



# OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST STAFF REPORT

Item 2  
April 20, 2023  
Regular Business

## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

<b>TITLE:</b>	2023 Trails Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>STAFF:</b>	Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Project Manager	
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	Lisa Anderl	
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 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. Several minor trail improvements on the work plan are already in progress.

### 2022 TRAIL WORK SUMMARY

In 2022 the City's Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist and the Natural Resources seasonal crew worked on several maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. The team replaced rotting stair treads on the Ravine Trail in Pioneer Park NE, fixed drainage issues in the NW quadrant, repaired and replaced water bars in the SE quadrant to improve drainage, removed down trees that blocked trail access, and conducted regular brushing and leaf-blowing throughout the trail system. The City also hosted a group of volunteers in re-graveling sections of Pioneer Park NW to improve muddy conditions.

### 2023 TRAIL WORK PLAN SUMMARY

So far in 2023, the City hired two Natural resources seasonal staff to help with trail and restoration work in MI parks and open space, including trail repairs and maintenance projects in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. A third team member should be hired this spring as well. The seasonal crew will work on the following trail projects on Trust property in 2023:

- Re-graveling muddy areas and potholes in all three quadrants and Engstrom Open Space.
- Redirecting water off of trails to improve drainage.
- Strategic beaked hazelnut and shrub pruning.
- Root intrusion management.
- Brushing vegetation back from trails.

- Blowing leaves off of trails.
- Other issues as they arise.

See Exhibit 1 for the scope for each task.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan.

## **Exhibit 1: Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2023 Trails Work Plan**

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### **Muddy Trail Patching**

Various low spots throughout Trust property are forming puddles and creating muddy conditions. In some cases, water in these locations can be redirected off trail by creating a path for water to flow out. In other cases, gravel must be added to fill the low area and mitigate muddy conditions. The Natural Resources crew has begun patching and repairing these locations throughout all three quadrants and Engstrom Open Space this April. Preliminary locations for each of these gravel additions are shown on maps below, as well as photos demonstrating the muddy condition.

### **Root management**

In many locations throughout Pioneer Park trails, tree roots have been exposed through erosion and compaction of the trails. These roots can present a tripping hazard for park users and should be covered by gravel or made more visible whenever possible. The Natural Resources crew will be moving through all trails to survey for root intrusions and covering the roots with gravel or painting with white paint to increase visibility.

