



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 (*Lamium 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.