



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 5
March 18, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

TITLE:	2021 Restoration Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Approve the 2021 Restoration Work Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

STAFF:	Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Lisa Anderl
EXHIBITS:	1. 2021 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 and the 10-Year Update to the Open Space Vegetation Management Plan.

2021 RESTORATION WORK PLAN

Professional Contractors

In 2021, professional contractor work is scheduled in all three quadrants of Pioneer Park as well as Engstrom Open Space. In Pioneer Park, work will largely focus on launching comprehensive invasive removal efforts as outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan (see maps in Exhibit 1). The following contractor work is currently out to bid. If the bids come within budget, the contracts will be awarded in late March. Field work is slated to begin in late April and continue through the end of the year. Staff will update the Trust Board if the work plan changes due to budgetary constraints.

- **Comprehensive invasive removal** is scheduled in approximately 18 acres of the SE quadrant (PP0902a, PP0902b, PP0902c, and PP1001). This is consistent with benchmarks outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan which calls for 15.5 acres of ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal in 2021.
- **Invasive removal maintenance** is scheduled for 3.3 acres of Pioneer NW (PP1902a) and 3.2 acres of Engstrom Open Space (EN1001a). These sites are now on a regular long-term maintenance schedule after receiving at least three years of comprehensive invasive removal.

- **Ivy ring creation** will continue in 3.3 acres of the NW Quadrant (PP2001) and 3.6 acres of Engstrom Open Space (EN1001c).
- **Fall planting** is scheduled on 4 acres of the NE Quadrant (PP1004a).
- **Watering of new plantings** is slated for two sites in Pioneer Park's NW quadrant - one at the junction of the Woodpecker and Dogwood trails within PP1801 and the second is the 2020 Arbor Day planting site at the NW trailhead entrance.
- **Invasive tree treatment** is scheduled for 2.4 acres of the NE quadrant of Pioneer Park (PP1004d).

CONTRACTOR WORK SUMMARY

Site	Area ID	Project Area (acres)	Restoration Task
Pioneer Park NW	PP1801/ NW Entrance	0.2	Water Plantings
Pioneer Park NW	PP1902a	3.3	Invasive removal maintenance
Pioneer Park NW	PP2001	2.3	Ivy rings
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004a	4.0	Fall Planting
Pioneer Park NE	PP1004d	2.4	Invasive Tree Treatment
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902a	5.4	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902b	6.1	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Pioneer Park SE	PP0902c	0.9	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Pioneer Park SE	PP1001	5.4	Comprehensive Invasive Removal
Engstrom Open Space	EN1001a	3.2	Invasive removal maintenance
Engstrom Open Space	EN1001c	3.6	Ivy rings

Natural Resources Crew

During the 2021 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 located within PP1002. Yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) will also be treated along private property boundaries within each quadrant.

The seasonal crew will conduct planting maintenance and blackberry knockdown in select areas of PP1002 in the SE quadrant – targeting saplings in canopy gaps where Himalayan blackberry is growing robustly and inhibiting tree survival and growth. In addition, planting maintenance will be done in the two small plantings installed in 2020 in the NW quadrant where watering is being done by professional contractors at the NW trailhead of the NW quadrant and at the junction of the Woodpecker and Dogwood trails.

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

Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety concerns and programmatic changes at EarthCorps, the City has not secured a Professional Services Agreement for volunteer management services for 2021. Natural Resources staff will be working with EarthCorps in the next couple of months to develop a plan for revised volunteer event offerings, similar to what was offered in summer of 2020, most likely starting in early summer of 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the 2021 Restoration Work Plan.