

POND REPORT OCTOBER 2019

Walk around with Tony Livermore, Supervisor, GAIA Landscapes, Inc.

Tuesday, October 1, 2019, Tony and I walked our ponds and surrounding landscaping for which they are responsible under contract. We reviewed all aspects of the contract and observed the following:

- SVOA Ponds.
 - South pond improvement project estimated to take several days and begin the second or third week in October 2019.
- SVOA Landscaping around ponds. Performed bi-weekly.
 - Lawn Service – edging and weeding. GAIA continues to apply crabgrass pre-emergent, moss control, and pre-emergent weed control that grow in the north pond during the summer.
 - Shrubs & Beds Service – weeds are under control; shrubs pruned.
- GAIA will be including in its 2020 maintenance contract costs to contain the rush/sedge type plants growing in the north end of the south pond just before the south pond becomes shallow and rocky. While these plants serve to filter the “muck”, they need containment as they spread out over the pond.



South Pond rush/sedge type plants

- Two plantings in the north pond area have deteriorated.
 - At our SVOA entrance - *Spiraea 'Tor'* has had some sun scorch, heat damage. Tony hard-pruned hoping it will come back in the spring; if not, it will be replaced.





pruned

hard-

- Behind our SVOA entrance sign is a tree named *Salix scouleriana* (Scouler's Willow) which has a fungus (powdery mildew) which GAIA sprayed this year. However, the spraying did not remove the fungus, and therefore, GAIA will remove and replace this tree next year.



- Ketchum Wildlife placed several traps to catch and remove spotted nutria in the south pond. We suspect the nutria came from Starker.

Pacific Northwest Aquatic Invasive Species Profile **Nutria, *Myocaster coypus***



Nutria may look cute, but they are a big **problem** for wildlife, water quality, and human health. **Nutria** construct burrows in banks of rivers, sloughs, and ponds, sometimes **causing** considerable erosion. They heavily graze streamside vegetation, impeding the growth of important native plants and excluding native wildlife.

Nutria can exhibit aggressive behaviors. When they feel trapped by people, this aspect of their behavior sometimes comes out. They can act fiercely, which often brings upon physical harm not only in human beings, but also in pets

Like most **invasive species**, **Nutria** not only destroy habitat but also impact native **species** such as otter, muskrat, beaver, birds, crustaceans, and fish—all of whom rely on healthy wetlands. ... In most of the world the animal is called coypu, but in North America the common name is **nutria**.

Several years ago, nutria dug out half the side of the north pond mound resulting in the mound collapsing and needing to be rebuilt. Last year during the south pond dredging GAIA removed several tunnels nutria had built along the west side and rebuilt the area to prevent collapsing.

Given the City has a program to remove invasive species from Starker, and nutria are classified as invasive, we have requested our Ward 1 council person Jan Napack to discuss with the City adding nutria to the removal list for Starker. Attached is a detailed analysis of the nutria.