



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair Marie Bender
Vice Chair Thomas Hildebrandt
Secretary Craig Olson
Board Members: Lisa Anderl, Carol Lynn Berseth,
Hillary Ethe, Geraldine Poor

LOCATION & CONTACT

Mercer Island City Hall – Zoom Meeting
9611 SE 36th Street | Mercer Island, WA 98040
Phone: 206.275.7706 | www.mercerisland.gov

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 206.275.7706.

Virtual Meeting Notice

The virtual meeting will be broadcast live on Zoom and recorded and saved on the City's [YouTube Channel](#)

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with the City Clerk at 206.275.7793 or email deb.estrada@mercergov.org and leave a message before 4 PM on the day of the meeting. Please reference "Appearances" on your correspondence. Each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.

Join by Telephone at 5:00 PM: To listen to the meeting, or speak under appearances, via telephone, please call **253.215.8782** and enter Webinar ID **886 7664 0744** and Password **338440** when prompted.

Join by Internet at 5:00 PM: To watch the meeting, or speak under appearances, over the internet via your computer, follow these steps:

- 1) Click [this link](#)
- 2) If the Zoom app is not installed on your computer, you will be prompted to download it.
- 3) If prompted for Webinar ID, enter **886 7664 0744**; Enter Password **338440**

For the safety and wellbeing of the public and staff, the City strongly recommends that community members attend the meeting by viewing the live feed on Zoom or watching the recording of the video conference on the City's [YouTube Channel](#), which will be available approximately 24 hours after the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 5:00 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approve minutes of the October 15, 2020 Special Meeting
2. 2021 Work Plan
3. By-Laws Revisions, 2nd Reading and Adoption
4. Forest Stewardship Volunteer Program Update
5. 2020 Restoration Report
6. Regional Sword Fern Decline Update
7. Marilyn Hatheway Bench Restoration Update

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Quadrant Reports
9. Next Meeting

ADJOURNMENT



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2020

DRAFT

Item 1.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Bender called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Chair Marie Bender, Vice Chair Thomas Hildebrandt, Secretary Craig Olson, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, Trustee Ethe, and Trustee Geraldine Poor participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

Councilmember Lisa Anderl was absent.

Staff participating remotely included: Public Works Director Jason Kintner, City Clerk Deborah Estrada, Parks Operations Manager Alaine Sommargren, and Natural Resources Specialist Kim Frappier.

Chair Bender asked that new Trustee Hillary Ethe introduce herself.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: There were no public appearances

REGULAR BUSINESS:

(I) Election of Officers

- A. It was moved by Hildebrandt; seconded by Poor to:
Elect Marie Bender to serve as Chair through July 15, 2021.
Agreed by unanimous consent. Motion passed 6-0.
- B. It was moved by Bender; seconded by Berseth to:
Elect Tom Hildebrandt as Vice chair through July 15, 2021.
Agreed by unanimous consent. Motion passed 6-0.
- C. It was moved by Poor; seconded by Hildebrandt to:
Elect Craig Olson to serve as Secretary through July 15, 2021.
Agreed by unanimous consent. Motion passed 6-0.

(II) Review and Consider Approving Minutes of the January 16, 2020 OSCT Regular Meeting

The minutes were revised to correct the titles and names of Trustees.

It was moved by Olson; seconded by Berseth to:
Approve the minutes as amended.
Agreed by unanimous consent. Motion passed: 6-0.

(III) City Operations Update

Park Operations Manager Alaine Sommargren presented an update on the Park Operations team during the last six months related to workforce reductions and the move of the team to the Public Works Department. Public Works Director Jason Kintner provided a summary of the organizational changes to the Public Works Department. He explained that the City of Mercer Island is an organization in transition and presented the proposed biennial structure that City Council will be discussing during 2021-2022

budget planning.

Discussion

Trustees discussed the important role that open spaces play in peoples mental health and wellness, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also noted the increased pressure parks and open spaces experience as usership increases. Trustee Poor proposed that the OSCT Board draft a letter to council in support of funding the Open Space program. Chair Bender offered to help draft the letter.

Chair Bender voiced support regarding the proposed Sustainability Manager position and inquired how the position would interface with Park Operations. Public Works Director Kintner explained that the Sustainability Manager would work across departments and programs. If this position is approved by City Council, Chair Bender would like to invite that staff member to attend a Trust Board meeting.

Board Direction: Trustee Poor and Chair Bender to draft a letter to City Council in support of funding the Open Space program in the next biennial budget.

(IV) Review and Consider Update to OSCT Bylaws (first review)

City Clerk Estrada facilitated the review of the OSCT Bylaws with Trustees. She noted that most of the updates made during her review were to bring the OSCT bylaws in closer alignment with the ordinance that created the Trust and to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

Trustees provided feedback on each line item within the bylaws. Topics discussed and decisions made regarding the bylaws include:

- Striking the two-year term limit.
- Removal of trustees: Only include language derived from the ordinance and do not include reference to the municipal code. Trustees requested that Staff ask the City Attorney's Office to review the language included in the municipal code in 2021 to determine if it should be added to the OSCT Bylaws.
- Refinement of election procedures.

