SHANNON & WILSON

July 21, 2023

Ms. Anna O'Connell Berger Partnership 1927 Post Alley, Suite 2 Seattle, WA 98101

RE:

YELM COMMUNITY PARK PRAIRIE PLANT INSPECTION REPORT, COUNTY PROJECT NO. 2023100892

Dear Ms. O'Connell:

The Yelm Highway Community Park and Future School Project (Project) is located on 86.25 acres of land in unincorporated Thurston County (Figure 1). The City of Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Department plans to develop a little over 63 acres of the site with playing fields and courts, hiking trails, an off-leash dog park, restroom/storage facilities, light poles and other utilities, stormwater infiltration facilities, and other structures. The Olympia School District also has proposed the co-location of a future secondary school campus on nearly 23 acres of the site along the Yelm Highway frontage. Figure 2, prepared by Berger Partnership, is the site plan developed for the Project's Master Plan, including the future school campus.

During Thurston County's review of application materials and site conditions, the County noted in an email on April 12, 2023, that "the cultivated strawberry fields are not of concern, [but] all surrounding pasture/field areas will require a full prairie survey per the County protocols.\(^{10}\)" This letter was developed to provide the methods and results of the prairie plant inspection as required by the Thurston County, and consistent with the *Standards for a Prairie Plant Report (Survey)* (Thurston County, 2022a\(^2\)).

LOCATION

The Project is located south of Yelm Highway Southeast at 3327 Yelm Highway SE, Olympia, Washington 98501 (Section 41/40, Township 18N/17N, Range 1W), parcel

¹ Tschaekofske, H., 2023, Email from Heather Tschaekofske (Associate Planner/Biologist), Thurston County Community Planning & Economic Development, to multiple parties. April 12.

² Thurston County, 2022a, Standards for a prairie plant report (survey). Available: https://s3.us-west-2/s3fs-public/2023-01/cped-cp-docs-2022-prairie-report-standards.pdf. June 6. 1 p.

numbers 09330005001, 09330005000, 09330006000, and 09330008002 (Figure 1). The Project site is bordered to the west and east by residential neighborhoods and undeveloped areas, and a residential neighborhood and undeveloped wetland and forested areas delineate the southern border.

METHODS

Shannon & Wilson biologists Merci Clinton and Olivia Sohn conducted a prairie plant inspection on June 5 and 6, 2023, following the protocol in the 2022 *Thurston County Community Planning Field Screening Guidelines for Prairie Habitat* (Guidelines) (Thurston County, 2022b³). The Guidelines require screening to take place in the area of alteration, which is the development footprint plus a 50-foot buffer. As required by the Guidelines, the area of alteration was not mowed for at least three weeks prior to the screening.

All or portions of parcel numbers 09330005001, 09330005000, 09330006000, and 09330008002 contain soil types associated with prairies as defined in the Thurston County's critical areas regulations, specifically Chapter 24.03 Thurston County Code (TCC) (Definitions) and Chapter 24.25 TCC (Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas). TCC 24.03.010 defines prairies as "herbaceous, non-forested (forested means greater than or equal to sixty percent forest canopy cover) plant communities..."

The biologists walked transects 5 meters apart, scanning the area for Mima mounds⁴, oak trees⁵, and Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) target prairie plants, as well as non-CAO vegetation. All observations were documented on the enclosed 2023 Thurston County CAO Prairie Screening Data Sheet. Plants were identified in the field where possible; those that could not be identified in the field were collected and identified back in the office using botanical keys. Screening occurred in all open grassy areas within the area of alteration. Areas with active agriculture, forested areas, wetlands, and landscaped areas around the Zahn home were excluded, either because they are not fundamentally prairie communities or, in the case of the wetlands in the lower southwest corner, because they are identified as Mukilteo muck, which are not prairie soils (Figure 2).

³ Thurston County, 2022b, 2022 Thurston County community planning field screening guidelines for prairie habitat. Available: https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/thurstoncountywa.gov.if-us-west-2/s3fs-public/2023-01/cped-cp-docs-2022-prairie-inspection-guidelines.pdf. *No date*. 16 p.

⁴ According to TCC 24.03.010, "...prairies can sometimes be recognized by mounded topography commonly referred to as Mima Mounds. Mima Mounds are a unique geologic feature of prairie habitat in Thurston County."

