

PATEROS PARKS

WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

**HAPPY 100-YEARS
PATEROS 1918-2018**

2012 RE-CAP

Pateros is the envy of small towns everywhere for the beautiful City parks. In 2012, the first comprehensive park and recreation plan (COP P&R Plan 2012) for the City was completed. The plan had good public support and will help us meet future park and recreation goals and needs. In addition to identifying goals and needs, the COP P&R Plan 2012 will help the City qualify for improvement grants.

The COP P&R Plan 2012 was a first step in moving forward on improvements to the Winter Boat Launch Park, and conceptual development plans were developed. Although our first attempt at receiving a Washington State Recreation and Conservation improvement grant failed, the City is continuing to pursue beneficial, recreation improvements.

Douglas PUD has been very good at making improvements to our parks. The PUD completed the swimming area improvements at Peninsula Park this summer. A retaining wall with railing was constructed to allow for a large beach, complete with sand, to be installed. The beach is accessed by a new sidewalk ramp or concrete steps. The new swimming area was very busy all summer with kids and families. The park is a favorite for summer fun, birthday parties, rest and relaxation, exercising the dog, and family get-togethers. (Don't forget to reserve the main gazebo for large events.)

The spring season started with "Spring Splash", the dedication and completion of the mall and the new splash pad. With tulips blooming, the kids Safety Day was hosted by the Fire Department, and businesses brought business out onto the sidewalk. The new splash pad was a summer hit with the little-ones. The City received a Community Foundation of NCW grant for two picnic tables to be added to the Mall. Those should be showing up Spring of 2013.

If you are not familiar with the splash pad, it is a fountain at the northeast end of the mall with random water jets for kids to play in. The jets are re-circulating, chlorinated, and safe for kids to play in.

Summer is busy time for the Parks. Third weekend in July is the annual Apple Pie Jamboree which is increasingly popular and continues to grow. Keeping the lawns green was an endless challenge through the hot dry summer months of July and August.

August brings in the yearly Hydro Classic event with lots of visitors. Memorial Park is ideally suited for our large summer events.

Peninsula Park is our "best kept secret" neighborhood park. It is nice to see Peninsula Park well used during the summer months by locals, especially during some of the larger community events.

It was a busy fire season for Pateros. One morning during the big fire on Goat Mountain, the park's man went to turn water on at Peninsula Park and found sleeping bags with fire fighters crashed-out in the shade of the trees throughout the park. During the evacuation of the Alta Lake State Park, Memorial Park hosted several families, with sleeping bags throughout the gazebos. Firefighters and local families were also able to use our restroom and shower facilities during the fires. Our park facilities are more than a recreation facility, and it is nice that we have them for such emergency situations.

September, when the grass starts greening up again, is the month of the Hawk Festival. Raptors are on display, tours to Chelan Ridge are available, and specialists are on hand with information about the yearly hawk migration.

Summer saw an endless stream of family recreation throughout our parks. The summer salmon run was another record year, and our boat launch facilities were at capacity much of the season. The fall steelhead season was cut short, but the docks and shoreline of Memorial Park was not short of fishermen.

One of our final fall projects was thanks to the Douglas PUD. The old sidewalk at the Memorial Park Restroom/shower

facility had heaved and was a hazardous to walk on. The new sidewalk design allows for our Bobcat to plow snow. The restroom/showers are open all winter. The new entrance is directly across from the new, mall access sidewalk leading to the splash pad.

☺ SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL AG CLASS FOR REFINISHING THREE OF OUR PICNIC TABLES ☺



2013 PLANNED PROJECTS AND NEW EQUIPMENT

- 2013 Centennial clean-up and spruce up
- Landscape and irrigations improvements to Peninsula Park (Douglas PUD funds)
- New roof on Peninsula Park Gazebo
- New fencing at Peninsula Park and Tennis Court Park
- Dredging of Methow Boat Launch area (Douglas PUD funds)
- New picnic tables (Grant funds)
- New mower for parks (Douglas PUD funds)

GET YOUR 2013 DOG LICENSE AT CITY HALL

Regularly we are required to pick-up loose dogs around town. Without a tag, we have no way to return them to their owner.

We take good care of lost dogs and do our best to find their owner. If your dog spends the night in jail it is a \$25 administration fee and a \$5 per night boarding fee. Make sure your dog wears a dog collar and current dog tags. You can purchase your 2013 dog tags (good for one year) at City Hall.

YEAR-LONG 2013 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS FOLLOW PATEROS.COM

**Pateros City Parks
Coordinator Corner**

By Jord Wilson, MLA

It is the time of year when seed catalogs fill my mailbox. I pour over my catalogs, marking what-I-want, what-I-must, and what-I-wish I could grow. With snow on the ground, I find a little extra time to research spring projects. This year it is weeds. What should I be looking for? What do they look like? What do I do when I find them? How do I stop this cycle of endless invasions and work?

Wildflower Mixes Can Be a Source for Noxious Weed Infestation.

Is Your Bird Feeder bringing in weeds?

Bird feeders can be a culprit for the introduction of noxious weeds. If you notice, every spring there is a lush patch of grasses and weeds circling your feeder. If those weeds are allowed to grow and bloom, a noxious weed epidemic can start from your own yard. Birds also like to roost in trees and shrubs, especially evergreens. So check around their favorite roosts for weed seeds that have passed safely through their digestive track, only to sprout on the ground.

In an Oregon State University study, 10 brands of bird feed commonly found in retail stores were tested and contained more than 50 weed species. Ten of those weeds were of Oregon's most noxious weeds.

So How Can I Minimize the Spread of Weed Seed from My Bird Feeder?

USE a tray attachment under your feeder to keep seeds off the ground.