Board Direction: Request that the City Attorney review the language regarding Removal of Trustees in 2021.

(V) Quadrant Reports

NW Quadrant: Trustee Poor and Secretary Olson

Trustees reported out on trail conditions after the recent large storm event. Secretary Olson noted that there is a Buddha statue and asked if this should be left in place. Trustees agreed that this is acceptable right now and is not causing a disturbance in the park.

NE Quadrant: Vice Chair Hildebrandt and Trustee Berseth
Trustee Berseth noted improvements to trails.

SE Quadrant: Chair Bender and Trustee Ethe

Staff reported that the City had received complaints about manure in the trails. The issue was referred to the City's CRT team who connected with the Saddle Club to remedy the issue. Trustee Ethe noted that she did not observe manure in the trails during her recent site visit.

Natural Resources Specialist Kim Frappier reported that EarthCorps would be hosting a small-scale volunteer planting event in Pioneer NW in honor of The City's 3rd Annual Arbor Day. Councilmember

Wendy Weiker is scheduled to do a special planting and Arbor Day address that will be videotaped.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020.

Adjournment: 7:30 PM

Berseth moved to adjourn; Hildebrandt seconded.

Agreed by unanimous consent. Motion passed: 6-0.

Marie Bender, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

STAFF REPORT

Item 3
November 19, 2020
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	Receive second reading of OSCT Bylaws and adopt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Adopt revised OSCT Bylaws.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF:	Deborah Estrada, City Clerk	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl	
EXHIBITS:	1. Red-Lined OSCT Bylaws 2. Clean OSCT Bylaws	

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

At the October 15, 2020 meeting, the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board of Trustees ("OSCT") reviewed the draft Bylaws and directed staff to make changes, as discussed, and bring back for review and adoption at its November 19 meeting.

A two-thirds majority vote of all members (5 out of 7) of the Board of Trustees is required for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt revised Bylaws.

BYLAWS OF THE MERCER ISLAND OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

I. Objective and Purpose

To carry out the purposes of the Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust, as established by City of Mercer Island Ordinance No. B-93 dated March 11, 1992 and amended by Ordinance No. 96-002 dated May 6, 1996 and restated herein as follows:

- A. Receiving and holding all Open Space Properties transferred to the Trust by the City Council, or by other governmental or private land owners with approval of the City Council, in perpetuity, or until such time as this Trust is terminated or any such Open Space Property is removed from this Trust by the occurrence of one or more conditions set forth in this Trust;
- B. Protecting, maintaining, and preserving the Open Space Properties; and
- C. Ensuring that the development and use of Open Space Properties are both consistent and compatible with the intent and purposes of this Trust and the guidelines and policies enacted pursuant to this Trust.

II. Organization

- A. *Number and Appointment.* The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven voting Trustees. Six of the Trustees shall be citizens-at-large who reside in the city and shall be appointed by a vote of the city council during a regularly scheduled meeting¹. One Trustee shall be a City Council member and shall be appointed by the Mayor.
- B. The Trustees shall receive no compensation for their services.
- C. *Term Limits.* The Trustees shall serve for the following terms: the City Council Member shall serve a two-year term²; citizens-at-large shall serve four-year terms; provided however, for the initial appointed term, one citizen-at-large shall serve a four-year term, one shall serve a five-year term, and one shall serve a six-year term. Thereafter, the citizens-at-large shall serve four-year terms.
- D. Vacated seats shall be appointed by a vote of the city council during a regularly scheduled meeting, for the remainder of any unexpired position.¹
- E. *Removal.* If a Trustee fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees, of which he/she has had proper advance notice in writing, without having been excused by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Trustee will be deemed to have forfeited his/her position and there shall be a vacancy in the position.³

¹ City Council Rules of Procedure

² Ordinance No. 96-002, Article III

³ Ordinance No. 96-002, Article III

F. *Officers and Duties.* The officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and corresponding Secretary and will perform the following duties:

1. Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings and represent the Open Space Conservancy Trust when meeting with the City Manager, or his/her designee, and City Council. The Chairperson shall also appoint Trustees and chairpersons to serve on ad hoc committees of the Board of Trustees, all as necessary to further the purposes and objectives of the Trust.
2. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer in the absence of the chairperson and shall assume whatever roles and assist in whatever tasks the chairperson may direct.
3. The Secretary shall review, acknowledge receipt of, and respond to residents' letters with approval of the Trustees and in cooperation with the staff liaison.
4. The Board of Trustees shall discuss and elect officers at least once annually.

G. Election procedures:

1. The Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary for a one year-term from among themselves.
 - a. Any Trustee may nominate a candidate; no second is needed.
 - b. To be elected, the nominee needs a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Elections will continue until a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary are elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees present.
2. Election of officers shall take place at the first regular Board Meeting after July 1 of each calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter.
3. The chairperson may only Trusteeserve two consecutive Trusteeterms.

