



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SETH FLEETWOOD

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham recognizes that invasive species have negative impacts on our economy, infrastructure, natural resources, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, invasive species – including noxious weeds – damage our land and water, harm our wildlife and the productivity of our natural resources; and inhibit management of those resources in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, every year, the costs to prevent, monitor, and control invasive species – combined with the damage to crops, fisheries, forests, and other resources – cost the nation an estimated \$137 billion a year; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are recognized as the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide after habitat destruction from human development; and

WHEREAS, invasive species threaten the survival of native plants and animals, and are a significant threat to almost half of the native species listed as federally endangered, including salmon; and

WHEREAS, invasive species interfere with ecosystems by changing natural processes such as fire, water availability, and flooding; and

WHEREAS, invasive species impede industry, threaten agriculture, endanger human health, and are becoming increasingly more difficult to prevent and control as a result of global commercialization and human travel; and

WHEREAS, prevention is far less expensive than trying to remove species once they arrive and an educated and aware public is highly effective at detecting introduced species early; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham is dedicated to educating the citizens of Whatcom County about the prevention, impact, and management of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species through implementation and administration of several multifaceted programs including a multijurisdictional Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (“AIS Program”), a robust Habitat Restoration Program, Greenways Volunteer Program, Outreach and Education Programs, and through the daily operations of the Parks and Public Works Departments crews; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Governor Jay Inslee has proclaimed February 28 through March 4, 2022, as Invasive Species Awareness Week in Washington to raise awareness and identify preventative solutions for invasive species issues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham wishes to join Washington State, to bring awareness to the county of the detrimental impacts of invasive species and the importance of preventing their spread; and



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WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham recognizes the nexus of climate change and invasive species, which are two major global change threats to native species, habitats, and ecosystem services.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, hereby proclaim February 28 – March 4, 2022, as

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Bellingham and encourage all residents to learn more about preventing invasive species by visiting: invasivespecies.wa.gov.



Signed this 25th of February 2022

Seth Fleetwood, Mayor
City of Bellingham