



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.

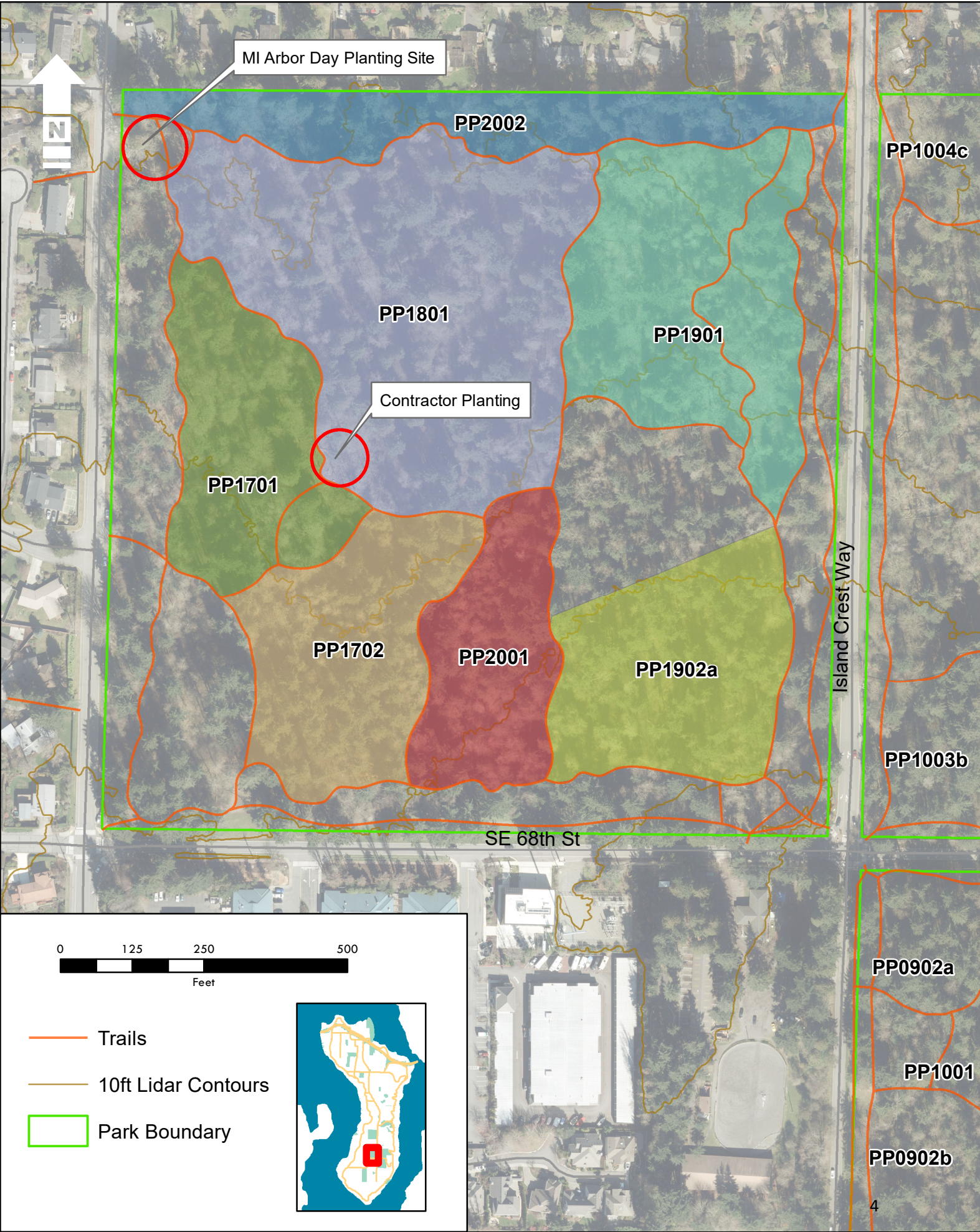
Table 1. 2020 Contractor Work Summary