H. Resignations shall be tendered in writing to the Mayor, Chairperson, and staff liaison.

III. Meetings

- A. All meetings of the TrusteeBoard of Trustees where a quorum of the Trustees is present shall be open to the public pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

- B. The Board shall meet at least semi-annually in January and July of each year. The calendar of meetings shall be set by the board for the next year at the last meeting of the calendar year.⁴
- C. *Quorum.* Five Trustees shall constitute a quorum.
- D. *Special Meetings.* A special meeting is any meeting other than the semi-annual January and July meetings. Pursuant to the OPMA, notice shall be given at least 24 hours in advance specifying the date, time, and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted. A special meeting may be scheduled by the Chairperson, staff liaison, or at the request of a majority of the Board of Trustees.
- E. *Agendas.* Agendas and corresponding materials shall be distributed to the Trustees at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, but preferably six calendar days prior.
- F. *Meeting Cancellation.* Any meeting may be canceled by a majority vote or consensus of the Board of Trustees. The Chairperson may cancel a meeting for lack of agenda items or absence of a quorum. The Mayor or City Manager may cancel a meeting due to adverse weather conditions or an emergency.

IV. Powers and Duties

- A. Receive and hold title to real property, or interests in real property (such as conservation easements), transferred to the Trust for preservation as open space properties (collectively "Trust properties").
- B. Ensure preservation of Trust properties as open space properties.
- C. Prepare and recommend written policies to the City Council that are necessary to preserve Trust properties as open space properties, including, but not limited to, policies regarding public use of, maintenance of, and improvements to such properties.
- D. At or before the regular meeting in July of each year, review the status of Trust and each of the Trust properties and report to the City Council on the condition of the various properties with any recommendations concerning how the Trust properties may be managed to preserve them as open space properties and any other recommendations on how the purposes of the Trust could be better accomplished.
- E. Exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Trust.

V. Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all Trustees (5 out of 7 voting to approve). Written notice must be given to the

⁴ Ordinance No. 96-002, Article IV

Trustees at least two weeks in advance of consideration of any amendment. All amendments will be filed with the City Clerk.

VI. Bylaws Review

The bylaws should be carefully reviewed by the Board of Trustees every four years for possible amendments. A periodic review does not preclude adoption of amendments during the interim.

JOB DESCRIPTION

TRUSTEE: OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

GOAL:

To preserve, protect, and maintain the City of Mercer Island's open space as designated by the Open Space Conservancy Trust.

JOB TITLE:

Trustee, Board of Trustees of the Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust

TIME COMMITMENT:

- Citizens: initially staggered terms of 4, 5, and 6-year terms followed thereafter by 4-year terms.
- City Council: 2-year term
- Regular attendance at scheduled Board of Trustee meetings is required; meetings will be held at least semi-annually with other special meetings occurring as needed.

ROLES AND PURPOSES:

- Ensure preservation of trust properties as open space
- Prepare and recommend to the City Council policies and guidelines for maintenance, use and preservation of the Open Space properties.
- Review and report annually to the City Council status and condition of the Trust properties with any recommendations as to management.

DESIRABLE ABILITIES, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS:

- Interest in serving the City as a Trustee
- Interest in maintaining and enhancing the community's quality of life through the preservation of open space.
- Communication and listening skills
- Leadership skills
- Basic understanding of NW forest ecology and urban forest management practices
- Long- and short-range planning skills
- Ability to work with user groups and the City Council
- Ability to contribute opinions at meetings and participate in group decision making process on issues of concern
- Willingness to commit the necessary time to the Board of Trustees for resolution

TRAINING:

Information about Trust, its properties and Board of Trustee operations will be provided by the staff liaison.

Pursuant to Washington State law, all Trustees must receive open public meetings training every 4 years (OPMA training concerning RCW 42.30).

All Trustees are required to sign the City of Mercer Island Code of Ethics Statement.

BYLAWS OF THE MERCER ISLAND OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

I. Objective and Purpose

To carry out the purposes of the Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust, as established by City of Mercer Island Ordinance No. B-93 dated March 11, 1992 and amended by Ordinance No. 96-002 dated May 6, 1996 and restated herein as follows:

- A. Receiving and holding all Open Space Properties transferred to the Trust by the City Council, or by other governmental or private land owners with approval of the City Council, in perpetuity, or until such time as this Trust is terminated or any such Open Space Property is removed from this Trust by the occurrence of one or more conditions set forth in this Trust;
- B. Protecting, maintaining, and preserving the Open Space Properties; and
- C. ~~Insuring~~Ensuring that the development and use of Open Space Properties are both consistent and compatible with the intent and purposes of this Trust and the guidelines and policies enacted pursuant to this Trust.

