

## PINE-PROSPECT AVENUE VIEWING AREA ON THE RIVER

January 2025

Tourism meetings in this area since 1998 have had discussions about the fact that we need more lake and river access in town. The Hanson Report that we paid a fairly high price for states that as well and we have not followed through. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of land on the lake, but we do have this small area on the river on Prospect Avenue between two homes that was cleared and open from the beginning as it is an extension of Pine Street. It is now grown over with invasive Himalayan blackberries.

Residents complain about unsightly properties all the time and this is our unsightly property on the river. It is important to note that we do not need resident's approval to clear invasive weeds from our property. QEP, Bob Crandall stated in an email that we can clear down to the river as it is actually a road right-of-way and exempt from RAR.

- Note that some locals already go onto the riverbank at the end of Nelson and the residents there don't appreciate people using that area either, but it is an access point.
- Finding Prospect Avenue isn't easy for those from out-of-town; GPS doesn't always work as some GPS units send RV's up MacDonald Road showing that they can get to the highway at the end which is actually a dead end! So, this would not be for tourists.
- Local residents would like to see the area cleared and a place for at least viewing the river. I would not class it as a swimming area as we cannot clear the willow at the water's edge and there is a fairly quick drop-off.

So we have two options:

- 1) We leave it as a tangled mess forever
- 2) We clear it, have a gravel base there, put up a barrier with "No Parking" sign so vehicles can't park or enter that area and we plant some native plants along the sides.

At the January COTW meeting I suggested that our staff take a look at the area and consider the costs for clearing, a barrier, signage etc. and bring a report back to the next COTW meeting. This has been an issue for many years and a decision needs to be made now.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn Austin*