



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST SPECIAL VIDEO MEETING

Thursday, April 20th, 2023 at 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

LOCATION & CONTACT

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

We strive to create an inclusive and accessible experience. Those requiring accommodation for meetings should notify the Staff Liaison's Office 3 days prior to the meeting at 206.275.7874 or by emailing sam.harb@mercerisland.gov

Registering to Speak: Individuals wishing to speak live during Appearances will need to register their request with staff at 206.275.7874 or email sam.harb@mercerisland.gov 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 **871 1870 5255** and Password **074222** 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 **871 1870 5255**; Enter Password **074222**

CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL, 5 PM

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes for the January 19, 2023 Meeting
Recommended Action: Approve the January 19, 2023 minutes
2. Trail Work plan
Recommended Action: Approve 2023 Trails work plan
3. Letterboxing Update
Recommended Action: None
4. Restoration Work plan
Recommended Action: Approve 2023 Restoration Work plan

OTHER BUSINESS

5. [Department Update](#)
6. [Quadrant](#) Reports
7. Topics for Future Discussion
8. [Next](#) Scheduled Meeting – July 20, 2023

ADJOURNMENT



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 19th, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Chair Berseth, Vice Chair Geraldine Poor, Secretary Hillary Ethe, Council Liaison Anderl and Trustees Tom Hildebrandt, and Craig Olson participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

Trustee Bender was absent at role call.

Staff participating remotely included: Deputy Public Works Director Alaine Sommargren and Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb, Natural Resources Project Manager Lizzy Stone

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

No public appearances

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of the October 20th, 2022 Meetings

Corrections: Three scribes corrections were made

Motion by Hildebrandt and seconded by Poor to:
Approve the Minutes of the October 20th meeting.
PASSED: 6-0

2. 2022 Annual Report to City Council and 2023 Work Plan

Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Project Manager presented on the annual report to City Council. Corrections were made to off street parking description and acreage numbers. Sam Harb, Parks Operations Manager presented the Draft 2023 Work Plan, topic was added regarding the Climate Action Plan.

3. Levy Update

Sam Harb, Parks Operations Manager presented on the recent levy that was passed and the impacts to Trust properties.

4. Herbicide Use Protocol Amendments

Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Project Manager presented on the staff recommended changes to the herbicide use protocol.

Motion by Hildebrandt and seconded by Ethe to:
Approve the Herbicide Use Protocol Amendments.
Passed: 6-0

OTHER BUSINESS

Department Report

Sam Harb, Parks Operations Manager presented an update on the department.

Quadrant Reports

Northwest quadrant – Perimeter trails maintained well, trees cleared, bike rack installed, heart shaped area needs attention.

Northeast quadrant – Consider discontinuing triangle area. Asphalt patches done.

Southeast quadrant – No horse manure, good feedback on Nextdoor.

Topics for future discussion

None

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20th, 2023, at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Open Space Conservancy Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM

Carol Lynn Berseth, OSCT Chair

Attest:

Andrea Larson, City Clerk



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 2
April 20, 2023
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2023 Trails Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan	
STAFF:	Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Project Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl	
EXHIBITS:	1. Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan	

SUMMARY

During the winter and spring, staff evaluate the condition of trails throughout Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space and create a draft work plan to address issues that impact the use and sustainability of the trails. Typically, City staff report to the Trust Board on planned trail maintenance and construction activities on Trust properties in spring or early summer. Several minor trail improvements on the work plan are already in progress.

2022 TRAIL WORK SUMMARY

In 2022 the City’s Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist and the Natural Resources seasonal crew worked on several maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. The team replaced rotting stair treads on the Ravine Trail in Pioneer Park NE, fixed drainage issues in the NW quadrant, repaired and replaced water bars in the SE quadrant to improve drainage, removed down trees that blocked trail access, and conducted regular brushing and leaf-blowing throughout the trail system. The City also hosted a group of volunteers in re-graveling sections of Pioneer Park NW to improve muddy conditions.

2023 TRAIL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

So far in 2023, the City hired two Natural resources seasonal staff to help with trail and restoration work in MI parks and open space, including trail repairs and maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. A third team member should be hired this spring as well. The seasonal crew will work on the following trail projects on Trust property in 2023:

- Re-graveling muddy areas and potholes in all three quadrants and Engstrom Open Space.
- Redirecting water off of trails to improve drainage.
- Strategic beaked hazelnut and shrub pruning.
- Root intrusion management.
- Brushing vegetation back from trails.

- Blowing leaves off of trails.
- Other issues as they arise.

See Exhibit 1 for the scope for each task.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan.

Exhibit 1: Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan

Muddy Trail Patching

Various low spots throughout Trust property are forming puddles and creating muddy conditions. In some cases, water in these locations can be redirected off trail by creating a path for water to flow out. In other cases, gravel must be added to fill the low area and mitigate muddy conditions. The Natural Resources crew has begun patching and repairing these locations throughout all three quadrants and Engstrom Open Space this April. Preliminary locations for each of these gravel additions are shown on maps below, as well as photos demonstrating the muddy condition.

Root management

In many locations throughout Pioneer Park trails, tree roots have been exposed through erosion and compaction of the trails. These roots can present a tripping hazard for park users and should be covered by gravel or made more visible whenever possible. The Natural Resources crew will be moving through all trails to survey for root intrusions and covering the roots with gravel or painting with white paint to increase visibility.