II. Organization

- A. ~~Seven~~Number and Appointment. The Board of Trustees shall consist of ~~seven~~ voting ~~members to be appointed by the mayor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council, serving at the pleasure of the Council.~~ Trustees~~s~~. Six of the ~~members~~ Trustees~~s~~ shall be citizens-at-large who reside in the city, ~~and one member and shall be appointed by a vote of the city council during a regularly scheduled meeting~~¹. One Trustee shall be a City Council member and shall be appointed by the Mayor.
- B. The Trustees shall receive no compensation for their services.
- C. Term Limits. The Trustees shall serve for the following terms: the City Council Member shall serve a ~~one~~two-year term²; citizens-at-large shall serve four-year terms; provided however, for the initial appointed term, one citizen-at-large shall serve a four-year term, one shall serve a five-year term, and one shall serve a six-year term. Thereafter, the citizens-at-large shall serve four-year terms.
- D. Vacated seats shall be ~~filled~~appointed by a vote of the ~~Mayor, subject to confirmation by the City Council~~city council during a regularly scheduled meeting, for the remainder of any unexpired position.¹
- ~~E. The officers of the trust board~~

¹ City Council Rules of Procedure

² Ordinance No. 96-002, Article III

E. ~~Removal.~~ If a Trustee fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees, of which he/she has had proper advance notice in writing, without having been excused by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the Trustee will be deemed to have forfeited his/her position and there shall be a vacancy in the position.³

F. ~~Officers and Duties.~~ The officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a ~~chairperson~~Chairperson, ~~vice-Vice chairperson~~Chairperson, and corresponding ~~secretary~~Secretary and will perform the following duties:

1. Chairperson. The ~~chairperson~~Chairperson shall ~~schedule meetings,~~ preside over the meetings, ~~and~~ represent the Open Space Conservancy Trust, ~~meet with the Park and Recreation director, meet when meeting~~ with the City Manager, or his/her designee, and City Council, ~~set up meetings, distribute materials, and.~~ The ~~e~~Chairperson shall also appoint ~~members~~Trustees and chairpersons ~~of to serve on ad hoc committees of the Board of Trustees,~~ all as necessary to further the purposes and objectives of the Trust.
2. The Vice ~~chairperson~~Chairperson shall serve as presiding officer in the absence of the chairperson and shall assume whatever roles and assist in whatever tasks the chairperson may direct.
3. The ~~secretary~~Secretary shall review, acknowledge receipt of, and respond to residents' letters with approval of the Trustees and in cooperation with the staff liaison.
4. The ~~Trustees as a whole~~Board of Trustees shall discuss and ~~vote upon~~elect officers at least once annually.

~~F~~G. Election procedures:

1. ~~1. — Each officer~~The Board of Trustees shall ~~serve~~elect a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary for a one year-term from among themselves.
 - a. Any Trustee may nominate a candidate; no second is needed.
 - b. To be elected, the nominee needs a majority vote of the Board of Trustees.
 - c. Elections will continue until a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary are elected by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees present.
2. Election of officers shall take place at the first regular Board Meeting after July 1 of each calendar year, or as soon as possible thereafter.

³ Ordinance No. 96-002, Article III

3. The chairperson may only ~~succeed himself/herself once.~~

~~G. Any Trustee who fails to attend~~serve two consecutive ~~regularly scheduled meetings of which he/she has had proper advance notice in writing, without having been excused by the Chairperson, will be deemed to have forfeited his/her position as~~ Trusteeterms.

H. Resignations ~~may~~shall be tendered in writing to the Mayor, Chairperson, and staff liaison.

III. Meetings

A. All meetings of the Trustees~~s~~Board of Trustees where a quorum of the Trustees ~~are~~is present shall be open to the public, ~~properly noticed, and conducted under Robert's Rule of Order.~~ pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

B. The Board shall meet at least ~~once a quarter~~semi-annually in January and July of each year. The calendar of meetings shall be set by the board for the next year at the last meeting of the calendar year. ⁴

C. Quorum. Five ~~members~~ Trusteess shall constitute a quorum.

D. ~~The Chairperson may call a special meeting as needed, with notice given to the members and public at least ten calendar days before the meeting.~~Special Meetings. A special meeting is any meeting other than the semi-annual January and July meetings. Pursuant to the OPMA, notice shall be given at least 24 hours in advance specifying the date, time, and place of the meeting and the business to be transacted. A special meeting may be scheduled by the Chairperson, staff liaison, or at the request of a majority of the Board of Trustees.

E. Agendas. Agendas and corresponding materials shall be distributed to the ~~members~~ Trusteess at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, but preferably six calendar days before the prior.

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IV. Powers and Duties

A. Receive and hold title to real property, or interests in real property (such as conservation easements), transferred to the Trust for preservation as open space properties (collectively "Trust properties").

