



Department Report July 16th, 2026

Open Space
Conservancy Trust



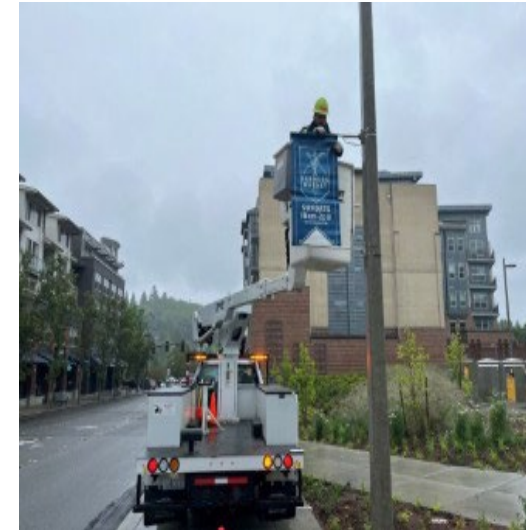
53rd Open Space

- Natural Resources staff rebuilt a section of rock retaining wall in the SE 53rd Open Space that was damaged by a fallen tree during last winter's storms.
- Urban Forestry and Parks Ops staff continue to enhance forest health by repurposing large-diameter logs from hazardous tree removals as woody debris within City forests.



Maintenance Updates

- Luther Burbank Park Waterfront Improvements
- ADA Sidewalk Improvements
- Milfoil/Aquatic Weed Removal
- Staff provides extra support every Sunday during the Farmer's Market season, June into November.



Maintenance Updates

- Doggie Stick Library
- Irrigation system upgrades throughout Aubrey Davis Park
- Fruitland Landing / Pump Station 11
- Emergency Irrigation Mainline Repair



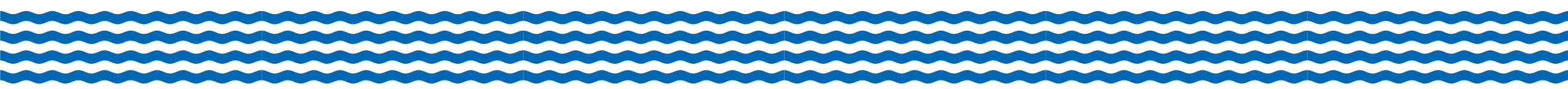
Urban Forestry and Natural Resources

- Staff have been helping with supplemental watering of newly planted trees until the watering specialist started in late June.
- NR seasonal staff are in full swing, repairing damaged slat fencing in Engstrom Open Space, helping protect plants and prevent erosion



Natural Resources Spring into Summer!

- Earth Month was a huge success!!!
- This June, the Natural Resources Team hosted 6 volunteer events with 59 participants who volunteered 115 hours! During this time, volunteers removed 2,200 sq ft of blackberry, maintained trails in Pioneer Park, and helped out in our native plant nursery. In addition to our volunteer events, we also hosted 3 education and outreach events!





Urban Forestry

- City staff certified arborists identified 5 trees at Garfield Landing for removal with the likelihood of failure due to root rot.



Northwest Natural Resource Group consultation

- In April, Natural Resources staff met with a consulting ecological forester from NNRG to assess overstocked stands in Pioneer Park.
- The consultant recommended selective thinning in some stands.
- Selective removal reduces overcrowding, allowing remaining trees better access to light, water, and nutrients.
- Discussed ideal tree density and various considerations for phased thinning.



Chainsaw Training

- City staff from multiple divisions (Utilities, Parks, Natural Resources, and Right-of-Way) participated in chainsaw safety training at Pioneer Park SE.
- Practiced controlled tree felling as part of a small, strategic thinning effort.



Athletic Fields and open park space.

- Athletic field rentals are in full swing, with dirt, synthetic turf, and grass fields being groomed, mowed, painted, and prepped for play daily
- Picnic Shelters and Park area rentals are a hot ticket for users in all park spaces that are not athletic fields.





Mercer Island Open Space Conservancy Trust 2026 Work Plan

Meeting Date	Agenda Item
February 12	Annual Report to Council: The Trust is required in its bylaws to report to City Council each year on the status of Trust properties.
	OSCT Work Plan: The Trust develops a list of topics that it intends to address during the year (this document). This work plan is submitted to City Council with the Annual Report as a courtesy.
	Quadrant Reports (ongoing item): Trustees will report on the condition of certain quadrants at Trust board meetings.
April 16	Trail Work Plan: City staff report to the Trust on intended maintenance activities in the spring of each year, and recap work completed in the previous year. This report includes status of recently decommissioned social trails on Trust properties.
	Restoration Work Plan: City staff report to the Trust on planned restoration activities, and recap work completed in the previous year.
	E-bike Policy Update: Staff will update the Trust on this process
	Off-leash dogs: The Trust will evaluate success of education measures over the past year and discuss possible changes.
July 16	Election of Officers: The Trust is required by its bylaws to elect officers at its July meeting each year.
	Herbicide application report: City staff will report on the use of herbicides on Trust properties each year, in accordance with the Herbicide Use Protocol.
	Signage Inventory and Update: The Trust will evaluate current signage and needs.
	Bench Donations: Review map of approved bench locations.
October 15	Forest Health Assessment Update: Staff will update the Trust on results and implementation of the 2024 Forest Health Assessment.
	OSCT Schedule 2027: Per the Bylaws, the calendar of meetings shall be set by the Board at the last meeting of the calendar year.
	Scout Project recognition: The Trust will recognize scout projects that have benefited Trust Properties.

Note: The listing of an item under a particular month indicates that the item will be introduced at that meeting. There may be follow-up discussions and decisions at subsequent meetings, as directed by the Chair.