⁵ According to TCC 24.03.010, "[s]ome Oregon white oak (*Quercus garrya*na) can also be present in native prairie..." Presence of oaks is required to be documented on the Prairie Screening Data Sheet.

RESULTS

Two CAO target species were documented during the screening: large-leaved lupine (*Lupinus polyphyllus*) (Exhibit 1) and sickle-keel lupine (*Lupinus albicaulis*) (Exhibit 2). Large-leaved lupine was found scattered throughout the study area, as individual plants and in patches with up to 15 plants (Figure 2). A patch of sickle-keel lupine was found in one area between the two strawberry fields in the north side of the site; approximately 30 plants were spread over approximately 2,000 square feet (Figure 2). Several oak trees were also noted, the locations of which are included in Figure 3. No Mima mounds were found within the area of alteration. According to the Guidelines:

"If at any point at least three different target plant species, totaling *in* [sic] *at least* 25 *plants each* or meeting the presence/absence criteria based on imperiled butterfly use, are encountered within 5 meters of each other, the area in question meets the criteria to be established as occurrence of prairie."

Following the Guidelines, the prairie criteria were not met; see the attached 2023 *Thurston County CAO Prairie Screening Data Sheet*.

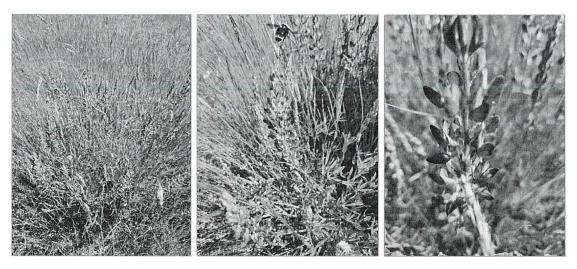


Exhibit 1: Large-Leaved Lupine (Lupinus Polyphyllus)

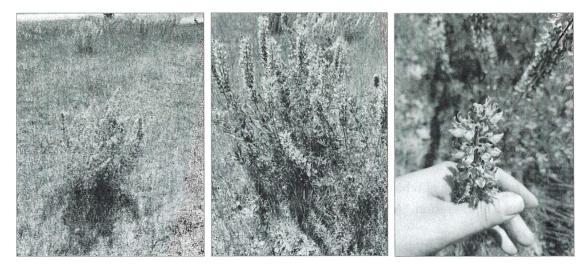


Exhibit 2: Sickle-Keel Lupine (Lupinus Albicaulis)

In addition to the CAO target species, the alteration area contains the species listed in Exhibit 3. The Project site has been used for agriculture and is highly disturbed throughout the area of alteration. Currently, the area of alteration is dominated by several grasses and weedy species. Representative photos of the site are shown in Exhibit 4.

Exhibit 3: Non-Target Species Observed in the Study Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Notes
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Found throughout the study area. This is a nectar plant for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly per Table 3 of the Guidelines but is not a target species.
Agrostis capillaris	Colonial bent grass	Dominant species found throughout the study area.
Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom	Primarily in southern end of study area at the forest edge.
Festuca occidentalis	Western fescue	Found primarily bordering strawberry fields.
Geranium spp	Cranesbill geranium	Found primarily near strawberry patches in disturbed areas.
Holcus lanatus	Velvet grass	Found in scattered patches throughout study area.
Hypochaeris radicata	Hairy cat's ear	Found throughout the study area.
Jacobaea vulgaris	Tansy ragwort	Found scattered in areas with previous disturbance. Class B noxious weed regulated by Thurston County.
Lolium perenne	Perennial ryegrass	Small patches near road clearings.
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain	Found throughout the study area. This is a host plant for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly per Table 3 of the Guidelines but is not a target species.
Rumex acetosella	Red sorrel	Found throughout the study area.
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	Found in scattered patches throughout study area.
Trifolium repens	White clover	Found in scattered patches throughout study area.



Exhibit 4: Representative Photographs Taken on July 5 and 6, 2023

CONCLUSION

During the July screening, biologists observed and documented two CAO prairie plant species, large-leaved lupine and sickle-keel lupine, and several oak trees. No Mima mounds were observed onsite. Based on these findings, prairie criteria were not met and therefore a requirement for a Habitat Management Plan was not triggered.