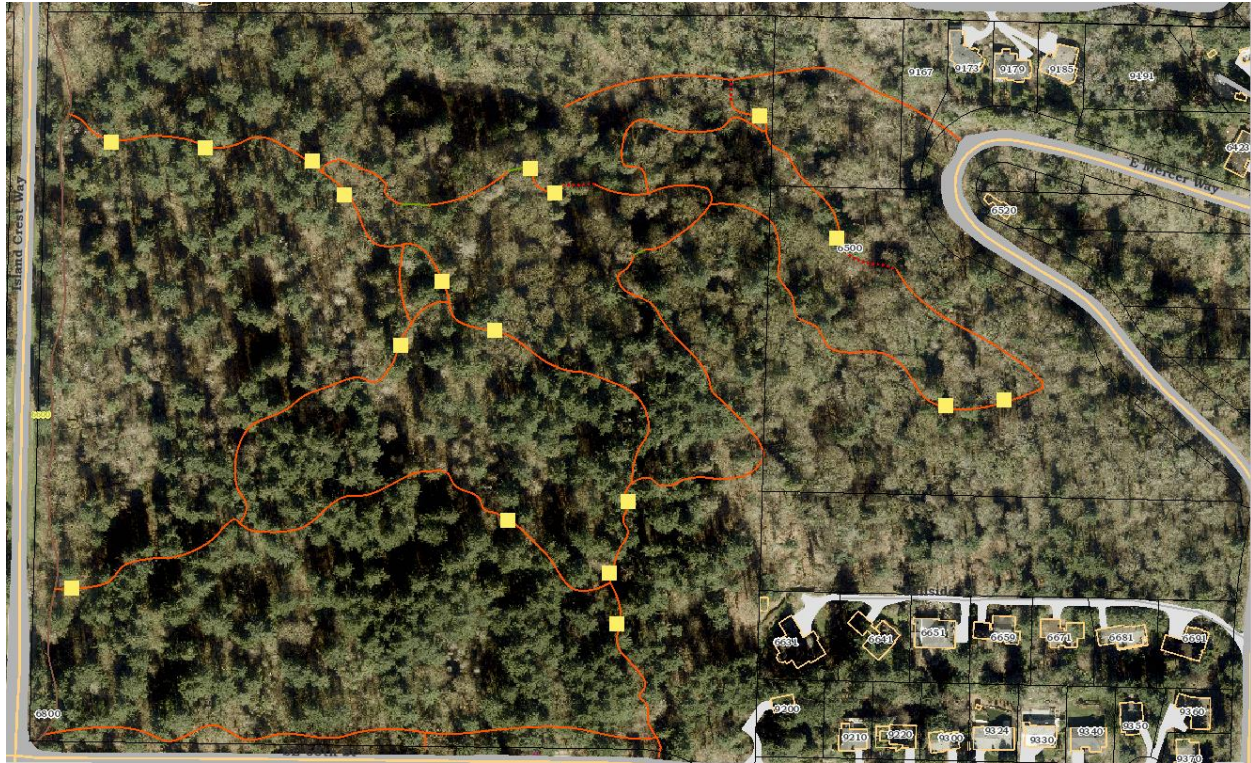
Pruning and brushing

The Natural Resources crew will perform strategic pruning on fast growing trees and shrubs throughout trails on Trust property to redirect growth out of the trail corridor. This effort is intended to lessen the need for brushing in these areas throughout the season. In addition, the crew will be brushing back other smaller shrubs as they grow into the trails throughout the summer months.

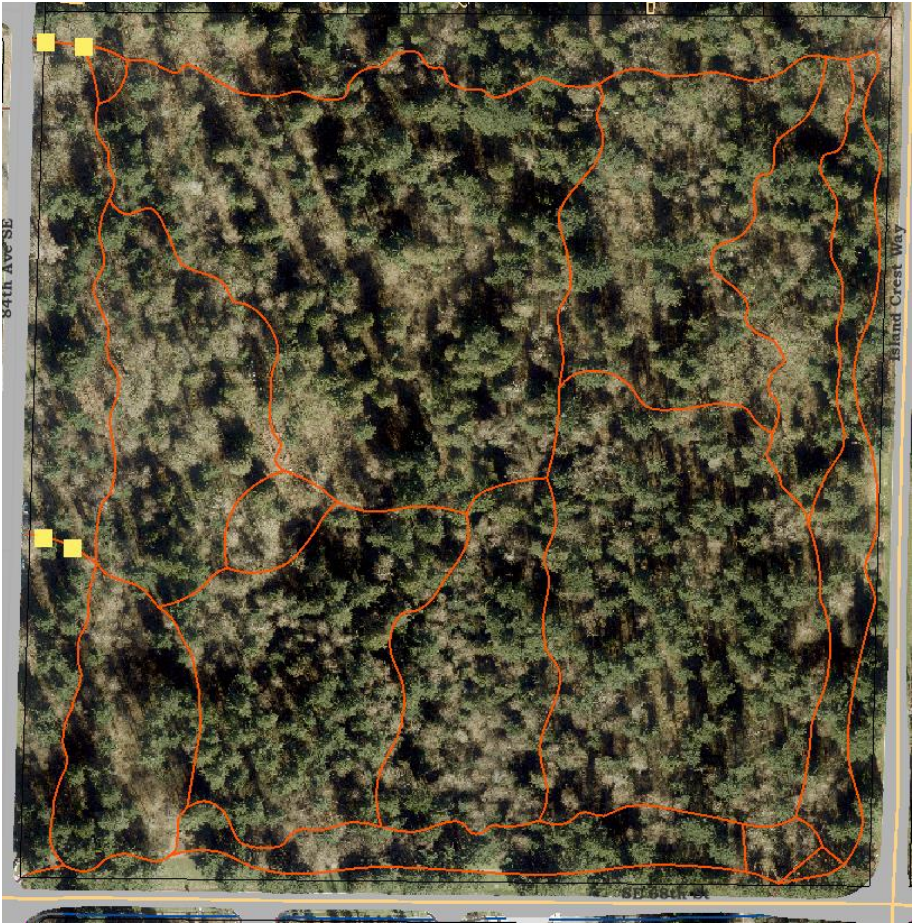
Leaf blowing

When leaves are allowed to accumulate on trails, they decompose and create mucky conditions that lead to more trail maintenance in the long term. The Natural Resources crew and Parks Maintenance teams will be blowing leaves off of the most used trails to minimize this buildup and improve the user experience in the autumn months.

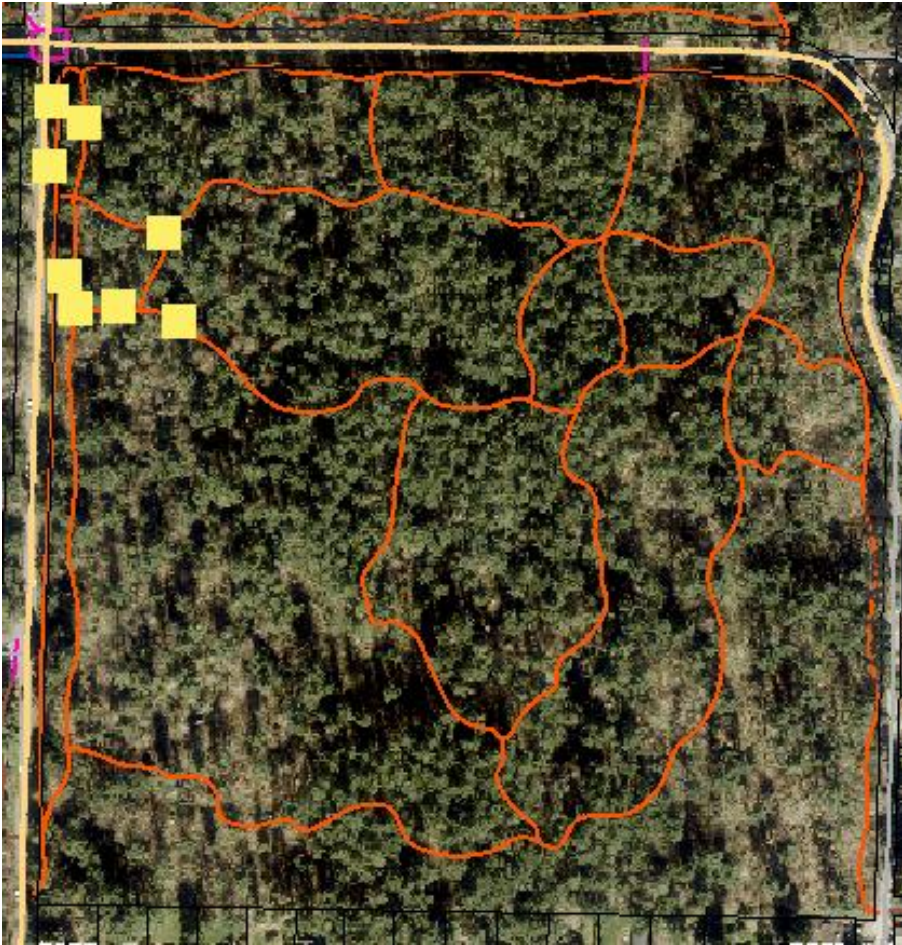
NORTHEAST QUADRANT and ENGSTROM OPEN SPACE