⁴ Ordinance No. 96-002, Article IV

- B. Ensure preservation of Trust properties as open space properties.
 - C. Prepare and recommend written policies to the City Council that are necessary to preserve Trust properties as open space properties, including, but not limited to, policies regarding public use of, maintenance of, and improvements to such properties.
 - D. At or before the regular meeting in July of each year, review the status of Trust and each of the Trust properties and report to the City Council on the condition of the various properties with any recommendations concerning how the Trust properties may be managed to preserve them as open space properties and any other recommendations on how the purposes of the ~~trust~~Trust could be better accomplished.
 - E. Exercise such other powers as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Trust.
- V. Amendments
Amendments to these bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote of all ~~members~~Trustees (5 out of 7 voting to approve). Written notice must be given to the ~~members and public~~Trustees at least two weeks in advance of consideration of any amendment. All amendments will be filed with the City Clerk.
- VI. Bylaws Review
~~These~~The bylaws ~~are to~~should be ~~given a careful review~~carefully reviewed by the Board of ~~Trustees~~Trustees every four years for possible amendments, ~~starting in 1996. This.~~ A periodic review does not preclude adoption of amendments during the interim.

JOB DESCRIPTION TRUSTEE: OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST

GOAL:

To preserve, protect, and maintain the City of Mercer Island's open space as designated by the Open Space Conservancy Trust.

JOB TITLE:

~~Member~~ Trustee, Board of Trustees of the Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust

TIME COMMITMENT:

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- City Council: ~~4~~2-year term
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ROLES AND PURPOSES:

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- Prepare and recommend to the City Council policies and guidelines for maintenance, use and preservation of the Open Space properties.
- Review and report annually to the City Council status and condition of the Trust properties with any recommendations as to management.

DESIRABLE ABILITIES, SKILLS, AND INTERESTS:

- Interest in serving the City as a ~~Board of Trustee Member~~
- Interest in maintaining and enhancing the community's quality of life through the preservation of open space.
- Communication and listening skills
- Leadership ~~skill~~skills
- ~~Knowledge~~ Basic understand of ~~the~~ NW forest ecology and urban forest management practices ~~ical process~~
- Long- and short-range planning ~~skill~~skills
- Ability to work with user groups and the City Council
- Ability to contribute opinions at meetings and participate in group decision making process on issues of concern
- Willingness to commit the necessary time to the Board of Trustees for resolution

TRAINING:

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All Trustees are required to sign the City of Mercer Island Code of Ethics Statement.



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 5
November 19, 2020
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2020 Restoration Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the 2020 Restoration Work Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
STAFF:	Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl	
EXHIBITS:	Restoration Maps	

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATE

City staff reports to the Open Space Conservancy Trust Board each year on planned forest restoration activities in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. Restoration work is guided by the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan and the 10-Year Update to the Open Space Vegetation Management Plan. Restoration activities are performed by professional contractors, volunteers, seasonal crew members, and Natural Resources staff. The Natural Resources Specialist manages restoration planning and project management of both professionally contracted restoration and the volunteer program, and shares supervision of the seasonal staff with the Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist.

Natural Resources Staff and Seasonal Crew

Due to COVID-19 related budget cuts, the Natural Resources Specialist position was temporarily eliminated between April and mid-June. Once the Natural Resources Specialist was reinstated, restoration contracting was launched in early July.

All casual labor positions were also eliminated for the year, including positions on the seasonal Restoration and Trails Crew. Normally, these seasonal staff would be responsible for monitoring and treating noxious weed populations, spot watering of new plantings, targeted weeding, mulch deliveries, and other duties on all Trust properties. Due to time constraints, the Natural Resources Specialist focused on the highest priority species in the park – knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.). Other species slated for monitoring will be completed in 2021. This includes spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*).

Volunteer Stewardship

In keeping with Washington State Health COVID-19 safety requirements, all regularly scheduled large-scale volunteer events were cancelled from March through July. EarthCorps held one regularly scheduled event in February before cancelling events through most of the summer. In response to state mandated social distancing protocols, EarthCorps developed a revised protocol to host small events of up to five volunteers and hosted two modified events in August and September. Volunteer restoration primarily consisted of invasive removal

maintenance along the west perimeter of the park along 84th Avenue SE. In addition, EarthCorps led a successful planting in Pioneer Park NW to celebrate the City's 3rd Annual Arbor Day.

2020 RESTORATION WORK – PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS

Pioneer Park

In 2020, professional contractor work is scheduled on 82 acres, with work in all three quadrants. In response to on-the-ground conditions and to meet benchmarks outlined in the 2008 Forest Health Survey, work this year largely focuses on invasive tree treatment and ivy ring creation. Due to the late start to the contracting process, a smaller number of maintenance projects were scheduled on comprehensive restoration sites, since many of the herbaceous weeds targeted for removal would have already died back or gone to seed by the time crews were able to initiate work. In addition, the City did not take on large-scale planting projects during this biennium in order to focus on maintaining existing sites. Two small plantings are scheduled for 2020. See Table 1 for a complete list of 2020 projects and restoration maps for project locations.