Sincerely,

SHANNON & WILSON

Merci Clinton, PWS, MSEM

Biologist

AJS:MAC:KLW/mac

Enc. Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

Figure 2- Project Site Plan

Figure 3 – Prairie Plant Inspection Map

2023 Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Prairie Screening Data Sheet

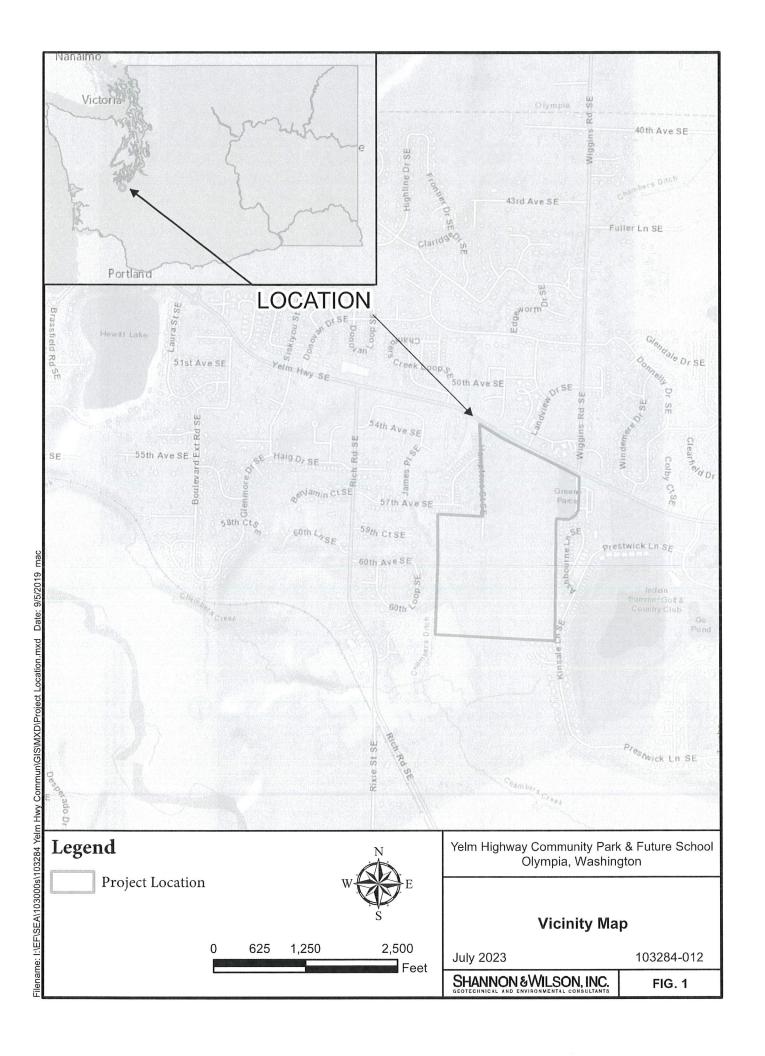


FIG. 2

Community Park Yelm Highway Master Plan

- Infrastructure Entry Drive
- Emergency Access
- Biorefention/Stormwater Facilities <u>688</u>
 - (a) Parking (390 stalls) (b) Drop-off (c) Maintenance Facility

- Restrooms
 Restrooms
 Picnic Shellers
 Loop Path (accessible)
 Synthetic Turf Rectangular Fields
 with Lighting
 Sport Courts
 Playground
 Sport State Park
 Sparaground
 State Park
 Dog Park
 Sparaground
 Scale Park
 Community Garden Park Core Amenities

 © Entry Plaza

 ® Welcome Kiosk

 ® Restroms

 © Prair Shelters

 I Loop Path (accessible)