NORTHWEST QUADRANT



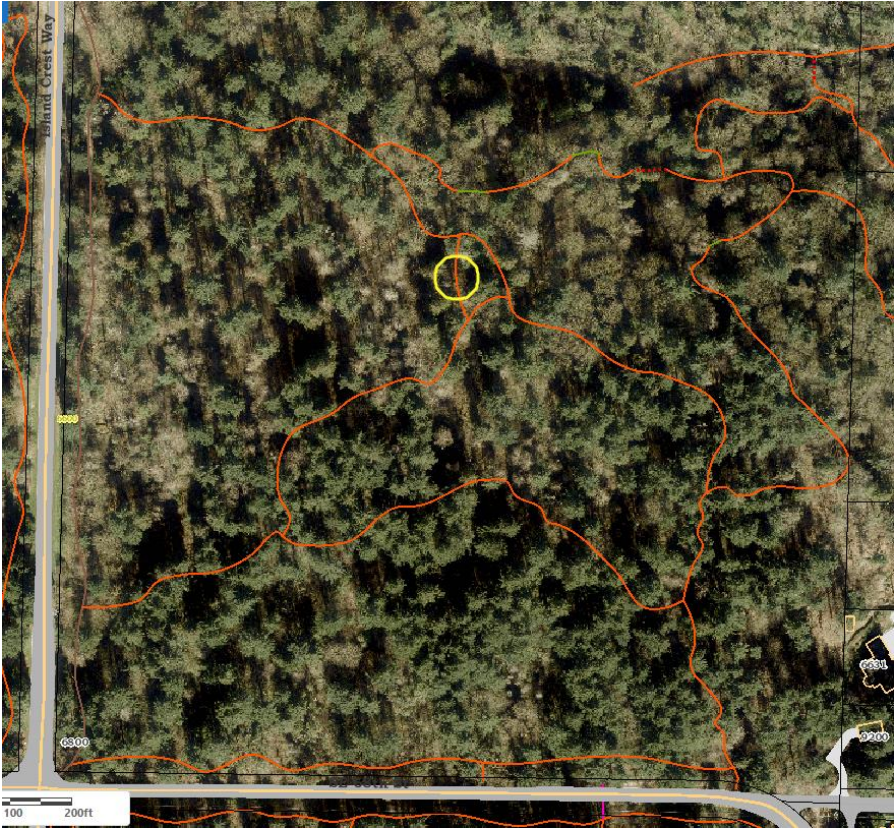
SOUTHEAST QUADRANT



ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Decommissioning trail in the NE Quadrant

- Staff could decommission this redundant trail





2023 Trails Work Plan

Open Space Conservancy Trust
April 20, 2023

Summary of 2022 Trail Work

- Repaired stair treads on Ravine Trail.
- Fixed drainage issues on Horse Trail in NW quadrant.
- Repaired water bars and regraded in SE quadrant.
- Removed downed trees.
- Brushing, pruning, and leaf blowing.