1. **Planting maintenance** is scheduled on 8.3 acres within area units PP0902a and PP1003c. These area units were originally planted in 2009 and 2010 respectively and had not received maintenance since 2011 and 2012.
2. In an effort to hold ground on acres already enrolled in comprehensive restoration, contractors will perform **invasive removal maintenance** on 3.3 acres of Pioneer Park NW. Area unit PP1902a is a combination of two older comprehensive sites first established in 2007 that last received maintenance in 2014. Himalayan blackberry is growing back robustly in the canopy gaps, so this site will need additional maintenance in the next biennium as well.
3. **Ivy ring creation** will be conducted on 34 acres within all three quadrants. Ivy rings were last conducted on these sites in 2014.
4. Follow up **invasive tree treatment** is scheduled for 59 acres in all three quadrants. Most of the areas received initial invasive tree treatments in 2010, using the less effective 'frilling' technique.
5. Two small **fall planting** projects are slated to be installed:
 - PPNW: The first project (350 plants) is approximately 1/10 of an acre within PP1801 at the intersection of the Dogwood and Woodpecker trails. This site has been heavily impacted by off-leash dogs digging up and trampling plants. This area had originally been cleared of ivy by an EarthCorps event with Islander Middle School. A temporary wood slat fence will be installed after the planting is completed to allow the plants to establish and redirect dog owners to stay on official trails.
 - PPNE: The second project (175 plants) within area unit PP1004c aims to revegetate the slope adjacent to the bridge. During the last couple of years, dog walkers and cyclists have continued to cut the switchback – trampling native vegetation and causing soil erosion. This project includes the installation of coir erosion control fabric. Temporary wood slat fencing will also be installed post-planting to prevent users from cutting the switchback.

Engstrom Open Space

Follow-up invasive tree treatment is scheduled for 5.7 acres within area units EN1001b and EN1001c. Invasive tree treatment was first completed in these areas in 2010.