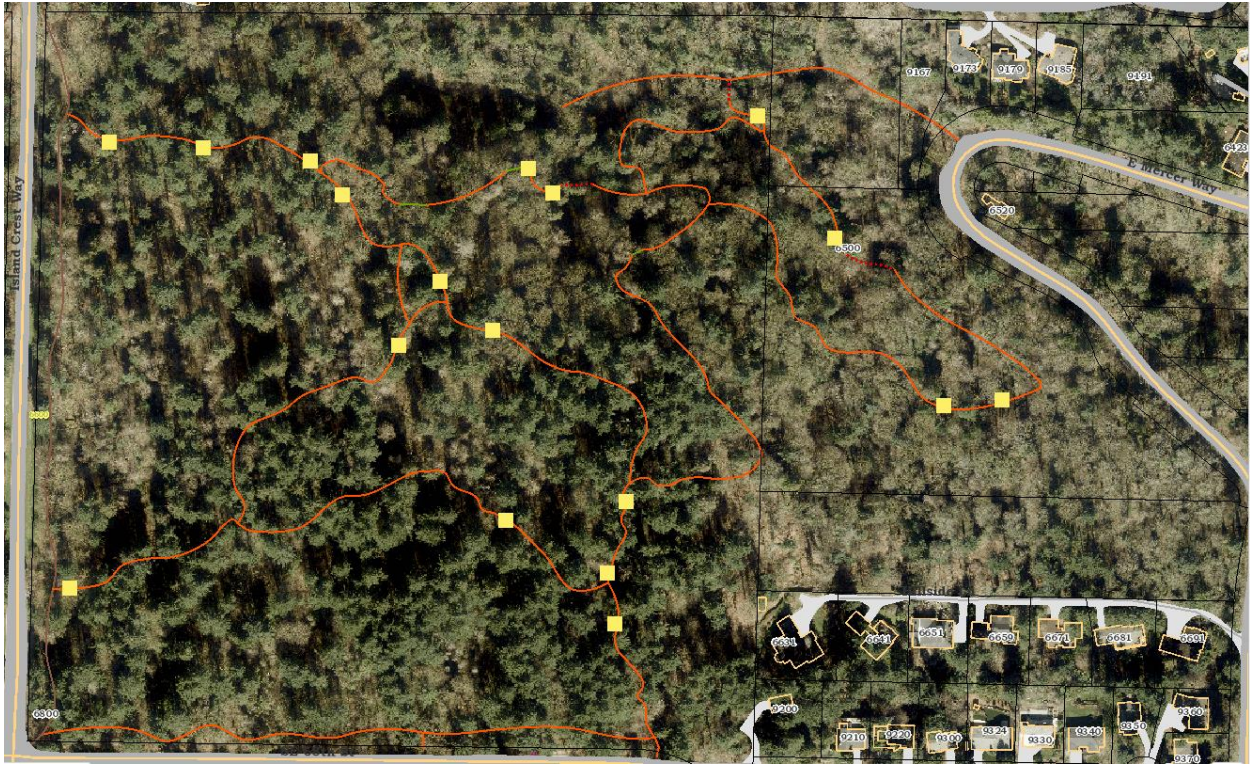
### **Pruning and brushing**

The Natural Resources crew will perform strategic pruning on fast growing trees and shrubs throughout trails on Trust property to redirect growth out of the trail corridor. This effort is intended to lessen the need for brushing in these areas throughout the season. In addition, the crew will be brushing back other smaller shrubs as they grow into the trails throughout the summer months.

### **Leaf blowing**

When leaves are allowed to accumulate on trails, they decompose and create mucky conditions that lead to more trail maintenance in the long term. The Natural Resources crew and Parks Maintenance teams will be blowing leaves off of the most used trails to minimize this buildup and improve the user experience in the autumn months.

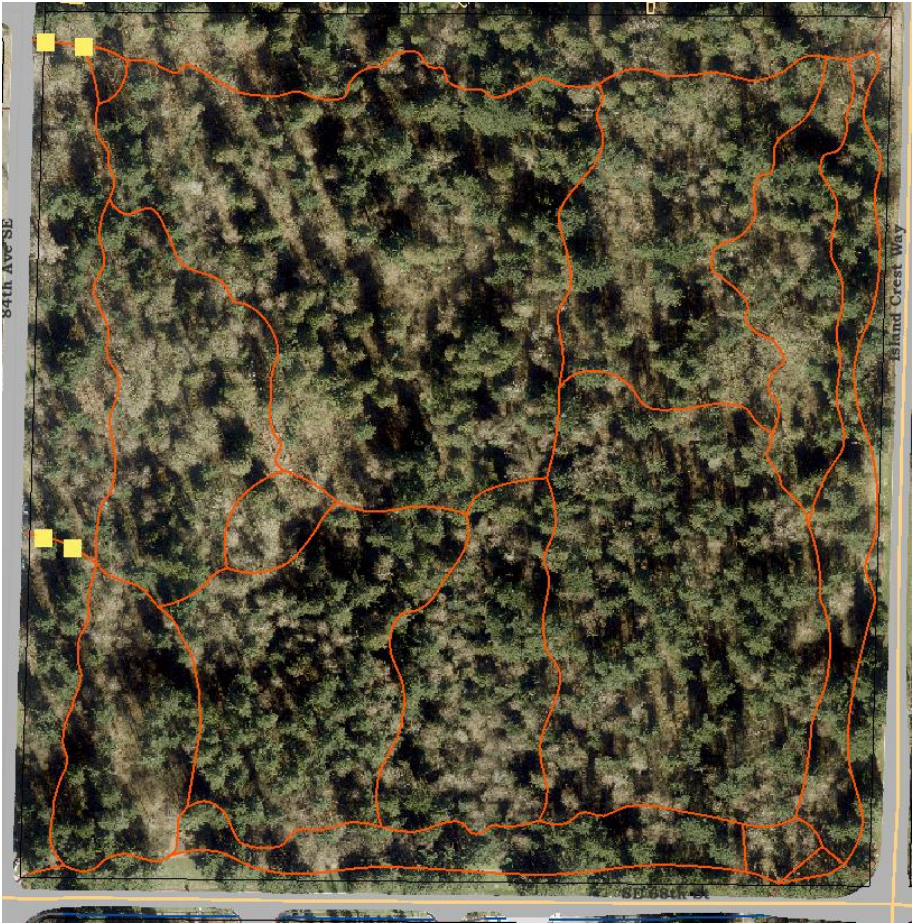
# NORTHEAST QUADRANT and ENGSTROM OPEN SPACE