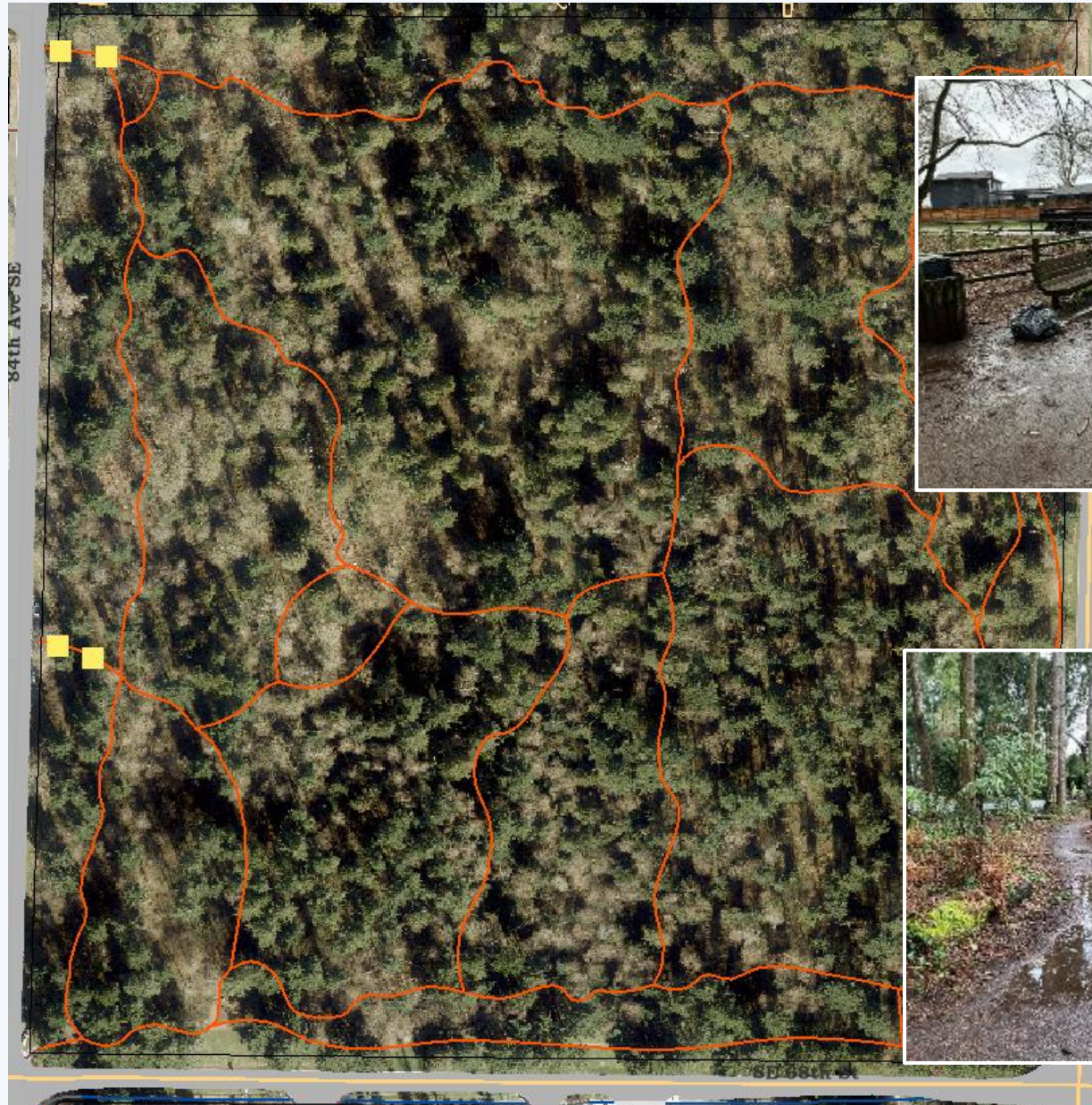


2023 Trail Work Plan

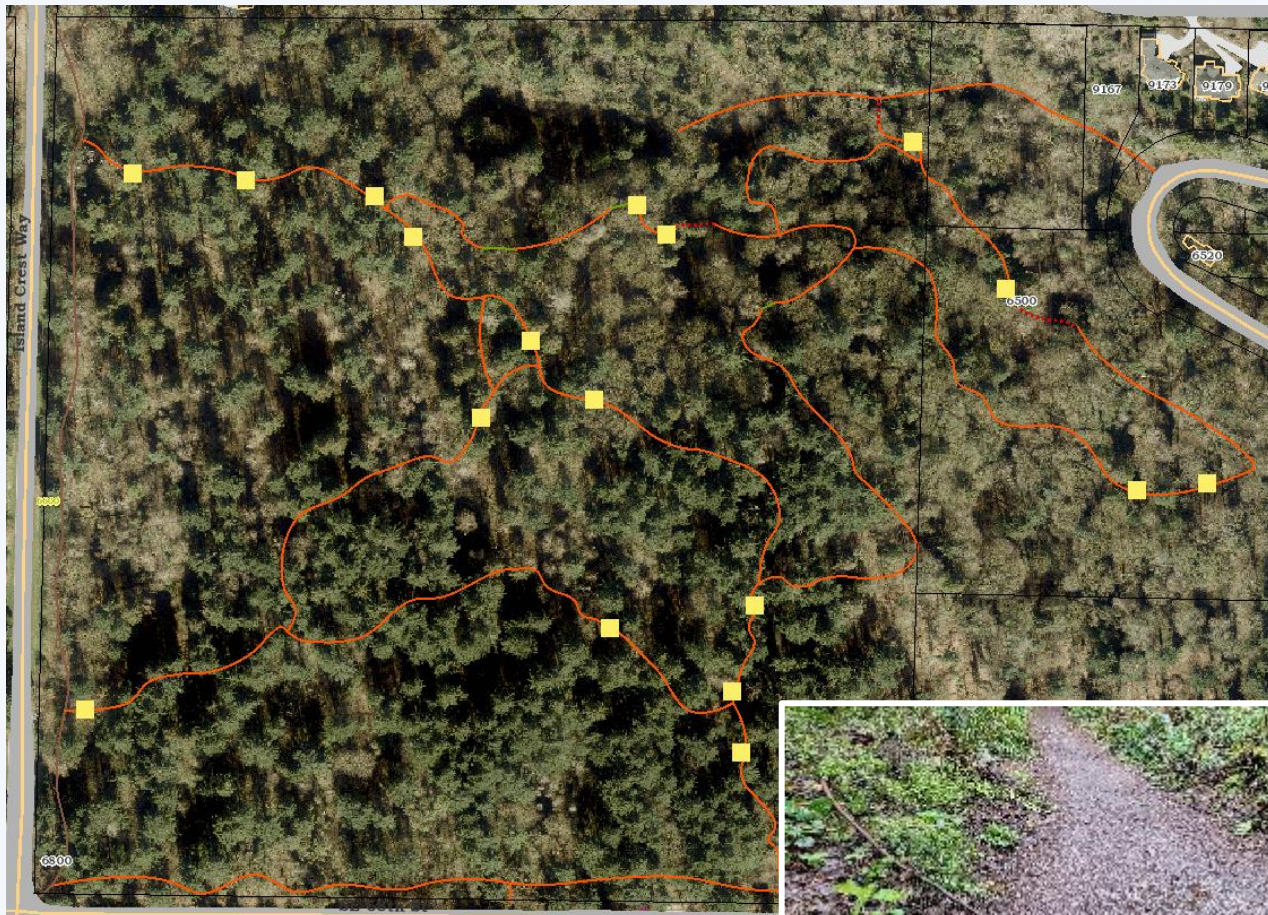
- Apply gravel to low, muddy sections of trail.
 - Potential volunteer events.
- Redirect water from trails and clean water bars.
- Manage root intrusions.
- Selectively prune trail-side shrubs.
- Seasonally brush vegetation and blow leaves.



Northwest Quadrant



Northeast Quadrant & Engstrom OS



Southeast Quadrant



Additional Discussion

Decommissioning redundant trail in NE Quadrant

- Tree has partially blocked a section of Fern Trail near Overlook Trail.
- Option to decommission redundant route.





**OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST
STAFF REPORT**

**Item 4
April 20, 2023
Regular Business**

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2023 Restoration Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the 2023 Restoration Work Plan	
STAFF:	Lizzy Stone, Natural Resource Project Manager	
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl	
EXHIBITS:	1. 2023 Restoration Maps	

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

City staff reports to the Trust board each year on planned forest restoration activities in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. Restoration activities are performed by professional contractors, volunteers, seasonal crew members, and Natural Resources staff. Restoration work is guided by the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan, the 10-Year Update to the Open Space Vegetation Management Plan, and goals associated with 2022 Parks Levy funding.

2023 RESTORATION WORK PLAN

Professional Contractors

In 2023, professional contractor work is scheduled in Engstrom Open Space, Pioneer Park NE and Pioneer Park SE. Work in the NW quadrant will be bid out later this spring. Contractor work will include year 1 comprehensive weed removal, maintenance on areas that received comprehensive removal in the past, and new tree planting. Contracts were awarded for the majority of these projects in late March and work is slated to begin in early May and continue through the fall.

