



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 4
July 15, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

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| TITLE: | 2021 Trails Work Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2021 Trails Work Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |

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| STAFF: | Andrew Prince, Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist |
| COUNCIL LIAISON: | Lisa Anderl |
| EXHIBITS: | 1. Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2021 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. Due to the delay in presenting the Trails Work Plan this year, several of the planned projects are already in progress.

2020 TRAIL WORK SUMMARY

In most years, this report includes a review of maintenance and project work completed in the previous year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City was unable to hire seasonal staff, and full-time staff hours and work were restricted by the state 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' order. As a result, trail work on Trust properties in 2020 was limited to basic maintenance activities: trail brushing and storm clean-up, both of which are prioritized to keep trails open and accessible for public use.

2021 TRAIL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

In April 2021, the City hired its seasonal Natural Resources crew, a three-person team that addresses Natural Resources projects throughout the parks system, including trail repairs and maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.

The following projects are set to be completed in 2021. Several of these projects are already underway or have been completed.

- Winter storm clean-up
- Beaked hazelnut and shrub pruning
- Root intrusion management
- Ravine trail repairs

- SE Quadrant West Perimeter Trail resurfacing

See Exhibit 1 for the scope and timeline for each project.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2021 Trails Work Plan.

Exhibit 1: Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2021 Trails Work Plan

Winter Storm Clean-Up



A significant wind event on January 12-13, 2021 knocked over many trees and branches in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space, many of which fell across trails. Twenty-three hours of labor was required to clear approximately 32 trail obstructions throughout Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space.



NORTHWEST QUADRANT

Beaked Hazelnut Pruning

Beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) is a particularly difficult shrub to manage along trail edges, due to its rapid growth and sprawling structure. Occasional heavy pruning is necessary to keep trails accessible. During this more intensive round of pruning, crew members also prune low hanging tree branches and other species along trails. This work has already been completed in the NW quadrant and will be undertaken in the NE and SE quadrants in the coming weeks.

Root Intrusion in Trails

In 2019, the Trust Board began discussions about managing roots that are growing into the trail, an issue that has been most notable on the NW quadrant's Perimeter Trail. After resurfacing much of the Perimeter Trail in the past few years and





grinding down roots of dead trees, live roots are still present in this trail. Staff continue to spray paint any obstacles in the trail with white marking paint so that they can be more easily seen and avoided. Paint is reapplied when it begins to fade (approximately quarterly).

NORTHEAST QUADRANT AND ENGSTROM OS

Ravine Trail Repairs

The highest section of the Ravine Trail, which overlooks Engstrom Open Space, is actively eroding and in need of repairs. Steep cross slopes make this trail extremely difficult to maintain. The lower edge of the trail is eroding away in many places. Peeler pole curbs, which match the existing retaining infrastructure on this trail, will be installed to mitigate this issue. Native fill soil or imported gravel will be used to fill low and eroded spots as necessary. This work is expected to be completed in late summer.



Trail surface eroding on steep sidehills

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

SE Quadrant West Perimeter Trail Resurfacing

Parks Natural Resources staff completed a substantial re-grading project in the SE Quadrant in April 2021. Because the West Perimeter Trail is relatively flat, the center of the trail tends to get 'dished out' by foot traffic, creating low spots. These low spots collect organic matter and water, creating mud puddles.



The degraded, muddy trail was first scraped to remove organic material using a mini tracked loader and hand labor, exposing the gravel underneath. A base course of 5/8 inch minus crushed gravel was spread over this using power wheelbarrows loaded with the tracked loader. Gravel was hand graded to a uniform width and crowned to create a surface that will shed water. A final course of 1/4 inch minus gravel was spread evenly over the entire trail surface and compacted with a vibratory roller.

The entirety of the West Perimeter Trail, the small parking pullout on SE 68th St, and sections of Salal and Fir trails were improved in this project. Approximately 160 tons of gravel were used, and 350 hours of staff time were required to complete the project.



Natural Resources crew scraping away top surface