

# Rogers Park Community Council

(including Anchor Park, College Village, Woodside East and Rogers Park)

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Travis Smith, Vice-President  
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To: Anchorage Parks Foundation

**Whereas** the European bird cherry tree (*prunus padus*) was a popular landscaping tree for many years on private property in Anchorage neighborhoods and in Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) plantings as the tree grows quickly, has early-blooming, fragrant flowers and produces berries attractive to Bohemian Waxwings, American Robins and other birds, and

**Whereas** *prunus padus* has quickly spread, due in part to the berries being an avian food source, and has been studied and identified as an invasive species since at least 2007, with the riparian zones of Chester Creek and Campbell Creek having the highest density of these trees in Anchorage, and

**Whereas** the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) in conjunction with MOA Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has engaged in *prunus padus* control efforts that have included public education, elimination of the availability of tree stock, and yearly manual removal of trees, and

**Whereas** APF with DPR is proposing use of herbicide Garlon 4 Ultra in spring/summer 2015 for *prunus padus* eradication along Chester Creek from Seward Highway to Maplewood Street to coincide with the closure of the Chester Creek trail for scheduled trail renovations, and

**Whereas** Garlon 4 Ultra, manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, is toxic to fish, is mobile in permeable soils thereby a possible contamination hazard to groundwater, and has documented negative effects on frogs, beneficial insects and spiders, small mammals, and non-target plants including mosses, lichens, and beneficial mycorrhizal fungi,

**Now therefore, be it resolved** that Rogers Park Community Council supports ongoing public education and ongoing manual control of *prunus padus* along Chester Creek but is opposed to the use of herbicide on public municipal park land due to the inherent

risks and unlikely success of eradication efforts. Furthermore, RPCC encourages manual removal of prunus padus in outlier areas where it has begun to appear.

Iris Matthews  
President Rogers Park Community Council