**NORTHWEST QUADRANT**

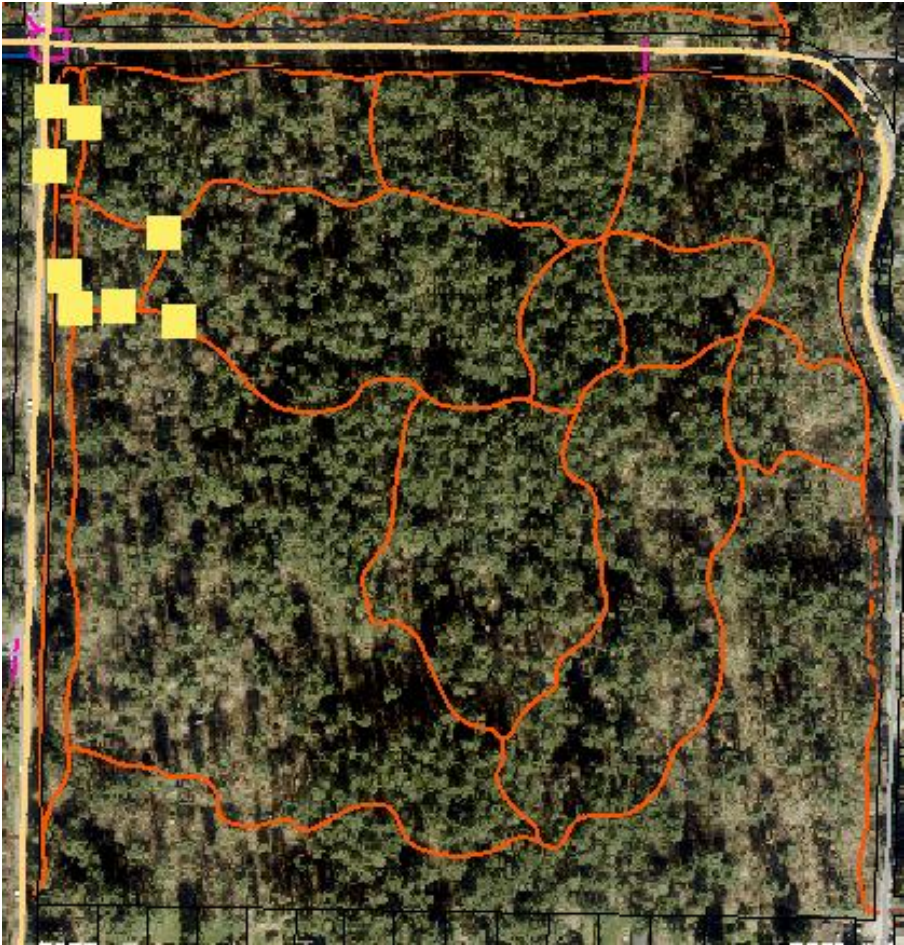
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SOUTHEAST QUADRANT

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## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

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### Decommissioning trail in the NE Quadrant

- Staff could decommission this redundant trail