- **Year 1 comprehensive weed removal** is planned in 1.7 acres of Engstrom Open Space (EN1001b), 4.0 acres of Pioneer Park NE (PP1004a), 2.9 acres of Pioneer Park SE (PP1003c), and 2.1 acres of Pioneer Park NW (PP1901b). The specifications for this work include ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal, ivy rings, and invasive tree treatment. The acreages planned for 2023 exceed the goal of 6.5 total new (year 1) acres set out in the 2022 Parks Levy.
- **Year 2 comprehensive weed removal** is planned on 3.4 acres in Pioneer Park NE (PP1003a) and 5.9 acres in Pioneer Park SE (PP0902a1 and PP0902a2). This work is year two of a three year comprehensive weed removal cycle.

- **Invasive removal maintenance** is planned on 1.6 acres of Pioneer Park NW (PP0728b). This zone received three years of comprehensive weed removal starting in 2007 and is due for maintenance.
- **Tree planting** will occur along some steep slopes in Pioneer Park NE (PP1004b). Two hundred trees will be installed.

CONTRACTOR WORK SUMMARIES

Site	Area ID	Project Area (acres)	Restoration Task
Engstrom Open Space	EN1001b	1.7	Year 1 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004b	2.2	Fall Planting
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004a	4.0	Year 1 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park NE	PP1003a	3.4	Year 2 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park NW	PP1901b	2.1	Year 1 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park NW	PP0728b	1.6	Invasive Removal Maintenance
Pioneer Park SE	PP1003c	2.9	Year 1 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a1	2.6	Year 2 Comprehensive
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a2	2.3	Year 2 Comprehensive

Restoration Task	Acreage
Year 1 Comprehensive Weed Removal	10.7
Year 2 Comprehensive Weed Removal	8.3
Invasive Removal Maintenance	1.6
Fall Planting	2.2
Total	22.8

Natural Resources Crew

During the 2023 field season, the Natural Resources crew will continue to monitor and treat noxious weed populations on all Trust properties. Noxious weed species slated for monitoring, removal and/or treatment include spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.) in the SE quadrant, previously identified within PP1002. Yellow archangel (*Lamiasstrum galeobdolon*) will also be treated along private property boundaries within the NW and SE quadrants. Additional efforts will be made to work with bordering neighbors to teach about yellow archangel and develop a plan for effective management. Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) infestations identified in 2020 will continue to be monitored, though they seem to have responded well to treatment and can be managed with manual methods.

The seasonal crew will continue restoration of the west border of Pioneer Park NW along 84th Ave SE, which includes planting maintenance and blackberry removal along the forest edge. The crew will also support volunteer events by cutting back blackberry, removing ivy from technically difficult areas, watering 2022 plantings, and providing supplies for events.

The Natural Resources Crew will also be available to respond to restoration related issues and tasks as they arise throughout the field season.

Volunteer Stewardship

The Natural Resources team’s volunteer coordinator will continue to hold regular volunteer events in Pioneer Park in 2023. Volunteers will conduct year two comprehensive weed removal in Pioneer Park SE (PP0902a3) and expand their ivy and blackberry removal efforts into other areas of the southeast (PP1001) and northeast (PP1003b).

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2023 Restoration Work Plan.

Pioneer Park & Engstrom Open Space Restoration Work Plan 2023

Open Space Conservancy
Trust Board
City of Mercer Island



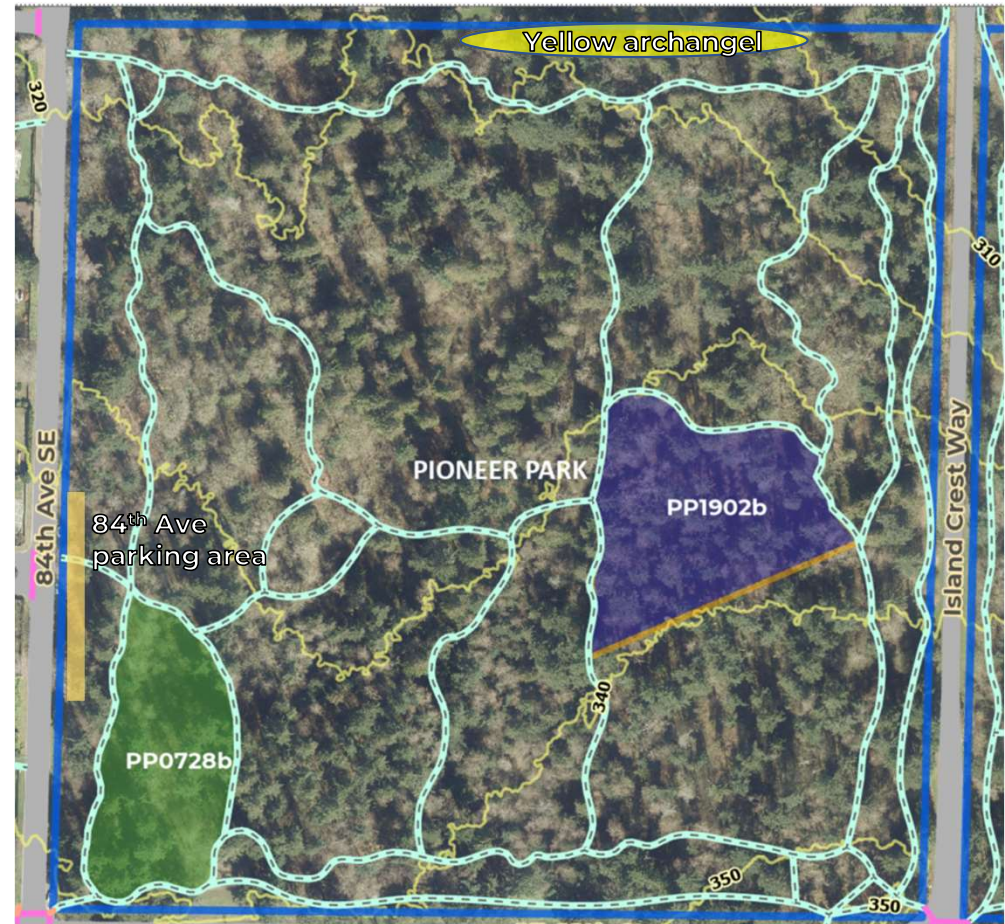
Pioneer Park NW- 2023

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Yellow archangel monitoring and treatment.
- Maintenance of parking area along 84th Ave SE.

