway. During our walk I noticed that there were areas where roughly one quarter of the trees had ivy growing up the trunks and there were large patches of ivy covering the forest floor.

Ivy is a fabulous landscape plant that is used all over the Pacific North West. It's tough as nails drought tolerant, once established, and forms an amazing evergreen ground cover. It grows as a vine and can form roots at nodes at the base of each leaf. So every where the ivy comes in contact with the ground the plant can set down new roots. The plant can also set out a type of aerial roots or anchoring root which allows the plant to climb fences, walls, and trees. Vines grow for many years before reaching maturity. Once the vines reach a certain length the leaf shape begins to change into a heart shape. After that point any new growth will have that heart shaped leaf, the vine will bare fruit, and the plant will begin to grow upright. Birds eat the fruit and deposit the seeds. This is how the plant is dispersed. Ivy can be pruned back to a juvenile section of the plant and maintained at that length to prevent fruiting.

The reason I'm writing is to request that the Parks Board and possibly the City Council support an active campaign to educate the public. A public relations or ad campaign explaining the simple steps property owners can take to maintain ivy in it's juvenile form will go a long way to slowing/stopping its spread. Articles, news reports, or a series of short advertisements can, at a fairly low cost, educate the public quickly regardless of whether they are searching for the information or not.

Attached are images of mature ivy found in my neighborhood as well as images from my hike through the Coal Creek Natural Area. As you can see ivy is growing in pockets in the forest. Some areas are free of ivy but, others are clearly infested. This problem is easier to deal with before the ivy becomes established. The same rule applies to other invasive species as well. It is always easier to deal with the problem before the plant fruits or sets seed. There are some removal and maintenance strategies that work better than others. Communicating best management practices for the removal or maintenance of these species could help minimize the spread of invasive plants like ivy. For example, February is a great month to remove ivy from natural areas because grasses and forbes are dormant. Workers have better access to pull, dig, and cut out ivy.

Other Cities in the region have fought this problem for years. The City of Seattle had documented the loss of diversity in it's greenbelts. We have an opportunity to catch this problem early and stop it from spreading. Please review this information and support an effort to engage the community to help stop the spread of ivy and other invasive species in order to preserve diversity within our natural areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

--

Nicole Price, RLA

N. Price Associates, LLC
(425) 516-4377

Ivy in Neighborhood



Mature Ivy Climbing Mt. Ash



Mature Ivy in Tree



Mature Ivy Competing with Oregongrape

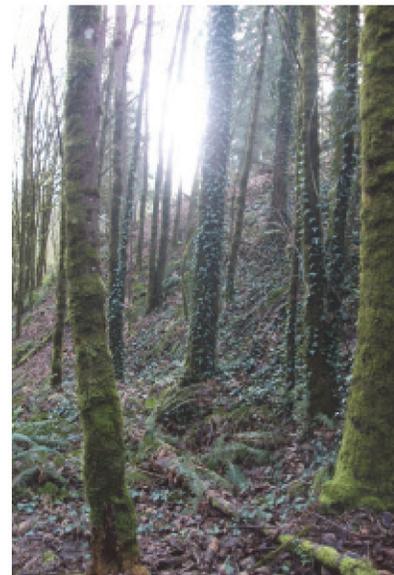
Ivy Found on Hike



Trailhead



Ivy on Trees near Trailhead



Looking Back at Road

Ivy Found on Hike (Continued)



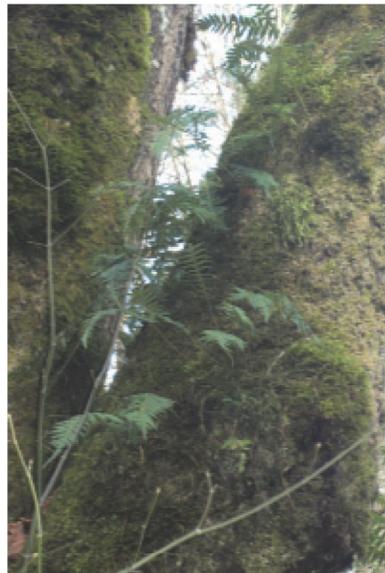
Alder and Fern



Alder and Fern



Fir, Alder, Salal, and Fern



Fern and Moss on Alder



Ivy on Forest Floor

Ivy Found on Hike (Continued)



Ivy on Stump & Forest Floor



Ivy on Forest Floor



Mature Ivy in Trees



Mature Ivy in Trees



Scotch Broom on Pipeline