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

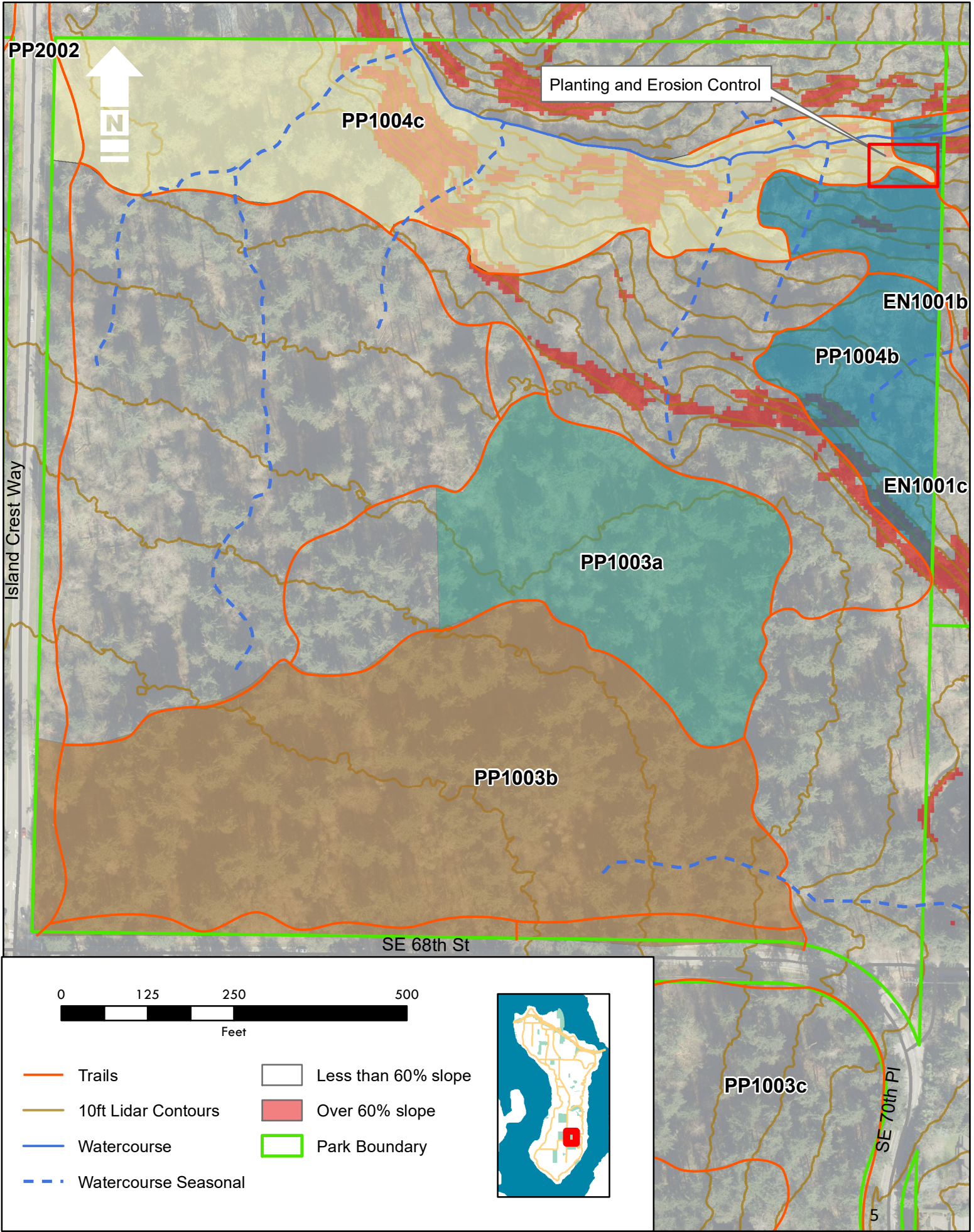
RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2020 Restoration Work Plan.