 © Synthesic Turf Rectangular Fie

- Wetland

 Wetland Boundary

 Wetland Buffer

 Wetland Buffer

 David Boardwalk

 White/Mitgation Planting

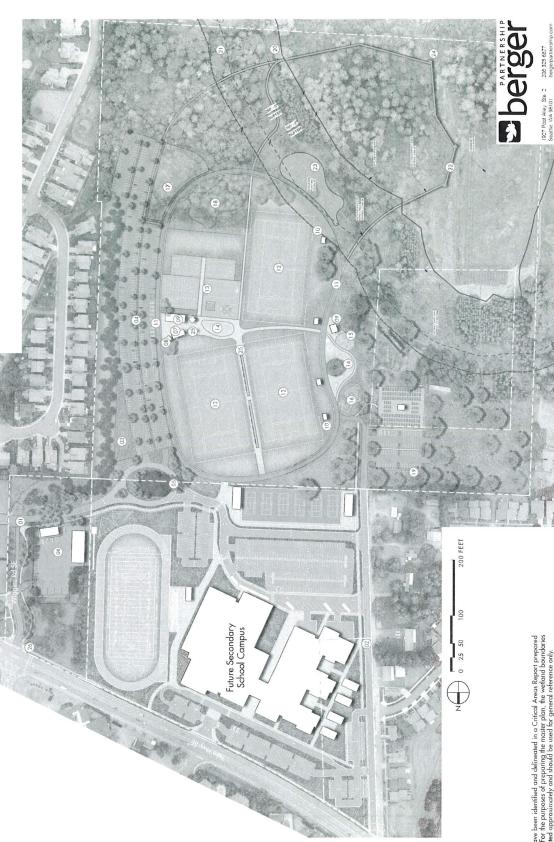
 Patential Future Connection to Chehalis Trail

- Site Furnishings (benches, tables, bike racks, waste/recycling Parkwide (2) Site Furnishi receptacles)
 - 3 Park Identification

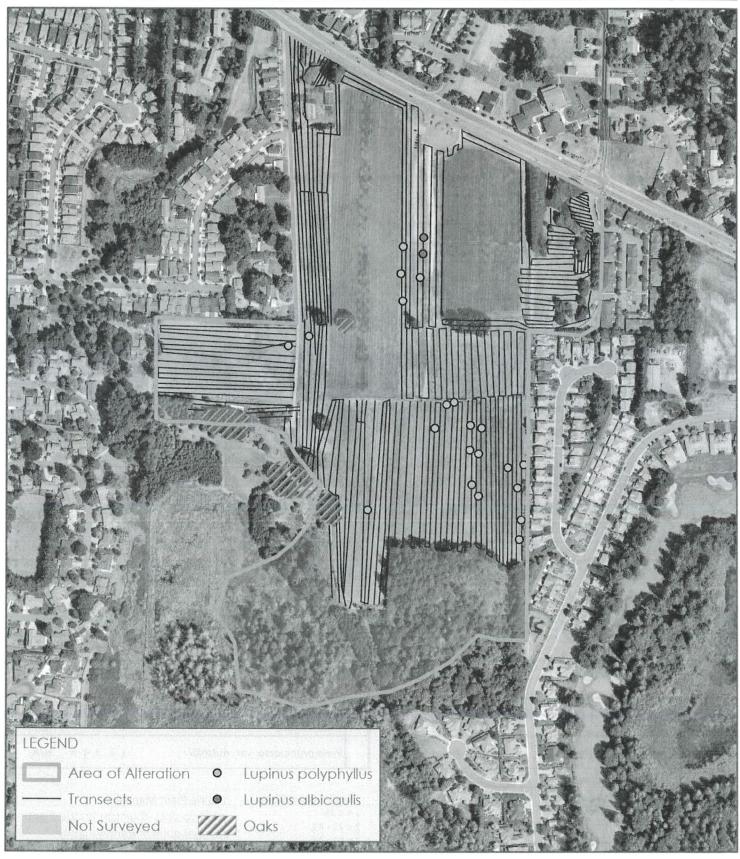
- Shared Facilities

 (27) Shared Full-Sized
 Track and Field
 (28) Shared Parking (490 stalls)
 (39) Shared Tennis Courts

Wefland Note: The welland and associated buffer have been identified and delineated in a Critical Areas Report prepared by Shannows & Wilson, delar September 16, 2021. For the purposes of propring the material plan, the welland boundaries and associated buffers shown heterether have been located approximately and should be used for general reference only.







0 500 Feet

Notes:

Species points represent 1-20 individual plants.