SELECT foods that won't sprout, such as sunflower hearts, peanuts, peanut butter, raisins, mealworms and plain suet cakes.

LOOK for treated wild bird food mixtures. Many manufacturers are now baking their products to kill weed seeds, using guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. So read product labels carefully to make certain you buy a treated brand.

KEEP an eye out for weeds under your feeder and pull them before they can flower and spread.

"WEEDS WE KNOW"

Baby's Breath – A perennial weed, most of us are familiar with growing along the roadside and on the hillsides around Pateros. It has a deep, woody, perennial root system that requires persistent treatment. I have had success cutting the plant down to the ground and using a chemical application after the plant regrows to about a foot tall. Re-applications are usually required. Watch for new seedlings, and treat them quickly.

Dalmatian Toadflax – A yellow flower resembling a snapdragon found on the dry hills and empty lots of Pateros. Toadflax has a vigorous root system and is difficult to eradicate. Chemical application should be done when the plant is in full bloom.

Puncturevine (goathead) – If you have stepped on one of these little devils, you know how painfully annoying they can be. Goatheads attach to tires and find their way to your driveway. They wait until the warmth of summer and seem to appear overnight. They are an annual and have a small root system. Pulling the plants with a good pair of gloves and a disposing of them in a trash bag is usually the best means of treatment. Goatheads are a problem throughout Pateros and vigilance is required for

removal. Pets, with their bare pads are especially harmed by goathead infestations.

Pateros Weeds of Concern

Weeds are not created equal. Some are highly aggressive, some painfully thorny, and some immortal (or so it seems). Here are a few weeds that should be on our radar here in Pateros.



Whitetop

Sandbur

Hoary Cress (Whitetop)

This weed is currently being treated in downtown Pateros. It is aggressive, spreading by root and seed, and difficult to get rid of. *It seems to have come in by contaminated topsoil.*

Longspine Sandbur

This is a bur that likes to get into your socks or is brought home on your pet. Rapid response is the best treatment. A fairly significant population is being treated along the road by the Tennis Court Park in Pateros. If you find them on your dog, look for the source and watch your yard for new infestations. Longspine Sandbur is an annual, looking like a coarse grass. You might not recognize them until the seed heads form. Chemical applications are effective. Learn to recognize them and kill them before they go to seed.



Canada Thistle

Yellow Flag Iris

Canada Thistle

There are many thistles and knapweeds, and they love to show up around bird feeders. It is a good idea to watch carefully each spring for unknown weeds, especially thistles and knapweeds, which frequently show up in contaminated birdfeed. Canada Thistle is extremely aggressive spreading by root and seed, and it can be very difficult to eradicate.

Yellow Flag Iris

I think many of us along the Okanogan and Columbia think that Yellow Flag Iris is a native wildflower. Actually it is an escaped ornamental (many of our noxious weeds are). Although not excessively aggressive, it has the potential to ruin some of our prized shoreline within the City. The Iris loves moisture, and can be found along the water's edge throughout Pateros. The best method of removal may be with a shovel when the water is low. Follow up to remove missed pieces.

Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is another noxious weed that can be found growing along shoreline throughout the City. It is a highly aggressive perennial weed with an invasive root system. It spreads by seed and root. A mature plant can produce 2.7 million seeds. It has a very pretty purple flower that can easily be mistaken for a plant to save. Spraying near water is not recommended, so this is a weed that hiring a professional or contacting the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board may be the best option.

Residents Bordering the Estuary

There are two weeds that are a serious threat to the estuary, the Yellow Flag Iris and the Purple Loosestrife. Because of the nature of the estuary, it is ideal habitat for these two weeds to invade. Both plants are found in the estuary. If left unchecked, they have the potential to ruin swimming and boating in the area. Protect your property and help us remove these weeds. (If you have questions call Jord at City Hall 923.2571 or contact the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board 509.422.7165)

WEED CONTROL TIPS

Weeds can range from a small nuisance to major noxious invasions. **First**, identify your weed. **Second**, begin containment immediately. **STOP SEED PRODUCTION**. **Third**, determine life-cycle of weed and most effective means of removal. Hand pulling? Cultivation? Mulches? Spraying? **Fourth**, Be diligent! One stray plant can produce thousands of seeds and negate a whole summers worth of work. **Fifth**, replace weeds with desirable plants. With good gardening practices, desirable plants will out-compete weeds.

Jord's List of Invasive Trees not Suitable for Pateros

Siberian Elm, *Ulmus pumila*

Tree-of-Heaven, *Ailanthus altissima*

Russian Olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Weed Spraying Tips

If spraying is the most effective solution, here are a few tips to follow:

One—identify your weed, Determine its life cycle and the most effective way to kill it. Find the best product for the task and **Read the Label**.

Two—**Apply the correct amount** of chemical. Companies do extensive research on the most effective use of a product. **Calibrate your equipment**. It is difficult to apply the correct amount of chemical, if you do not know how much is being applied by your equipment. The Okanogan County Noxious Weed Board has a very simple calibration guide in their publications at <http://okanogancounty.org/nw/pubs.html>

Three—**know your target and hit it**. Labels typically identify plants that are sensitive and areas that should be avoided. Chemicals can be unpredictable and spread by wind and water. Temperature can magnify drift. Read your label so that you hit your target and only your desired target.

Four—**Timing is everything**. Don't waste your time and your money. Spray at the most effective time. Time of the season? What stage of life-cycle is the plant most susceptible to an herbicide? Time of spray? What time of day? Morning or midday? Should it have just been watered? Dry? Hot? Cool?

Five—**get good intel!** Don't use home-brews. Talk to a professional. Retailers of chemicals may be well intentioned, but may have very limit experience using herbicides. If you have questions check with WSU Extension for Okanogan County or Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board.