

# Thistle Watch!

As you explore our Sand Creek Greenway, take note of the locations of these undesirable species of thistle, which pop up near Sand Creek this time of year. Only rosettes will be visible at this time. Take photos (but don't pull the rosettes), note location and species name or code and send to us at: [SCRGPstaff@sandcreekgreenway.org](mailto:SCRGPstaff@sandcreekgreenway.org)

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Figure 2.

## Canada thistle

- Non-native, noxious, deep rooted perennial
- Rosette leaves are soft green, deeply lobed, spear-like leaves and have sharp barbs on them
- Leaves often have a single, deep, white, vein through the middle



Figure 2.

## Scotch thistle

- Invasive, noxious, biennial
- Leaves are a blue/grey greenish color, 4-20 inches long, slightly hairy
- Rosettes can be 6 feet wide



Figure 1.

## Musk thistle

- Invasive, noxious, biennial
- Leaves are dark green, white ribbing down the middle and along the edges, usually spine tipped (see figure 1.)
- Rosette can be 3 feet wide



Figure 2.

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**Codes:** Canada Thistle CIAR4; Musk thistle CANU4; Scotch thistle CIRSI

