

Dear Alicia Doran,

For the past many years I (Ed Holroyd) have occasionally reported weed issues to you. The photos in this note were taken at about 1 PM Monday, July 19, of 17 plants of **purple loosestrife** in easy-access areas in the lowlands of the Serene Conservancy, just south of the west end of Van Bibber Open Space Park and its parking lot. I did not search the more difficult-access locations where loosestrife has always been present. For more than a decade I have tried to eradicate the loosestrife but it keeps coming back. I always make sure that no new seed is produced by clipping and destroying all mature flower heads that I find. Otherwise I have been spraying the plants with broadleaf herbicide and for a few past years tried to dig up the roots. Many of the photos are of new seedlings, sprouting from very old seed during this wet and warm Spring. Some are large enough to suggest they are coming up from old roots. For two of the plants I have included background to show location.



A large flowering plant

Same plant with Open Space info sign

Almost-flowering with old farm trailer



plants on left and right





Seedlings and yet-to-flower plants are not as easy to find and identify. Normally I would be destroying all of these plants. However, as of the end of last Summer, Prospect Recreation and Parks District has prohibited me from all maintenance activity within the Serene

Conservancy area. That is because of my opposition to their development plans. By the conservation easement, the interior 13 acres is to be restored to natural habitat or to educationally demonstrate agricultural practices. Prospect has declined the agricultural option which would have used their water rights for irrigation. Natural habitat is not supposed to be irrigated, but is watered by precipitation only. As is easily seen in both the Van



Bibber Open Space and the Serene Conservancy, nothing in the valley needs to be irrigated. So Prospect's irrigation plans are in violation of the natural area preservation of the conservation easement. Similarly, Prospect's plans to excavate and line the upper (southern) pond in order to store ditch water for pumped irrigation are in violation of that natural habitat there.

The proposed irrigation of the lowlands of the Serene Conservancy will promote the continued presence and enhanced growth of purple loosestrife there.

Meanwhile, without the usual weed control maintenance that I did for the previous fifteen years, the tall noxious invasive weeds are already making a come-back. Some teasel and mullein are already about six feet tall. Canada Thistle is already flowering and ready to produce seeds. There is no evidence that Prospect has done any weed control at the Serene Conservancy this year. That is somewhat understandable with the recent change of Prospect personnel and because Prospect only used my volunteer services for weed control in the past years. I suspect that no Prospect personnel have any knowledge of purple loosestrife locations within the Serene Conservancy apart from where I showed them examples.

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