CONTRACTOR WORK

- Invasive removal maintenance in zone PP0728b
- Comprehensive invasive removal PP1902b



Pioneer Park NE- 2023

CONTRACTOR WORK

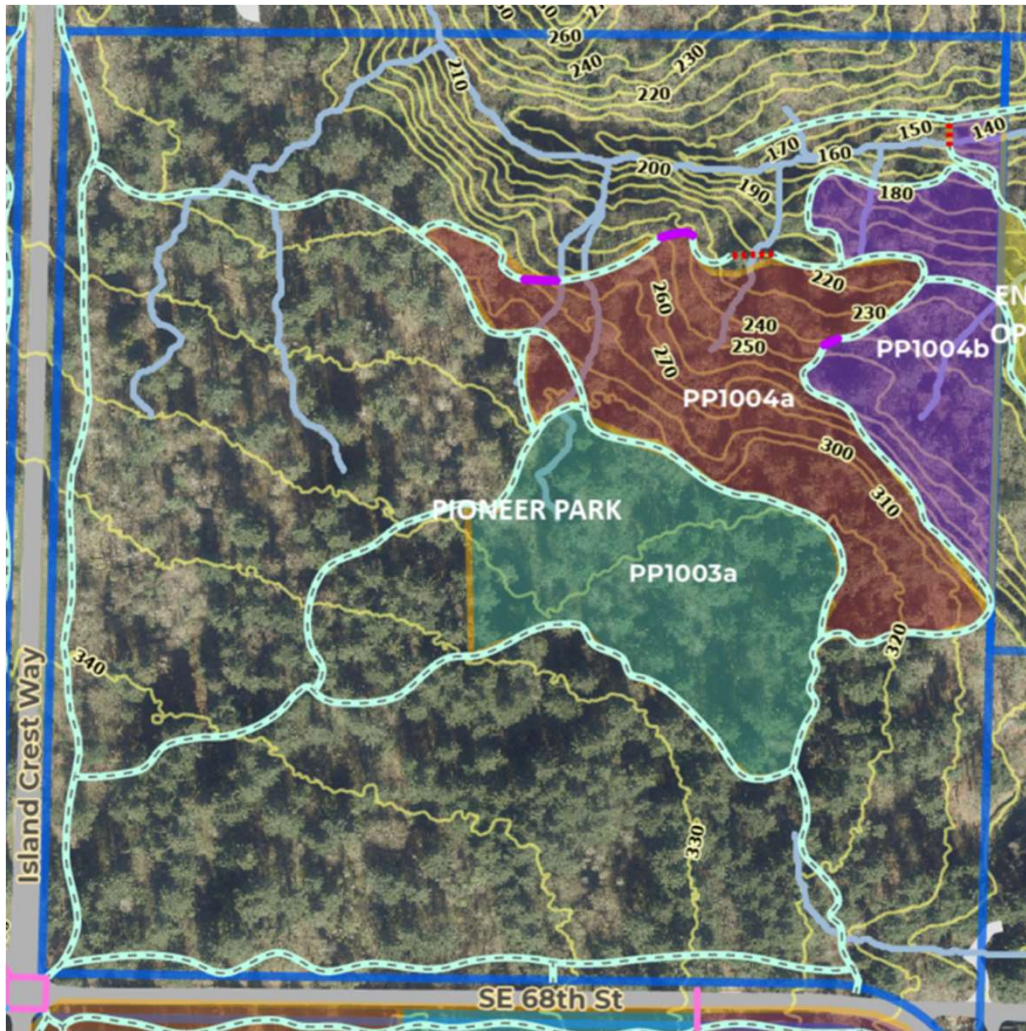
- Year 1 Comprehensive invasive removal in PP1004a
- Planting 200 trees in PP1004b
- Year 2 Comprehensive invasive removal in PP1003a

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Noxious weed monitoring throughout park

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

- Specific projects TBD



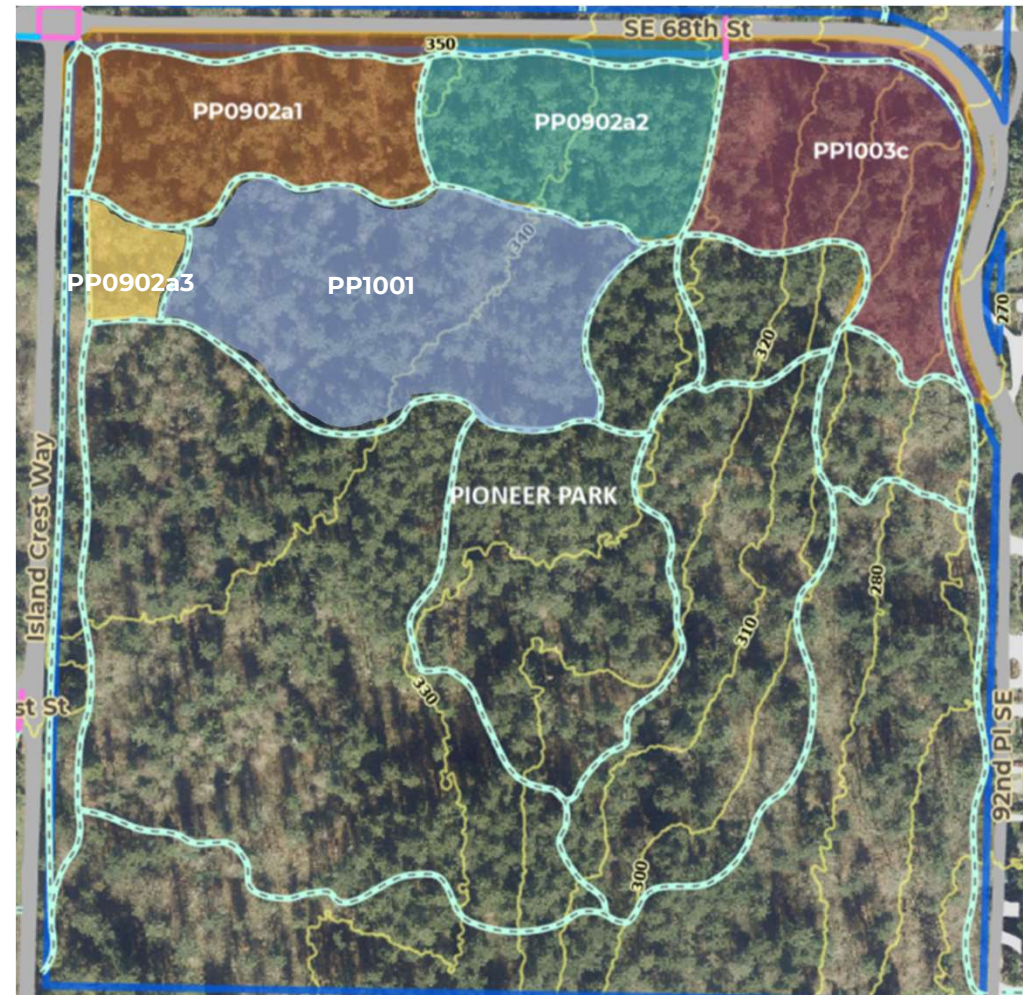
Pioneer Park SE- 2023

CONTRACTOR WORK

- Year 1 Comprehensive invasive removal in PP1003c
- Year 2 Comprehensive removal maintenance in PP0902a1 and PP0902a2

VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP

- Year 2 comprehensive invasive removal in PP0902a3
- Ivy rings and ground ivy removal in PP1001





Engstrom Open Space- 2023

CONTRACTOR WORK

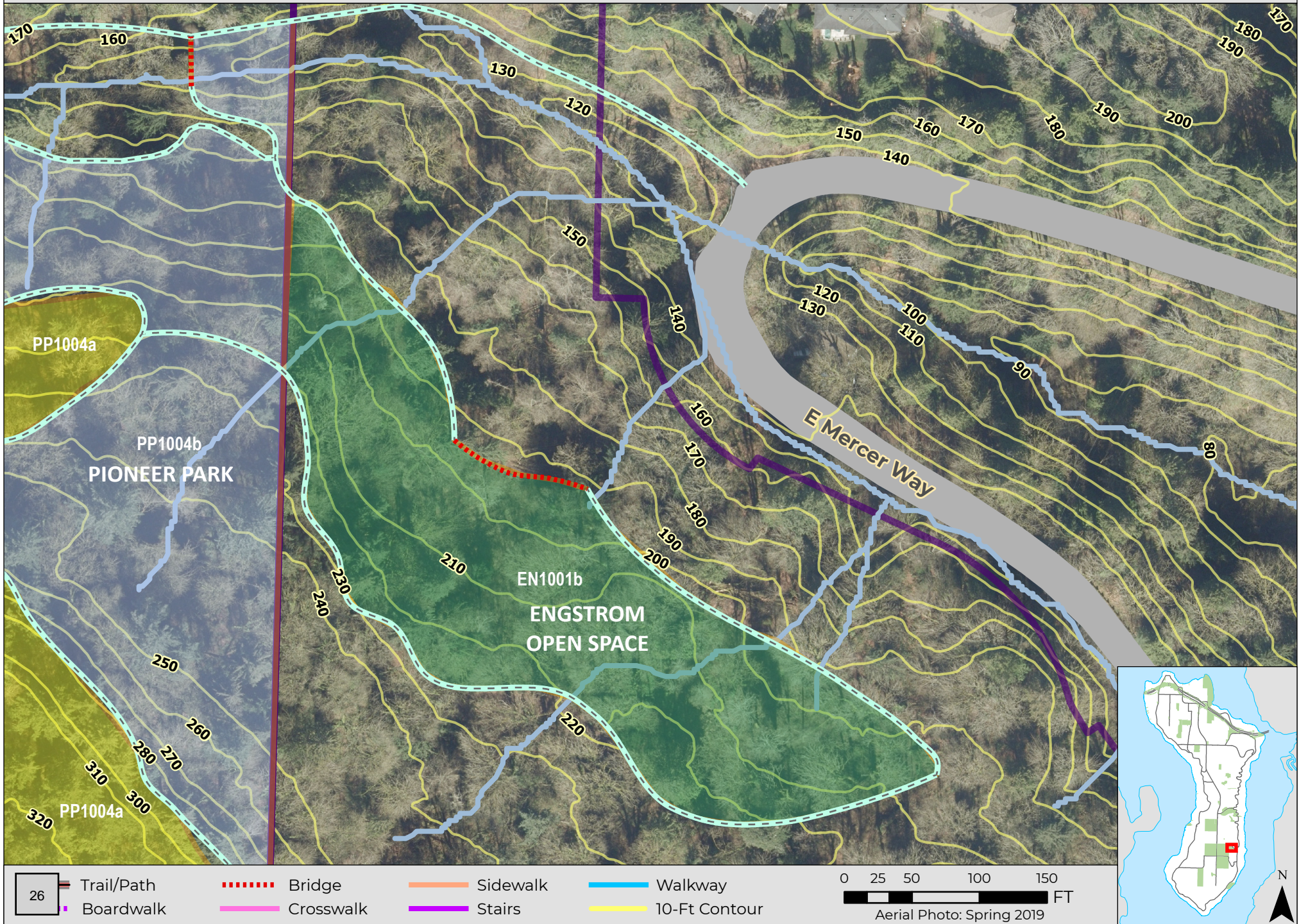
- Year 1 Comprehensive invasive removal in EN1001b

