

Phase Work Distribution

Green Seattle Partnership Performance Evaluation Fact Sheet 2

Phase Meaning

Restoration work within the Green Seattle Partnership (GSP) can be broken down into 4 generally (but not always) sequential phases. Some tasks (such as weeding or mulching) pervade the entire restoration process. However, for simplicity's sake, we have categorized each task based on the phase in which it occurs most often:



Phase 1: primary removal of invasive species, either manually or with herbicide



Phase 2: planting native species



Phase 3: plant establishment work, which includes mulching, watering and weeding



Phase 4: monitoring and maintenance of sites in which native species have become established

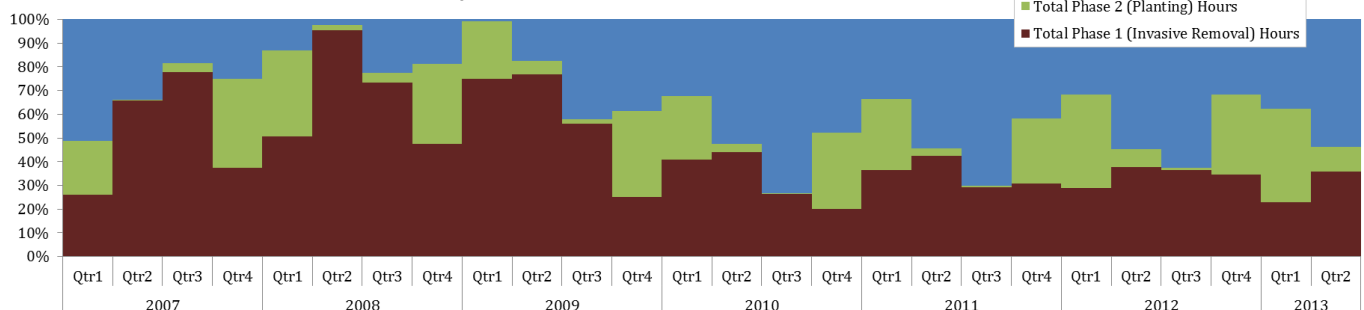
When all of the natural areas within Seattle Parks & Recreation reach phase 4, the Green Seattle Partnership will have achieved its primary goal.

Trends in Phase Work

Seasonal Trends

Chart 1 illustrates the seasonal nature of restoration work. Phase 1 (invasive removal) work takes place primarily during the spring and summer early growing season while the weather is nice, plants are easy to identify and before the planting season begins. Phase 2 (planting) takes place almost exclusively in late fall and early spring, the times of the year most associated with the greatest chances of survival. Phase 3 (establishment) spikes annually in the summer and early fall with the dry weather and growing season for both plantings and weeds.

Chart 1: Proportion of Reported Field Labor Hours by Phase each Quarter
January 2007 - June 2013

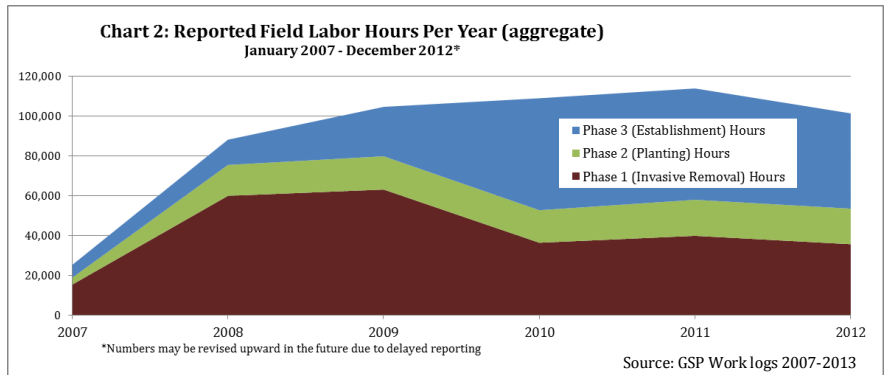


*Data for 2013 is not yet complete and numbers may be revised upward in the future due to delayed reporting.

Source: GSP Work logs 2007-2013

Annual Trends

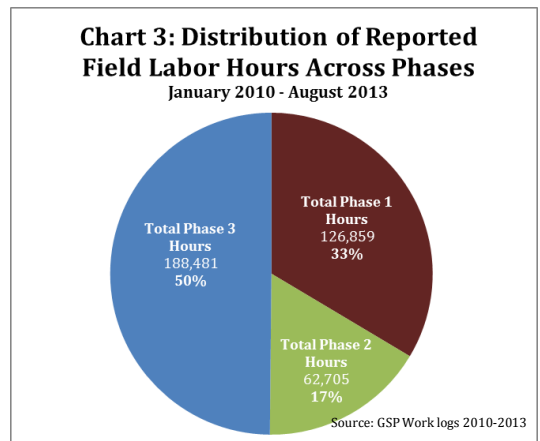
The visible width of each colored band in Chart 2 represents the labor hours spent on phase work for each year of the GSP. As more sites were planted, there was a shift, primarily in 2009 to 2010, away from invasive removal and toward the maintenance and establishment of planted sites. Since 2010, the GSP has maintained consistent ratios of times dedicated to these three phases, as sites that were planted earlier require less maintenance and new acres are brought into restoration. Half of reported field hours since 2010 have gone to phase 3 work, while about a third have gone to phase 1 and a sixth have gone toward phase 2 (Chart 3). Phase 2 (planting) hours have remained relatively consistent since 2008.



Phase Work and Labor Types

GSP field work events consist of either:

- professional (contractor or staff) crews,
- volunteer (Forest Steward) led work parties, or
- mixed work parties in which professionals lead a number of volunteers.



Each of these types of events may involve work from any phase although they vary in their distribution of hours between work for each phase (Chart 4). Of the total hours contributed by each event type, crew events and staff led volunteer (mixed) events tend to dedicate a bit more time to establishment (phase 3) while volunteer led events dedicate more time to planting (phase 2). Primary invasive removal makes up about a third of restoration hours for each of the labor types.