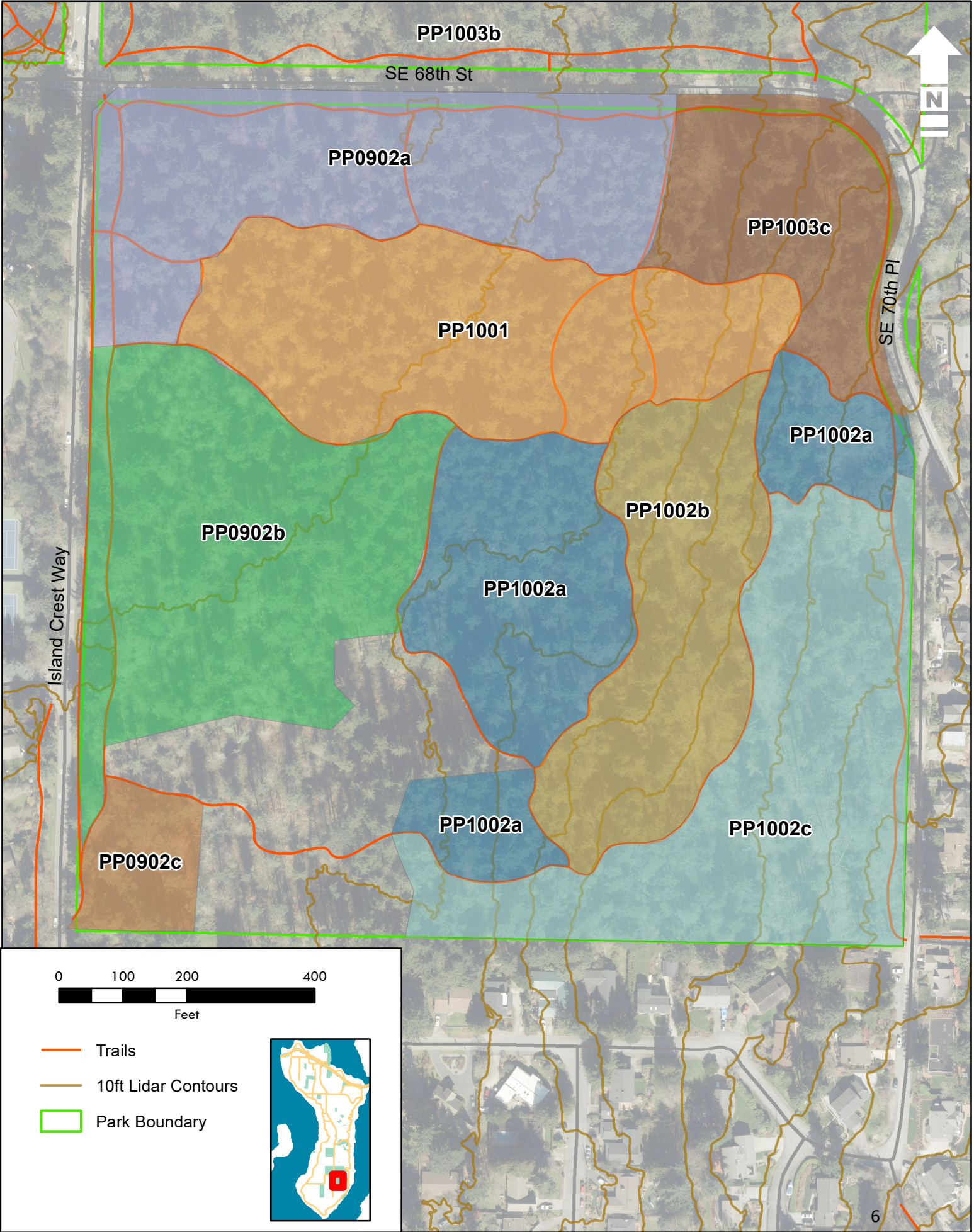
Pioneer Park NW Restoration 2020



Pioneer Park NE Restoration 2020



Pioneer Park SE Restoration 2020



Engstrom Open Space Restoration 2020