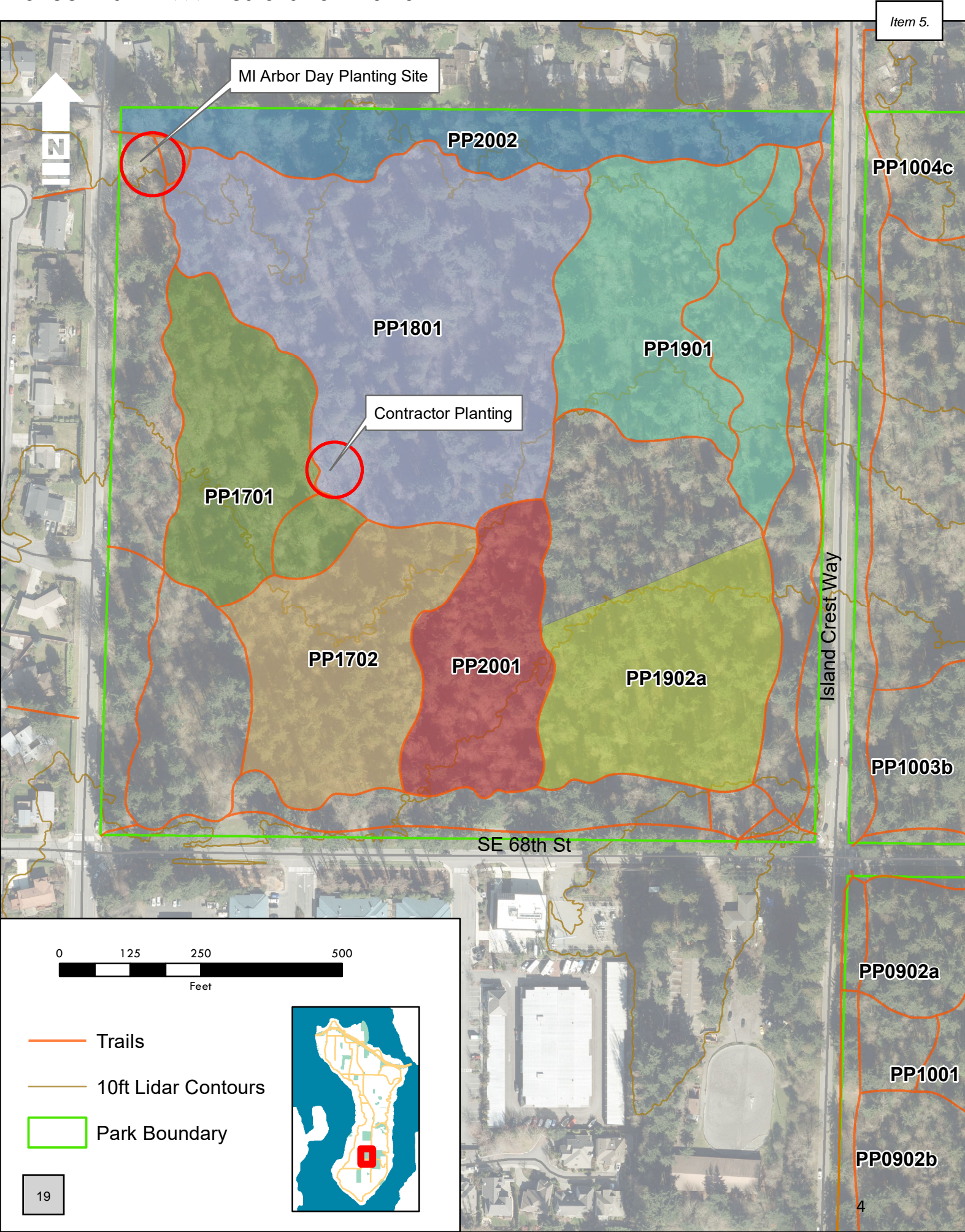
Table 1. 2020 Contractor Work Summary

Site	Area ID	Project Area (acres)	Project activity
Pioneer Park NW	PP1701	3.0	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park NW	PP1702	3.2	Invasive tree treatment
Pioneer Park NW	PP1801	0.1	Fall planting
Pioneer Park NW	PP1801	7.7	Invasive tree treatment
Pioneer Park NW	PP1901	4.7	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park NW	PP1902a	3.3	Invasive removal maintenance
Pioneer Park NW	PP2001	2.3	Invasive tree treatment
Pioneer Park NW	PP2002	2.5	Invasive tree treatment
Pioneer Park NE	PP1003a	3.4	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park NE	PP1003b	9.1	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004b	2.2	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004c	0.1	Planting and Erosion Control
Pioneer Park SE	PP1003c	2.9	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park SE	PP1003c	2.9	Planting maintenance
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a	5.4	Planting Maintenance
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a	5.4	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902b	6.1	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902c	0.9	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP1001	5.4	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002a	4.8	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002a	4.8	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002b	3.7	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002b	3.7	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002c	5.8	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP1002c	5.8	Ivy rings
Engstrom Open Space	EN1001b	1.7	Invasive Tree Treatment
Engstrom Open Space	EN1001c	4.0	Invasive Tree Treatment

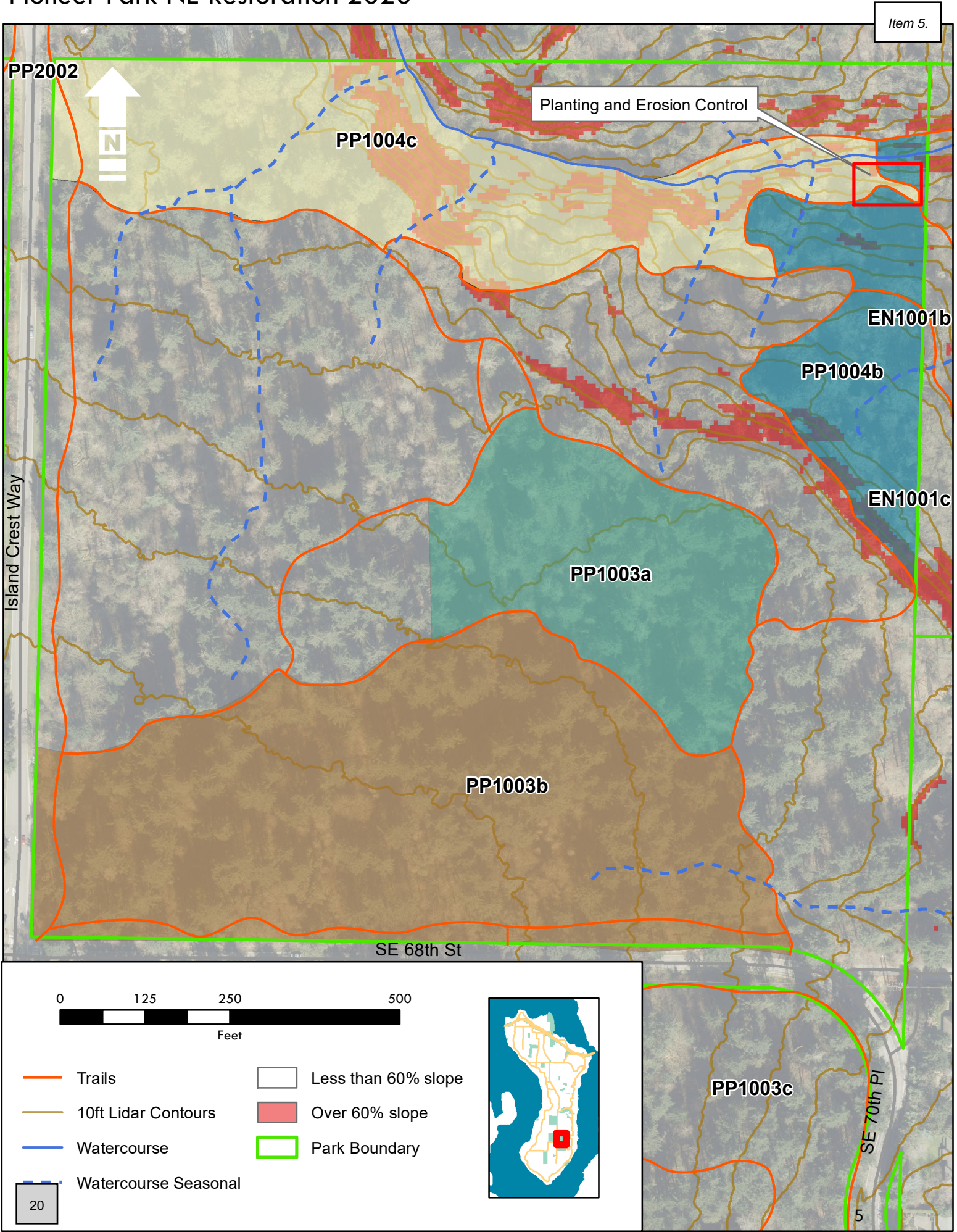
RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2020 Restoration Work Plan.