NATURAL RESOURCES CREW

- Noxious weed monitoring along stream

Engstrom Open Space- Restoration 2023

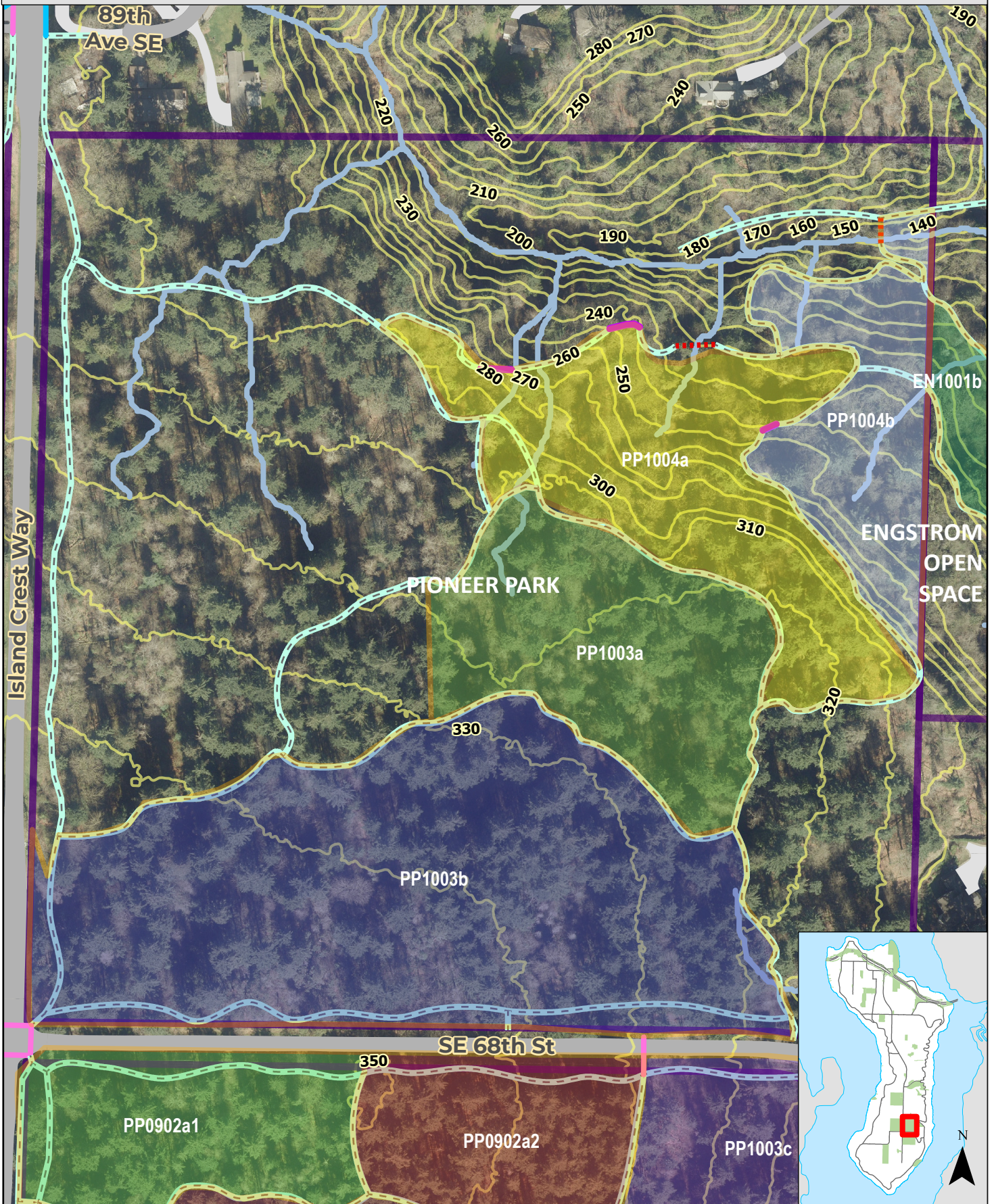
Item 4.



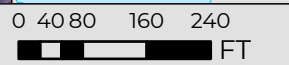
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Pioneer Park NE- Restoration 2023

Item 4.



- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| Trail/Path | Bridge | Sidewalk | Walkway |
| Boardwalk | Crosswalk | Stairs | 10-Ft Contour |



Aerial Photo: Spring 2017

Pioneer Park NW- Restoration 2023

Item 4.



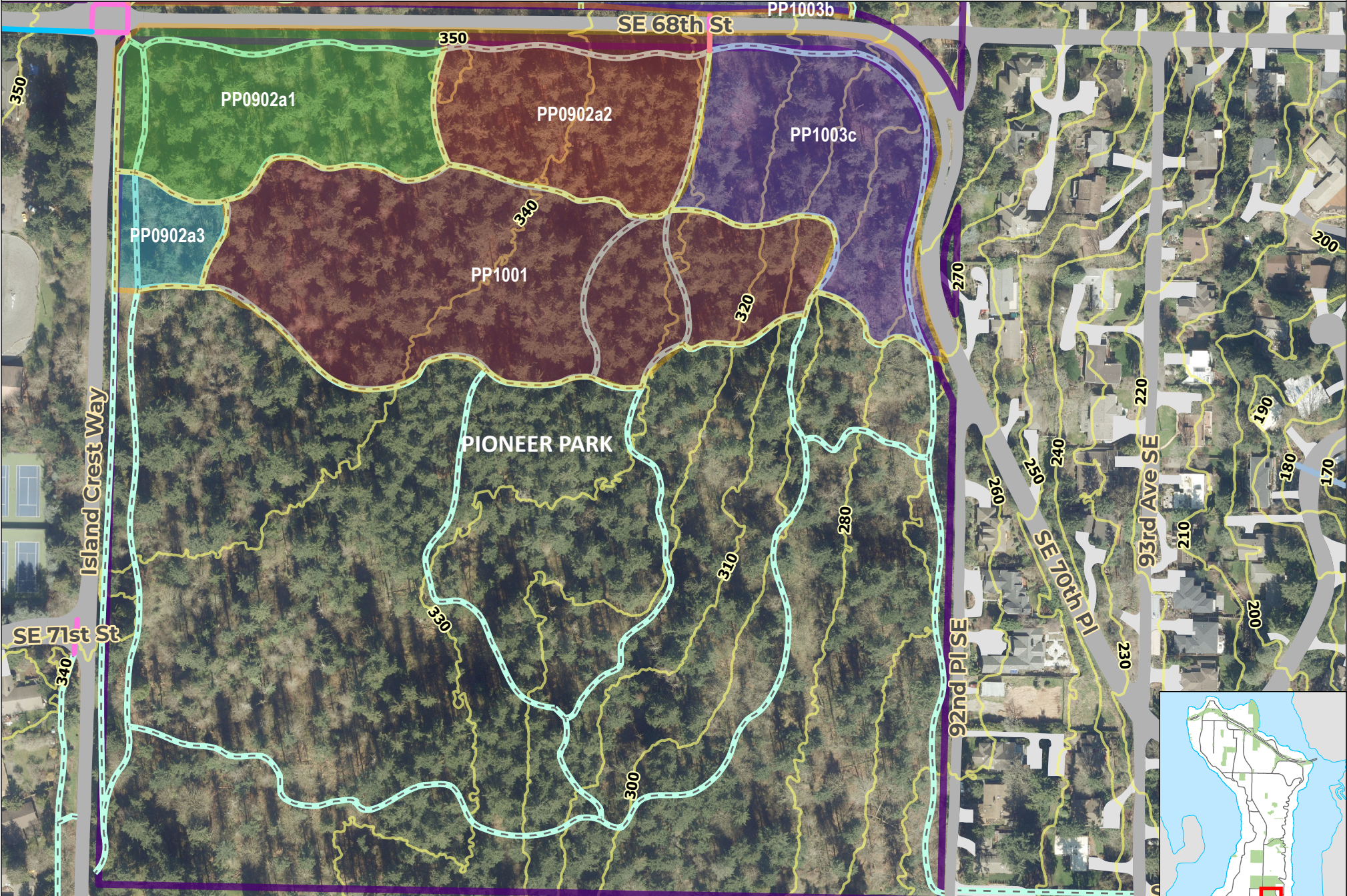
28	Trail/Path	Bridge	Sidewalk	Walkway	0	60	120	240	360
	Boardwalk	Crosswalk	Stairs	10-Ft Contour	FT				

Aerial Photo: Spring 2017



Pioneer Park SE- Restoration 2023

Item 4.



29	Trail/Path	Bridge	Sidewalk	Walkway
	Boardwalk	Crosswalk	Stairs	10-Ft Contour

