

Sinton Pond Open Space

Preliminary Management Strategies

Draft – November 2, 2015

This summary is based on high-profile or high-priority issues identified in the initial field reviews and public input.

Vegetation

- Complete comprehensive noxious weed inventory and mapping on an annual basis
- Complete and implement a noxious weed management plan, including specific treatment timing approaches (e.g., chemical, mechanical, or biological), strategies, and costs
- Conduct immediate removal of all Russian olive
- Continue removal of Siberian elm, and treat areas with sprouting Siberian elm
- Consider refining Siberian elm removal operations:
 - Use large-diameter material to facilitate any recommended trail closures
 - Dispose of slash off site when practicable
 - Ensure chipped materials are well dispersed to avoid impacts to desirable vegetation
- Maintain urban forest structure on the property to screen surrounding development
- Integrate ongoing management practices to minimize noxious weed infestation:
 - Reclaim disturbed areas to reduce chance of further weed infestation
 - Use weed-free materials in trail maintenance
 - Monitor trail project areas to minimize new weed infestations
 - Clean all equipment used in maintenance before it is used on a new project

Wildlife

- Avoid disturbance (e.g., tree removal) during the breeding season for songbirds

Visitor Use

- Close, or repair and designate trail access points from Sinton Road
 - Designate safe and suitable access points
 - Repair eroded street to trail junctions along Sinton Road
 - Pursue parking agreement with office building across Sinton Road. Provide crosswalk from parking to trail connection
- Identify unique trail experience opportunities warranting additional design attention and ongoing maintenance.
 - Reroute system trails to eliminate unsustainable alignments and steep highly eroded banks

- Realign current connection to paved regional Sinton Trail to encourage legitimate trail users up to the pond and provide a single-track loop opportunity.
 - Consider establishing a wheelchair-assessable and visually-impaired trail route around Sinton Pond.
 - Retain visitor access to ephemeral pond and riparian ecosystems.
- Replace and consolidate signage on the property
 - Clarify all park regulations at the trailheads.
 - Assess and repair park signage on a regular basis.
- Address visibility issues along the Sinton Trail at underpass locations.

Discussion of Key Issues

None at this time.