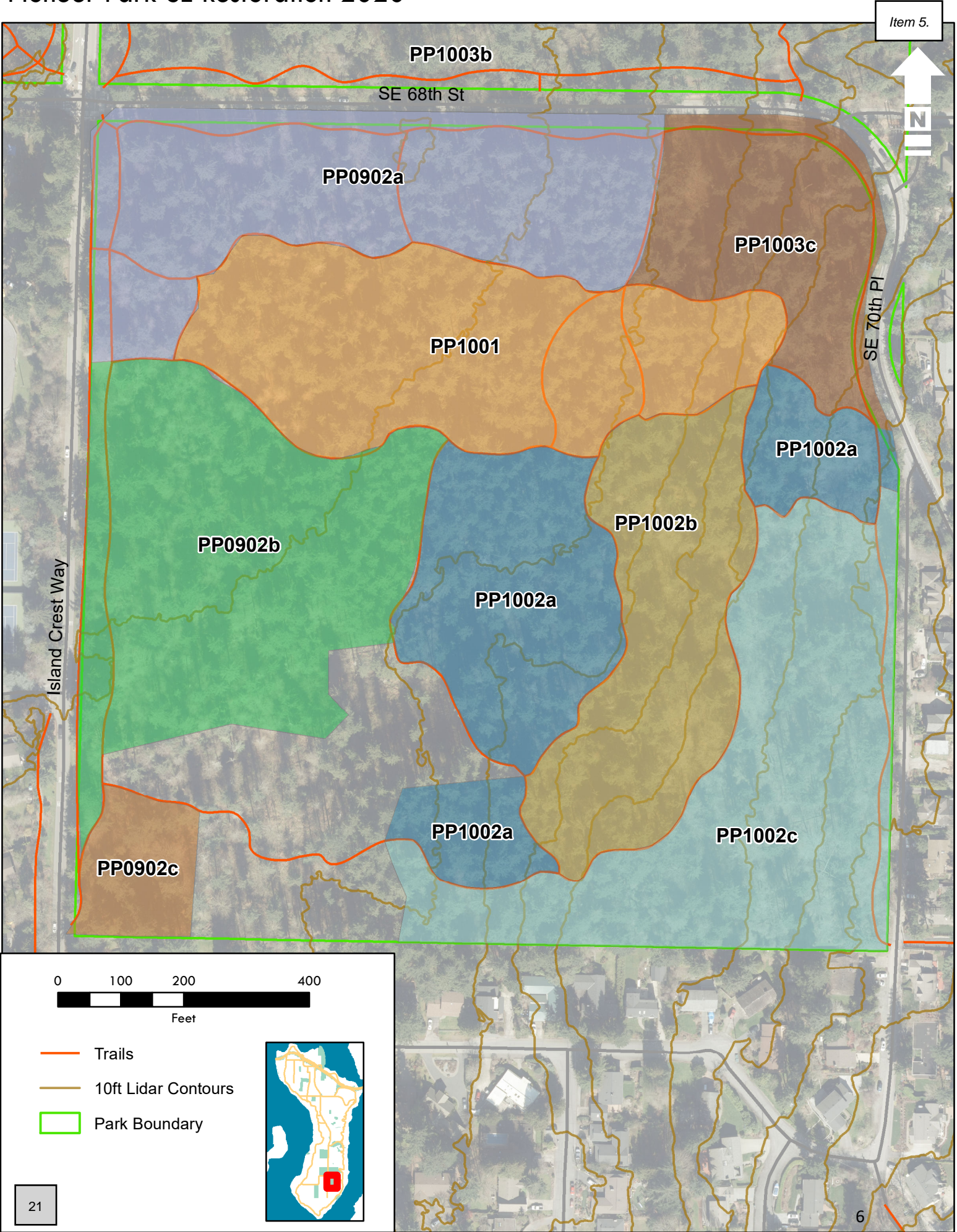
Pioneer Park NW Restoration 2020



Pioneer Park NE Restoration 2020



Pioneer Park SE Restoration 2020



Engstrom Open Space Restoration 2020

Item 5.