July 2023 Prairie Plant Inspection Map Figure 3

2023 Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Prairie Screening Data Sheet

Parcel Number: 09330005001, 09330005000, 09330006000, and 0933000	08002 CAO prairie criteria met? Yes or No
Property Owner: City of Olympia	Mima mounds present? Yes or No
Surveyor(s): Merci Clinton & Olivia Sohn	Oaks (Quercus garryana) present? (Yes) or No
Date: June 5 and 6, 2023	Mature: 3 small patches
Composition of Vegetation:	Sapling:
	Seedling:

Х	Target species	Class* (circle)			
	Apocynum androsaemifolium	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Balsamorhiza deltoidea	Present / Absent			
	Bistorta bistortoides	Present / Absent			
	Brodiaea coronaria	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Camassia leichtlinii	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Camassia quamash	Present / Absent			
	Carex densa	Present / Absent			
	Carex feta	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Carex inops ssp. inops	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Carex tumulicola	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Carex unilateralis	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Castilleja hispida	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Castilleja levisecta	Present / Absent			
	Danthonia californica	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Delphinium menziesii	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Delphinium nuttallii	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Deschampsia cespitosa	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Deschampsia danthonioides	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Dodecatheon hendersonii	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Downingia yina	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Erigeron speciosus	12345 N/A			
	Eriophyllum lanatum	Cover: m ² N/A			
	Eryngium petiolatum	Present / Absent			
	Festuca roemeri (F. idahoensis)	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Fragaria virginiana	Cover: m ² N/A			
	Fritillaria affinis	12345 N/A			
	Hieracium scouleri	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Hosackia pinnata (Lotus pinnatus)				
	Koeleria macrantha (K. cristata)	12345 N/A			
	Leptosiphon bicolor (Linanthus b.)	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Lomatium bradshawii	Present / Absent			
	Lomatium nudicaule	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Lomatium triternatum	1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
	Lomatium utriculatum	Present / Absent			

X Lupinus albicaulis Lupinus lepidus var. lepidus Lupinus lepidus var. lepidus 1 2 3 4 5 N/A X Lupinus polyphyllus 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Micranthes integrifolia (Saxifraga i.) Micranthes oregana (Saxifraga o.) Microseris laciniata Present / Absent Perideridia gairdneri 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Plagiobothrys figuratus Present / Absent Polemonium carneum Present / Absent Potentilla gracillis Present / Absent Ranunculus alismifolius Ranunculus occidentalis Present / Absent Ranunculus orthorhynchus 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Sericocarpus rigidus Present / Absent Sidalcea malviflora var. virgata Silene scouleri Sisyrinchium idahoense 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Solidago missouriensis 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Toxicoscordion venenosum var. venenosum (Zigadenus venenosus) Trifolium willdenowii (T. tridentatum) 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Veratrum californicum 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola praemorsa var. nuttallii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola praemorsa var. nuttalliii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola praemorsa var. nuttalliii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola praemorsa var. nuttalliii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola praemorsa var. nuttalliii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A			
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Veratrum viride 1 2 3 4 5 N/A Viola adunca 1 2 3 4 5 N/A		Triteleia hyacinthina	12345 N/A
Viola adunca 1 2 3 4 5 N/A		Veratrum californicum	1 2 3 4 5 N/A
		Veratrum viride	1 2 3 4 5 N/A
Viola praemorsa var. nuttallii 1 2 3 4 5 N/A		Viola adunca	1 2 3 4 5 N/A
Trois practices tarriation.		Viola praemorsa var. nuttallii	12345 N/A

*Species Count Class:

1 = < 25 2 = 25 - 49

3 = 50 - 74

4 = 75 - 100

5 = >100

Prairie Plant Manual:

cped-cp-docs-Thurston-Prairie-Plant-Manual.pdf (amazonaws.com)

Non-CAO vegetation notes:

	Species	Notes
1	Yarrow	See report for notes on species
2	Colonial bent grass	
3	Scotch broom	
4	Western fescue	
5	Cranesbill geranium	
6	Velvet grass	
7	Hairy cat's ear	
8	Tansy ragwort	
9	Perennial ryegrass	
10	English plantain	
11	Red sorrel	
12	Red clover	
13	White clover	
14		
15		
16		
17		

Prairie Habitat Criteria: If at any point at least three target species, totaling in general at least 25 plants each are encountered within 5 meters of each other (WDFW 2015), the area in question meets the criteria to be established as occurrence of prairie. For certain plants such as WNHP rare plants (indicated here in bold), or species which serves as nectar or host plants for both TCB and either SCC or SGCN butterflies, presence is enough to meet prairie habitat criteria for such species, even if their count is less than 25 individual plants.